

The Advance-Titan

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Advance-Titan photo

Emma Luebbert and Amy Woyth visited UW Oshkosh to attend journalism and radio/TV/film classes, The Advance-Titan production nights and a live Titan TV news show.

German students explore UWO journalism

By Amy Woyth
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Reality check: The United States is not the greatest country in the world. But then, does any country deserve that title?

Looking through the lens of a German exchange student — or rather visitor — the many differences between the two countries are revealed daily. And, in some ways, they prove the European perception that the U.S. way of life is more flawed than advantageous (subjectively, of course).

While I have been in Oshkosh for only a week, I have been in the country for over a month and have had the opportunity to explore the vast landscape of American customs and conventionalities. Some may be common knowledge around the world, but others are observations one has to make for themselves as a tourist — whether that may be weird-tasting tap water (shouldn't that be clear and not cloudy anyway?) or lawn signs (what a waste of paper!).

But why am I even in the States, and what brings me to Oshkosh specifically? I am here because of a three-week journalism scholarship, organized by the Radio in the American Sector (RIAS) Berlin Commission, learning about large media markets, like those in New York City, and local ones, like those in the Midwest.

RIAS was responsible for radio and television broadcasting in the American sector of Berlin, and it was founded in 1946 by the U.S. occupational authorities after World War II in order to provide

Opinion

the German population in and around Berlin with news and political reporting. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1992, the RIAS Berlin Commission has made it its goal to promote exchange in the field of broadcast journalism between the U.S. and Germany. I am now one of the first lucky students to be able to take part in such an exchange program.

During my short time here, I have been able to get to know what media production on a smaller scale looks like in practice — I wouldn't be writing a story for The Advance-Titan if I hadn't — and I have also been able to experience campus life as a whole. A side effect of the is the constant comparison of college life here vs. university life at home.

For example, take one of the most obvious differences: tuition costs. While tuition for a year at UW Oshkosh is around \$7,800, one semester at my university at home of the University of Applied Sciences Mittweida costs €100 (around \$110). That's around \$220 a year. Obviously, Americans in many ways get what they pay for: an amazing campus infrastructure as well as many social, educational and recreational opportunities. But would you be willing to give all that up for less tuition and a merely "good" campus infrastructure? Also, the standard duration of study in Germany is three years, not four (and we do not have names for the year you are in).

Walkability has also been a big concern for me. Getting to and around campus is not a problem when you live close by or on campus, but what if you live even a little further away? While Oshkosh does provide city bus services, it seems like the city infrastructure forces you to own a car or build up a carpooling network. Forget about commuting from another city or town!

Issues that are nonpartisan topics back home — free tuition, healthcare and the expansion of public train networks and transport — are, I would argue, unfortunately highly politicized here. From what I have witnessed, this infrastructure is more impractical than helpful. Being able to commute to university by train, for example, allows me to live in a larger city and work a job that I would not be able to find in the 14,000-inhabitant town I study in.

This short rant aside, I have found myself to be jealous of American life on various occasions, too. The meaning of a campus here — a place to get together, to connect to fellow students, to spend the entirety of your student-life at — is an entirely different one than back home. It allows you to cherish your time at college on a whole other level, actively rather than passively.

And honestly, if I could swap the classes I have visited at UW Oshkosh with those from my home university, I would. Every single one of them. I was surprised to find out how practice-oriented they were, with all professors being very friendly and accomo-



Cory Sparks / The Advance-Titan

Amy Woyth gives orders on the Titan TV news set as she fills in as the station's floor director for the day.

dating. Some of the radio/TV/film classes were especially interesting: I really had to make an effort to suppress a laughing fit when first seeing fellow students practice sports commentating. Go Titans!

All of that being said, I will no doubt be coming back to the United States as soon as possible. This program, originally set to take place in March 2020, was postponed four times after the pandemic hit and I only grew

more and more excited to finally visit New York and Wisconsin. I can confidently say that this trip has not disappointed. One of the most notable observations, and something I have resolved to bring home with me, is the spirit of kindness, openness and random compliments. Although Germany may not be keen on taking over the American infrastructure, it could definitely use more of the American mindset!

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SRWC numbers stay strong during road construction

By Lexi Wojcik-Kretchmer
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The construction all over campus has changed traffic patterns, side-walk accessibility and more, but has it affected how many people are going to the Student Recreation and Wellness Center (SRWC)?

In the weeks before construction started, the SRWC usage started off at over 6,000 people in the first week. But it then leveled out to around 5,000 people for weeks two, three, four and five.

Construction on Algoma Boulevard and Pearl Avenue went underway during week six of the semester, and the number of people using the SRWC has stayed consistent at just over 5,000 people.

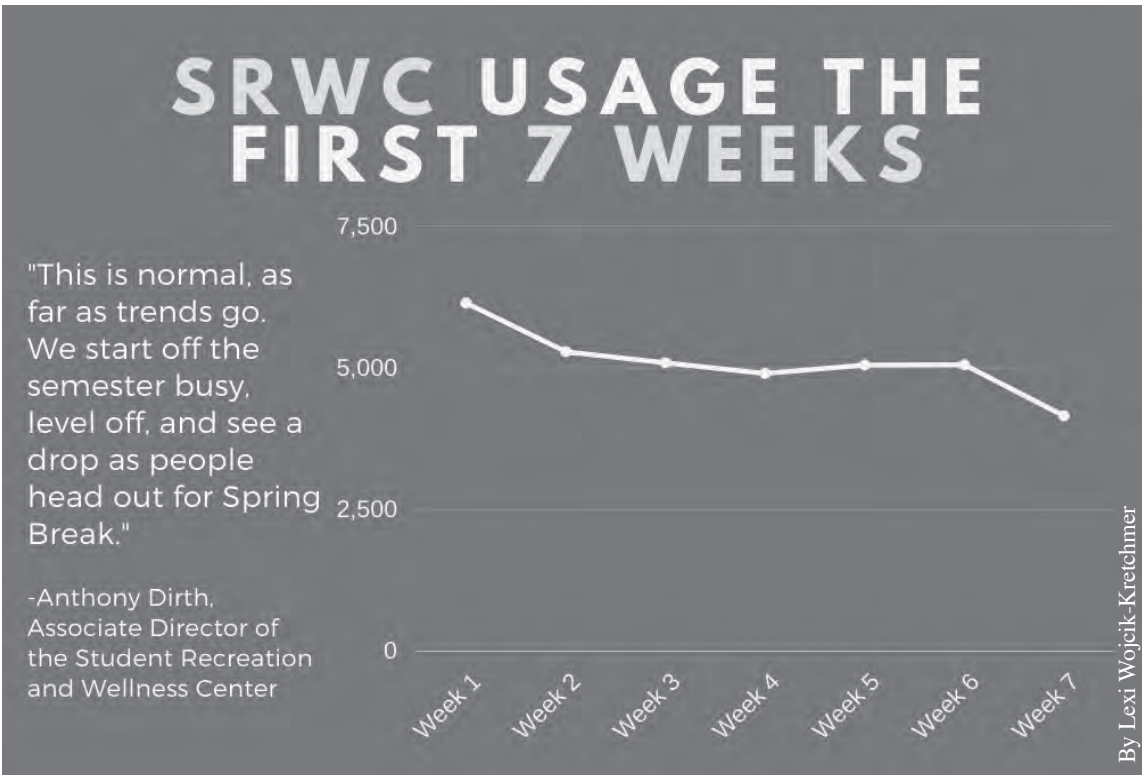
Week seven, the week before spring break and midterms, saw a 20% drop in attendance with just over 4,000 going to the gym.

“This is normal, as far as trends go,” said SRWC Associate Director Tony Dirth. “We start off the semester busy, level off and [then] see a drop as people head out for spring break.”

Despite the actual numbers being consistent with past years, Dirth said the SRWC have heard from students that it is more difficult to get to the SRWC.

“It’s such an inconvenience,” senior Keegan Lafferty said. “It’s not the end of the world and I’m still going to go, but it’s enough to really throw a wrench in my day.”

Junior Amy Keyzer said the con-



struction is more of an annoyance than anything.

“The construction hasn’t really affected how much I go, but it’s just annoying having to walk through all of the mud and commotion,” she said.

Additionally, Dirth also said that the SRWC heard of some issues from the UW Oshkosh Police Department.

“We’ve heard from UWO PD that a lot of the signs directing people where they should be going were being ignored,” Dirth said. “[The] parking [department]

opened more metered parking in the Culver Family lot, which helped, and as of late we’ve not noticed issues.”

Inside the gym, they’ve also seen some operational issues stemming from the new paths people must take to get to the SRWC doors.

“We noticed [the] amount of mud being tracked into our building due to the construction,” Dirth said. “We’ve had to re-emphasize one of our policies: bringing a second pair of shoes.”

The SRWC has already seen an improvement in the number of stu-

dents who bring a second pair of shoes, which helps with keeping the SRWC clean.

“It was pretty annoying when the construction first started with the amount of mud that was all over the floors and treadmills,” senior Erica Perez-Montez said. “But for the most part, it seems much cleaner now, and I see more people changing their shoes when they’re getting ready to work out.”

The SRWC is open Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

UW system sends phishing simulations to students

By Cory Sparks
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The UW system is sending phishing simulations to students’ emails in order to test their sense of recognition of such scams.

Phishing is defined as “the fraudulent practice of sending emails purporting to be from reputable companies in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords and credit card numbers,” according to the Oxford Dictionary.

UW students who receive and fall for the simulations by clicking on the link in the email were sent an additional email informing them that they were a part of a simulation and will likely be sent more emails of a similar structure.

Russia has been sending an increased number of scam emails and has initiated more hacking attempts since the beginning of the war in Ukraine.

According to SC Media, a media organization dedicated to keeping its audience informed on all topics related to cybersecurity, Russia-related phishing attacks have increased by a factor of eight since Feb. 27.

Mark Clements, the chief information officer for UW Oshkosh’s information technology (IT) department, said that although phishing has always been an issue, the risk and efforts have increased in light of recent events.

“Phishing is always a serious concern, but the Department of Homeland Security has raised con-



Kyra Slakes / Advance-Titan

Sean Cannon looks on a computer in the Cybersecurity Center of Excellence. IT encourages people who have experienced phishing to reach out to their help desk.

cerns for increased malicious cyber activity, including phishing,” Clements said.

Those who attempt to phish information from users are looking for a variety of identification-related information.

Clements said that those who try phishing typically go for personal information and anything related to one’s finances. In some cases, the perpetrator will try to get the person to go to certain websites where their IP address, login information and other content can be stolen and distributed.

“Typically, the attackers are attempting to get the victim to share

personal details such as username/ passwords, banking information, or get the user to install malicious software,” he said.

Cross referencing the sender’s email address with that of someone on the “contact us” tab of a company’s website can help a user in deciphering a phishing email.

If there is no external request for personal information, there may be a statement encouraging the user to click on a certain link.

The security office also recommends that users compare emails from a supposed company with the language used on that company’s website.

As for what an attacker may do with someone’s account information, Clements said the intent is pretty clear and harmful.

“The information can be used for credit fraud or the attackers may access banking accounts and empty your accounts,” Clements said.

Clements said he does not have access to data such as the percentage of students failing the phishing simulations.

However, he said that students who believe they have fallen for phishes or have experienced other malicious cyber activity should contact the IT Help Desk at helpdesk@uwosh.edu.

Sports

Calendar



Scoreboard

Saturday, April 2

Track and Field
Women's - 7/9, 13
Men's - 9/9, 10

Sunday, April 3

Baseball
UWO - 0
UW-Whitewater - 3
UWO - 3
UW-Whitewater - 6

Monday, April 4

Baseball
UWO - 6
UW-Whitewater - 8
UWO - 9
UW-Whitewater - 0

Tuesday, April 5

Softball
UWO - 11
Ripon College - 0
UWO - 10
Ripon College - 2

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 9

Track and Field
at UW-La Crosse Ashton May Invitational 12 p.m.
Women's Golf
at Carthage College Firebird Spring Invitational 11 a.m.
Baseball
vs UW-Stout 12 & 3 p.m.
Softball
vs UW-Stout 2 & 4 p.m.

Sunday, April 10

Women's Golf
at Carthage College Firebird Spring invitational 9 a.m.
Baseball
vs UW Stout 12 & 3 p.m.
Softball
vs UW-River Falls 1 & 3 p.m.

Wednesday, April 13

Softball
vs St. Norbert College 1 & 3 p.m.

A-Trivia

How many WIAC championships has the UWO football team won?

Answer: 11

A-Trivia

When and what was the first sporting event?

Answer: 1896, Track and Field



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

Ashton Keene established a new UWO record in the 10,000-meter run with a time of 35:43.87. She smashed the previous of 36:08.23 set in 2016.

Track team moves out

By Trent Allaback
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The UW Oshkosh men's and women's track teams began the outdoor season over the weekend with athletes competing at both the UW-Platteville Pioneer Opener and the Washington University in St. Louis (WUSL) Invitational.

At the WUSL invitational, the Titans displayed strong individual performances with many personal records (PRs) and one school record in the women's 10,000-meter in the first outdoor event of the season.

For women's 10,000-meter event, senior Ashton Keene broke the UWO school record with a time of 35:43.87, breaking the previous record set in 2016 by Hannah Kuenzi by 25 seconds. Keene finished third in the women's 10,000 behind Emma Walter of WUSL (35:21.49) and Chloe Figgins of the University of Memphis (35:35.90).

Titan runners Alexandria Demco and Libby Geisness both competed in the 800-meter race, finishing second and fourth place respectively, with times of 2:14.81 and 2:19.18 in a field of 26 runners.

On the men's team, senior Steven Potter secured the only first place finish of the event for the Titans in the 800-meter race with a time of 1:54.95. Potter cites several factors that contributed to his success both before and during the race. One such factor was the success that his teammates experienced on the first day of competition.

"Everybody that competed on the first day PR'd, so we were all very excited and that helped with my nerves quite a bit." Potter also created a race plan in order to optimize his performance in the race.

"There were about 25 mile per hour winds on the track, so I factored that into my plan. I was aware of one other All-American in the race (second place finisher Alex Cobin) that I had to plan for as well. I wanted him to have to confront the wind in the first half of the race and then I went into my final kick about 350 [meters] out from the finish, and I was able to

pull ahead."

At the UWP Pioneer Opener, throwers on both the men and women's teams put together a very strong showing across all four throwing events.

For the men's team, Jackson Sheckler placed first in the shot put with a distance of 51-10 1/2, defeating 28 contestants and recording the sole first place finish for the Titans at the Pioneer opener. Finishing second in the shot put was Titan Nick Tegtmeyer with a distance of 51-1 1/2.

The men's throwers also found success in the hammer throw with Jacob Dennison placing sixth and Jack Malloy placing seventh, as well as an eighth place finish from Tegtmeyer in the discus.

The women's throwers had an

events at the meets. If you're wearing the black and gold, somebody is going to be cheering for you in your event."

Masloroff also said that her favorite moment from the event came when she surpassed 50 feet in the hammer throw for the first time on her way to her second place finish.

"I'm usually a little calmer after my events, but after I hit 50 [feet in the hammer throw], everybody got up and started screaming and jumping around me. It was just an amazing feeling."

In addition to the support of her teammates, Masloroff also included her work ethic and dedication as contributing factors to her success.

"I'm never really content with what I throw, and I feel that I work

fourth in javelin. Marineau finished sixth in the hammer throw with a distance of 136-5 and seventh in the shot put with a distance of 37-11 1/2. In addition, Cara Volz placed second in the javelin throw with a measurement of 101-6.

The Titans had one other top-eight finish in the Pioneer opener from Ryan Dolnik, who placed third in the men's 5,000 meter race with a time of 16:02.34.

Both Potter and Masloroff are optimistic for the season moving forward thanks to the culture of support present within the team.

"We have a great sense of camaraderie with each other," said Potter. "In the distance runs especially, there is always somebody there to support the runner throughout their races."



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

Jackson Sheckler, a senior, puts a shot for a distance of 51 feet and 10 1/2 inches.

outstanding day with nine total top-eight finishes across four events. Brenna Masloroff led the Titan throwers by taking second place in hammer throw with a distance of 164-11, third in discus with 128-4, and fifth in shot put with 42-3 1/2. Masloroff gives credit to the support of her teammates as the main contributing factor to her success.

"A lot of teams say that they're a family, but it feels especially true for this team. There is so much support for everybody across all

hard to keep improving. I also have amazing friends that help to motivate me and get me into the weight room every day to keep working on my abilities."

Elise Deaver, Katie Fruth and Allie Marineau each finished top eight in two throwing events. Deaver finished fourth in both the discus and hammer throw, with distances of 138-10 and 116-9. Fruth recorded a measurement of 42-4 3/4 to finish fourth in shot put and a distance of 97-10 to finish

"Our team has the ability to do something special, and not because of raw talent alone, but because of the atmosphere and the bond that we all have with each other," Masloroff said. "The closeness that I've gained with my teammates is something that I won't ever forget."

The Titans will be back in action on April 9 at the UW-La Crosse Ashton May Invitational.



Advance-Titan photo

Sean Cummins prepares to bat against UWW. This photo is from last year’s doubleheader match-up which resulted in two losses.

Baseball wins one game against Warhawks

By Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh baseball team won one game out of four in back-to-back doubleheaders against UW-Whitewater, the defending Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) champs, avoiding the season sweep in Whitewater.

The Titans lost both games in Sunday’s doubleheader 3-0 and 6-3, respectively, before splitting Monday’s doubleheader by falling 8-6 in the first game but taking the second game 9-0.

“We were the same team that played on Sunday, we were neck and neck with them the whole weekend,” first baseman Zach Taylor said. “We were just able to have more success rallying around each other and had more timely plays on Monday.”

In Monday’s win, freshman Con-

nor Brinkman pitched a seven-inning shutout against UWW (12-5, 4-2 WIAC), who are ranked 10th in the nation by D3baseball.com. Jake Anderson had a career-high four RBI day to send the Titans (7-9, 2-4 WIAC) past the Warhawks, sapping UWO’s 10-game losing streak against Whitewater. Taylor, who leads the Titans with three home runs, smoked a two-run homer in the seventh inning, putting the Titans up 5-0. UWO scored four more runs in the final two innings to shut out Whitewater for the first time in a nine-inning game since 1995.

Taylor said he knew the Warhawk pitcher was going to deliver a first-pitch fastball in his home run at-bat.

“I made sure I had my timing down on deck and set my eyes to the outer third of the plate,” Taylor said. “Once I saw that pitch where I wanted it I let the back hip fly and

drove it to right [field].”

Oshkosh had a 4-0 lead in the first game of Monday’s doubleheader thanks to Jackson Broom’s two-run homer in the first inning. But UWW stormed back with five runs in the fifth inning to take the lead. The Titans would score two runs in the seventh, but UWO could not prevent Whitewater from scoring two runs of their own in the bottom of the inning to retake the lead. Neither team would score again as UWW took the 8-6 win.

The teams played another doubleheader on Monday after Saturday’s games were postponed due to inclement weather.

The Warhawks held UWO to just three hits in the first game of Sunday’s doubleheader to win 3-0. UWW took the lead in the first inning after Jacob DeMeyer and Nick Paget each drove in runs. Whitewater would tack on another run in the fifth inning to increase their advan-

tage. Pitchers Westin Muir and Eli Frank combined for 14 strikeouts, and the pair limited UWO to just seven baserunners in the game.

In Sunday’s second, both teams were locked in a scoreless pitcher’s duel until UWW scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning. Jake Surane laid down a suicide-squeeze to pull Oshkosh to within one run in the seventh inning. Later in the inning, Taylor and Nicholas Shiu scored on an errant Warhawks throw to put the Titans up 3-2. But Oshkosh fell apart in the eighth inning, allowing four runs on four hits and an error as the Titans went on to lose the game 6-3.

Taylor said that Sunday’s second game came right down to the wire.

“We were going back and forth with them the whole game,” he said. “They’re a tough team and we knew that they were gonna score again, we just had to try and be the final team to score.”

Taylor said that in Monday’s games, everybody was able to execute solid at-bats.

“In our at-bats, we were moving guys over, laying down bunts and driving the ball into a gap. That in combination with [Brink man] dominating on the mound, we were able to have success.”

Brinkman, who has a 0.97 ERA on the year, said there was a lot that went well in Monday’s win.

“Everybody was locked in on the game and both the offense and defense played very well,” Brinkman said. “And we stayed focused throughout the whole game which led us to a win.”

The Titans will take on UW-Stout (13-5, 8-0 WIAC) in UWO’s home-opening series with doubleheaders on Saturday and Sunday at Tiedemann Field at Alumni Stadium.

Intramural softball takes field for spring

By Nolan Swenson
Swensonno56@uwosh.edu

Spring means a lot of things on campus. Whether it be the flowers, showers, Pub Crawl™, or the new season of athletics, all of these are available for students to enjoy. However, if students want to go beyond watching games, Intramurals are available for all.

Spring intramurals include volleyball and softball teams as well as doubles of tennis and bag toss.

Currently, there are three teams in the co-rec league: The Armadillos, Smash n’ Dash and 5Guys1Softball.

Matches in the co-rec league started Wednesday and will be continuing until April 22. After

that, a playoff period will take place between the three teams starting April 25, which will end May 5.

Lauren Oman is the captain of the softball team Smash n’ Dash as well as the volleyball team Block Party. She said that the investment is well worth the time it takes. “In my opinion and experience,” she said, “fitting intramurals into my schedule has been very easy because I budget my time wisely and make time for activities outside of school.”

Oman also said that intramurals are a great way of staying connected with your sports and the people you play them with. “I found that intramurals were a great way to get involved, stay active, and have

fun.”

Oman has been competing in athletics since high school and has found that intramurals fill an athletic gap. she said: “I played both volleyball and softball, and I’ve been involved with and surrounded by sports for a majority of my life. I started playing intramural sports for UW Oshkosh as a freshman in 2018 ... As a senior at UWO, I have continued to play intramurals for almost every semester of my college experience and have even won a few championships along the way.”

However there is room for more than just experienced athletes in the intramural scene. While there is a competitive option, less experienced athletes can opt to play

recreationally.


Intramurals can help one to stay physically, mentally and socially engaged on campus, and it works for Oman. “Overall,” she said, “I

would highly recommend playing intramural sports to take your mind off of school and have fun!”



Cory Sparks / Advance-Titan

There are three teams in the co-rec league of intramural softball.



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Erika Priebe taps the ball towards the hole at the WIAC Championship in October. Oshkosh will open the spring season on Saturday at the Carthage College Firebird Spring Invitational.

UWO golf looks to get things rolling

After this weekend's invitational, UWO will compete in two more meets before concluding their spring season on April 30 and May 1 at the Augustana College Viking Invitational.

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Arts & Entertainment



Courtesy of Turning Point Media

The band, The Remedy Drive works closely with The Exodus Road, an organization fighting human trafficking by helping law enforcement make arrests.

Rock band raises awareness

By Josh Lehner
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Human trafficking is a massive problem. It’s often called a form of “modern-day slavery,” and for a good reason: there are as many as 40 million people across the world illegally traded and abducted. However, for the average person, it doesn’t seem like we can do a whole lot to stop it, but David Zach disagrees. Zach is the lead vocalist and guitarist for Remedy Drive, also along with bassist Corey Horn and drummer Timmy Jones. On April 1, they played rock-and-roll style music to a packed room in Reeve-Memorial Union, but the music was just the beginning of the band’s mission that night. Remedy Drive works closely with The Exodus Road, an organization that’s assisted in the freedom of over 1,500 victims of human trafficking and the arrest of over 700 traffickers. “I’ve heard Remedy Drive give their message,” said Eric Lever-

ance, an event organizer and pastor at Portico Church,” he said. “And I wanted to do something about it. As a pastor, I wanted to see if our church could rally behind this cause and do something that’s bigger than just Oshkosh.” Zach does more than play his band’s music at concerts. “From time to time, I get to join teams of national operatives overseas—men and women from Cambodia, Thailand, Latin America, or wherever the Exodus Road is stationed,” Zach said. “We have operatives who spy on criminal networks who illegally sell children.” “Our job with The Exodus Road is to use spy gear, software, and various techniques to lure traffickers,” Zach said. “We gain their trust by acting as customers. We go to parties, venture through back alleyways, anywhere where we can find information about the young women being trafficked. We gather that information and join with law enforcement to make arrests.” Zach elaborated on a particularly harrowing story from 2020

in Thailand. His team ventured down a dark alleyway, knowing that young women were being sold nearby. He negotiated with a 15-year-old girl to go with him, hoping to obtain evidence that she was being trafficked. “So I’m acting as a buyer,” Zach said. “That entails getting frisked by traffickers, but we have great technology that keeps us safe—where I’m at and what I’m doing is always being observed by our guys.” Zach wasn’t always focused on human trafficking but his attention shifted nearly a decade ago after watching numerous documentaries and movies about the predations of human trafficking. He elaborated on a particular documentary he watched with his daughter, which detailed child soldiers being kidnapped and enslaved in an army. “My young daughter watched this documentary with me, and we cried together,” he said. “She said, ‘Dad, why [does] God not protect those boys?’ And I was devastated. I thought to myself, ‘What am

I doing? I’m trying to chase fame. I’m trying to be a rock star,” he said. “I have a band. I’m going to use my band the way the documentary used their cameras.” His lyrics changed dramatically, reflecting the horrid conditions of young boys and girls ensnared in trafficking. But this decision didn’t come without some consequences. “I had to leave my record label. They didn’t think this music would sell. But we were able to get out of that deal.” Zach explained that his mission is to leverage his melodies to make the world a better place. “People say, ‘Do you think you’re going to stop trafficking?’ No, I don’t think so,” he said. “But I know that I’m alive today, and my music is currency, so I’m going to use that currency for this cause.” “We talk about our work while we perform, and we invite people to join us. Sometimes that means people joining us overseas, but sometimes that means a few kids organizing a car wash or a bake

sale to help fund our project,” Zach said. “Our band’s community helps fund [what we do].” “I don’t want to do nothing,” Zach said. “My goal with the work I’m doing is to make trafficking more dangerous and hopefully slow down its pace. My goal with my concerts is to bring as many people alongside us as I can. If we are bringing people within the counter-trafficking space, that’s awesome, but maybe it ends up being someone at the concert creativity developing a way to do something that I could never dream of.” He said Remedy Drive now tours around the country, shedding light on the realities of trafficking, with over 15 more concerts this year. “We want to convince the people at our concerts that they have something to offer,” he said. “Their voice matters, their fingerprints matter, and their time and art matter. That’s my real goal.”

Club supports children’s cancer causes

By Mattie Beck
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There are many organizations on campus, but not all of them have a specific cause they support. One that does is the Pinky Swear Ambassadors on College Campuses to Help Kids with Cancer (PACK), a program that was founded in 2020 and reached UW Oshkosh in 2021. The Pinky Swear PACK is a club that works to help children with cancer and their families by providing financial and emotional support. Aly Boettcher, a senior and the club’s president, joined the club after a similar club was disbanded due to coronavirus. “I was previously a member of the Love Your Melon (LYM) club on campus, but with COVID-19, they decided not to work with smaller campuses anymore,” Boettcher said. “I still had a strong desire to help chil-

dren with cancer so I reached out to our former UWO LYM president and she told me about Pinky Swear.” Along with the important cause this club supports, Boettcher said she also joined because it relates to her future career plans. “I am a senior nursing major and I hope to pursue a career in pediatric oncology. This club is my first independent step into the field,” Boettcher said. Boettcher’s goal with the club is to spread awareness of the importance of the Pinky Swear PACK and its cause. “My main goal is raising awareness for childhood cancer, but to also to create an opportunity for the UWO campus to get involved and help, even if they are not part of the club, through events that we host,” Boettcher said. The goal of the club is also related to Boettcher’s favorite part about being in the club itself. “I love being able to have an

impact on the childhood cancer society and raise awareness in our community,” Boettcher said. “I also love seeing how interested people are in helping this cause.” The club hosts a variety of different fundraisers and currently has 13 active members, plus a few more who volunteer. “Last semester we did a paint night called Cancer is Messy and raised \$258,” Boettcher said. “We also did a Venmo board fundraiser which raised over \$300.” One of their bigger events this semester was a walk for childhood cancer with the National Pediatric Cancer Foundation on April 3. The club can be found on Instagram at @pspack_uwo and is open to all UWO students.



Courtesy of Aly Boettchner

The club supports the children and their families financially and emotionally.

Taking Fridays off won't kill you

By Owen Peterson
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Not having any classes on Fridays is not only one of college's essential humblebrags, but apparently also a one-way ticket to "a life of retail."

Well, that's according to an anonymous blog post from 2014 I read earlier this week, anyway.

Why I'm giving any credence to an anonymous blog post is beyond anyone, but I do think that the sentiment (whether made in jest or not), does reflect a genuine problem in society: the growing emphasis of productivity culture.

Productivity culture, or toxic productivity, refers to the growing tendency among students to feel guilty about not doing more work, which creates an unhealthy obsession with being "productive."

Most of the more serious counter-arguments against not taking Friday classes follow this train of thought, focusing on how it will make you less productive, cultivate laziness and render you ill-prepared for the five-day work-week you will encounter when you leave college.

These points, while not necessarily incorrect in a vacuum, play into that toxic productivity mindset and show little regard for mental health consequences. This toxic relationship with productivity could help explain the high rates of anxiety and depression, lack of sleep and poor dieting among students.

The problem here is not with being productive, but with the perception of productivity. Instead of promoting healthy goals and benchmarks, productivity culture

promotes valuing achievements such as GPA over intrinsic value of education and creates a cycle where "good" is never enough.

You can hear this in effect whenever you overhear another student bragging about how little sleep they got because they were studying for an exam or finishing a paper.

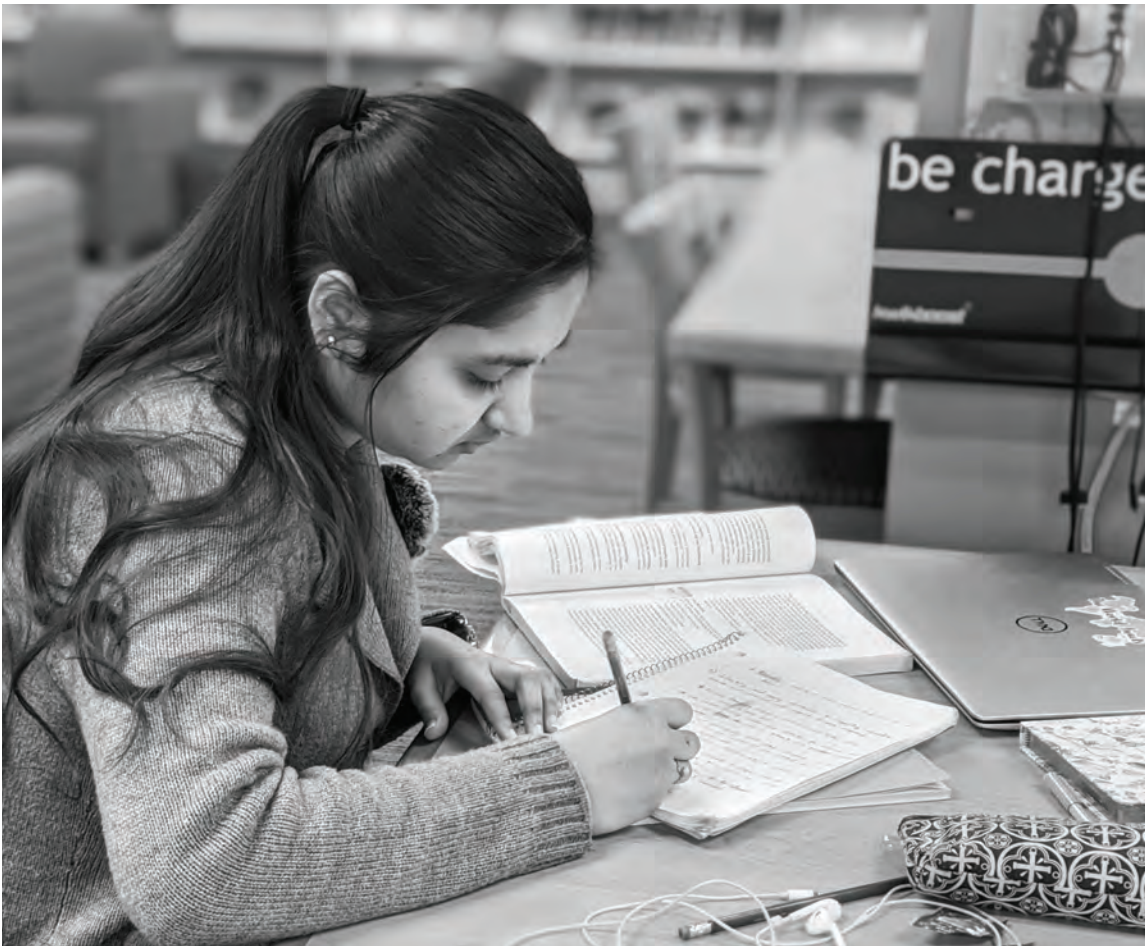
I'm not saying that everyone needs to go full anti-productivity and anti-work and join some kind of proletarian uprising. I'm just simply positing that the blatant mental health crisis among students could use some attention (Generation Z was the most anxious generation in 2019, with 54% reporting feeling overwhelmed, according to the Wall Street Journal).

Either way, I maintain that there are more than enough benefits to having Fridays off of school to justify the choice.

Firstly, having an open day in your schedule can give you more time to do homework. In my own experience with a four-day school week last semester, just having that one extra day allowed me to be more organized and on top of my homework than I had ever been.

Of course, this benefit requires one to exercise some level of self-discipline and motivate themselves more than they would have to in a traditional five-day week. Still, I'm sure if I was able to do it (as I type this mere hours before deadline), anyone can.

On the other hand, having Fridays off can give you some much-needed time to do absolutely nothing. According to a study done at Ohio State University,



Advance-Titan photo

Students feeling guilty for taking time for themselves can lead to overworking and burnout.

71% of students reported feeling burnout in 2021. Burnout is still a very real thing among college students, so a bit of free time can help to alleviate academic stress.

That being said, it's only fair to stress that having an abundance of free time does not necessitate better well-being, but, just like productivity, produces the best effect when a healthy balance is reached.

While too little leisure time may leave one stressed about not having time to enjoy anything, having too much leisure time may lead

to stress about not being productive enough, according to research done by professors at the University of Pennsylvania and University of California, Los Angeles in 2021. Again, a Friday off is just as useful as you make it.

On a slightly different note, having no classes on Fridays can give students time to work or intern. For some students, having more time to earn money can be more beneficial, or even necessary, in dealing with the perpetually-rising costs associated with college

living.

I believe taking Fridays off gives you a better chance to find the balance between getting stuff done and taking care of yourself. While finding that balance will take some work, it may help to alleviate the abundance of stress that comes with college and help to build healthy habits. So as registration continues at UW Oshkosh, make sure to consider the pros and cons, especially regarding mental health, of taking Friday classes.

Top 5 weirdest press releases from Trump

By Kelly Hueckman
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Even after a loss in the 2020 presidential election, the "Office of Donald J. Trump" has continued to attempt to keep the nation updated whether they care or not.

The Advance-Titan email has been bombarded with up to three statements or press releases a day from Trump himself. I've made a list of the five most bizarre emails the Advance-Titan has received from Trump in 2022.

"I don't like people who brag!"

Or so Trump said, after releasing an official statement describing his hole in one, despite strong winds, on a golf course in West Palm Beach, Florida. He made sure to set the scene by dropping some of the biggest names in golf, such as Ernie Els and Gene Sauers. Trump said there was lots of "chatter" about the play, but, because he is a "modest individual," people who care will have to really use their imagination to figure out who won the match.

Trump wins Daniels case

On March 18, the 9th Circuit



Court issued a final ruling that porn star Stormy Daniels owes nearly \$300,000 in legal fees to Trump. In his press release just days later, Trump gloated about the ruling, describing it as a "complete victory and vindication for, and of [him]." Daniels, on the other hand, said that Trump's

victory was based on a technicality, as she said her then-lawyer Michael Avenatti failed to file a notice of appeal within 30 days. While this claim was not mentioned in Trump's statement, he made sure to remind people that he never had nor wanted to have

an affair with Daniels, "even in her wildest imagination."

Big golfer, big spender

Trump has shared his adoration for golf over a multitude of emails, but it was surprising to receive one on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day promoting his golf course in Miami. This email was sent from a federal government-funded office provided by the Former Presidents Act, meaning Trump's promotion of his golf course was at the expense of taxpayers. Although Trump's statement begins with "I have just spent millions of dollars on the Blue Monster golf course," Trump clearly couldn't afford to advertise the "most exciting development in the country" on his own dime.

So many media advisories

Grasping onto relevancy, Trump has continued to alert the country each time he will be appearing on any piece of media. However, it should be noted that each of these media outlets interviewing Trump are known to be right-leaning. People receiving

these media advisories have seen alerts on interviews with Fox News' Sean Hannity, Newsmax's Rob Schmitt and Republican Sen. Rick Scott on his podcast, "NRSC Red Zone." Trump has also promoted "Jessie Watters Primetime," a right-leaning show featured on Fox News.

Melania's NFTs

Joining the NFT craze, former first lady Melania Trump has had multiple endeavors selling digital artwork related to Donald Trump's presidency. NFTs, or non-fungible tokens, are digital units of data that can be sold and traded.

Once again, we can see this email is using taxpayer dollars to promote personal profit. Furthermore, these series of digital artworks have raised some questions as to whether the former First Lady is continuing to profit off Donald Trump's time in office by selling NFTs. "Trump selling the PEOPLE'S HOUSE archives?!!" former adviser to the first lady Stephanie Winston Wolkoff tweeted. "Is this Legal?"



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