

The Advance-Titan

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Courtesy of UW O Flickr

Six or seven foxes make a new home between Reeve Union and Horizon Village in an area that is now gated off. What does the fox say? Students shouldn't get close enough to find out. There are signs surrounding the area telling people to keep their distance.

Foxes find home between dorms

By Mackenzie Seymour
seymom53@uwosh.edu

"Habitat for wildlife is continually shrinking. I can at least provide a way station." - Peter Coyote, American actor, director, screenwriter, author and environmentalist.

That way station has become UW Oshkosh, where over the past few weeks there has been increased sightings of a new family of red foxes on campus.

The family, which consists of two adults and four babies, or kits, live in a den located in the bioswale between Reeve Memorial Union and Horizon Hall. The kits, estimated to be two or three months old, have been seen running around and playing with each other daily

in this area, which is now roped off to ensure people don't get too close.

"We have all kinds of wildlife on campus," said Lisa Mick, the university's grounds and automotive supervisor. "Normally, they show up after the students leave, but this year is special."

Last year, several adult foxes came to campus and their activity was noticed near Sage Hall's bioswale. This year, they have

decided to venture further into campus.

According to the Humane Society, foxes are usually not dangerous to humans except when they are rabid, which is rare, and when they are captured or provoked.

On April 28, the grounds crew installed a temporary string fence to create a barrier between campus residents and the family of foxes due to multiple reports of students attempting to pet and

hold the foxes.

"It is the worst thing possible for both the fox and the community," Mick said. "They are afraid of humans, and if trapped they may bite to get free."

According to the National Wildlife Federation, having foxes removed and relocated from their original dens will most likely be fatal for them. Signs displayed around the fence state to not remove, destroy or molest the foxes.

"It is imperative that we protect these creatures from ourselves," she said. "We create a haven within the city with this campus and our practices, and when the animals take us up on our offer to live here, we need to protect them from harm."

Rent funds keep dome in shape

By Katie Pulvermacher
pulvek45@uwosh.edu

The Rec Plex, often dubbed "the bubble," is an iconic facility on the UW Oshkosh campus that is often rented out by on- and off-campus groups.

Students pay \$5 per semester in segregated fees to support the Rec Plex. This money goes into an escrow to eventually replace the dome fabric and turf when it has passed its 15-20 year lifespan. Therefore, when these things need replacing, the Student Recreation and Wellness Center (SRWC) has the money to restore it immediately.

Students help pay for the Rec Plex, but how much money is it gaining from renting and where is the money going?

"This academic year has seen a high number of usage and rental groups," Rec Plex Coordinator Patrick Marcoe said. "We brought in roughly \$60,000 in rental revenue from the Rec Plex this year."

The Rec Plex, according to the UW O website, "is a 4.35-acre recreational complex with multi-use synthetic turf, state-of-the-art LED lighting, a 3,000-plus square foot support building and a temperature controlled dome to allow for year-round recreation."

The facility was opened in the summer of 2018. Marcoe said compared to previous years, this academic school year has been the most successful in gaining revenue.

The 2018-2019 school year gained around \$20,000 in revenue and the 2019-2020 school year was cut short by COVID-19, but still gained \$37,000. The pandemic during the 2020-2021 school year completely closed down the Rec Plex, leading to no revenue being generated.

Associate Director of Student Recreation Tony Dirth said despite COVID-19, the department, including himself, are content with the usage thus far.

"I'm very pleased with the growth we've seen with the Rec Plex," Dirth said. "It's been a challenge to try to get to where we're stable, but we've been able to see some growth to meet the needs of the students and develop relationships with user groups outside."

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Thank you, seniors

Advance-Titan

Phone: 920-424-3048

Email: atitan@uwosh.edu

Website: advancetitan.com

Editor-in-Chief Cory Sparks
sparkc21@uwosh.edu

Managing Editor Owen Peterson
petero84@uwosh.edu

News Editor Katie Pulvermacher
pulvek45@uwosh.edu

Asst. News Editor Lexi Wojcik-Kretchmer
wojcil76@uwosh.edu

Arts & Entertainment Editor Kylie Balk-Yaatenen
balkyb22@uwosh.edu

Asst. Arts & Entertainment Editor Mattie Beck
beckm88@uwosh.edu

Opinion Editor Kelly Hueckman
hueckk24@uwosh.edu

Co-Sports Editor Nolan Swenson
swensonno56@uwosh.edu

Co-Sports Editor Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

Photo Editor Kyra Slakes
slakesky39@uwosh.edu

Web Editor Olivia Ozbaki
ozbako81@uwosh.edu

Copy Chief Kyiah Nelson
nelsok45@uwosh.edu

Copy Desk Editors:
Savannah Bartelt, Trent Allaback

Graphic Designers Mallory Knight
knighm43@uwosh.edu
Josh Fannin
fannij41@uwosh.edu

Staff Writers: Mackenzie Seymour, Tom Antrim, Cassidy Kennedy, Trent Allaback, Anya Kelley, Josh Lehner

Co-Distribution Managers Owen Peterson
petero84@uwosh.edu
Nolan Swenson
swensonno56@uwosh.edu

Faculty Adviser Barb Benish
benish@uwosh.edu

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Vandals anger hall residents

By **Kylie Gapko**
gapkoky82@uwosh.edu

When you think of home, what’s the first thing that comes to mind? You likely think of the place you can’t wait to go back to after a long day of classes, a place where you feel safe and secure, an area like no other. For many college students, the resident halls are their homes for eight months. They hope to feel safe and comfortable in the spaces they live in.

But for some UW Oshkosh students, this isn’t the case. Take Stewart Hall, for example.

The hall has been plagued with vandalism such as sinks being clogged with food, toilets being plugged with excessive amounts of toilet paper and septic leaks in the basement. These issues become a nightmare for students living in those conditions as they have to deal with bathroom closures caused by vandalism.

Associate Director of Residence Life Lori Develice Collins said this is the first time she can recall students intentionally clogging toilets in the 20 years she’s worked at UWO. Several residence halls and academic buildings have been plagued with intentional toilet clogging.

“In instances where bathrooms have been closed, it has been for repairs and cleaning,” she said.

In an email to students from Police Chief Kurt Leibold, he wrote, “While this may seem like a joke to those involved, we want to be clear that this is not a joke and you may face disciplinary action that could threaten your student status if you are involved in these incidents.”

Develice Collins said those responsible for this type of vandalism will go through the student conduct process. That means their status as a student will be in jeopardy, they will be responsible for repairs and cleaning costs and potentially face criminal charges.

She encouraged students to get



Kylie Gapko / Advance-Titan
Leakage from students plugging toilets in Stewart Hall has been a big concern. This is leading to closed bathrooms and water problems.

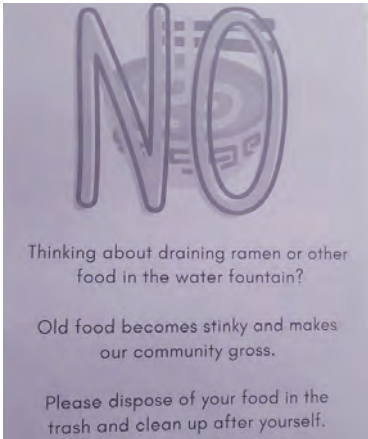
involved. “If you see something, say something,” she said. “If a person witnesses a toilet being clogged or finds a clogged toilet, contact University Police.”

Some believe the recent vandalism cases are spurred by a TikTok trend.

In videos that have swept TikTok this school year, students have filmed themselves doing everything from dumping soap dispensers to ripping partitions off walls and clogging toilets. Some videos show how the latest “devious licks” challenge is destroying and closing school bathrooms.

This is not only happening at UWO, but also at middle schools, high schools and other universities in Florida, Colorado, Oklahoma, California, Tennessee and other states.

According to the Clery crime log, there has been property damage at Stewart, South Scott Hall and Evans Hall this semester. The Ad-



vance-Titan has submitted an open records request about the incidents.

To say students have been annoyed is an understatement.

Freshman Olivia Madrigano said, “I live in Stewart Hall, or as most people on campus call it, stinky stew.”

Morgan Greil, also a freshman student living in Stewart, said the vandalism has been inconvenient.

“At one point we only had one stall open in the bathroom for an entire hall of girls,” she said.

To those guilty of the vandalism, she asks them to think about how much harder they’re making the custodians’ jobs.

Greil said she was surprised to learn that this was a TikTok trend. “I had no idea, and I am on Tik Tok all the time.”

Freshman Dreya Detry, also from Stewart, is upset that people are destroying things residents need.

“Can we stop these actions before actions are taken to all, like shutting down floor bathrooms or [giving] fines?” she said.

Liv Clark took the situation into her own hands when she decided to clean the hall sink. “That food was in there for over a week,” said the freshman from Stewart. “People in the building don’t care about cleaning up after themselves, and it pisses me off.”

Rec Plex: Usage of students vs. renters

From Page 1

A concern among students is having an equal amount of access to the Rec Plex as renters.

“I think our whole intention was creating the schedule to maximize student usage, while also balancing the operational budget,” Dirth said. “There’s an opportunity for students to come and use it more during [scheduled] times, but we’ve struck a good balance [between student and rental use].”

During the week, athletics can reserve space from 3-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. UWO sport clubs can reserve space from 5-7 p.m. and student recreation programs (such as intramural sports and group exercise) from 7-11 p.m.

If there is nothing scheduled during these times, students and student organizations can look to reserve time or walk in.

The Rec Plex can be rented by groups on the weekends from 5 p.m. on Friday through 10 p.m. on Sunday, including during academic breaks.

“This academic year between athletics, sport clubs and non-university groups, we have had over 20 different groups reserve space at the Rec Plex,” Marcoe said.

Marcoe said in the current academic year, the Rec Plex has seen close to 10,000 swipes uses by students.

Freshman Lizzie Slobodecki

has used the Rec Plex facilities with the UWO softball team.

“It’s a different atmosphere,” Slobodecki said. “We’ve never really played on the Rec Plex before [this season]. With bad weather, the Rec Plex helped us get in our games so we didn’t have to move our schedule around.”

Slobodecki said the team struggled playing games on the turf versus the usual playing on dirt fields, but nonetheless, she enjoyed being able to use the facilities and encourages other students to use it.

“College is what you make out of it,” Slobodecki said. “We live in Wisconsin, so weather is not always the best, but the bubble provides a good space for people to get out of their dorm rooms and have a good time.”

Dirth said the Rec Plex has been used by a wide variety of groups on weekends.

“There are clubs, developmental programs from Green Bay down to Milwaukee and adult softball leagues who play overnight through Sunday,” Dirth said. “[The Rec Plex] gets hundreds of adults who stay in Gruenhagen Conference Center (GCC). It’s a neat opportunity to showcase the campus and have people lodge at GCC.”

Marcoe said he agrees that the Rec Plex showcases the university



Kyra Slakes / Advance-Titan
The Rec Plex provides covered turf for students and renters to use all throughout the year.

well and aids in enrollment.

“I think that Rec Plex has been a huge recruiting tool for the university,” Marcoe said. “There are numerous tours from athletics and the university in the dome. We also hold a number of youth programs through the non-university groups that bring a lot of people that will hopefully look back on those tournaments and events with fond memories and help sway them to come to UWO.”

The bubble will now be staying up year-round. When it was originally built, Dirth said it was not able to be classified as a permanent structure, and the structure would go up and down each season.

The structure was modeled off similar domes at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, which the SRWC observed to estimate costs of the tentative facility here.

“It was not the cost that we projected - it was a lot more,” Dirth said. “Through the work of facilities management, we were able to get the dome classified as a permanent structure. The next step for us is going to try and use some of the savings to get it so that it’s cool.”

In the cold months, the facility is heated, but Dirth said they are looking to add in a cooling system to make the facility just as appealing in the hot months to cool down in while enjoying being active.

“I really want students to feel good going to the dome,” Dirth said. “I really encourage students to go join a sports club, join an intramural team and play their favorite sport during our open time. It’s the only one in the UW system that there is. It’s a great resource that our students have.”



Courtesy of UWO Flickr

The Celebration of Scholarship and Creative Activity highlighted students’ research in various areas of study. Visitors were able to stop in to learn about their projects.

UWO highlights student research

By Josh Lehner
lehnerjo70@uwosh.edu

With the school year winding down, it’s tempting to call it quits early and begin thinking about summer plans. But research at UW Oshkosh is still in full swing, with the Celebration of Scholarship and Creative Activity (COSCA) event last week highlighting the esteemed research completed by students.

COSCA is an annual event that shows off students’ research in various areas of study. The research is presented via posters, paintings, pictures or performative visuals, with most presentations being a collaboration between students and professors. From ecology and wildlife to virology and culture, each study sheds light on new and carefully analyzed information.

Rachel Blatz and Hannah Sullivan, for example, investigated whether body mass index is a valid predictor of specific fitness assessments. Blatz and Sullivan monitored a group of 11- to 13-year-olds, who participated in a one-mile run/walk, push-up and sit-up flexibility tests. They determined that activity-based as-

sessments, such as running tests, are the best indicators of physical fitness.

Sarah Woody’s presentation, titled “Heavy Metal and Metalloid Risk Assessment at Horicon National Wildlife Refuge,” observed the impact of pollution at Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, an ecologically relevant wetland located in southeastern Wisconsin. Woody said that she began collecting samples of sediment, plant roots and livers from muskrats in March of 2021.

“Over the summer, I analyzed these samples for concentrations of the top eight heavy metal and metalloid contaminants in U.S. soils,” Woody said. Her analysis concluded that concentrations of polluting metals in the environment were insufficient to affect organisms such as plants and animals.

Woody says that her adviser had professional connections with land managers at Horicon National Wildlife Refuge and that she had talked about conducting research with other students. “From there, it was brainstorm[ing] with [my adviser] and the refuge’s staff to come up with a project that would be helpful for the refuge, and that

would challenge me to step out of my comfort zone and grow as an independent researcher.”

Mackenzie Seymour researched the effects of cold temperature trials on native prairie plant seed germination to determine their cold tolerance levels. “We conducted a series of trials that included exposing seeds of various plant species to a range of cold temperatures. After the temperature trials, we monitored seed germination for two weeks,” Seymour said. “Extreme cold temperatures were damaging and impaired germination for the majority of the seeds. However, we concluded that there was no correlation between cold stratification [exposing seeds to their preferred conditions to grow] and [the seed’s] cold tolerance.”

“This type of research is important for understanding what kind of effects climate change may have on seed germination for native prairie plant species. Native prairies are important for preserving biodiversity and serve as habitats for wildlife,” Seymour said. She became a research assistant in the spring of 2021, hoping to narrow down her possible career paths. “I enjoy the work I do because I know I am contributing to the

much-needed research on how climate change will affect seed germination and plant growth. It is essential for us to understand how plants are impacted by the effects of climate change so we can prepare to adapt.”

“I think universities like UW Oshkosh provide undergraduate students with a unique opportunity to work with professors in a way that’s not entirely possible at larger schools like UW-Madison,” said Stephen Kercher, director of UWO’s Office of Student Research and Creative Activity. “The attention that students get sets us apart, and we have so many good examples of students who take advantage of this opportunity and do great work.”

Both Seymour and Woody expressed their gratitude for the research opportunities they were provided. “I am extremely grateful for the immense amount of support and mentorship I received across departments at UWO,” Woody said. She explained that her research was entirely possible due to the help she received. “My adviser was my biggest cheerleader and always believed in me, providing reassurance when I had doubts. Throughout my ex-

perience, every professor I have reached out to for their expertise has been willing to help, and I have learned so much from them through our many stimulating academic discussions.”

Seymour shares a similar sentiment, saying that “I came in as a transfer student from out of state without knowing anybody and not knowing the amazing opportunities I would have in the coming semesters. I am fortunate and grateful to have had a multitude of research experiences during my undergraduate career, and it was all because of the great professors I had the privilege of working with.”

“The professors are very willing to undertake undergraduates in their lab to mentor them on how to become accomplished researchers,” Seymour said. “Without them, I wouldn’t have been able to have rewarding experiences that have made me appreciate the amount of effort and knowledge needed for the research process. Not only have the professors I’ve worked with guided and mentored me through the research process, but they have also inspired me to dive deeper into progressing further in the field of biology.”



She Kills Monsters

by Qui Nguyen
Directed by Jane Purse-Wiedenhoeft

April 28, 29, 30 | May 6, 7 at 7:30 p.m.
May 8 at 2 p.m.

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Sports

Calendar



Scoreboard

Sunday, May 1

Baseball
UWO - 10
UW-La Crosse - 13
UWO - 4
UW-La Crosse - 2

Softball
UWO - 11
UW-Platteville - 0
UWO - 13
UW-Platteville - 2

Monday, May 2

Baseball
UWO - 6
UW-La Crosse - 7
UWO - 0
UW-La Crosse - 5

Softball
UWO - 1
UW-Eau Claire - 5
UWO - 0
UW-Eau Claire - 1

Upcoming Events

Friday, May 6
Track and Field
WIAC Outdoor Championship at La Crosse at 12 p.m.

Baseball
vs. UW-Stevens Point 12 & 3 p.m.
Softball
vs. TBA for WIAC tournament at UW-La Crosse

Saturday, May 7
Track and Field
WIAC Outdoor Championship at La Crosse at 10 a.m.

Baseball
v.s UW-Stevens Point 12 & 3 p.m.

Softball
vs. TBA for WIAC tournament at UW-La Crosse

A-Trivia

Which professional basketball team won Wisconsin’s first world championship?

Answer: Oshkosh All-Stars (1942)



Courtesy of Sophie Wery

Wery prepares to throw the ball. Wery has caught three runners stealing, has a .995 fielding percentage and has 174 putouts on the season.

She never grows Wery

By Cory Sparks
sparkc21@uwosh.edu

Putting the bat on the ball, hearing the metallic *ping* ring through the air and watching the ball clear the fence is an experience that UW Oshkosh freshman catcher Sophie Wery has had on multiple occasions this year as the Titans’ power hitter.

As the softball regular season winds down and UWO eyes a deep postseason run, nobody embodies endurance and strength more than starting catcher Wery, who leads the team in home runs.

While some freshmen endure a steep learning curve in the transition from high school to college baseball, Wery has been a key contributor in helping the UWO softball team maintain national ranking (No. 18) and achieve a 24-8 record.

Wery leads her team in home runs (five) and RBIs (39) while calling the shots from behind the plate on defense.

Her home run and RBI totals place her in a tie for third and a tie for first respectively among all players in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC).

While this is UWO head coach Scott Beyer’s first year coaching Wery, he has known her for a few years through recruiting.

Beyer said he was immediately impressed by Wery’s playing ability and character.

“My first impression of her when I first saw her is that she is a great teammate that has high energy with a lot of potential on the



Sophie Wery

field,” Beyer said.

Wery played for the Seymour Thunder and helped the team win the Division II state title in 2019.

Beyer said Wery’s power comes from hours of strength training and working on her swing in practice.

“She is a strong young lady that works hard in the weight room,” he said. “When she is at practice, she works very hard on her swing mechanics and mindset to allow her to hit for power.”

While strength is essential in generating power, it should not be equated with tenseness. Wery said keeping her hands loose and trusting what she works on in practice helps her in making hard contact with the ball.

“I try to have loose hands on my bat to stay relaxed because as soon as I tense up and have a tight grip on my bat, I lose a lot of power,” Wery said.

In terms of what separates Wery from other freshmen, Beyer said Wery stands out beyond the

box score. He also commended Wery for being able to effectively converse with her teammates on the field.

“She has a natural confidence that some freshmen don’t have,” Beyer said. “As a catcher, she is a great communicator to our pitching staff and isn’t afraid to have a tough conversation when necessary.”

As Wery made the transition from winning a state title with Seymour to leading the nationally ranked Titans team at the plate, she said her biggest adjustment has been adjusting her mindset and accepting that bad games will happen.

“One aspect I have improved on a lot in transitioning from high school to college is my mindset,” she said. “Coming in this year, my coaches put an emphasis on approaching softball with the right mentality and staying positive throughout any challenge you come across.”

Wery said one reason the transition has been so seamless is the overall inclusivity of the team. She said her teammates have been friendly from the beginning and have helped the freshman become invested in all of the team’s goals for the season.

“We have a lot of freshmen that came in this year, and the upper-classmen welcomed us with open arms,” Wery said. “Our team has a lot of trust in one another, and the atmosphere is super inviting.”

Beyer said Wery bought into the team’s positive and determined mentality from day one, and he said she has supported

each and every one of her teammates.

“She is a true team player,” he said. “Everything she does is in support of our whole team. She brings a lot of positive energy to the team and has everyone’s back.”

With Wery batting behind Hannah Ritter, Beyer said she has handled the pressure well. Ritter was the NCAA’s Division III Player of the Week from April 4-10 and the WIAC leader in batting average (.534), hits (55) and on base percentage (.583).

With Ritter consistently getting on base and sometimes forcing pitching changes, Wery sometimes has to go against a pitcher with a fresh arm coming out of the bullpen.

“She hits behind one of the best hitters in the country and has to protect her in the lineup, and that is a lot for a freshman to deal with,” Beyer said. “I would say that is something that is always being worked on throughout the entire season.”

The WIAC tournament will go from May 6-8 and will be hosted by UW-La Crosse. The tournament will be double-elimination with the top five teams in the WIAC making it in.

UWO heads into the tournament winning 14 of its last 18, and the team’s star catcher said she is enjoying every bit of the journey.

“It has been fun to watch all the pieces fall into place,” she said. “Our team is close with one another on and off the field, [and we] have a ton of energy.”



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Courtesy of UW Oshkosh Today
The UWO dance team poses together on Daytona Beach, Florida. This was the team’s first national championship, and they took first in Poms and third in Jazz.

Dance team takes nationals

By Anya Kelley
kelleyan55@uwosh.edu

“When they announced the second place team, we knew we were now national champions. When our name was announced, we jumped up and everyone was crying and hugging our teammates because at that moment, we knew it all paid off.”

The UW Oshkosh Dance Team won its first-ever national championship at the Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championships at Daytona Beach, Florida on April 8. UWO placed first in Division III Pom and third in DIII Jazz, bringing home two national championships for the university.

UWO’s season started in Au-

gust and ended in April. The girls practice three times a week adding more time as they get closer to performances at basketball games and local competitions. At the end of their season, they get on a plane and head down to Daytona, Florida for nationals.

At nationals, the UWODT competes against over 200 other teams in a battle to become national champions.

In 2019, they took home second place in Pom DII and seventh in Jazz DII. Just before nationals in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused a nationwide shutdown, and the team was no longer able to attend. 2021 ended in a similar fashion, and finally getting to attend in 2022 was a dream come true.

Jenna Riche is a senior special and elementary education major on the UWODT. She’s been dancing since elementary school and has been a member of the team since her freshman year.

“I’ve been to nationals one time, 2019,” she said. “I remember feeling overwhelmed in the best way possible. I had no clue what to expect, but being under the lights with so many judges and spectators felt amazing. Our leaders had led us through the event and helped us to learn the ropes.”

Riche said that there was something that made this season feel special.

“The girls, hands down. We knew exactly how to have fun and how to work hard. I often

left practice smiling because of our fun, but being fulfilled because of our work,” she said. “I looked forward to seeing their smiling faces everyday and looked forward to every bonding moment we had. They made everything worth it.”

Riche said the time leading up to the competition was nerve racking.

“Having spring break just a week or so before made for a big break,” she said. “The dancers had time off which was scary, but every dancer came back determined and ready to fight and that fight didn’t stop until the moment we stopped dancing.”

She said walking into the venue made her feel like she was in a movie.

“There are cheer and dance teams everywhere marking routines and throwing stunts. Teams are playing music everywhere you go, and every team looks ready to fight,” Riche said. “The competition room is dark with tons of lights, and you can feel the fight in that room. We were ready to fight.”

That fight paid off for the team this year.

“Waiting for awards was definitely intense, but I was eager to hear the results. I could feel my heart racing, but being around my teammates and squeezing their hands made everything feel amazing. They made it all worth it.”

Softball splits weekend series

By Nolan Swenson
swensonno56@uwosh.edu

On Monday May 2, the UW Oshkosh softball team concluded a strong season, going 2-2 against UW-Platteville and UW-Eau Claire.

UWO won both games against UWP in blowout fashion on Sunday. They won the first game by a score of 11-0 and the second 13-2.

The first game stopped after five innings, with UWO scoring in each inning. UWO scored five runs in the second inning. In that first game, player Abby Garceau had three runs and four hits in four plate appearances. Throughout the game, Maddie Fink pitched against 21 batters and only gave up three hits.

Mia Crotty and Sydney Nemetz pitched in the second game against UWP. Throughout the game there were 26 batters faced and UWP had only six hits against

the Freshman and Sophomore pitchers. At bat, Hannah Ritter and Emily Cliver were both able to get three runs.

Against UWEC, both games were close losses, with the first game being 5-1 and the second being 4-0. In the first game there was a constant push from UWEC. The Bluegolds started the first inning with two runs and had three more in the third, fourth and fifth. UWEC started the second game even stronger with three runs in the first inning, but the team didn’t score until the sixth.

UWO had a strong push against UWP. However, without momentum they were unable to mount a strong offense against UWEC who immediately came out swinging in both of their games.

UWO will be one of the five teams to play in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) tournament at UW-La Crosse from May 6-8.



Courtesy of Sophie Wery
The team celebrates as Sophie Wery returns from getting a homerun. She has five on the year.

Remembering the Oshkosh All-Stars

By Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

While the Wisconsin Herd of the NBA G League has been welcomed by the Oshkosh community, many people tend to forget that professional basketball in Oshkosh dates back to 1929.

Throughout the 1930s and 40s, the city of Oshkosh was known across the U.S. for being the home of one of the greatest basketball franchises of the early 20th century, the Oshkosh All-Stars.

The All-Stars were National Basketball League (NBL) Western Division champions six times, winning the NBL title in 1941 and 1942. Their greatest accomplishment came in 1942, when the All Stars became world champions by defeating the Detroit Eagles in the World Professional Basketball Tournament.

The NBL featured teams such as the Minneapolis Lakers, Moline Hawks, Fort Wayne Pistons, Rochester Royals and Syracuse Nationals which would eventually find their way to the NBA after the NBL-BAA merger.

The All-Stars’ biggest rival was the Sheboygan Red Skins, with Oshkosh winning the all-time series 65-48. The Oshkosh Daily Northwestern compared the games to the Green Bay Packers and Chicago Bears rivalry in football. The Oshkosh-Sheboygan rivalry was the oldest rivalry in the NBL, with the first game between the two teams played in 1934.

According to an Oshkosh Daily Northwestern article from 1979, Arthur Heywood, former sports editor of the Daily Northwestern, approached Lonnie Darling in 1929 with the idea of creating a professional basketball team in Oshkosh. Heywood’s rationale was that if Green Bay could support a pro football team, Oshkosh could support a pro basketball team.

Darling, a seed distributor and salesman for the G.H Hunkel Seed Co., assembled a group of the best college seniors in the Midwest to play exhibition games throughout the year. Dubbed the “All -Stars” by Darling, the 1929 team included future basketball hall of famers Branch McCraden (University of Indiana), Harold “Bud” Foster (UW-Madison), and Charles “Feed” Murphy (University of Loyola-Chicago).

Reggs Hansen, who was a part of a championship team at the Oshkosh State Teacher’s College (now UW Oshkosh), made the inaugural team in 1929 after a tryout.

Hansen said in an interview with the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern in 1979 that Darling was the owner and coach of the team.

“I think he wanted to get [Bob] Kolf, who coached at Oshkosh State Teacher’s College, but he never did,” Hansen said. “Lonnie would bring in about two or three new guys each game, but it came down to a main group. The guys who had the big reputation always seemed to be over the hill.”

The All-Stars were a barnstorming team in their early years, traveling around the Midwest playing whoever they could. Competition would materialize at night and disappear just as fast the next morning. Many members played for the highest bidding team, and sometimes played for two or three teams at the same time. Almost every player utilized the two-handed set shot, and scores never reached higher than 30. The All-Stars competed against teams such as the



All photos courtesy of the Oshkosh Public Library

The inaugural Oshkosh All-Stars basketball team was formed by Oshkosh native Lonnie Darling in 1929.

Duffy Florals, Chicago Bruins, Goodyear Tires of Milwaukee, the Jewish-sponsored House of David from Chicago, the Beloit Fairies, the Fond du Lac Eagles and the Liftschultz Fast Freights.

In the winter of 1934, the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern reported that a “quick, talented guard from Purdue might soon join the All-Stars.” This player was the legendary John Wooden “the Wizard of Westwood,” who is now widely regarded as the greatest basketball coach of all time. Wooden never ended up in Oshkosh, instead playing for the Indianapolis Kautskys.

One of the most well-known teams that the All-Stars played were the New York Renaissance, an all-Black basketball team from Harlem. Oshkosh played the Renaissance in a two-game series in 1936, drawing such large crowds that Darling organized a best of five series for the following year. It was decided between the two owners that the winner of the “World Series” would be named the “world’s champion of basketball.” The All-Stars lost the series 3-2, but the Ren’s owner agreed to extend the “World Series” to a best of seven. Oshkosh won the next two games, taking the title of world champions.

The Rens were not allowed to stay in Oshkosh because they were African Americans, so they stayed at a hotel in Waupaca instead.

Darling founded the NBL, a precursor to the NBA, that same year in 1937 with teams from the old Midwest Basketball Conference. Oshkosh, coached by former All-Star George Hotchkiss, went 12-2 in the inaugural season, winning the Western Division but falling to the Akron Goodyear Wingfoots 2-1 in a three-game series for the NBL Championship. Every NBL championship from this point became a best of five series.

According to an article from The Advance-Titan published in 1977, coach Hotchkiss was not in attendance for game three of the NBL Championship because of his job at Northwestern Mutual in Oshkosh. Darling had to wire Hotchkiss from Akron for the starting lineup and formation.

The 1940-41 season saw Oshkosh finally break through and take the NBL Championship by sweeping the Sheboygan Red Skins in three games. Hotchkiss was named NBL Coach of the Year in his final season as head coach, and two

All-Stars were named First Team All-NBL.

Star players of the All Stars included 6’5” centers Leroy “Lefty” Edwards and Gene Englund. Edwards, who also went by “Cowboy,” was an All-American at Kentucky and went on to be a three-time scoring champion of the NBL with Oshkosh. According to the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern, Edwards is recognized as the player responsible for the creation of the offensive three-second violation, which prohibits a player from standing in the lane for more than three seconds at a time.

Edwards won the NBL MVP three straight years from 1938-40, averaging 16.2 points per game in his best season, 1937-38. During the 1938-39 season Edwards led the NBL in every offensive statistic. Edwards is also credited as the first professional basketball player to score 35 points in a game, doing so against the Fort Wayne Zollner Pistons in 1942. United Press International named Edwards as one of the five best pro players of all time in 1945 but has not been inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, despite being a nominee numerous times.

Englund joined the All-Stars in 1942, fresh off an NCAA Championship with UW-Madison. Englund, the captain of the Badger basketball team, scored a third of his team’s points in the UW’s 39-35 victory over Washington State in the 1941 NCAA Tournament championship game. Englund was named Big Ten MVP that season, scoring a then Big 10 record 162 points. The coach of the Badgers was none other than former All-Star Foster, who coached the team to a 20-3 record after going 8-15 the year before.

Englund joined Oshkosh when he signed a \$4,500 contract in the fall and went on to lead Oshkosh in scoring his rookie year. With both Edwards and Englund, the All-Stars won back-to-back NBL titles by defeating the Pistons 2-1 in a best of three series.

Englund said that there were many memorable moments throughout his career in an interview with The Advance-Titan in 1977.

“Beating Indiana for the Big Ten was the one,” he said. “And then beating Washington State for the NCAA title in ’41 followed by the All-Stars winning the World Championship in ’42.”

The biggest accomplishment of the season was their performance at the 1942 World Professional Basketball Tournament, an invitational tournament sponsored by the Chicago Herald American. More than 11,500 fans at Chicago’s International Amphitheater saw the All-Stars take down the Detroit Eagles 43-41 to become World Champions. Oshkosh dominated most of the game, but the eagles launched a comeback to cut the lead to two points with 10 seconds left. A Detroit player threw up a wild shot that rolled around

the rim and out as time expired to give Oshkosh its first ever WPBT championship. To reach the final, the All-Stars defeated the Harlem Globetrotters 48-41.

The All-Stars each received a gold watch for winning the 1942 WPBT title. The team took the train back to Oshkosh where they were greeted by more than 4,000 fans at the depot, across from the Oshkosh Public Library on Washington Avenue. The players were hoisted up onto fire trucks and escorted by police and two marching bands all the way to city hall, where they were greeted by Mayor George F. Oaks.

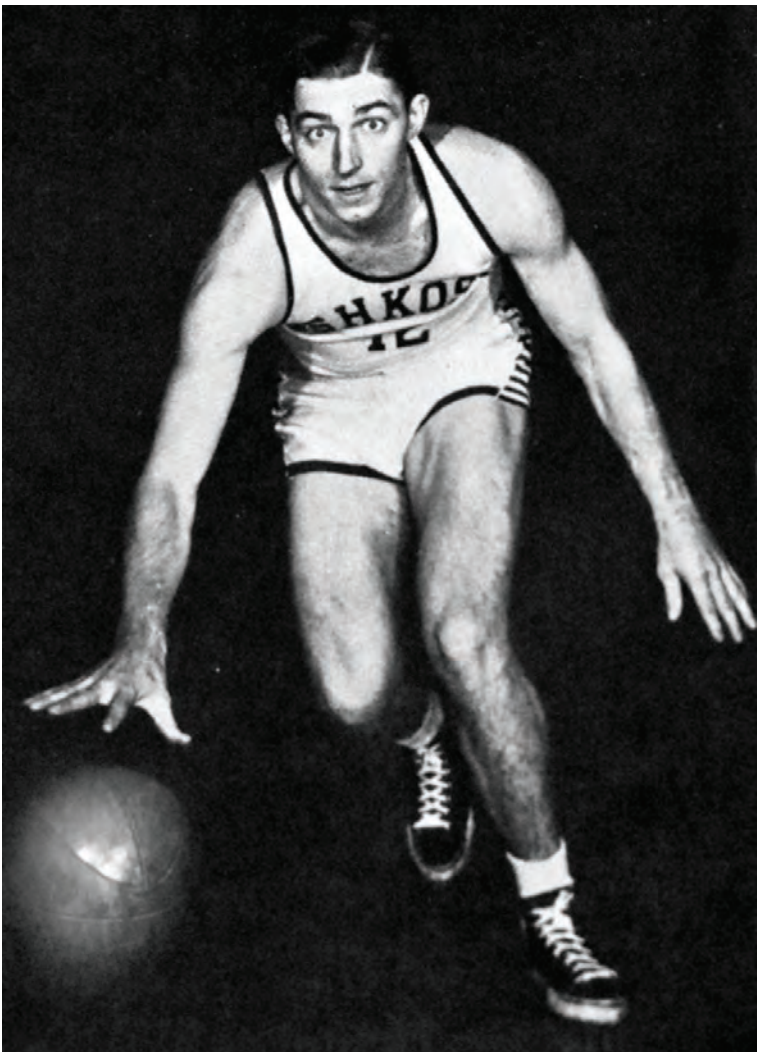
Englund is one of the only players in the history of professional basketball to win a collegiate and pro championship in back-to-back years. Only five NBA players have accomplished this feat, Bill Russell, Magic Johnson, Henry Bibby, Billy Thompson and Arnie Ferrin.

The war years saw the team in decline, although the All-Stars still made the NBL semifinals in 1943 and ‘44. The 1944-45 season was the only one in which Oshkosh did not make the NBL playoffs.

Most of this was because Oshkosh’s best player, Englund, was serving in World War II. In the 1945-46 and 1946-47 seasons, Oshkosh lost in the NBL Western Division semifinals.

In 1946, the Basketball Association of America, a direct descendant to the NBA and rival to the NBL, was formed.

Turn to *All-Stars* / Page 7



Gene Englund played for the All-Stars from 1941-43 and 1946-49.



The Oshkosh All-Stars were crowned World Champions in 1942.

UWO’s win streak halts at nine games

By Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

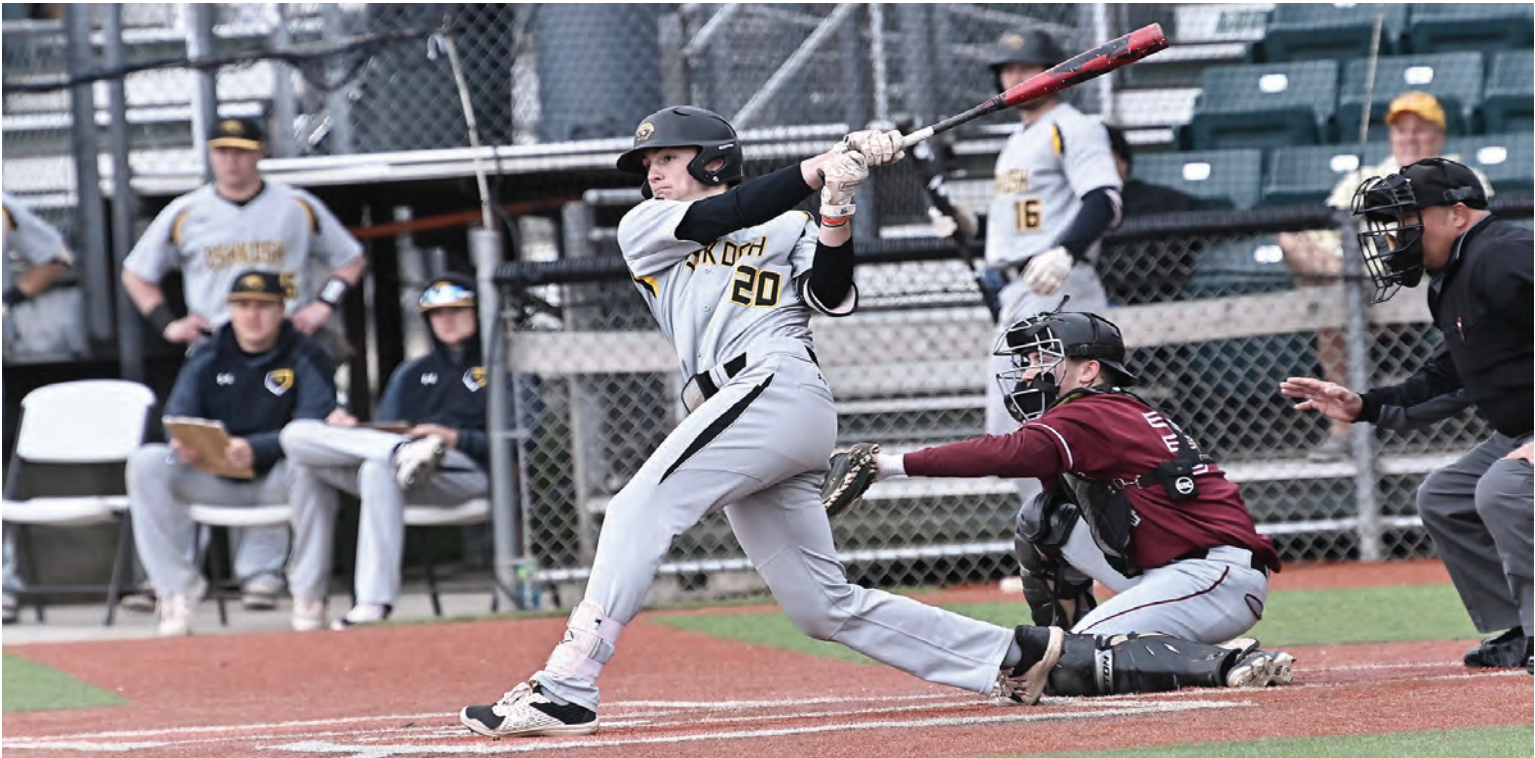
The UW Oshkosh baseball team’s nine-game winning streak came to an end as the Titans dropped their weekend series against UW-La Crosse at Copeland Park in La Crosse.

UWL took three of the four games by outscoring the Titans 27-20, pushing Oshkosh five games behind first-place UW-Whitewater in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) standings.

“La Crosse is a really solid team with some really good bats,” UWO first baseman Zach Taylor said. “They came out swinging, and for the most part we were right there with them. They just got an extra hit or two when they really needed it.”

In the lone UWO win the Titans (20-13, 14-8 WIAC) fell behind early but scored four runs in the final five innings to win 4-2 in the second game of Sunday’s doubleheader. In the top of the fifth inning, Jake Andersen hit a two-run home run to tie the game at 2-2. Two innings later, Mason Kirchberg smashed a two-run homer as the Titans took the 4-2 lead and never looked back. Will Michalski pitched a complete game for UWO, improving to 5-0 on the season.

In the first game of Sunday’s doubleheader, the two teams were tied at 10 until the bottom of the seventh inning when the Eagles (20-14, 14-10 WIAC) scored three runs, eventually winning the game 13-10. Nicholas Shiu opened the scoring in the game, hitting a three-



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

Matt Scherrman hits a single in the second game of Monday’s doubleheader against UW-La Crosse. UWO sits alone in third place in the WIAC.

run homer, the first home run of his career. UWO tacked on four more runs in the next two innings to take the 7-0 lead. UWL responded by scoring 10 runs in three innings to pull ahead 10-7. The Titans would tie the game in the top of the seventh but could not stop the Eagles offense as UWL ended UWO’s nine game win streak.

Oshkosh fell to UWL in the first game of Monday’s doubleheader 7-6 despite the Eagles committing four errors in the game. The Titans, who left 10 runners on base in the game, jumped out to a 2-0 lead until

UWL scored three unearned runs in the fourth inning to capture the lead. In the fifth inning, Shiu hit a three-run homer, his second of the series, as Oshkosh retook a 5-3 lead. Jack Olver responded for UWL in the bottom of the fifth inning with a solo shot to cut the Titan lead to one. UWO scored a run in the sixth, but it was not enough as UWL scored three runs in the eighth inning to go on to win 7-6.

The Titans were shut out in the series finale Monday night, losing to La Crosse 5-0. Oshkosh left 11 runners on base in the game and

was outhit by the Eagles 14-8. UWL opened the scoring in the second inning with a sacrifice fly from Connor Roesler and added another run in the fourth inning from a Tim Urlaub RBI single. La Crosse scored three runs in the sixth inning and Brady Schmitt fanned 10 UWO batters as the Eagles cruised to victory.

Taylor said that the Titans were making solid contact during the series, but the team just hit balls right at La Crosse fielders.

“They had solid pitching and didn’t make many defensive mis-

takes,” Taylor said.

Taylor also said the team was a little down after the series over the weekend.

“Collectively we get very involved in the games, and we always want to win,” Taylor said. “When we suffer a couple of tough losses like we did the mood is always a little gloomy.”

The Titans will take on the second-place UW-Stevens Point Pointers (27-6, 18-5 WIAC) in back-to-back WIAC doubleheaders Friday and Saturday at Tiedemann Field at Alumni Stadium.

All-Stars: NBL sees decline after creation of BAA

From Page 6

The BAA was started when owners of the nation’s largest arenas wanted professional basketball in major cities.

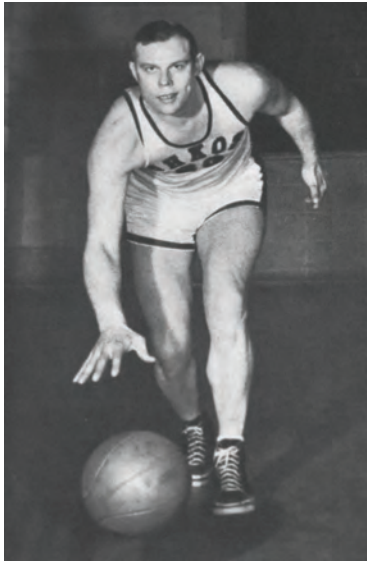
The arrival of a second major basketball league created a bidding war for players between the NBL and BAA. The more established NBL still attracted the biggest college stars such as DePaul University’s George Mikan. Bill Brown from the University of Maryland was once drafted by the Philadelphia Warriors but instead chose to play for Oshkosh, since it was known as a premier basketball city in the Midwest.

The NBL would have gone extinct if not for Mikan, who signed with the American Gears of Chicago for an NBL record contract of \$60,000. Mikan (6’10”), one of the tallest players in league history, burst onto the “pro cage” scene, making all NBL First Team his rookie season and winning the 1947 NBL title with the Gears.

The Gears folded the next season and Mikan moved to the Minneapolis Lakers, where he stayed for the rest of his career.

Mikan would later become the first superstar of the NBA, paving the way for big men like Wilt Chamberlain or Russel. Known as “Mr. Basketball”, Mikan changed basketball forever with his rebounding, shot blocking and the skyhook shot. Mikan, whose defensive play forced the NBA to create a goaltending rule, was inducted into the inaugural Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in 1959.

After the 1948 season, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne and Rochester left the NBL for the BAA, leaving the older league without its most profitable player and four of its best teams. There was



LeRoy “Lefty” Edwards

talk of a merger between the two leagues, but the NBL continued for the 1949 season.

In the final NBL season, the Oshkosh All-Stars won the Western Division crown but were swept by the Anderson Duffy Packers in the championship series.

After the season, the NBL and BAA agreed to a merger, with the BAA taking the Syracuse, Moline, Waterloo, Anderson, Denver (the original Denver Nuggets) and Sheboygan teams. The latter four teams folded after one season in the league. After the NBL-BAA merger, the new league rebranded itself as the NBA.

Darling tried everything he could to get the All-Stars into the NBA but had no luck. He proposed a move to Green Bay or Milwaukee, but the BAA told him that he had not met the deadline to enter the league. According to the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern, Darling was heartbroken that his team was not included. He suffered from heart attacks and had suicide attempts, later passing away

from heart failure April 19, 1951.

After the merger, Englund played for one season with the Boston Celtics before retiring to become a Big 10 and NBA referee. Englund died Nov. 5, 1995, in Oshkosh.

The All-Stars continued as the Oshkosh Stars from 1950-53 as a semi-pro team. A reunion game was held in 1960 between the All-Stars and the Sheboygan Red Skins. Over 3,000 fans watched Englund, and the All-Stars fall to the Red Skins 45-41 at the Sheboygan Armory.

As for the former NBL teams in the NBA, Moline moved to Atlanta, where they have remained ever since. The Fort Wayne Pistons moved to Detroit, where they are still the Detroit Pistons. The Rochester Royals eventually moved Sacramento, now known as the Sacramento Kings.

Minneapolis moved to Los Angeles where they would become one of the winningest franchises in NBA history. Finally, the Syracuse Nationals would move to Philadelphia where they would become the 76ers.

This year the NBA is celebrating its 75th Anniversary. Unfortunately, the NBA counts its BAA years as a part of its history, but not any part of the NBL.

While all of the Oshkosh All-Stars have died, their legacy in the foundation of pro basketball as we know it today will never die.

Gameday in Oshkosh

Pro basketball, or the “pro cage circuit” as it was called because many games were played in cages, was a lot different in NBL than it is today.

In the early years, fans packed into the Oshkosh Recreational Building on Division Street for home games, sometimes standing in

the aisles to see their beloved Oshkosh All-Stars. The All-Stars had to play their games during the 1938-39 season at the Merrill School gym because they needed more seats to fit large crowds. The previous season, 20,900 fans attended All-Stars home games, more than half the population of the city. Even the Merrill School gym proved too small for the All-Stars, who moved to the South Park Gym, which could hold 2,300 fans.

Doors to the games, which were played on Saturdays, would open at 6 p.m. and fans would get there as early as 4 p.m. to get tickets. Stores in Oshkosh would close Saturday night because there would be no business during All-Stars games. The All-Stars had so much interest, that they had to have a waitlist like the Green Bay Packers for season tickets.

The night would start with a preliminary game at 6:30, which would pit the Oshkosh Vocational School against other teams in the area such as Green Bay, Neenah, Kimberly and Two Rivers. In 1937, Harry Lund of Clark & Lund took over the preliminary games with his Chris Craft team. After World War II, Lund’s team was recreated as the Hour Tavern, which was sponsored by Chief Oshkosh beer.

The main event started at 8:30, featuring the All-Stars. NBL games lasted 40 minutes and most teams scored a little less than 40 points. The Oshkosh Daily Northwestern used to refer to the All-Stars as the “Point A-Minute Team” because they would score at least 40 points per game. After every basket there was a jump ball at center court, and a special “ball-tosser” would perform the jump ball.

Teams could hold the ball as long as they wanted during the game, and

the play clock ran almost nonstop. A foul was not called on a player as long as he made contact with the ball, and a player was removed from the game if he had four fouls. Designated shooters shot every free throw in the game, no matter who was fouled. The main shots during this era were the layup, the hook shot and the two-handed set shot.

In many NBL games, an all-out brawl would take place on the court between teams after a bad call or disagreement.

Englund said in a 1977 interview that the game used to be different, starting with the ball.

“A leather ball was used, with sewn seams. It was never the same ball twice,” he said. “Kids today are bigger, stronger, jump higher and start playing basketball much earlier. You held the ball more, passed it more. There were no dunks or 24-second clocks either.”

During the games, Corky Weisheipl’s six-piece band would play songs such as “Paper Mood”, “Little White Lies” and “Doodle-doo” to excite the fans. The Oshkosh Daily Northwestern once reported that Winnebago County clerk Arte Hedtke died of a stroke during a closely contested All-Stars game.

For halftime entertainment, fans would heat pennies and toss them onto the court and watch as children burnt their hands scrambling for the loose change. After the game, fans and players would go down to the Eagle’s Club or Edwards’ Tavern for drinks, dancing and food.

Pro basketball would not become the spectacle it is today until the late 20th century, but the All-Stars were once top-notch entertainment for the people of Oshkosh.

Opinion

Networking is essential for success

By Cory Sparks
sparkc21@uwosh.edu

As many UW Oshkosh students come to the realization that they'll be graduating, receiving their degree and moving into the workforce this May, I cannot stress the importance of networking.

While it is important to load your portfolio with relevant content and fine-tune a resume until it is perfect, sometimes who you know is just as important as what you've done.

According to a survey sent out by LinkedIn, 70% of people are hired at a job because they had a prior connection to the business.

I am still a full year out from graduation, but I feel that in my junior year of college I have heard more about the importance of making connections than I ever have in the other 19 years of my life combined.

Recently, I've discovered and been told of a few different outlets available to UWO students who want to create professional relationships within their work industry.

Create a LinkedIn account
While LinkedIn may seem like an odd hybrid between simultaneously applying for many jobs and starting up a new Instagram profile, it is such a useful tool.

When making a LinkedIn profile, the first course of action will

be to state your job experience, education history and general skills that you feel will be of value to a future employer.

When I made my LinkedIn, I picked out some of the phrases from my resume and then altered it to fit a broader market of employers.

Next, insert a professional picture of yourself with an appropriate background.

Once you're done, let the algorithm go to work.

From there, you can look up people in your preferred industry or individuals you know. This can serve as a way to get references or even set up a potential job opportunity.

Talk to your professors
While professors are here to instruct and share their expertise on a certain subject, they can also make for great resources.

Professors for each person's major, at the very least, got a degree in their major. On the way up, they've surely met people in that industry.

If they're a tenured professor, they've met people locally and know alumni who have their foot in the door.

Also, adding a professor on LinkedIn won't hurt. They will sometimes promote job postings, and, if a certain job is hiring, they may think of one of their newest LinkedIn connections.



Courtesy of UWO Flickr

Creating professional connections can help provide students with more job opportunities.

Talk to fellow students
Talking to other students who have the same or a similar major is inevitable when it comes to group projects and on-campus involvements, but getting their contact information can be of even greater benefit.

Whether someone graduates before, after or at the same time as

someone else applying for jobs related to that degree, making a connection with them and being a decent person to them can help both parties in the long run.

Be a resource to others
Just as it's important to compile resources, it's also crucial to be that helping hand to someone else. One's life and situation can

change in an instant, and having an "I'll scratch your back if you scratch mine" relationship can help both parties for years to come.

Add these people on LinkedIn, tell them about job offers or opportunities and they'll likely feel compelled to return the favor if the opportunity presents itself.

The ugly truth about body positivity

By Kelly Hueckman
hueckk24@uwosh.edu

With a media filled with reports of celebrities' weight loss or gain, fad diets and the newest cosmetic products, it's no wonder we live in a society that is obsessed with our bodies.

The perfectly posed photos splattered across our feeds have led to 88% of women and 65% of men in America falling into the exhausting habit of comparing their own bodies to those they see in the media, according to The Florida House Experience.

For the past few years, brands and influencers have been attempting to combat the negative impact media can have on body image with the Body Positivity Movement.

The movement makes a point to challenge modern beauty standards and encourage love and acceptance of all shapes, sizes and colors of bodies.

At first glance, this movement seems like the final "a-ha" moment of relief from constant shame and fixation on what we look like.

Only, it's not so simple. The flaws of body positivity are thinly veiled under its mantra, "love your body".

Body positivity places too much value into the way someone looks rather than their non-physical qualities.

Although the least interesting thing about us is how we look, we spend far too much time worrying



Kelly Hueckman / Advance-Titan

Too much body-centric content, positive or not, can be harmful to one's mental health.

about it, even by body positivity standards.

"Loving your body" isn't as easy as the colorful Instagram post or the heart-wrenching campaign make it out to be, especially for those who have experienced eating disorders and body dysmorphia.

Instead, the message only places more emphasis on the body rather than our non-physical characteristics that are far more important. We objectify ourselves.

Body positivity ends up being counterproductive when the pressure to love your body is so immense, you end up engaging in harmful behaviors so you can love your body.

Again, this can look like disordered eating habits or unhealthy exercise regimens.

Instead of focusing on loving our bodies, we need to shift the focus elsewhere. In other words, we need to practice body neutrality.

The Body Neutrality Movement involves underthinking the importance of our physical appearance and instead places value into non-physical characteristics.

Body neutrality doesn't forget our bodies, though. It encourages us to appreciate what our bodies can do. We can laugh at our dancing, walk to a friend's house or hug a loved one.

However, it doesn't involve the guilt over body positivity's little voice in our heads making us feel guilty for not loving the way our bodies look at all times.

Taking the focus off of physical appearance isn't necessarily an easy feat, though.

Maybe it will come with time, but what if it doesn't? What about now?

Social media is overflowing with content centered around our appearances, from "entertaining" body-checking trends to advertisements for the latest weight-loss program.

Recent TikTok trends have caused users to hyperfixate on their waist-to-hip ratio, jawlines and even their side profiles.

Body checking trends can go back even further, to 2015's A4 Challenge, which included girls showing off how their waist was thinner than a sheet of A4-sized paper.

Around the same time, a challenge surfaced of people posting pictures of both of their knees being slender enough to hide behind their iPhone 6. This was also the first time I became insecure about something as trivial as the size of my knee.

It's unrealistic and unreasonable to expect media outlets to put parameters up to decrease the amount of body-centric content, so it's up to media consumers and creators.

We need to stop participating in harmful body-checking trends and creating content solely about our appearances as well as ignoring or eliminating that content from social media feeds.

An associate psychology professor at the University of Toronto, Jennifer Mills, has researched the negative effects of social media on

body image and has also found the cracks in body positivity,

She said that we need to limit the time we spend looking at our own and other people's bodies.

"Take a break and engage in activities that have nothing to do with appearance and comparing yourself to others," Mills said.

This isn't to say that body positivity is completely harmful, though.

I would be lying if I denied the beneficial impact the movement has had on many individuals and industries.

Campaigns like Aerie's "Real Me" were inspired by the movement and have increased the representation of a diverse range of bodies as well as advocated for models' photos to not be retouched.

Body positivity has led to more clothing options for plus-sized women, people of color embracing their natural hair texture and wider shade ranges in the makeup industry.

These are all commendable accomplishments, and we should strive for further representation and acceptance.

However, the relentless efforts to make people always love their bodies can actually be harmful.

It's time to relieve our fixation on our bodies and instead look at what is truly important about ourselves and what else life has to offer.

A guide to Polk during finals week

By Owen Peterson
petero84@uwosh.edu

The sun hasn't been out in about a month, the Blackhawk Commons dumpsters smell stronger than ever and cans of Twisted Tea lie like dandelions in the grass — it must be springtime in Oshkosh.

I would say you can feel it in the air, but that's probably just toxic rubble from the construction that you're inhaling.

With spring comes finals week, and with that comes an influx of students to Polk Library to embark on their final late-night cramming session of the semester.

So as most UW Oshkosh students step within 100 feet of a book for the first time since the first week of classes, here is some unsolicited advice from one reclusive Polk regular as to how to make the most out of the library this finals week.

The louder you type, the better the paper

This little-known life hack will not only help you finish your papers faster than ever before, but also make you a fan favorite at Polk.

As your WPM approaches 200 and smoke starts emitting from your keyboard, expect your fellow essayists to stand up and applaud your breakneck pace.

In addition to relentlessly clacking away, slamming your Starbucks bottle after every swig, constantly clicking your pen and sighing after every completed paragraph are great ways of letting everyone in the room know that you are indeed writing a paper.

Don't be afraid to spend the night

It happens to the best of us: you

accidentally stayed up until 3a.m. trying to figure out the difference between striated and stratified, and now the exam is only five hours away.

That's OK; instead of trudging back home in the dark, just spend the night at Polk. You might even get free breakfast if you're up early enough to rob the guy who stocks the vending machines.

Legality aside, I figure there is hardly a better use for all those empty shelves on the third floor than to host students awaiting their morning exams.

And if they need a blanket, they can make one out of all the copies of The Advance-Titan in front of Polk that nobody ever takes.

The smaller the group, the bigger the table

This one's just common sense, as nothing quite bests the allure of having a nice 10-seat table all to yourself — especially one that's next to a window.

Nevermind the fact that your laptop and notebook would've fit perfectly fine on even the smallest desk in the place; this is finals week, where you take anything you can get.

It's just like using the handicap stall in the bathroom when it's the only one open: you know you're an objectively bad person for doing this, yet there you are using approximately a sixty-fourth of the table and two separate chairs as footrests while a group of three is now hunched around a wooden desk from the '60s.

Always be consuming

Studying can be extremely draining, so it's imperative that you always come to Polk supplied with sustenance.

Not just any food will do,



Advance-Titan photo

As finals week approaches, brush up on your library etiquette for your last-minute cram sessions.

though. Only the loudest, most odorous foods are fit for consumption in Polk.

For example, perhaps no food is more suited for the deafening silence of the third floor study room than a crunchy bag of potato chips.

Especially when accompanied with the opening of multiple cans of Monster, the sound of thunderous chewing will provide some relaxing, albeit unsolicited, ASMR to calm down your fellow stressed-out students.

The volume indicators are merely a suggestion

Despite what those signs may say, there is no bad place in Polk to

have a raucous chat.

Even if you have no one to chat with but yourself, be prepared to overhear a couple life stories and a plethora of tangents while you mentally prepare to fail all of your exams.

Realistically, those flimsy little "quiet study" signs are possibly the only things less adhered to on campus than the legal drinking age.

But hey, I'm sure everyone else in the room really wanted to overhear your phone call with your mom anyway.

Always sit facing the only other person in the room

Some would say that, with the

surplus of seats at Polk, there's no reason to ever put yourself in this situation, but there is an upside to this reciprocal awkwardness.

That upside, of course, being the laser-like focus that comes from a study session staredown.

When it really comes down to crunch time for studying, nothing commands focus like a stranger's wandering gaze catching you staring absent-mindedly at the fat squirrels behind Reeve Memorial Union or scrolling through your phone for the better part of an hour, so having a face-off with a fellow crammer will get the best out of both of you.

Letter to the Editor

Underclassmen need more freedom

By Casey Webber
webberca49@uwosh.edu

After a full year of college, I will have obtained 29 credits.

Of which, only nine have been those pertaining to my major. In the fall of 2022, I plan to take another 12 credits, with only three having a connection to my major.

This means that, so far, around a measly 30% of my classes have pertained to my major.

With college being so expensive, why must we students waste our time and money by taking classes unrelated to our major and by staying on campus during the first year?

While I have learned from the classes unrelated to my major, they are not what I am here for.

Upon deciding to go to college, I made the decision that I wanted to get into business and finance in particular.

Now I am stuck, \$18,000 in the hole (this number to increase), with only a fraction of my necessary classes completed.

Why must I be at college any

longer than I have to? Why can I not take the necessary courses to obtain my major and then move on with my life?

Don't get me wrong; my anthropology and philosophy classes were interesting, but I can't see myself using my newfound knowledge of Aristotle and how humans are related to chimpanzees when I am analyzing financial data or crunching numbers in the future.

While I know that universities are attempting to make their students as well-rounded as they can be with their liberal-arts focus, they are also wasting the time and money of their students.

If some students want to take classes unrelated to their majors, by all means they should go for it.

Personally, if I had the choice, I would not take anything other than what is needed.

This should be an option for all. Students should have complete freedom with their class choices.

I feel that the business within a college would like you to stay for extended periods and continue to

pay for classes.

Why wouldn't they play this game and try to get the most money out of kids as possible?

After all, the longer students stay, the better they are off in the end.

I believe this to be the same reason why many colleges require new students to live on campus during the first years of their education.

First-year students, typically around 18 years of age, are able to vote, get married and join the military. After all, they are adults. However, at some universities students are not allowed to live off campus.

Most colleges claim that living on campus helps to ensure each student is involved and can obtain the help they need.

These students are 18 and capable of making their own decisions. I believe they will get involved if they wish to, no matter where they are living.

While I don't think the intentions of colleges are completely wrong, I do think that the money has become too sweet for most and they are not willing to let it go.

This is why most students must take so many classes unrelated to their major as well as stay on campus during their first year.

At the end of the day, I have

grown to love the college experience, but I can't help but think of the time and money that I am losing out on by being forced to fill course requirements unrelated to my major while being forced to live on campus.

If colleges were truly looking out for their students, I feel they would allow them to take the classes they want, while letting them figure out their own housing arrangement, just like that of those who do not attend college.

After all, I chose college to grow, mature, become independent and to get ahead — not to fall behind.

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.

Arts & Entertainment

Elsewhere: *blending coffee and crafts*

By **Mattie Beck**
beckm88@uwosh.edu

When going to downtown Oshkosh in search of coffee shops, there are plenty to choose from, including one that recently opened up downtown: the Elsewhere Market and Coffee House.

The Elsewhere Market and Coffee House is a combined coffee shop for patrons to settle down with a cup of coffee and a small market where different vendors sell a variety of products.

The market itself opened in December 2021, while the coffee house addition just opened in March 2022.

Jessie Tadder, the managing director said daily life at the place itself sees a variety of different people.

“Every day is different,” Tadder said. “You will see early birds come in for their everyday cup of joe, while students are studying for final exams and working on projects together over our signature spiced lavender mocha latte.”

In terms of the kind of coffee served in the coffee house, Tadder is excited to announce their own blend of coffee for Elsewhere.

“We’ve just launched our own Elsewhere blend of coffee,” she said. “We partnered with a roaster out of Waupaca, WI to come up with an every day medium-light roasted blend that we think is a crowd pleaser,” Tadder said.



Katie Pulvermacher / Advance-Titan

Elsewhere is located on Main street in downtown Oshkosh, the coffee shop/market sells gifts, jewelry, ceramics and so much more.

There are a variety of drinks available at the coffee house, ranging from lattes and mochas to things such as chai tea and matcha.

Along with that, there is a variety of pastries available on certain days of the week.

“In regards to pastries, we currently provide Thunderbird pastries Wednesday-Saturday,” Tadder said.

Thunderbird is a small local business that makes pastries, and Tadder enjoys helping out other small businesses within their own.

“They are a small local business, who we love—we try to support local businesses as often

as we can, and they make some delicious stuff,” Tadder said.

Along with grabbing coffee, many go and wander to the other side of the shop where the market is located.

“Our market side of the business serves as a great shopping spot for gifts, jewelry, ceramics, apothecary and specialty treats,” Tadder said. “People are popping in and out to grab a coffee and tend to hang out for a while or shop around the market.”

The business, the market is full of many different items for purchase.

“An array of gifts including

home decor, candles, hand-made dried bouquet arrangements, ceramic dinnerware/mugs/vases made by UW Oshosh students, hand-picked jewelry, a zodiac inspired line of perfume...This is just a glimpse, because we have so much more,” Tadder said.

When asked about her favorites, Tadder couldn’t decide as the market itself is full of a wide assortment.

“No favorites here! The whole place is kind of magical, and makes you feel like you’re stepping into a different city,” Tadder said.

The building is full of many

places besides just the market for people to go and enjoy the atmosphere Tadder talks about.

“This is an everyday spot for some people who are grabbing their daily coffee, and a destination shop for others to hit on the weekends,” Tadder said. “We are lucky to have such a beautiful building to create and share this ambiance—we love it.”

The Elsewhere Market and Coffee House is located on 531 N. Main St. and is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays through Sundays.

Senior Sendoff

‘I’m so over writing headlines’

By **Kylie Balk-Yaatenen**
balkyb22@uwosh.edu

My time has finally come to write a senior sendoff, and I have been struggling to decide how I wanted to start it. I obviously have so many people to thank and so many things I learned in my time here that I want to share, and I will get to that, but I do want to share what graduating means to me. It starts out sad, but try to bear with me and keep reading.

To say that this year has been rough is being generous. On Jan. 18, my world stopped when my grandpa passed away not even a year after being diagnosed with cancer. It was very difficult because I haven’t lost anyone that important to me yet. He was the person you could go to with any question, and he always had the answer. I wanted him to see me graduate, but I know he will be there in spirit.

My grandpa’s motto was “que será, será,” or “whatever will be will be,” which means we are not in control of what happens. COVID-19 showed just how true that saying was. After getting

sent home during the spring semester of my sophomore year when the whole world shut down due to COVID-19, then going to school during a global pandemic and spending a full year in virtual classes while living under the continual threat of the coronavirus, I know that we are definitely not in control. I am graduating knowing that these past four years have been anything but easy, and saying that means I can do anything I set my mind to.

OK, now that the sad stuff is out of the way, let’s talk about The Advance-Titan. The newspaper staff members have been incredible to work with. I went from being a Campus Connections writer who only wrote one story to editor of the Arts and Entertainment section. I have learned so much from everyone.

I would like to thank adviser Barb Benish for always being there to help me fix my page when nothing seems to work. I will miss your CDs and your dance moves. One thing I will never forget to check for is rich black text!

Cory Sparks, you have been an incredible leader and friend. I

have no doubt that you are going to do amazing things. Thank you for always being there to answer my questions about quite literally anything. Also thank you for being the best person to joke around with.

Owen Peterson and Katie Pulvermacher, you two have been incredible friends and great people to work with. I will never forget all of our jokes ... anyhow, hopefully, you two will actually get work done next year without me there.

Mattie Beck, you have been so fun to work with, I will miss sitting by you. I will never forget how much you have helped me run the A&E section and put together our pages.

One more thank you is to Dr. Filak; you have been an incredible adviser. You have helped me with my writing, finding jobs and even helped get me through your classes without failing.

I will end this by saying I have loved being a part of the journalism department at UW-O, and I will always cherish the memories and friendships I have made while working for The A-T.



Kylie Balk-Yaatenen / Advance-Titan

Kylie Balk-Yaatenen was the A&E editor for the 2021-2022 year.

Senior Sendoffs

Assistant editor goes out with a laugh

By Lexi Wojcik-Kretchmer
wojcil76@gmail.com

My time at the Advance-Titan began when I wrote a letter to the editor titled “Ditch the straw, save the earth” for my honors macro-economics class in hopes that I could get extra credit for it if it was published. Somehow, they were able to fit it into the paper at the last minute, and I got those extra five points; however, I got much more than five points after the paper’s adviser, the wonderful Barb Benish, asked me if I wanted to write for them the following year.

And so, at the beginning of my sophomore year, I wrote a story on the peregrine falcons, Foxy and Fondy, that lived on top of Gruenhagen Hall. At the time, I was a business major, so I hadn’t taken classes like reporting, but I remember finding what I was writing interesting and this new experience being something I wanted to continue.

The next article I wrote was on the College of Education and Human Service’s enrollment steadily declining. Even though I wasn’t in the COEHS, I again found everything so interesting.

I wrote a few more stories and then COVID-19 hit and my time

articles made the front page; it was on COVID-19 and the extra 15 pounds many people put on during the quarantine. My family asked me for so many copies of that.

Spring and fall 2021 were very busy semesters for me and resulted in just a few articles because I just didn’t have as much time. But at the end of the semester, I emailed The A-T adviser, Barb Benish, to tell her that I’d have more time to be able to write articles for my last semester because I’d really missed it. She was very appreciative and asked if I would be interested in filling the open position of assistant news editor. I was grateful that she had faith in me to be able to do something like that.

Spring 2022 was my final semester, and being a part of production night staff brought me so much joy on those late nights. From listening to Kylie and Owen play word association to watching Katie play Webkinz instead of doing her Spanish homework to listening to Jacob and Cory yell at whatever game they were watching and to talking with Mattie about anything and everything, it was always an experience.

Being at the paper brought me not only a knowledge of writing, but it also brought me to the ma-

jors; no, I don’t know how I’m still graduating on time), I don’t know if I would have found my final majors of multimedia journalism and public relations. So, I have the A-T to thank for bringing me to a career I love.

The A-T not only taught me how to talk to people and communicate clearly, but it also taught me perseverance when I had to contact sources multiple times to get answers to my questions. I learned how to write an article before I was even a part of the journalism department and took the reporting class.

I learned time management skills by making sure my articles were done in a timely manner.

I learned how to really listen to people.

I was able to gain more knowledge about the city, campus and the people around it through each story I did and gain connections.

I learned some very random facts about falcons, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, doping in the Olympics, the national debt and much more.

My time at the paper seemed to be a lot of stop and go, but I learned so many valuable lessons and gained so many experiences and friendships that I’m glad I became a part of The A-T in any way that I could.

And so, to my fellow paper staff, it has been a pleasure to be able to work on production nights with you even though it was for a short time.

Katie, trudge carefully through the mud on your way back to your dorm because it only rains on production nights.

Kylie, good luck with everything you accomplish after graduation. I’m glad you’re going through this scary process with me.

Mattie, continue to be an iPad kid; it’s so much fun.

Cory, park carefully on Tuesday nights and hopefully by the time you graduate, our elevator will be fixed.

Kelly, keep being the best dressed person in the newsroom.

Owen, bring the dart board in again. It really helps pass the time and good luck with being editor-in-chief next semester. You’ll do great.

Nolan, keep going primal.



Lexi Wojcik-Kretchmer / The Advance-Titan
Lexi Wojcik Kretchmer was assistant news editor and writer.



at the paper suddenly came to a halt. During the fall 2020 semester, I worked on copy desk and wrote a few more articles. I remember the first time one of my

jors I actually wanted to work in. If I hadn’t written for the paper when I was a business major, biology major and then education major (yes, I had four different ma-

- Jacob, always keep reading the gripe line’s greatest hits.
Finally, to Barb, I have some awful, cheesy jokes for you:
- Why didn’t the skeleton get a prom date? He didn’t have the guts to ask anyone.
 - How did the two cats end their fight? They hissed and made up.
 - What kind of music do planets listen to? Neptunes.
 - Can February March? No, but April May.
 - What did the football coach say to the broken vending machine? Give me my quarterback.
 - Why did the picture go to jail? Because it was framed.
 - Why can’t your nose be 12 inches long? Because then it’d be a foot.
 - Two fish are in a tank, one turns to the other and asks “How do you drive this thing?”
 - Where did Captain Hook buy his hook? The second-hand store.
- Why should you never fight a dinosaur? You’ll get jurasskicked!
 - What does the dentist of the year get? A little plaque.
 - A book fell on my head, I can only blame my shelf.
 - What do you call a priest who becomes a lawyer? A father-in-law.
 - I have a fear of speed bumps but I’m slowly getting over them.
 - What do you call a chicken that is staring at a lettuce? Chicken sees a salad.
 - My horse’s name is Mayo because Mayo neighs.
 - What do you get when you cross a cactus and a pig? A porky pine.
 - Why was the student’s report card wet? His grades were below C-level.
 - What’s the difference between ignorance and indifference? I don’t know and I don’t care.
 - What’s black and white and read all over? A newspaper.

‘Joining The A-T was the best decision’



Mackenzie Seymour

By Mackenzie Seymour
seymom53@uwosh

Last spring, my mom texted me about an advertisement she had seen on Facebook. It was about The Advance-Titan newspaper looking for new writers. With encouragement from my mom, I reached out to Barb Benish, the newspaper’s adviser, to set up a meeting with her.

Being a biomedical science major without any journalism experience, I didn’t think I possessed the necessary skills or talent to write for the paper. But

Barb encouraged me to pursue this journalism experience as it would be a great opportunity to enhance my skills for a future career in science, and she specifically gave me the opportunity to exclusively write STEM-related articles.

With the support from my mom and Barb, I stepped out of my comfort zone and dove right into my first article. From then on, I have had a multitude of amazing opportunities and experiences to write about topics I am passionate about.

My favorite memory from my

time at The A-T was my interaction with Anita Carpenter, who I wrote a feature article about due to her involvement in fighting for sustainability on campus.

Her overall passion and contribution to sustainability, conservation and preservation of the environment inspired me to write a series of more sustainability related articles for the remainder of my time at The A-T, which is now my favorite topic to focus on.

Without my mom and Barb, I wouldn’t have had one of the most profound and influential

experiences of my undergraduate career.

Joining The Advance-Titan was the best decision I have made at UW Oshkosh. Through this opportunity, I found a new passion for scientific journalism and communication, and I could not be more grateful today for the experiences I have had at The A-T.

I encourage everyone, journalism major or not, to consider getting the same experience I did at The A-T and getting out of their comfort zone.



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