

# The Advance-Titan

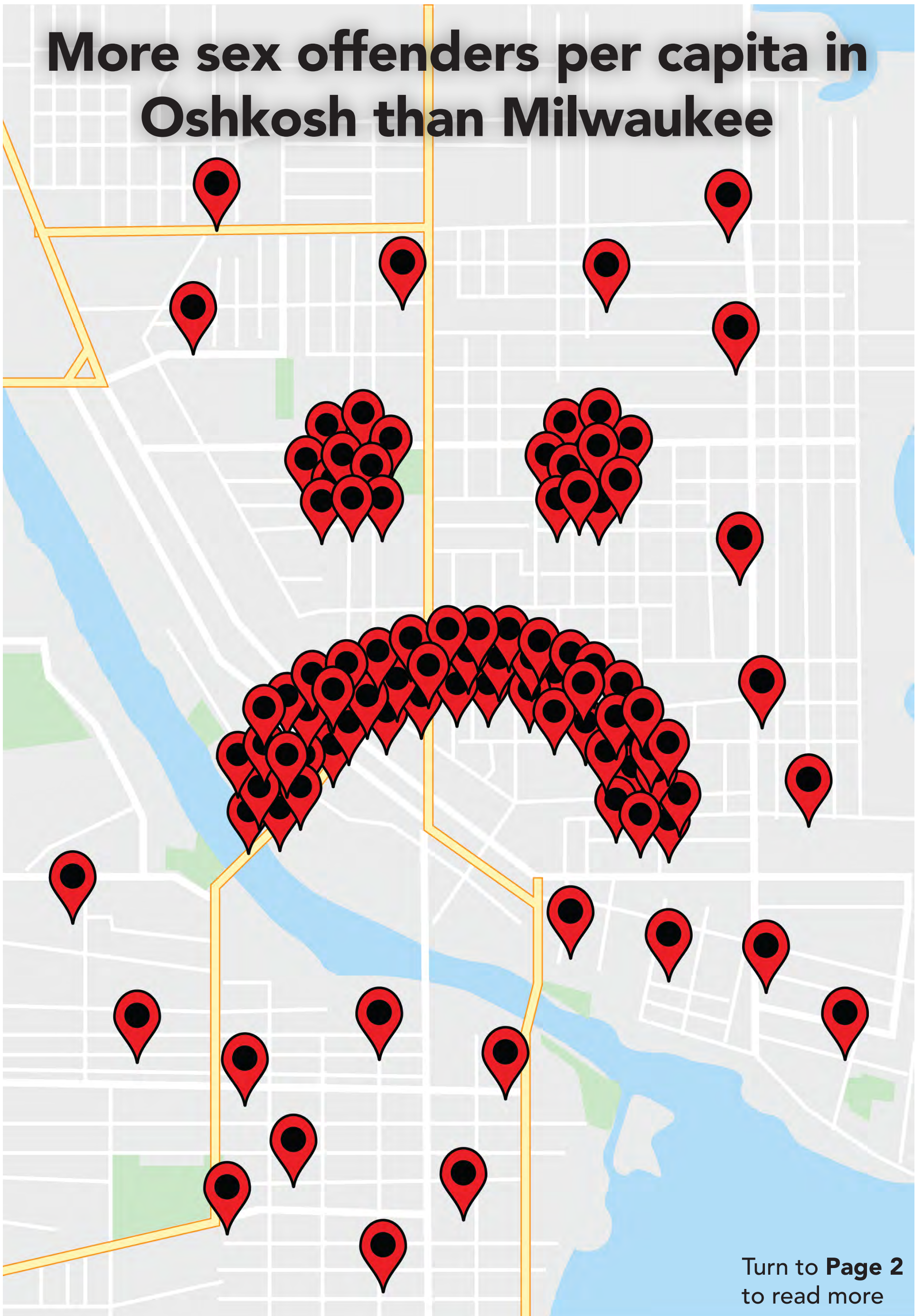
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## More sex offenders per capita in Oshkosh than Milwaukee



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**About the Newspaper**  
The Advance-Titan is an independent student newspaper published on campus since 1894. The paper is written and edited by students at UW Oshkosh who are solely responsible for content and editorial policy. Any UW Oshkosh student from all three campuses is welcome to work on the newspaper staff. The Advance-Titan is published on Thursday during the academic year.

**Correction Policy:**  
The Advance-Titan is committed to correcting errors of fact that appear in print or online. Messages regarding errors can be emailed to atitan@uwosh.edu.

# Increased presence of local sex offenders

By Lexi Langendorf  
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Oshkosh has more sex offenders per capita than the city of Milwaukee, according to the Wisconsin Department of Corrections Sex Offender Registry and U.S. Census Bureau.

“Sex offenders have always lived in our communities,” Oshkosh Police Officer Katherine Mann wrote in a report on the Oshkosh Police Department website. “But it was not until the passage of Act 440, which mandates sex offender registration, that law enforcement even knew where they were living.”

Because of this statute, anyone can find that there are currently 305 total offenders located within Oshkosh, which are all listed in the Wisconsin Department of Corrections Sex Offender Registry.

Given that the population of Oshkosh was 66,773 in 2019 according to the U.S. Census Bureau, Oshkosh has about 45.67 sex offenders per 10,000 residents, or 1 out of 219 people.

In comparison, Milwaukee has 43.69 per 10,000 and Madison has 23.22 per 10,000, making Oshkosh home to more sex offenders per capita than either city.

According to an Oshkosh Northwestern article, citizens living in Oshkosh began to notice this disproportionality in 2014.

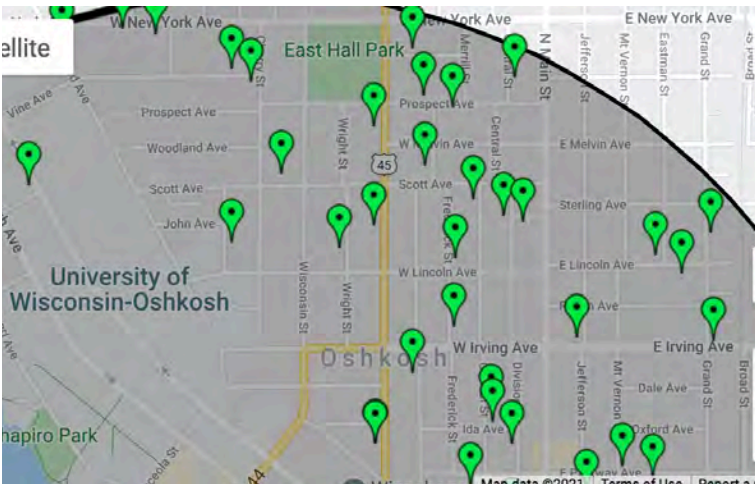
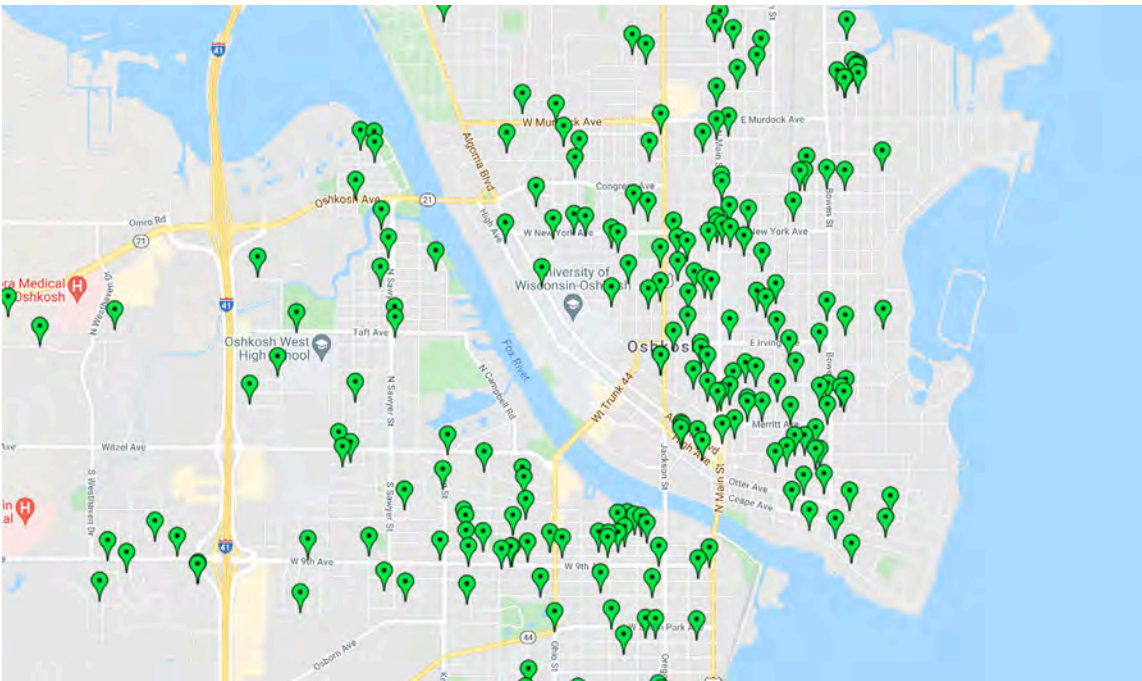
In 2014, Oshkosh was home to 201 registered sex offenders, a number that has gone up 52% since then.

The Northwestern reported that of the 201 registered offenders that lived in Oshkosh in 2014, 126 offenders, or 63%, lived within the 54901 ZIP code.

In 2014, there were high concentrations of offenders on some blocks and, in some instances, multiple offenders living in a single boarding house.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Corrections Sex Offender Registry, the majority of registered offenders in Oshkosh currently live downtown and on the city’s east side, areas of the city where there are more rental units with landlords willing to rent to offenders.

The Wisconsin Department of



Screenshot of maps showing sex offenders around the UWO campus (LEFT) and in the Oshkosh area (ABOVE).

Corrections, which authorizes placement of sex offenders, said the decision often comes down to economic factors, such as affordable rent and access to public transportation.

It also said that offenders are generally required to live in the county where they were convicted, and that the agency tries to make sure the population density of serious sex offenders is proportionate to the number of cases in the county.

Mann said that sex offenders who are on probation/parole upon release from prison are placed in the county in which they committed the crime or the county in which they were living when they committed the crime.

“The probation/parole agent can approve or deny any proposed sex offender residence,” she said.

Mann said that sex offenders who are not on probation/parole

but are on the Sex Offender Registry need to let the registry know when they are moving to different residences.

Currently, the city of Oshkosh does not have any ordinances prohibiting where sex offenders can reside, Mann said.

“If the sex offender is on probation/parole, then the probation/parole agent makes the final decision as to where the offender is placed,” she said. “If sex offenders are on the lifetime sex offender registry, they have rules to follow about notifying the registry about their address/address changes. If sex offenders are on probation/parole they have additional rules to follow according to their probation/parole agent.”

Mann said that when a sex offender who has a special bulletin notice is released from prison, a meeting is typically held among probation and parole, the Sex Offender Registry specialist and

law enforcement to discuss this individual.

“We discuss various notification options,” she said. “Media release, posting information on our webpage, door to door fliers, and/or a community meeting. The chief makes the final decision about the level of notification.”

Mann said that law enforcement officials can notify citizens when sex offenders are released from prison and where they will be living and suggests citizens find more information on the sex offender registry website available to citizens (appsdoc.wi.gov/public) or the OPD site (oshkoshpd.com).

“From a law enforcement perspective, we feel that an informed community is a safer community,” Mann said.

Nichole Hall, a former sex offender registration specialist for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, said in an Oshkosh Northwestern article that it’s a big advantage to be able to know where sex offenders are.

“We can know who these people are. Their anonymity is gone, their secrecy is gone,” Hall said. “We can know where they live; we can know what they did. What worries me and most of us in this field are the ones we don’t know about.”

# Crisis Text Line is an asset for nursing volunteer hours

By Cory Sparks  
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With the COVID-19 pandemic taking over the world during the last year, many UW Oshkosh pre-nursing students had to look to isolated ways to get their required volunteer hours in.

One of the main safe alternatives chosen by pre-nursing students has been helping out with the Crisis Text Line. Sophomore Kaitlyn McClain was one of many students who went with this form of volunteering.

“I think this is a good option,” UWO Clinical Associate professor Laura Smolinski said. “Many students experienced exacerbations of mental illness, frustration, loneliness, anxiety or feelings of depression with the

pandemic, and this is a way to connect with fellow students in a safe way.”

Smolinski also said that volunteering offers the benefit of altruism and being able to help others, which are both things that should carry into students’ professional lives.

“One of the benefits of volunteering is this caring for others,” she said. “Others include making a difference, meeting new people, being part of a community, contributing to a cause you care about and helping to find purpose. These benefits should carry over into students’ professional lives.”

The pandemic has pushed many nurses in the field to work overtime and under stressful circumstances. As important as this

extended help is, Smolinski also stresses the importance of rest and self care for each of these nursing workers.

“Studies show that errors go up after a nurse has worked for over 12 hours,” Smolinski said. “It’s great to help out in times of distress, and help out your co-workers if they need a day off, but self-care is also important. Sometimes it is great to say ‘yes’, but sometimes it is also OK to say ‘no’.”

As vaccines roll out and life slowly transforms back into what we all perceive as normal, the Crisis Text Line is still a phenomenal way for any pre-nursing student to provide help for others in need while getting their required volunteer hours done.



Graphic by Cory Sparks





Courtesy of UWO Flickr

# Campus prevents bird strikes

By Mackenzie Seymour  
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UW Oshkosh's Sage Hall will be featuring decal installations on windows to prevent bird-window collisions next school year.

UWO's Wildlife Conservation Club (WCC) introduced the project idea in fall 2020 after a research team collecting data on bird-window collision deaths on campus discovered birds struck windows most frequently at Sage Hall compared to other buildings.

"Approximately 1 billion birds die annually in North America as a result of collisions with windows. Recent research by a team of multidisciplinary researchers, student interns and community volunteers documented that this is indeed a problem at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh," WCC's proposal stated.

Misty McPhee, a UWO environmental studies professor and WCC faculty advisor, said bird-window collisions occur because windows reflect surrounding habitat, which indicates to the bird that there is more sky or trees to fly to.

Collisions also occur more frequently on buildings with high window-area coverage. Although Sage Hall's window area has not been calculated, it is believed that this is the reasoning as to why collisions occur there most frequently.

In spring 2019, the research team discovered 22 bird-window collision deaths across campus, 10 of which were at Sage Hall. Another 14 bird deaths were found at Sage Hall later that fall. The higher frequency of deaths at Sage Hall compared to other buildings prompted WCC to propose the idea of buying window decals.

WCC applied to the Green Fund through UWO's Sustainability Institute. The club received approximately \$11,000 for the whole project, which includes the window decals, installation and signage that explains the purpose of bird-window decals.

"The desired outcome for this project is to reduce the number of bird deaths from window collisions on campus and to educate the UWO community about bird strikes and the purpose of the window treatments," McPhee stated.

The decals will be installed mid-summer before the fall migration. A repeating dot pattern will cover the 46 windows of Sage Hall's entrance, covering about 155,000 in total.

"As the university strives to be more sustainable, we should remember that sustainability includes the non-human communities that share our campus," McPhee explained. "This project will affect current and future students by increasing the abundance and diversity of bird species visiting campus."

## Professor discusses climate change denial

By Katie Pulvermacher  
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There is an "incredible solid body of science" that climate change is real and happening. So why do people still deny that it exists?

Misty McPhee, an associate professor of environmental studies and biology, spoke on that topic on April 29 for Earth Month. She said there is a difference between science rejection and science denial.

The definition of science rejection is the dismissal of well-established scientific results for reasons that are not scientifically grounded, she said. Science denialism, on the other hand, is the employment of rhetorical arguments to give the appearance of legitimate debate where there is none. This approach has the ultimate goal of rejecting a proposition on which a scientific consensus exists, she said.

McPhee said there are five characteristics of denial: cognitive bias, use of fake experts, identification of conspiracies, misusing the scientific process and misrepresentation of facts.

Cognitive bias is the tendency people have to embrace information that supports their beliefs and reject information that contradicts them.

"This idea that cognitive bias really drives how we interpret information connects pretty profoundly to climate change," McPhee said. "We are going to believe the information we want to believe."

People tend to build a worldview based on what they believe, and science can be seen as a threat to a way of life. These both interact to create a cognitive shortcut, which is the way people process information and how we believe things that are not true.

An example of a cognitive shortcut would be one's response to "What do cows drink?" A very natural answer would be milk, even though they drink water. The response one gives to this question is based on association rather than deep reflection.

When looking at data, one will either give a quick inaccurate reading or a complex accurate understanding of data. If participants agree with the topic at hand, they choose a complex accurate approach, versus if the study challenges one's worldview, they give a quick inaccurate interpretation and ignore the complex accurate information.

Someone is more likely to be perceived as an expert if they agree with you, McPhee said. Once again, we agree with things that agree with our worldview. Thanks to the internet, the world is full of self-proclaimed experts.

These experts might start conspiracy theories, which is the attempt to explain a significant political or social event as a secret plot by powerful individuals or organizations.

"They feed each other's feelings of persecution," McPhee said. "There's this corrupt elite who are in charge and are perse-

cuting all these people."

Our dependence on other people's perspectives is a positive feedback loop. Opinions can be baseless and pass between people.

For example, by telling one person climate change is not real, and if they tell their friend the same thing, then the loop of the baseless information goes around and around.

As more scientists get involved in a study, more questions are asked, and eventually, the truth can be honed in on. A consensus of truth is represented by the majority of studies.

News broadcasts often pin "experts" against each other to debate common topics at hand, such as climate change in this case.

### Who denies climate change?

A big assumption is that denial is purely partisan. It is not, McPhee said. Political groups are equally adept in denying what they do not want to hear.

Conspiracy theories are associated with political extremes regardless of what side one is on.

They tend to challenge Republican cultural norms more than Democrat cultural norms. The media highlights Republicans as the most common deniers of climate change.

People also tend to assume that education plays a big role in deniers of climate change. But if someone is more educated, this does not decrease the chance that they are a denier, she said. Data shows that the more edu-

cated one is, the more tied they are to their ideas and opinions.

Denial completely depends on whose worldviews are currently being pushed around amongst people.

### Why deny climate change?

Every organism's behavior has evolved to behave in ways that pass on our genes. Humans are highly social creatures that transmit behaviors.

McPhee argues that human behavior is like a tree where anything above ground is culture, which is what we see. For example, in Wisconsin, beer and cheese are cultural traits.

Everything expressed is shaped symbolically by the root system of a tree, which is shaped by our evolutionary history. Behaviors result from biological cost benefit analysis. Behaviors have to be beneficial in order to persist.

Humans have evolved to think short-term and not long-term. This is because we need to make decisions very quickly and recognize threats, she said. We apply fight or flight to data itself, helping us develop our own ideas. Cooperation and reasoning are both big factors into our reasoning as well.

"My take home is that we need to communicate with passion," McPhee said. "Remember that we all have blinders; it's not just the people who disagree with you. Anyone is much more likely to embrace an idea that comes to them from their worldview."





Amber Brockman / Advance-Titan

Meditation is a simple, yet rewarding skill that can help you reduce stress and improve your mental health.

# 4 benefits of meditation

By Amber Brockman  
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The practice of meditation is gaining popularity as a way to help ease symptoms of many health conditions and improve quality of life, with countless studies showing a variety of benefits.

Most people are able to cope with the demands of everyday life, but situations can arise that take a toll on the body and mind.

While you can't control what happens to you, you can learn to control your response to challenging situations so you don't add to your suffering, and one way to do that is with meditation.

Here are some benefits of practicing mindfulness and meditation as backed by scientific research.

### Reduced stress

One of the most common reasons people choose to practice meditation and mindfulness is to help manage stress.

During meditation, your attention is focused on the present moment, which allows you to enter a state of relaxation that can help free your mind from the many distractions that cause stress.

Studies have shown that one of the main hormones involved in the stress response decreased significantly during meditation and remained low afterward.

### Improved focus

Since a strong focus of atten-

tion is an important component of meditation, it's not surprising that many studies suggest it can enhance concentration and attention span.

Scientific research has shown that meditation can reduce mind wandering and improve your ability to solve problems.

Researchers have also found that meditation helps to counter habituation, which is the tendency to stop paying attention to new information in your environment.

"Mindfulness as a mode of sustained and receptive attention promotes openness to each incoming stimulus, even if repetitive and/or aversive," according to a study published by the Public Library of Science.

### Improved sleep

Research has shown that practicing meditation can increase the hormones associated with sleep regulation and can have a positive effect on autonomic activity during specific sleep states.

One study that focused on the efficacy of mindfulness meditation as a treatment for chronic insomnia found that meditation-based treatment significantly reduced the participants' total wake time in bed.

"Intense meditation practices help to achieve a harmony between body and mind," according to a study published by Frontiers in Neurology. "Meditation practices influence brain functions, induce intrinsic neural plastici-

ty events, modulate autonomic, metabolic, endocrine, and immune functions and thus mediate global regulatory changes in various behavioral states including sleep."

### Improved mental health

Meditation can improve your mental health by reducing symptoms of depression and anxiety, according to research in a variety of scientific journals.

"Existing research on MBIs [mindfulness-based interventions], which includes meditation, supports the theory that cultivation of greater attention, awareness, and acceptance through meditation practices is associated with lower levels of psychological distress, including decreased symptoms of depression, anxiety, worry, and anger," according to this Psychology Research and Behavior Management article.

One study, which focused on the effects of meditation on college students' experience of stress, anxiety, depression and perfectionistic thoughts, found that the subjects showed a significant decline on all variables after practicing meditation for two semesters.

Although other treatments are available, like medication and therapy, meditation doesn't have side effects and it's accessible to you anytime, anywhere.

# This week in UWO history

**May 6, 1987** — Arthur Ziegler, Wisconsin's head cartographer for the previous 25 years, spoke on campus. Ziegler said of Wisconsin's four boundary disputes, two eventually ended up in the U.S. Supreme Court. Inaccurate surveying and faulty equipment caused many of the disputes.

**May 9, 1955** — The Women's Association of Oshkosh State College entertained their mothers at the annual Mother's Day Tea. A small program was held with singing and guest speakers. Roy Dunlap, a columnist of the St. Paul Pioneer Press was the guest speaker who shared his recent experiences of traveling to Europe.

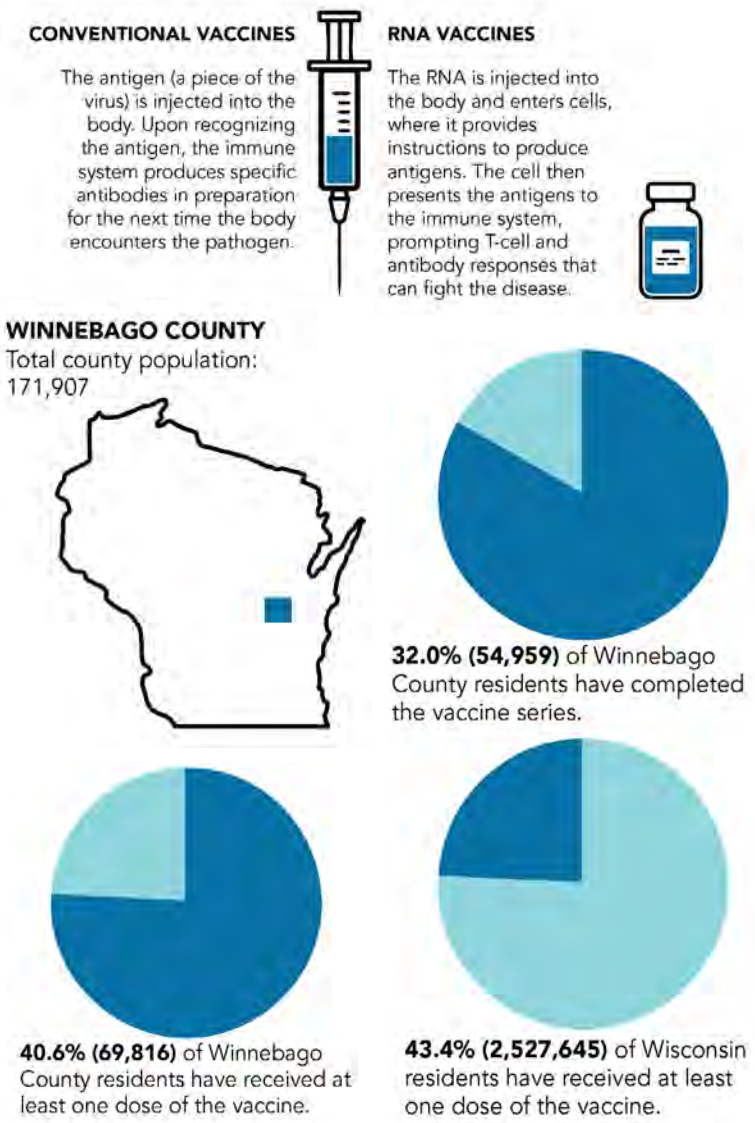
**May 11, 1957** — The Golden Tridents, a female water ballet team of 15 Oshkosh State Col-

lege students, wrapped up their four-day show at the school's new pool. "Standing Room Only" consisted of 14 swimming numbers that were set to the music of top Broadway plays. The swimming group was organized in the beginning of the school year.

**May 12, 1962** — Sophomore Bonney Schuette saved the life of a drowning 10-year-old boy from the Fox River, even though she couldn't swim. Schuette, 19, and several classmates were sunning themselves on the river bank near Marina Products, Inc., when the boy fell into the river. Schuette jumped into the river and managed to hold the boy's head above water until her fiancé, several hundred feet away, reached the scene.

**May 13, 1947** — Cleveland P. Grant, an avid bird watcher whose interests have been parlayed into an extensive lecture series and motion picture deals, spoke at the Little Theater. The former Field Museum (Chicago) employee lectured to the eighth grade of the Training School, using natural color film to explore American bird behavior. The presentation discussed birds' northward migration, courtship, care of eggs and young and southward migration. At the time, Cleveland and his wife Ruth had spent over 15 years studying, searching and photographing birds. Grant also had delivered over 3,500 lectures in his career. Many of his films were eventually released to theaters throughout the nation.

# COVID-19 vaccine data



# Money saving tips

1. Check out loyalty rewards/customer rewards programs at the places you frequent most. Many are free programs but offer big savings. Many places have rewards programs which give you coupons and money off purchases after so many visits.
2. Be mindful of memberships. If nobody is eating any of the pies from the "Pie of the Month Club, save yourself some major money and end that membership. Same goes for magazines, savings cards, gym memberships, pool passes, etc." I have personally realized that I forgot about a membership that I haven't used for a while, but still get charged
3. Making use of rebates can be used to save money. The easiest way is through mail-in, and you can find rebates online or in stores. Purchase the listed product, fill out your rebate and you're on your way.
4. Whenever you're in the mood to travel you'll need to book a flight. Avoiding the weekend and shooting for a day like Tuesday could help save money. Airlines release their new weekly sales every Tuesday, so buying that day can save you some money.
5. When you're hungry isn't a good time for you to go grocery shopping. Seeing a bunch of food can easily cause someone to overspend and waste money. A good way to avoid this spending is to write a list of everything you need before entering so you're able to stay on track with your purchases.
6. When you cook food, you



- should make as much as possible. Then you can freeze the rest of the food in your refrigerator after eating meals. This is also good way to reduce waste. Additionally, you can save some money by not eating out. Over time, this method influences your savings plan.
7. When you choose electrical products for living, you should buy good energy-efficient products to save money. Even if they are expensive now, you will save money over time.
  8. Use a credit card instead of a debit card and pay it off every month. First, do your research to find what credit card is best for your lifestyle. Credit cards often offer perks such as 1%-5% cash back on purchases, points toward airlines, extra points when booking hotels directly through the card providers website, yearly statement credits and a number of other benefits that debit cards do not offer. Additionally, credit card companies offer the card holder a layer of protection from fraud, faulty products and extended warranties at no charge to the card holder.
  9. When you upgrade your cell phone, evaluate your options. Consider purchasing the previous year's model or an off-brand cell phone. It's likely you will be able to accomplish the same tasks on a \$499 phone as you can on a \$1099 phone. Also, consider not upgrading, and instead pay for someone to do minor repairs such as a screen replacement or new battery on your current phone.



# Sports

## Titan Scores

**Baseball**  
Saturday, May 1  
UW-Platteville: 4  
UW Oshkosh: 14

UW-Platteville: 2  
UW Oshkosh: 12

Tuesday, May 4  
UW-Stevens Point: 7  
UW Oshkosh: 3

UW-Stevens Point: 5  
UW Oshkosh: 8

**Softball**  
Friday, April 30  
UW Oshkosh: 12  
UW-Stout: 0

UW Oshkosh: 2  
UW-Stout: 1

Tuesday, May 4  
UW-Stevens Point: 2  
UW Oshkosh: 10

UW-Stevens Point: 0  
UW Oshkosh: 9

**Track and Field**  
Thursday, April 29  
UW-Oshkosh High Jump & Throws Invitational  
Men: unscored  
Women: unscored

Friday, April 30  
UW-Platteville Border Battle  
Men: 3/5, 129  
Women: 2/5 109.5

Wartburg College Friday Night Lights Meet  
Men: 5/5. 18  
Women: 5/5, 19

**Women's Golf**  
Sunday, May 2  
WIAC Championship  
UW-Oshkosh: 7/8, 352-360-343 1,055

## Calendar Friday

**Track and Field:** WIAC Outdoor Championship  
**Baseball:** at UW-Stevens Point at 12 p.m. and 3 p.m.  
**Softball:** at UW-La Crosse at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

## Saturday

**Track and Field:** WIAC Outdoor Championship  
**Baseball:** vs UW-Stevens Point at 12 p.m. and 3 p.m.

## Tuesday

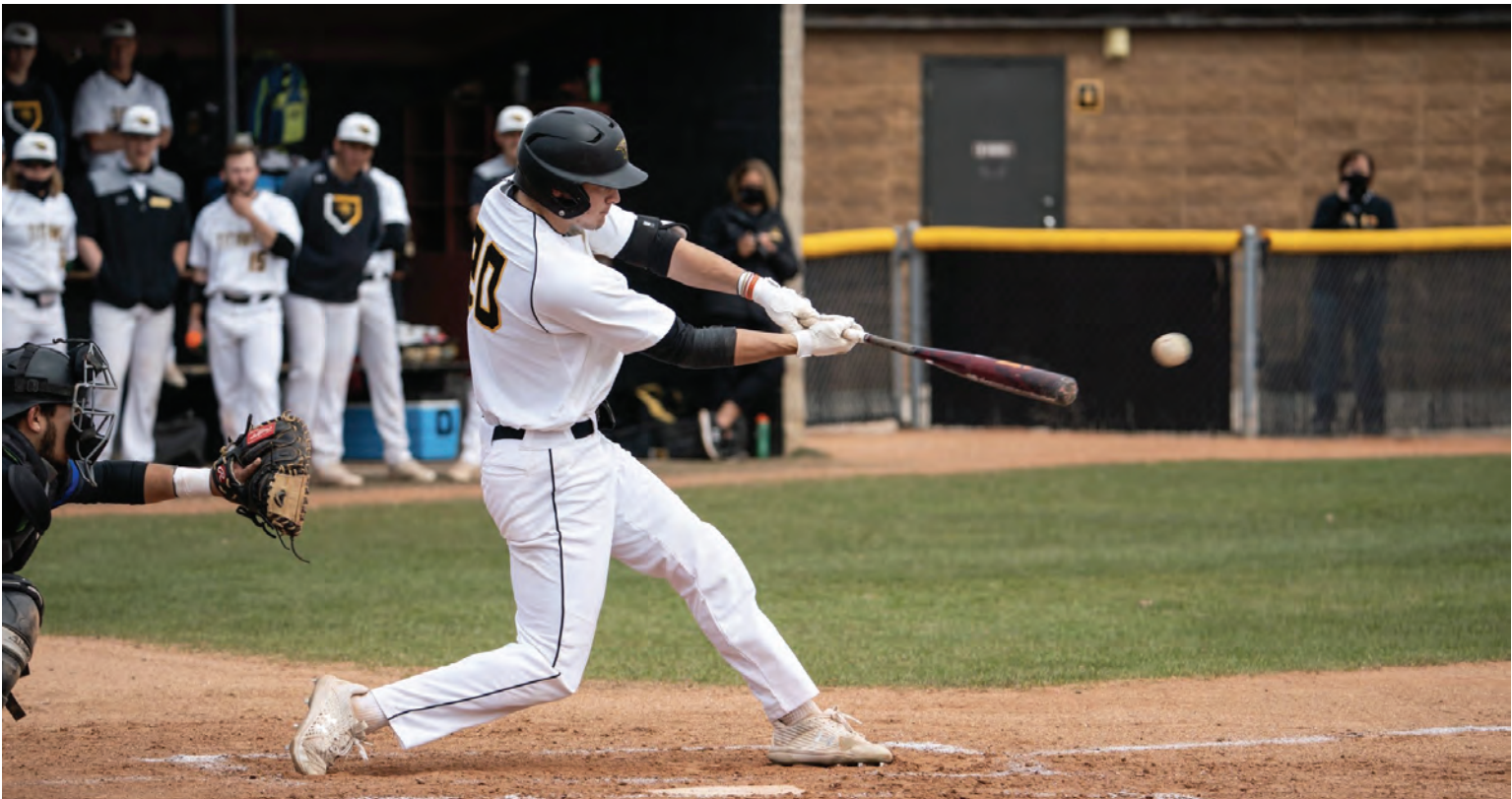
**Softball:** first round of WIAC championship at TBA.

## Wednesday

**Baseball:** at UW-La Crosse at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

\* The remainder of the spring season's sporting events can be found on the UWO athletic page.

## Scherrman dominates as a freshman



Courtesy of Matt Scherrman

At the plate, Scherrman is third on the team in slugging percentage (.647) and total bases (66). He is in first place on the team among freshmen in those categories.

By Cory Sparks  
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With the UW Oshkosh baseball team approaching the final ten games of the season, freshman pitcher and infielder Matt Scherrman has been putting on a clinic both at the plate and on the mound. Through the team's first 29 games, Scherrman has a .353 batting average, five home runs and a runs batted in total of 41 that is third best on the team.

Scherrman attended Wheaton Warrenville South high school in Wheaton, Illinois, which is roughly three hours south of UWO's campus.

Even during high school, Scherrman was known for his work ethic and ability to bring up his teammates.

"Matt was the ultimate teammate, always there to pick up another," Wheaton Warrenville South high school pitching coach Steve Shultz said. "[He led] by example and was always more concerned with team success over his own," Wheaton Warrenville South high

school pitching coach Steve Shultz said.

Scherrman himself also makes a point to put all of his effort into his workouts for optimal performance on the field. He takes every opportunity he has to get better seriously.

"Whether it's morning practice or lifting, I try to work as hard as I can," he said.

Shultz said he enjoyed coaching Scherrman in high school since Scherrman was very receptive to instruction. He also said Scherrmann has a prominent competitive fire in him at all times.

"He was always willing to listen and ask questions," he said. "He was a joy to coach. Matt has a very calm exterior and strong internal desire to beat you."

Along with his competitiveness, Scherrmann gained the trust of his high school pitching coach to a greater extent than most.

Shultz said he trusted Scherrman so much that he even lent him his keys when he needed something brought to practice.

"[Matt is] the only player to this day I've given my car keys to and

asked him to pick up some materials while we were doing some field work, not only once but twice," he said.

Once Scherrman learned the art of pitching, it quickly became his favorite aspect of the game.

He said he enjoys being the first line of defense against the opposing team, along with the hefty responsibility that comes with taking the role.

"[With] pitching you are in total control of the game," Scherrman said.

Scherrmann was a two-sport athlete at Wheaton, playing both baseball and basketball, but when it came time to commit to a college, baseball was the obvious decision for him.

Scherrmann stated that he is far better at baseball than he is at basketball, and the atmosphere at UWO drew him right in to play here.

"Growing up, I was always better at baseball," he said. "When I was looking at schools I knew I wanted to play baseball somewhere, and Oshkosh was the best fit for me."

Scherrman has quickly become a leader for the Titans, sitting in third place in the WIAC with a 13-10 overall record, and he recognizes how fortunate he is to be able to start on a college baseball team as a freshman.

"I still have a lot to learn, but not everyone has a chance to play right when they get to college," Scherrman said. "I was lucky my position was open."

The fact that Scherrman is starting both as a pitcher and a middle infielder isn't all luck, though, as Shultz said that Scherrman's consciousness of game-time situations is impeccable.

"[He has a] great awareness of everything happening on the field," Shultz said.

Along with his awareness, Scherrman has an appreciation for the sport of baseball that extends far beyond how he is able to grow on the field.

Scherrman said the trial-and-error sequence of baseball is comparable to life, and that it is important to learn from your faults in both areas.

## UWO track is prepared for conference

By Jalen Dixon  
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The UW Oshkosh track and field team finished in third and fifth place in the UW-Platteville Border Battle and the Wartburg College Friday Night Lights Meet on Thursday and Friday

The Titans won two throwing events and one jumping event against UW-Stevens Point. The Titans then had a meet at UW-Platteville and finished third out of the five teams that competed at the event.

The Titans had a successful day, as they added five new names to the national top 20 performance list.

The Titans competed at Wartburg College in Iowa and finished fifth out of the five teams that competed.

However, the Titans are not getting down on themselves and are still happy with the way they

competed.

"We competed extremely well at both Platteville and Wartburg," sophomore sprinter Amitai Wheat said. "We are ready to attack the conference."

That is the mindset the entire team has with the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) tournament coming up next week.

The Titans are excited to get out there and show everyone why they are the best team in the conference.

They have prepared themselves for this exact moment all season long.

"We've been waiting on this moment since last year when they sent us home from Nationals," Wheat said. "A 14 plus hour ride back home left us hungry. This is personal for a lot of us."

Determined to win the conference and become champions, the Titans are eager for the weekend

to be here. With this being just a short few days away, the Titans do want to win the conference, but that is not the only thing they want to get out of this meet.

"It is very important to win but we can't be too greedy," Wheat said. "We would love to win this meet and change the culture, but if we perform and put up a fight, we don't care what the final score will be."

It sounds like the most important thing for the Titans is to fight and show that they haven't missed a step since the pandemic began.

This will be a good spot for the Titans to get ready for National competition as well.

You can catch the Titans on Friday and Saturday in River Falls for the WIAC conference championship before the NCAA Division III Outdoor Championship commences on May 27-29 in Greensboro, N.C.



Katie Pulvermacher / Advance-Titan  
On May 7, UWO track will compete in their first outdoor conference meet since 2019.



# ‘Women’s sports are underappreciated’

By Cory Sparks  
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With the increasing rating and wage gaps between men’s and women’s sports, UW Oshkosh women’s basketball athletes have taken notice of the disrespect for women’s sports on a daily basis.

According to the Queen Ballers Club, a website that analyzes statistics regarding the Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA), the average 2020 National Basketball Association (NBA) player had a salary of \$7.7 million while the average 2020 WNBA player made \$100,658.10.

A large reason for this gap is the ratings gap. According to wsn.com, a sports reporting database, the 2019 NBA Finals brought in 15.14 million viewers while the entirety of the 2018 WNBA season brought in 231,000 viewers.

UWO women’s basketball player Nikki Arneson said the lack of media coverage for the WNBA is partially responsible for the sizable gap.

“Women’s sports are underappreciated,” Arneson said. “Women’s sports are not promoted enough by the media and other popular sports platforms. Women’s sports need to be given an opportunity and need to continue getting promoted by big-name people and platforms.”

The spotlight on the mistreatment and overall neglect of women’s sports became even more prominent when a video comparing the men’s and women’s weight



Photos courtesy of Leah Porath and Nikki Arneson

Porath and Arneson are both seniors on the UWO basketball team, and they have helped the team in becoming Wisconsin Inrrecollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) champions in each of the last three seasons.

rooms in the 2021 NCAA March Madness tournament was posted by Sedona Prince, a University of Oregon women’s basketball player.

The video showed the men’s teams having all kinds of weightlifting machinery, and all the women received was a rack of dumbbells.

“I was angry and frustrated. I expected a lot better out of the NCAA; it was literally a slap in the face to all women athletes,” Arneson said. “A lot of the outsiders and even people within the NCAA don’t fully understand and see how much time and commitment student athletes as a whole put into their team and their sport.”

A similar video was released showing that the NCAA also served

the male athletes buffet-style meals where they could go up for seconds to fill their plates, while the female athletes were given little frozen meals to take back to their rooms.

UWO women’s basketball player and NCAA Division III All American Leah Porath went on an episode of a sports podcast, “All Sports Now,” that was dedicated to bringing more recognition to women’s sports. She said the treatment of women athletes was unacceptable.

“Apparently us women don’t eat or something,” Porath said.

Once both videos gained enough traction, the NCAA quickly gave the women’s teams better weight room equipment. All of a sudden, ESPN and Sportscenter were posting more about the women’s

NCAA basketball tournament.

Prior to the weight room video being released, the women’s college basketball games were hardly given any coverage. Porath said she understands that there isn’t a sufficient amount of money to pay WNBA players more than what they make now, but she also said that it’s hard to garner a large viewership when the games are hardly televised.

“It’s not treated equally viewing wise,” Porath said. “Yeah, you don’t have the money to pay the women, but you’re not giving them an equal chance to generate that money like the NBA does.”

Porath also said she was pleased to see the weight room situation push sports media outlets to take a step in the right direction for equal-

ity. “I think the publicity went up, especially from the weight room situation,” she said. “It’s kind of fun to be able to see people like JJ Watt and others tweet about women’s basketball.”

Arneson said that the increased television coverage on the women’s tournament symbolized the start of a huge movement.

“Big TV stations have started to televise more WNBA games,” she said. “The national tournament games are being televised more widespread than ever before, and there have been record numbers of viewers for those games as well. I truly think the support and appreciation of women’s sports are on an uphill climb.”

## Titans catch fire, remain in third place of the WIAC



April Lee / Advance-Titan

Freshman pitcher Cameron Mulvihill picked up his second win of the year in UWO’s 8-5 win over USWP. Mulvihill pitched four innings of shutout baseball while only giving up one hit and one walk.

By Jonathon Samp  
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The Titans had a successful week against UW-Platteville and UW-Stevens Point, going 5-1 across the six game stretch to improve their record to 18-11 (15-7 in conference games).

The first game of the series took place on Wednesday in Platteville. The Titans took this one by a score of 11-3. The winning pitcher for the Titans was Grant Yakimisky, and the save was earned by Harry Orth.

Yakmisky went six innings allowing six hits and three runs; he was only able to get one strikeout in the game. Orth came into the game for three innings allowing only one hit and getting three strikeouts in the contest.

The Titans as a team had 13 hits, and Jarrett Scheelk had the lone home run for the Titans as the Titans scored within the ballpark in this contest

Game two was the closest of all the games in the four-game series against UWP, and the Titans won 11-7. Scheelk earned the win after going 6 ⅓ innings allowing eight

hits, six runs and getting eight strikeouts. The Titans mustered up 13 hits and had three home runs in the contest from Hunter Staniske, Scheelk and Chase Marsh.

Saturday the Titans took on the Pioneers once again for a doubleheader. In game one of Saturday’s doubleheader, the Titans won 14-4. This game only went 7 innings.

The winning pitcher for the Titans was Alex Larson, who went six innings allowing seven hits and four runs (three earned).

The Titans had 13 hits and three home runs from Scheelk, Sherrman and Guisti, who had a grand slam in the contest. This game was a pitchers duel until the bottom of the fourth as the score was 2-1, and then the Titans’ bats woke up like a sleeping giant.

Game two of the double header was similar to game one, as the Titans won 12-2. The pitcher credited with the win was Will Michalski. He pitched six innings allowing five hits and two runs and got three strikeouts.

This game was another close one, as the Titans were up 5-2 until the bottom of the fifth, but that would

not last long. The Titans scored seven in the bottom of the seventh which made the run rule come into play. Modaff and Staniske both hit home runs in this game.

UWO’s 10-game winning streak was snapped in game one against UWSP, as they lost 7-3 at home. Junior infielder Hunter Staniske led UWO’s offensive effort with four hits and a two-run home run.

With UWO only being able to put up three hits between the second and seventh innings of the game, they could not keep up with UWSP’s bats.

UWO evened out the series against UWSP to redeem themselves in the second game, winning 8-5 in the last game of their short homestand.

Scheelk and freshman outfielder Ethan Schrier each had three hits, and freshman middle infielder Matt Scherrman had a solo home run in the game.

The Titans will play UW-Stevens Point on Friday and Saturday. Saturday’s doubleheader will be played at Tiedemann Field at Alumni Stadium in Oshkosh.

## UWO softball continues to pummel competition

By Jonathon Samp  
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The UW Oshkosh softball team went 4-2 last week in three separate series against UW-Whitewater, UW-Stout and UW-Stevens Point.

In game one against UWW, the

Titans lost by a score of 7-2. The loss was handed to Maddie Fink who had a rough outing, only able to go 1 ⅓ innings allowing four hits, six runs and only able to get one strikeout. Freshman Mia Crotty, sophomore Ana Iliopoulos and sophomore Sidney Budzinski came in the game, but no

pitcher was able to go more than two innings. The Titans’ offense struggles, as they could only tally eight hits in the contest.

Game two against the Warhawks was not much better, as the Titans lost 10-4. Claire Petrus was handed the loss after allowing eight hits with five runs in

four innings in the circle. As a team, the Titans had a good day with the bats totaling 11 hits, but they were not productive hits as they were able to cross the dish four times.

The Titans luck seemingly turned around, as they saw success when they traveled to Stout

on Friday and won both games of the doubleheader.

The remainder of the story can be found in the sports section of [advancetitan.com](http://advancetitan.com), and the remainder of the softball schedule can be found on the UWO athletics page.



# UWO golf finishes seventh at conference



Courtesy of Beth Hubbard

The low rounds of the year were a 79 and an 82 by sophomore Lauryn Davis, an 82 by junior Margherite Pettenuzzo and an 82 by Davis, Pettenuzzo and freshman Ava Downie.

By Cory Sparks  
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The UW Oshkosh women’s golf team finished in seventh place out of eight teams in the three-day Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) championship at Reedsburg Country Club.

The event ran from Friday to Sunday, and they put up team scores of 352, 360 and 343 for a total score of 1,055.

Considering the odd schedule change from fall to spring with the COVID-19 pandemic, head coach Beth Hubbard commends her team’s effort. She also said that although her team put up a phenomenal array of rounds this year, there are multiple aspects of the game that still need work.

“The team had some solid performances this year but there is always room for improvement in short game, approach shots and mindset,” she said. “Your golf game is always evolving and requires quick adjustments in real time as you compete depending on the strengths and weaknesses of your game that day.”

UWO golf started their WIAC championship experience off rough, with their 352 and 360 scores being seventh best in the competition, but their third round score of 343 was sixth best in the competition and was their third lowest score of the season.

Junior golfer Margherite Pettenuzzo shot rounds of 84, 92 and 82 for an overall score of 258 (+48) to lead UWO.

Despite the Titans not finishing among the top half of teams in the meet like they did all season long, Hubbard said she was pleased with her team’s understanding of the rules of golf.

“Understanding the rules of golf and utilizing the best choice for your game in that moment is

something the team has improved upon,” Hubbard said. “This past weekend, one team member ruled their ball unplayable since it was against a tree stump instead of trying to hit it left-handed or backwards.”

Hubbard also stated that she was pleased with the team’s performance considering the overall lack of experience and high amount of nerves. Hubbard said that her team’s ability to shake off the nerves and perform well.

“With not the most experienced team, nerves may have gotten the best of us the first day at the WIAC championship, but we turned the nerves from a negative into a positive and fought back the last two days to continue to improve and some reach new scoring levels,” Hubbard said.

With the season concluded, Hubbard said she is thankful for the golfers on her team.

She said that her players’ dedication to the game of golf and the team aspect is what keeps her going.

“The players are a huge part of why I love coaching. Their dedication to the team and work ethic pushes everyone to strive for more and to see that motivation impacts others is my favorite part of coaching,” she said. “The athletic department here at UWO is one large cheering squad, and to have that support is a great feeling.”

With the season projected to resume in the fall if the pandemic continues to subside, the team is looking towards a quick turnaround.

Even with Hubbard being a golf coach, her focus is on her players’ success as students.

“The next step for the team is focusing on finals week as this academic semester comes to a close; they are student-athletes after all,” Hubbard said.



## SPRING PRODUCTIONS

*The Gilbert and Sullivan Tavern Follies*  
*Imaginary Invalid*  
Tickets on sale Apr. 1

[uwosh.edu/theatre/productions](http://uwosh.edu/theatre/productions)



# Making friends with the fauna on campus

By Katie Pulvermacher  
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Colleges all across America claim that their animals on campus, especially squirrels, are different from animals off-campus, as they are overly friendly and let you walk right up to them. Being a student at UWO for nearly two semesters now, I have recognized just how friendly ours are. Urban dictionary describes college squirrels as “The overly-fat and large-sized squirrels usually found on the typical college campus, especially the Midwest and Northeast. College squirrels get their uniquely scary large size from students intentionally, or unintentionally feeding them. College squirrels are also known for being overly friendly and used to humans.” The massive talk about squirrels on college campuses was started in a Twitter thread by Rodger Sherman, a staff writer for The Ringer.

His viral tweet read: “1. did you attend a college with squirrels on campus 2. did people assert that your school’s squirrels were, in some way, different from most squirrels.”

The tweet led to thousands of people replying with their own college squirrel stories. These stories ranged from people responding with pictures of their famous squirrels on campus, doing research projects on them for classes and even their school mascot becoming a squirrel.

UWO has clearly expressed its appreciation towards our campus squirrels by making an Instagram dedicated to them @



Katie Pulvermacher / Advance-Titan

uwosquirrels. The page is new as of April of 2021. So far, the page consists of videos and pictures students send in to be featured.

The videos on the page include a squirrel fight, squirrels sitting on tables around campus, a squirrel on a ledge of a window outside a dorm room in Stewart Hall, a squirrel doing parkour and videos of squirrels eating chicken nuggets and french fries.

We are not the first UW System school to make a page solely dedicated to squirrels. UW-La Crosse, UW-Platteville, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Whitewa-

ter and UW-Madison all have squirrel Instagram pages of their own.

Searching up “squirrels” on Instagram brings up tons of campus squirrel pages to search through. Clearly, college students have a natural affinity toward squirrels.

Penn State is especially known for their campus squirrels. Alumna Mary Krupa from class of 2016 is known on the Penn campus as the squirrel whisperer and found that the squirrels would let her pet and feed them. After learning that, she started dressing them up.

A Facebook page for Sneezy The Penn State Squirrel has 54,000 followers and still posts pictures of squirrels in all sorts of funny hats and dressed up for holidays.

Squirrels are not the only friendly animals on campus at UWO. Ducks, seagulls, rabbits and dogs all found on campus are also very friendly. Evans Hall has a corgi living in it, and it is extremely friendly. Many community members and off-campus residents also walk their dogs on campus often.

If anyone has had the honor

of meeting our campus opossum, consider yourself lucky. I have spotted the campus possum twice, and have taken the task of naming him Peter the Opossum.

According to The ‘Possum Pages, “Opossums are generally nocturnal, foraging throughout the night. But it is not at all unusual to see an opossum out during the daytime, especially during cold weather.”

Both times I have run into Peter the Opossum have been at night. If you happen to run into Peter, or any other opossum, it is very rare they will attack or bite, but they might growl, hiss or open their mouth showing their teeth to ward off predators, according to North American Nature.

Recently, a lot of ducks have been roaming around campus in the warmer weather. This past weekend, I saw a group of around 10 ducks sitting in the grass near Gruenhagen Conference Center. On the same weekend, I also saw a woodchuck by South Scott.

Studies show that students being exposed to animals on campus produces many beneficial therapeutic effects. The CDC shares that having a pet of your own can help manage loneliness and depression by providing you companionship. This is often why some colleges bring in therapy dogs around finals.

One thing is certain, and that is college students love animals on campus, especially the interaction with squirrels. If stressed from finals or work, take a step outside and look for an animal friend; I am sure they are not far away.

## Letters to the Editor

# Going back to normal classes will be hard

By Maci McElwee  
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If people think school is difficult now, they have another thing coming. It is often said that online schooling is difficult for many. However, I believe that the worst is yet to come. For many reasons, I believe that the transition from mostly online schooling to mostly in-person schooling will be a large issue for many.

As many of us know, many college students have relied a lot on their notes, the internet and other people when it comes to taking exams. I don’t see this transition going well, especially when it comes to the students who spent their first year mainly online.

College is an already stressful environment. Take away those resources, and things might not go so well.

It is going to be a whole new

learning curve when it comes to relearning how to study for some students. Although there were other struggles due to the pandemic for some students, school wasn’t as much of one. Being able to lean on their notes, even if you were not supposed to, was a little breath of fresh air for students. This might actually end up making them worse off than if they had just studied more in the first place.

I have heard many stories from

professors about how they have seen a major inflation of grades during the pandemic. Some students’ GPAs are higher than ever right now. However, once next semester hits, and in-person classes come around, people might be shocked at how their cumulative GPA gets hit.

How will this affect the university overall? Well, like I stated earlier, I believe that this is going to be a major shock for a large number of students. If all a

student has ever known is cheating in college, not being able to use resources on exams and quizzes could cause people to begin to do worse in classes, and maybe even cause an increase in dropout rates.

An increased dropout rate will cause the university to lose a ton of money. How will this impact students tuition bills in the future years to come? I guess that is something we will have to find out.

# Vaccine should be required for fall semester

By Emma Smith  
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Should UW schools require COVID-19 vaccinations for students returning for the fall 2021 semester? I say yes. Although there is lots of controversy surrounding the COVID-19 vaccination, UW students should be required to receive it before returning to campus for the fall 2021 semester because the risk

of COVID spreading readily across campus will drop significantly if every student is fully vaccinated.

One of the looming questions surrounding the COVID-19 vaccination is whether or not it is efficient in preventing COVID-19 infection. Yale Medicine’s website states that the Pfizer vaccine is 95% effective and the Moderna is 94.1% effective at reducing the disease in people not ever

infected with COVID-19. Johnson & Johnson is 84% effective at protecting against severe COVID-19 infection in the U.S. Since these are proven effective, college campuses should push them to build toward the ultimate goal: herd immunity.

Herd immunity occurs when most in a community become immune to a disease, making it harder to spread from person to person. Herd immunity is usu-

ally achieved either by mass infection or mass vaccination. Therefore, getting the vaccination is the easy way to help our community achieve herd immunity compared to getting infected myself or watching friends and peers suffer through the disease in order to create herd immunity.

This is why the decision to require vaccinations is best. Offering incentives, like exemption from weekly testing, is not

enough to push hesitant students. Therefore, if college faculty require the vaccination to return to campus, students will be inclined to go out and get vaccinated. The decision lands in the hands of UW System faculty as to how soon they want their campuses to open to normal operations and in the hands of students in regards to getting back their full college experience.



# Why social media is ruining my life

By Peyton Litterick  
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Hi, I'm social media. Pay attention to me.

See that picture of my friends and I trying to take a cute selfie at the pumpkin patch a couple weeks ago? Well, it turned out decent after spending thirty minutes editing it, and then continuously checking how many likes it was getting on Instagram.

On my drive home, I barely remember even being at the pumpkin patch, enjoying the little time I had with my two long distance best friends because I had my nose buried in my phone for the three hours we were there. I wasn't paying attention to the world around me, much less the people I had by my side.

For some reason, waiting for the next notification was more important than asking my friends how their families and college have been. It's honestly embarrassing, but I'm here to confess that social media is indeed ruining my life.

Most people have a morning routine: wake up, make some coffee, take a shower and get ready for the day. But mine? Hit snooze a couple times, roll over and check my Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat and if I have time, maybe spend a mindless hour on TikTok.

Then, I'll go to class, and check my phone every five or ten minutes and barely pay attention to the education that I'm paying thousands and thousands of dollars for.

At work, I keep my phone in my pocket despite our no cell-

phone policy because I can't pull myself away from that connection for eight hours.

Date night with my boyfriend consists of a nice restaurant, a few conversations and then we're both either on our phones or talking about something that happened on our social media.

When bedtime rolls around, I'll sit on TikTok and Snapchat for a few hours before falling asleep. Repeat every day until I die. I'm really exposing myself and cringing as I write this because I just took a 20 minute TikTok break.

On top of just being on social media and wasting my day away, I'm typically self degrading while I'm at it. It is most definitely a girl thing, but the "why can't I have her body?" or "why can't I have that expensive pair of shoes that she has?" or "why does she have a social life and I don't?" is mentally exhausting. I'm not consciously aware that I am constantly comparing my life to everyone else's. Even if I am, I don't realize just how deep that influence goes.

I didn't realize I was waking up every morning thinking about what everyone else in my social media world was doing and how they were accomplishing more than me. No matter what I do, they will always be better. And that's some shit right there. "You're not perfect enough, so be more perfect." The idea that's being pounded into my head that I have to constantly be aware of everything I do or say or post is sickening.

But, despite all of this, it's still not enough.

It's not enough to remind my-



Courtesy of Peyton Litterick

self that social media is a way for people to highlight the good things in their life and to hide the behind the scenes of everyday life. It's not enough to remind myself that a good majority of the people that I follow are in the exact same boat as me, and they, too, are actually miserable, and their lives aren't as adventurous and amazing as they're making it out to be by their social media. It's still not enough to tell my brain to stop as I keep obsessively scrolling through my feed. Reality doesn't matter; I only care about what I can see and feel, and quite frankly, it makes me feel like shit. But why can't I just stop? Wouldn't that solve everything? Unfortunately, no, it would really make it worse as the fear of missing out, or "FOMO" as my little sis-

ter calls it, would quite literally destroy me. It's the fear that if I am off social media for ten minutes, the most amazing and wonderful thing in the world is going to happen...and like hell if I'm going to miss that.

I can't stop.

This makes me feel like a prisoner, and I often feel like there's nothing I can do about it. There are things I enjoy about social media. For God's sake, I'm in college and pursuing a degree that's based around social media. But, I'm not sure if the pros outweigh the cons. And yet here I am, refreshing my feeds and taking intermittent social media breaks.

It's not going away anytime soon.

We are always advancing and finding the fastest and best way

to do something. We go get our news from social media, and we stay connected to family and friends through social media. We follow our favorite celebrities and, if you're like me, you find a major in college that lets you be creative and run an entire social media platform. There's just no escaping it, at least not for the rest of my life on this earth.

If you've made it to the end of this, use this as your reminder to get outside, watch a movie with your friends, go visit your mom, paint a picture...and do it without your phone. The likes, messages, follows and content will be there for you when you get home. Life is short, man. Make the absolute most of it.

## Letter to the Editor

# One financial tool you might be missing

By Mitchell Hunter  
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You have likely heard the phrase, "don't believe everything you read on the internet", but this could not be less true with online stock advice. The internet and social media have proven themselves to be worthwhile financial tools if used correctly and have left many with hefty profits in the stock market. Its recent successes in making people rich should make you consider adding social media to your repertoire of investment advice.

Recently it seems that everybody is talking about their favorite stocks and cryptocurrencies. There appears to be a new frenzy in the market every few weeks where people are giving advice to buy the latest trendy stock. Businesses promoting investment education are being advertised everywhere to capitalize on this surge of interest. Sports pages on my Instagram feed have been reporting the re-

cent news in the stock market. Why has this been happening?

The internet, and more specifically social media, have provided everyone on the planet with an effortless way to communicate, express ideas and post funny dog pictures (the last one ties in later). One popular social media site is Reddit, a social media platform that acts as a board where people with similar interests congregate on subreddits to express themselves. There is a subreddit for everything including sports teams, video games and most relevant in today's news: investment advice. Introducing r/WallStreetBets, a subreddit where people discuss everything stocks. From advice, to stories of riches, to the newest way to exploit the market, this board is filled with people who share a passion for trading.

You have likely heard of r/WallStreetBets in recent news. At the beginning of 2021, a large group of Redditors collaborated to hike up the price of the stock of GameStop which is quickly

becoming an obsolete service. They opposed the big investors who bet on the company to die and pumped it full of money, raising its stock by 8,000%. The anonymous people of Reddit felt motivated by the unfair chance that the average person gets in the market and decided to strike back on the wealthy investors. This caught wind on other social media sites, such as Twitter, where people continued to drive up the price and make themselves rich.

This all ties into Elon Musk, who needs no introduction. If you want to make money on the stock market, follow the Tesla CEO's Twitter

page. His one-word tweet that said, "Gamestonk" drove up GameStop's price even more.

A new craze has recently introduced itself into the market that originally started as an internet joke. "Dogecoin" is a cryptocurrency named after an internet meme and was once worthless. According to Yahoo! Finance, on January 1, 2021, a share of Dogecoin was \$0.0047, but that was soon to change. Musk made a series of tweets throughout April, and then on the now-dubbed "Doge Day" April 20, 2021, A Musk tweet spiked Dogecoin to \$0.4084 (Yahoo). This led to people who held onto this worthless digital

coin to surge in wealth and gave DOGE the ranking of seven on the largest cryptocurrencies according to Coin Market Cap.

Although Musk's influence greatly impacted these two stocks, as well as the entire stock market, ultimately it was the anonymous people of the internet who banded together to raise stock prices to benefit the commoners. It is clear that simply following Musk's Twitter or browsing Reddit has made many rich, and it does not seem like its momentum is slowing down. Keep an eye on your social media platforms because the next frenzy of trading could come at any moment.

### Letter Guidelines

The Advance-Titan welcomes and reads all letters. Timely, well-written, provocative opinions on topics of interest at UW Oshkosh are given first preference.

All letters are subject to editing; not all letters can be published. Letters exceeding 300 words may be edited at the discretion of the Advance-Titan staff. Name, position, address and daytime phone number are required, although only name and email will be published along with the article.

The Advance-Titan does not publish anonymous or open letters and letters printed elsewhere.

If your letter is chosen for publication, we may attempt to contact you for verification via email or phone. To submit your letter, email [atitan@uwosh.edu](mailto:atitan@uwosh.edu).



Arts & Entertainment

# Surviving finals week

By Lexi Langendorf  
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It’s almost that time of the year again where overwhelmed students swarm the library, cry over final projects and get more caffeine than sleep.

Finals week, being packed with exams, essays and final projects, is generally looked upon in a negative light.

However, finals week doesn’t have to be a week of suffering if you don’t want it to be.

There are certainly ways to stay engaged in your studies and be successful on all of your finals without your blood pressure skyrocketing.

**Have the right study strategy**

One way to improve your studying is to work with friends or even change up your study space completely and instead study outside, at a cafe or in the library.

During the week, it’s also important to have a schedule that makes time for all of the school stuff you need to get done.

UWO sophomore and Advance-Titan Opinion Editor Owen Peterson recommends using a planner or checklist to ensure that everything gets done.

“When juggling multiple important exams in the span of a week, it is easy to get flustered, and staying organized by using a planner and setting aside time to study for certain classes makes it a lot more manageable,” he said. “Also, I would recommend writing by hand as much as possible

while studying, as it helps you recall stuff much better when actually taking the exam.”

Thomas Antrim, a UWO junior and A-T writer, also recommends that students write out a schedule or list as well as learn to apply course material to daily life to make it easier to recall.

“Apply the material you’re learning in the class to things in your own life to make the curriculum relatable,” he said. “You will be able to grasp and retain the knowledge more if you are interested in it.”

Junior A-T writer Kylie Balk-Yaatenen said that she generally tries to look over her notes before she goes to sleep so she retains the material.

“I also read over them while I drink my coffee in the morning of the exam,” she said.

**Maintain healthy habits**

Outside of studying, it’s important to practice healthy habits both mentally and physically.

Senior A-T Editor in Chief Carter Usabar said that his biggest finals week survival tip is proper sleep.

“Professors don’t award points based on hours-of-sleep foregone,” Usabar said. “So, sleep now, study later. If you put off sleep, you’ll be wasting your time studying, won’t remember anything and will feel both physically and mentally like garbage. Even if you must sacrifice time spent studying for sleep, it’ll be a more productive use of your time.”

Sophomore A-T Managing Edi-

tor and Sports Editor Cory Sparks said that a healthy diet and frequent breaks are crucial for him during finals.

“Putting the right things into my body that will allow me to stay energized is something I always try to do, but I stress it even more during finals week,” he said. “During last minute studying, I always remember to take a break every half an hour or so. Breaking the work down into intervals makes it less daunting.”

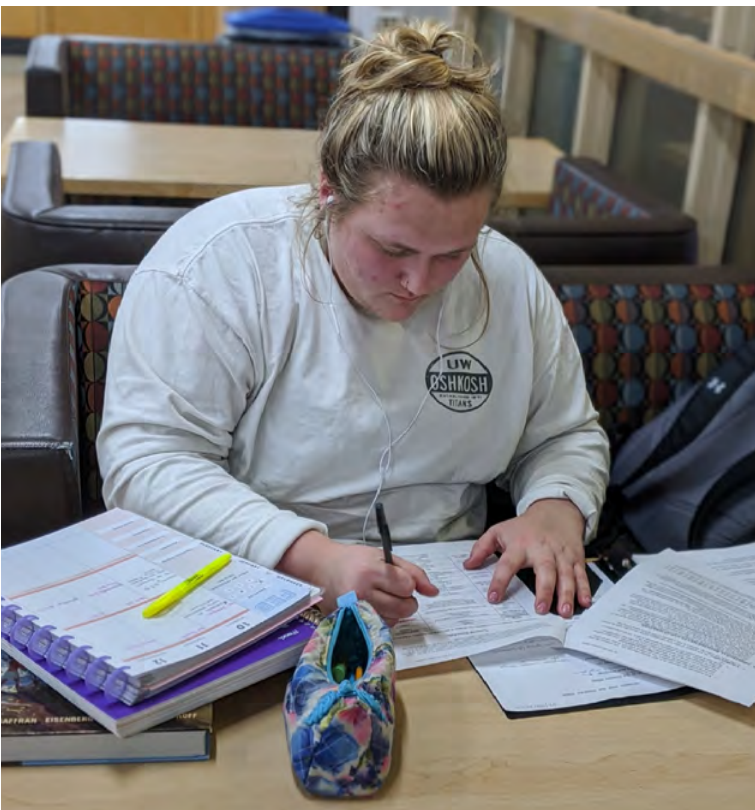
**Reward yourself**

Senior A-T Copy Chief Heidi Docter said that she often uses small incentives to get her through stressful weeks.

“I have a hard time sitting down and actually doing my work, so I set small goals to accomplish throughout the day and give myself a reward if I complete a task,” she said. “For example, if I complete my research paper that’s weeks overdue by tonight, I’ll indulge in a bowl of Fruity Pebbles at 2 a.m. The last two weeks are arduous enough, and forcing myself to push through it without any breaks or positive reinforcement tends to wear on my mental wellbeing. Immediate positive reinforcement does wonders, no matter how small.”

Freshman A-T News Writer Katie Pulvermacher had college finals for the first time last semester, and said she found it best to spend time in the library studying, and then reward herself after with a treat.

“This semester, I plan on study-



Advance-Titan file photo by April Lee

ing in the library again and using a gift card my mom gave me for Insomnia Cookies,” she said. “Little rewards like that make finals bearable. The effort you put into studying is reflected in what you get out.”

**Find what works for you**

Most importantly, do what makes you feel the best, whether it’s getting a coffee, taking a power nap or hitting the gym.

Cassidy Kennedy, junior A-T writer, has a specific routine during finals week that helps her

stay on track.

“I usually start studying a few days in advance to go over the material and then I start quizzing myself on it to make sure I feel comfortable with it,” she said. “I also keep pumping the coffee during finals week and I always like to chew a piece of gum while I take exams because it helps with my focus and memory since studies do show gum helps during exams.”

This finals week, remember to relax, do your best and try some of these tips to help all of your exams go smoothly.

**More stories available online:**

- Finals week deals and discounts
- Mother’s Day gift ideas
- Summer 2021 event updates
- Local band live video performance from Jambalaya Arts Inc.

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# UWO students are excited for summer

By Cassidy Kennedy  
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UWO students are getting excited for this summer, and with only about two weeks left, they are in the home stretch.

Summer for college students means seeing family, spending time with friends, traveling, working a summer job or internship and relaxing.

However, many college students missed out on these great opportunities last summer due to the COVID-19 pandemic changing their plans and not allowing them to do so.

When asked what they were most excited about this summer, UW Oshkosh students responded with a variety of fun activities.

Senior Brynn Connelly said she is excited to spend her first summer with her dog Dixie and getting to take her on many walks outside.

“I also really need to start focusing on developing my career as a future teacher while still being able to have time for myself,” Connelly said.

Senior Diqan Reese said he is most excited to go on vacation with his girlfriend this summer and getting to spend a lot of time with her.

“I’m also ready to enjoy some good weather after all these cold months,” Reese said.

Junior Lexi Langendorf said she is eager to spend her time outside in the warm weather while tanning by her parents’ pool and studying for the LSAT.

“I’ve also loved going hiking lately with my family, so I’m sure we will explore lots of new parks and trails this summer,” Langendorf said.

Senior Grant Hunter said online learning has been exhausting and he is ready to relax this summer.

“I really want to travel around the state or county with a small group of my vaccinated friends,” Hunter said.

Freshman Lauren Kluge said she is super excited to see her high school friends because she hasn’t seen them in a while since they all go to different colleges.

“I am also excited to spend time with my family and not have to

worry about all the stress with schoolwork,” Kluge said.

Freshman Mattie Beck said she is excited to go up to Madeline Island with her friends since they are all vaccinated and they’re hyped to go cliff jumping, shopping and biking around the island.

“I am also excited for my birthday, as last year for COVID I didn’t really get to do anything and this year I can at least have a small gathering,” Beck said.

Junior Jackie Goldman said she and her boyfriend are most excited about adopting a rehomed French bulldog this summer.

“I can’t wait to see his bond with my current French bulldog Mila and to go many places with them,” Goldman said.

Junior Kirsta Ann said she is excited to spend time with her friends this summer and knows that everyone’s schedules are busy, but that will mean they will all have to set time aside to relax.

“I also recently started longboarding so I can’t wait to go riding at Menominee Park,” Ann said.



Cassidy Kennedy / Advance-Titan

Brynn Connelly said that she is excited to be able to spend her first summer with her puppy, Dixie, and take her on lots of walks.





# News editor realizes she majored in journalism: ‘Rats!’

By Sophia Voight  
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A common spite made in our newsroom is “how could you be a journalism major and not work for your student newspaper?” Walk into most journalism courses and they’ll probably give you a speech on how it’s nearly impossible to get a job if you aren’t involved in student media. And they’re probably right because I surely learned just as much from my experience at the A-T as I did directly from my professors.

I probably had a more abnormal experience with student media due to working through the corona-pocalypse, but I still owe a good portion of my journalism success to the lessons learned through this paper.

The Advance-Titan is the whole reason I got into this journalism thing. And I couldn’t be more grateful for it.

After a brief stint at art school a few years ago, and a realization that I wanted nothing to do with it, I decided to switch majors and transfer colleges.

As most juniors in college, I again realized that I had no idea what I wanted to do post-college.



Carter Uslabar / Advance-Titan

Sophia Voight was a news reporter for The Advance-Titan for a semester before becoming the Opinion section editor. Beginning in fall 2020, she served as the Assistant News Editor.

I thought a job that involved writing would be cool and chose journalism on a whim.

In Carter Uslabar’s words: I decided to leave one career field

that makes absolutely no money and go into another career field that makes absolutely no money.

The A-T was what brought me to UW Oshkosh. When trying to

choose between journalism programs and researching where to transfer to, I kept hearing about UWO’s great student newspaper and figured this place might be cool.

So when I started at UWO, I sought out the A-T booth at Taste of Oshkosh and began reporting for news.

Through my first story for the A-T two years ago about some nursing award, I immediately found my love for reporting.

Through my time as a reporter, opinion editor and finally news editor, the A-T has afforded me great opportunities to explore the journalism world.

From reporting on city politics to local bands to breaking news about a pandemic, the A-T really helped me find a career I love.

I’ll miss the long nights stuck in the basement of Reeve laying out the paper, or the time we had to scramble over to Sage in the middle of a winter night because the internet went out.

Though most of my time at the A-T was spent during the dumpster-fire of 2020, through virtual meetings and six-feet apart with masks, I had a blast.

The biggest thanks to Joe Schulz for being a great friend

and mentor. I probably owe my journalism career to you and your help. You’re an incredible reporter and it has been inspiring watching your journalism career take off.

I also want to thank Amber Brockman for being a great editor when I was a news reporter and a great teammate while I was assistant news editor.

Cory Sparks, I’m sure you’ll be a great EIC next year. Anyone who applies the same tenacity to their work as you did for your sports page by copying and pasting “i” from Google anytime you needed the letter, can only get up to great things.

Vincent Filak deserves a fountain of diet coke for helping me actually get my degree in four years. When I walked into your office my first semester at UWO, you said it would be impossible — it almost was — but I’m glad I got to prove you wrong.

Lastly, I’d like to thank Barb Benish: the heart of the A-T. You’ve always been there with any help or advice I needed, and I really appreciate the crazy amount of things you do for the A-T. We wouldn’t run without you.

# Copy Chief adorns wizard hat for last time; cries

By Heidi Docter  
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I joined the revered, award-winning, infamous Advance-Titan back in fall 2019 as a wildly inexperienced copy editor. The only editing experience I had was as a tutor at the Writing Center, which, let me tell you, is nothing like journalistic editing.

Kaitlyn Scoville, a friend from high school and a copy editor, got me an “in” with the A-T. I had just switched my minor to journalism, and I was looking for a resume booster, so she was kind enough to recommend me to the then-Copy Chief Cody Wiesner.

On my first day at the paper, I had a difficult time orienting myself. Literally. I couldn’t find the damn place, partly due to the horribly vague directions from Cody and because it’s tucked away in a bleak, deserted corner of Reeve’s basement.

But as I walked into the window-less fluorescent room, I was greeted by the strangest but loveliest group of socially awkward caffeine addicts I had ever met.

Cody was a familiar face from the Writing Center. He sat perched upon his swivel chair throne with a blue Pilot G2 in hand and an incredible wealth of (often useless but still fun) information in his head.

Cody was everything a copy

chief should aspire to be. He created weekly AP style quizzes and bribed us lowly deskers with candy and a wizard hat to whoever got the highest score. I managed to earn the honorable title of “Copy Wizard” a few times. That will forever be the highlight of my college career.

The following semester, Kaitlyn took over as copy chief and she did a damn fine job. Kaitlyn was dealt a crappy had with the onset of the ‘rona, but she did a great job keeping spirits high while the world burned to the ground.

And then she passed the torch — or the power of the Pilot G2 — to me. I still felt like a baby giraffe trying to find its footing, but Kaitlyn took the time to prepare me so I didn’t completely burn the A-T office to the ground.

Even though our staff has dwindled and I’m confined to the back corner with just the ghosts of Cody and Kaitlyn cheering me on, our small crew still has the same spirit we did pre-corona.

I’m writing at length about the people I’ve met through working at the Advance-Titan because that’s what will stick with me for years to come. Yes, it’s also invaluable work experience and it’s a satisfying feeling having your hard work be published, but it’s the people that made me want to come back every Tuesday night.

The steady deterioration of our sanity as the night wore on and the stories that arise are what give this little fluorescent cave its soul.

The joy of adorning the wizard hat after getting a perfect score on one of Cody’s AP quizzes; the trips up to the C-Store with Kaitlyn and Carter Uslabar to stock up on gummy worms; the game of catch with Cory, Owen, Sophia and Amber; the story of Cory dealing with a broken keyboard and copying and pasting the letter “i” for an entire semester — that’s what kept me going.

My most meaningful friendships have been formed within the walls of this shoddy office. Thank you to Carter for always offering a hug during finals and for making me cry (far too often) with your kind cards and letters at the end of each semester.

Thank you to Cody for being the most wonderful, quirky leader a young, clueless journalist could ask for. I never thought the guy torturing me with grammar fun facts and AP quizzes would become one of my best friends.

Thank you to Kaitlyn for getting me in the A-T office in the first place and for setting me up for success as a copy editor. I’m glad both of us only ventured 25 miles away from high school and that college reconnected us.

No I’m not crying. Shut up. Of course, I also owe my suc-



Carter Uslabar / Advance-Titan

Heidi Docter joined The Advance-Titan as a copy editor in fall of 2019. She became the Copy Chief in spring 2021.

cesses to many others. Barb, thank you for being the machine behind the A-T and for the countless sheet cakes you’ve bought for us. Vincent, you set me up with the skills I needed to succeed at the paper and your lectures were endlessly entertaining. Gleason, thank you for letting me do my multimedia project on mushrooms, and I’m sorry for giggling

through your History of Journalism class with Carter.

It’s been a wild ride, and it’s time to pass the G2 to another deserving soul.

If you or a friend would like to be that soul, don’t hesitate to contact the A-T. You will be welcomed with open arms and a sheet cake.



# What do you mean ‘headline’? Who the hell are you people?

By Grant Hunter  
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Ladies and gentlemen, I invite you to break from the norm and for a moment pay attention to the man behind the curtain. Avid Advance-Titan readers would see me and never recall a single story of mine.

Well they’d be right; I don’t have any. In fact, this is the first piece I’ve ever written for the Advance-Titan, and it will likely be my last.

When it comes to the Advance-Titan, I have been that man behind the curtain, and stayed hidden there for quite some time. You’ve all seen me, though, on more than one occasion, you just have never seen me go by my own name.

Usually I go by one of several other names such as: “The Advance-Titan,” “theadvancetitan,” or “atitan.” Yep, I’ve been the “guy that does that!”

Anywhere from uploading stories and managing the website to running social media platforms and engaging people online has been my main gig for the past two years.

For working with a news organization, wouldn’t I want to be a reporter or an editor? No, not really. Personally, I much more enjoy being a fan than a writer. Joe Schulz saw that when he talked

me into the A-T.

It was... \*checks LinkedIn\*... January 2020 at the bar in Molly Maguires when Joe and I were tipping back some of the worst beer we’d ever had when he mentioned to me that he was trying to find someone to help with the website, but no one wanted to do it.

It happened that the sort of thing he was asking fit right in with my major, the IWM major, and gave me a chance to get more experience.

We do things a little bit differently from journalists. Our primary focus is on all things internet; namely the intersection of business, technology and content creation.

After that I got to work pretty closely with the A-T’s advisor Barb Benish and learned everything about the website from the lead web editor at the time Lauren Reidinger.

It’s not as easy as you think uploading all those stories to a website! Sometimes we’d be at the computer for six hours. Writers write their stories for the paper, so reformatting story after story for the website was a time-consuming responsibility. At this point, Olivia, our web editor, is probably noticing I formatted this right to make it easy for her.

Through doing that, though, I gained a much deeper apprecia-

tion for the writers at the A-T and the stories they wrote. I’m sure there aren’t a lot of people who read every story from every writer, start to finish, every week.

Lately I’ve taken up the social media platforms as a chance to flex the other half of the IWM major’s muscles. I’m very happy to have successfully breathed new life into them. I think they’ll do just fine as days go on.

The weekly reports I send out to the A-T’s editors always showed great promise and ended with some sort of totally unrelated quote that seemed so out of place that it was almost funny.

Featuring stories from writers is always a treat as well. On the backend of social media we can see the post interactions, and it’s great to see how much they get shared and how other people can become fans.

A particular favorite of mine is when writers take the post as an opportunity to share with their friends and family the work they’ve been doing.

I’m awkwardly aware of the fact that this story is going to end up on there also, but it won’t be me running this post.

Sami, I think you’re going to do great at taking over things here on social media. I know those analytics can be confusing but with good math skills, determination and some creativity you can get



Carter Usalabar / Advance-Titan  
Grant Hunter served as The Advance-Titan’s Web Editor for the spring and fall 2020 semesters before transitioning into his current role as the publication’s Social Media Manager in spring 2021.

a lot more than numbers from them!

Olivia, you’re doing an incredible job with the website and making sure everything is where it needs to be. I never had a doubt that you’d become great at the job. I literally could not do my job without you.

For the both of you, running things from behind the curtain can be intense at times and exciting at others, but if you ever want to write a story, don’t hesitate to ask Cory how you can do that.

I’d like to thank Joe for getting me into this in the first place, I’m

sure he’s read at least this far if he managed to find this. I’d like to thank Barb for being such a pleasure to work with, and here’s to hoping you get more that respond to emails as fast as I do!

Thank you all for giving this behind-the-scenes wizard a moment in the spotlight.

Can I plug the handles? I’m going to anyway. Follow us on Facebook! Find us on Instagram @theadvancetitan. Give our Twitter a follow @atitan. Go to our website and subscribe to our eNewsletter!

# Editor to overthink headline for last published piece

By Carter Usalabar  
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This is all Jack Tierney’s fault—I just wanted to do more cartoons.

For two years I did editorial cartoons (of highly variable quality) for The Advance-Titan’s staff editorials. Toward the end of my sophomore year, I noticed a weekly cartoon in the A&E section was conspicuously absent. I sent an email, which was forwarded to Jack, who shortly thereafter dumped the Arts & Entertainment editor role on me. Thankfully.

My first night in the newsroom was everything I could have hoped for. It was a fascinating learning experience, and it gave me a great deal of confidence as I continued to gain and improve my skills. Outgoing editors like Calvin Skalet and Christina Basken let my creativity run wild, Jack helped familiarize me with InDesign and Joe Schulz taught me how to write a news piece.

From that point, things only got better. The A-T and the A&E section became a place where I could put all my creative skills into practice, and — at the risk using a word whose meaning has been diluted by familiarity — find some kind of fulfillment in my work.

It’s easy for me to recognize where the immense sense of gratification the A-T gives me comes

from. It comes from the ability to reach out to a person or group, speak to them, synthesize their story into a written account, give it visual representation and present it all in a well-designed page. And then pick it off a news rack. Being a part of the A-T has given me and my many friends here something special that few other students have—the ability to hold up a physical object and say, ‘I made this.’

And what’s more, I made it along with my friends. The bonds I made with friends at The Advance-Titan are the strongest and most meaningful I’ve made during my time at UW Oshkosh. The creative energy that flowed between Jack, Leo Costello, and myself was verily a cut above. The only regret I have is that they graduated a year and a half before me.

Joe Schulz’s almost-maniac passion for journalism and Sophia Voight’s prolific reporting pushed me to write better, and Heidi Docter and Owen Peterson made me laugh each week—things that were, without making hyperbole of it, the only thing I looked forward to each week.

After that first semester being A&E editor, and with the gaping holes in our newspaper’s leadership roles after Jack, Leo and former Copy Chief Cody Wiesner’s graduations, I found myself elected to the top dog position of Editor-in-Chief. It was an exciting time for myself and

for the rest of the staff: we had an astounding amount of momentum built up our coverage and planning was superb, and our design was getting better and better. We’d just won first place at the Associated Collegiate Press’ Best of the Midwest convention. It seemed like nothing could stop us.

But you know what happens next. It’s a tale as old as time, a song as old as rhyme, college newspapers and disease.

The truth of the matter is that the A-T’s newsroom, in the downright creepy, blue linoleum-tiled hallway behind Titan Underground, is a synecdoche of small-town journalism today: it is dying, COVID-19 or not. But the people who are behind it are pushing—sometimes trudging—forward despite this. Despite our staff being decimated by COVID-19 and a shoestring budget, we published 28 papers in a school year when we weren’t even sure we’d be in person. We thought we’d all be packing our bags by week three of fall 2020. We didn’t hire a distribution manager, so I ended up delivering papers to the kiosks all across campus while A-T adviser Barb Benish delivered to our community locations.

Of course, I can’t go further without thanking Barb. Barb is the unflagging backbone of the Advance-Titan. Without her, there is no paper. Whether she was coordinating and entering



Heidi Docter / Advance-Titan  
Carter Usalabar drew cartoons for The Advance-Titan’s staff editorials for two years before becoming the Arts & Entertainment editor. He became the Editor-in-Chief in spring 2020 and remained in that position through spring 2021.

our staff’s work into competitions, finding resources, securing advertisements or sending hundreds of emails to our staff, it seemed like Barb was always working on the A-T. Rumor has it she doesn’t need sleep. But she has done much more, too; she’s provided direction when we were directionless. She helped our staff with their resumes and helped train new writers. I am deeply indebted to Barb for the countless opportunities she’s made possible for myself and my fellow editors.

This paper shall be my last. Come fall, Cory Sparks will be leading the paper. He’s shown a

great ability to learn, to design pages and to write. He produced page after page of sports content during the pandemic when there was—you guessed it—next to no sports to cover, creating content out of nothing like Fritz Haber produced ‘bread from air.’ It’s a bittersweet feeling to know the next time I see the Advance-Titan, my name will be absent from the masthead, but I’m drenched in gratitude for my experience with the publication.

Now prepare yourself for a slew of letters to the editor...