

The Advance-Titan

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Charlie Bruecker / Advance-Titan

Last year's loss in first-year student retention was 32%. This visual represents a loss of around 1/3 of a class due to poor retention rates.

UWO works to improve retention rate

By Anya Kelley
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The retention rates for first-year students dropped to a 40-year low at UW Oshkosh last fall, after the pandemic left students in a desperate state both educationally and economically.

Erin Grisham, the UWO vice chancellor for student affairs, oversees all departments that impact students. Her goal is to help students be their best selves.

"Retention is such a complex issue," Grisham said, reflecting on the past two years of the pandemic.

COVID-19 has left many students struggling with social anxiety and other mental health struggles, Grisham said. The unknown and constant changing of guidelines has led to many choosing to take a break from higher education.

The pandemic has also led to a certain degree of learning loss. Learning loss impacted many first-year students' grades, causing academic probation or students dropping out, she said.

However, the pandemic isn't the only factor in lowering retention rates.

"There are a lot of opportunities for high-paying jobs here so we see a lot of what I call 'swirl,'" Grisham said. "Students start, then they stop, they go work and then they come back. The path to their degree isn't as straightforward as it used to be."

Logan Weinert dropped out of UWO after one semester in 2020.

"I chose to drop out because

honestly, it wasn't worth it to stay mentally and financially," Weinert said. "In some cases I guess I felt supported but I didn't most of the time."

Weinert is currently working as a stonemason and is hoping to move out and have a stable job.

In the wake of declining retention rates, UWO administrators have been working to evaluate what the incoming classes need most to feel supported and successful in their first year.

"One important data point in terms of retention is how students perform in their first semester," Grisham said. "The more we can be proactive and intentional in supporting students, [the more] we will help students persist and retain into their second year."

Grisham said UWO has hired staff who will work with first-year students from the time they decide to go to UWO.

These staff are called student success navigators. Administrators at UWO worked tirelessly over the summer to get them in place before the fall semester began.

Kathryn Rysticken is a first-year student from Manitowoc. "My student success navigator has been texting me and telling me some information and asking how I'm doing," Rysticken said.

She said her navigator has been very helpful in her first-year experience so far. "She responds quickly to

questions and concerns I have," Rysticken said. "My transition has been pretty smooth."

Rysticken recalls feeling supported and encouraged in her transition from high school to college.

"We're hoping that this group will work with the students, be problem solvers [and] get them connected to resources and whatever they might need to be successful," Grisham said. "I'm very confident that that approach will help us meet students where they are and get them through their first semester."

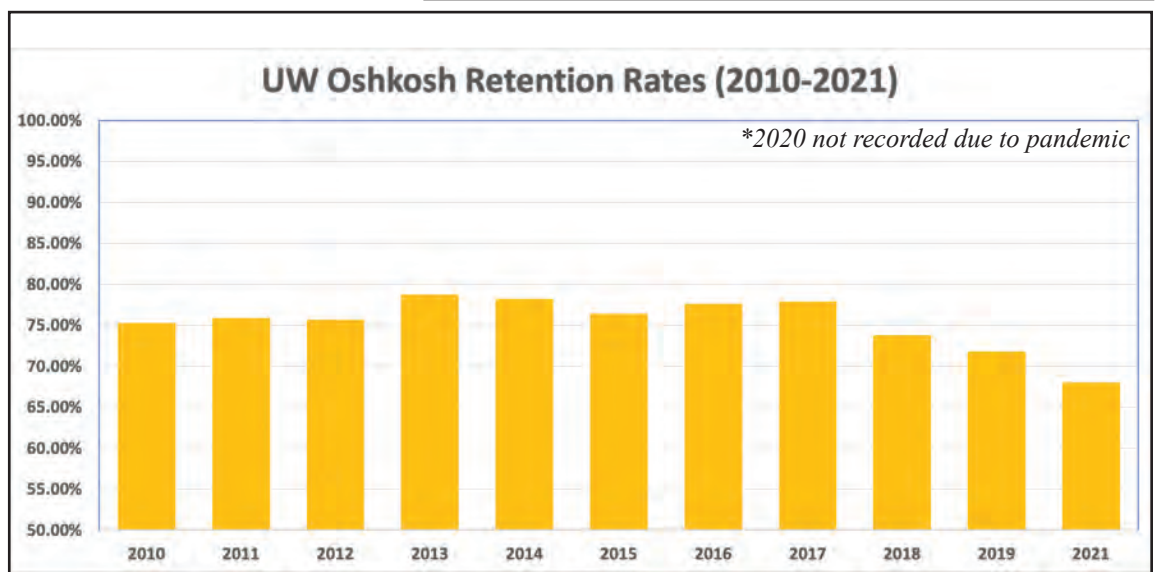
UWO currently holds a 68% retention rate for first-year students. Grisham and her team are hoping we can improve that number to between 78% and 80%.

"I know that retention is one indicator of our success, but we do continue to do a really good job graduating students," Grisham said. "We also have many students transferring and I don't see those students as a failure in terms of their college career path."

Retention stats

- Across all UW system campuses, total enrollment is down about 3.6% (excluding UW-Madison), or about 4,200 students
- Across the three campuses of UW Oshkosh, the preliminary UW system report shows a decline of 853 students, or 5%
- Total first day enrollment at UWO in 2021 was 14,152 students, compared to 13,299 this fall
- Retention issues are driven by a strong job market, lingering impacts of the pandemic and an increase in both four-year and six-year graduation rates

Source: University Marketing and Communications



Statistics from UWO Retention and Graduation Rates

Katie Pulvermacher / Advance-Titan

After reaching a 77.9% retention rate in 2019, the number of students who stayed after their first year has decreased.

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Courtesy of Bailey Laird

‘RECOLLECT’ dives into how a student deals with his grief after a longtime best friend blocks him on social media.

Titan TV features student-led shows

Mattie Beck
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Titan TV, the student-run television channel on campus, is premiering new shows this fall. Two of the new shows, “RECOLLECT” and “Anything But Average,” are both student written, directed and produced. Written by two radio/TV/fim (RTF) majors, both shows focus on the life of college students. Bailey Laird, executive producer of “RECOLLECT,” said the show’s plot centers around a college student trying to deal with grief. “RECOLLECT” is a series that follows Benny, a disheartened college student who goes through an emotional journey when he discovers that his so-called “best friend” of many years has blocked any form of communication with him. The show takes an interesting look at the current generation and their struggles with grief in a comedy-drama format, according to Laird. “This comedy-drama hybrid infuses Gen Z social conflicts with a character study of the five stages of grief one goes through when losing someone close to them,” Laird said. Laird is taking on many roles throughout the production process.

“My role as an executive producer basically means I oversee all stages of the production of this television series,” he said. “Whether that is making sure we are on schedule while on set or overseeing the editing process as well as any talent relations or communication with Titan TV’s executive board.” Laird also helped co-write the show with Ryan Patton. “The process for creating this show has been a long, stressful, but super-exhilarating experience,” Laird said, adding that Patton is also producing the series. Patton and Laird also brought



Courtesy of Bailey Laird

The production of ‘RECOLLECT’ is completely student-led.

on another individual, Megan Kitzman, to help produce after seeing her previous work. “We saw a video recreation of a Bo Burnham song from his recent Netflix special that she had recreated for an RTF course, and knew we had a very talented individual working with us,” Laird said. Laird said he enjoys being able to tell the story itself. “I love writing and telling stories, so being able to really get my first real crack at a full-blown production like this with my name on it was a big dream come true,” he said. Another new show set to air on Titan TV is “Anything But Average,” a late-night talk show hosted by Amber Gately. Gately, the host and executive producer shared the fun backstory behind the show’s creation.

“The show was originally created due to a joke me and a friend made about how it would be fun to interview one of our friends and then prank them,” Gately said. “But then as we told others about the joke they convinced me that I needed my own show to play out these jokes.” The show itself has a similar feel to other late-night and comedy shows found on television. “[It] has humor similar to Jimmy Fallon mixed with iCarly,” Gately said. While Gately has her roles in the show, she also has many other individuals helping her with other aspects to make the show run smoothly. “I have two writing producers, Jonathan May and Lauren Sweetman, who with me come up with which segments we are going to use for the upcoming

episodes and how are we going to get those segments filmed and ready to go to air. “I also have two other producers, Sam Sasin and Max Rinn, who edit our videos and assist at anything production-related,” Gately said. While Gately has a lot of aid throughout the production, there is still a lot of work that goes into fulfilling both of her roles. “It’s a lot to be in charge of the entire production, as well as being the person on camera the entire time,” Gately said. “It means I have to be at every event related to the show instead of being able to trust my producers to get the work done themselves.” There is also the struggle that comes with being a student and executive producer and host of a TV show, Gately said. “Production takes a lot longer than you might think and as a student, I still have to get all of my homework done, attend classes and have a part-time job. So it’s late in the evenings when I can get my show work done.” Though it is a lot of hard work, it is also fun, Gately said. “My favorite parts are filming the most random segments that I know will be really core memories for me about the show,” Gately said. Gately even gave an example of an upcoming segment that will be one for the books. “Last week we filmed me handing out raw hot dogs to strangers for a segment on the show and I know that it will be one thing that I will never forget,” she said. “RECOLLECT” is set to premiere after Titan TV News on Fridays, and is available through the campus cable channel (71.1), Spectrum channel 57, or through the on-demand service at titan-tv.org. “Anything But Average” airs Thursdays at 8 p.m. and can be watched in the same places.

Fighting for peace

Professors spark discussion on preventing WW3

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The Ahmadiya Muslim Community called for peace and justice to fight against the threats of nuclear war during a seminar last week aptly titled “Stop WW3.” The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, which serves as the leading Islamic group to reject terrorism and highlight peace, justice and the sanctity of life, focused their seminar on the precarious nature of modern global politics, comparing it to the situation of pre-World War I Europe.

“This decade is reminiscent of the decade right before 1914,” said Michael Jasinski, a professor of political science at UW Oshkosh.

Jasinski characterized this pre-war period as a time of peace and optimism.

“Between 1900 and 1914, we invented the telegraph, motion pictures and all kinds of other technologies,” he said. “It seemed like the human race would live happily ever after. And then you have [the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand],” which began the first World War.

Jasinski compared pre-World

War I Europe to global affairs post-1990. In 1989, the Berlin Wall fell, and with it came an era of relative peace. Jasinski served in the military during this time. “We thought to ourselves, ‘We’ve done the job.’ Turns out that wasn’t true. After that decade of peace, you have [9/11] and the Iraq War.”

Jasinski said that the world’s superpowers were not very well defined leading up to 1914 — a stark contrast to the Cold War, where the United States and the Soviet Union unilaterally pulled the strings of world affairs.

But the ambiguity of superpowers in 1914 served as prime conditions for countries to try and assert their dominance.

Jasinski said he believes that our modern global conflict is equally ambiguous, with rising superpowers itching to acquire nuclear arsenals and find their place on the global stage.

While Jasinski said that nuclear weapons will also serve as a deterrent to war, the threat of nuclear war is still a chilling reality.

Ahmed Khan, an Ahmadiyya Muslim who spoke on the necessity of peace, referenced the Doomsday Clock, a metaphorical clock that represents the likelihood of a man-made global crisis.

A crisis is represented by the clock striking midnight. This year, a group of atomic scientists placed the clock at 100 seconds before midnight.



Josh Lehner / Advance Titan
Ahmed Khan speaks on the impending catastrophe of the Doomsday Clock and global nuclear war.

The Doomsday Clock doesn’t only represent the threat of nuclear war, however. Climate change and other forms of conflict, such as the Russia-Ukraine war, are also considered. And crises like the Russia-Ukraine war are cause for concern, as they raise the political temperature and muddy the waters of foreign affairs.

Tami McLaughlin, a worker for the humanitarian nongovernmental organization World Relief, highlighted the impact these events can have, pointing out the massive humanitarian efforts they require.

She stressed the importance of making an impact on our local community “by welcoming refugees who have been the victims and have fled their countries because of unrest, conflict and wars.”

The Washington Post found that one in four Ukrainians have been displaced from their homes since the beginning of the invasion in February.

McLaughlin, along with Khan, called for peace and kindness as the antidote to continued crises.

“Depending on our beliefs and backgrounds,” McLaughlin said,

“We can pray, advocate to our politicians, donate to organizations involved in peacemaking and participate in conversations.”

World Relief, the organization McLaughlin works with, provides medical aid, food and safe shelter to refugees. McLaughlin has been working to raise awareness of the numerous crises across the globe and encourage people to help by donating, volunteering and advocating for positive change in their communities.



Tino Starr / Advance Titan

Algoma construction update

Anya Kelley
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As the semester begins ramping up, the Algoma Boulevard project continues to move along on schedule.

An update from Facilities management last Friday said “The end is in sight” as the crew continues to work on finishing sidewalks and driveways.

In order to get sidewalks done in a timely manner, facilities management is asking all pedestrian traffic to cease on Algoma. Police have begun patrolling the area

more heavily and violators may receive citations.

All legal paths to cross the street are marked with orange construction barrels and other pedestrian traffic is expected to walk on the grass to avoid the street and wet concrete.

Orange construction barrel paths are the only designated crosswalks at this time.

High Avenue will continue to accommodate two-way traffic to make up for road closures around campus.

While Facilities Management understands there may be some

frustration surrounding travel on campus, pedestrian traffic regulations are best for the safety of the student body.

For those riding bicycles, asphalt patches have been placed in some areas to increase accessibility and safer navigation.

For more information and construction updates, visit the UW Oshkosh facilities website. hosh, send a blank email to contract2204-subscribe@lists.ci.oshkosh.wi.us to subscribe.

OSA holds first meeting of year

Liam Beran
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The Oshkosh Student Association’s Assembly held its inaugural meeting of the fall 2022 semester on Sept. 19, electing a new speaker of the assembly and speaker pro-tempore of the Assembly.

Chris Healy, a third year student majoring in business management and the current president of the Delta Chi branch at UW Oshkosh, will serve as the new speaker of the assembly. The speaker of the Assembly is responsible for creating the Assembly’s weekly agendas and facilitating its meetings, among other duties.

“There is no doubt how excited I am to be able to have the opportunity to work with a talented executive board, and how much of a powerful impact we are going to be making on the UW Oshkosh campus,” Healy said via email. “There are a lot of great leadership opportunities that OSA has to offer and we would love to see more students in these leadership positions.”

Elijah Plonsky, a second year student majoring in English, will serve as the Assembly’s new speaker pro-tempore, keeping



track of attendance and serving as speaker in the event of the speaker of the Assembly’s absence.

In addition, the Assembly and Senate also confirmed the committee appointments for the upcoming school year. These committees include the Green Fund committee, Differential Tuition Finance committee, Reeve Advisory Council and others. Committee members will “network with influential staff and faculty while attending the required meetings,” according to the OSA’s website.

OSA Assembly meetings will take place at 4 p.m. on Monday, Senate meetings will occur at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, in the Reeve Union Theater, Reeve 307.

Sports

Calendar



Scoreboard

Friday, Sept. 23
Volleyball
UWO - 3
Baldwin Wallace University - 0
UWO - 3
University of Chicago - 2
Tennis
UWO - 9
Marian University - 0

Saturday, Sept. 24
Volleyball
UWO - 3
Kean University - 0
UWO - 3
North Park University - 0
Tennis
UWO - 8
St. Norbert University - 1

Upcoming Events

Friday, Sept. 30
Volleyball
at UW-Stevens Point 7 p.m.
Cross Country
at UW-Eau Claire Blugold Invitational
Women's 4:15 p.m.
Men's 5:15 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 1
Volleyball
at Pointer Invitational
Augsburg University at 2 p.m.
Tennis
UW-River Falls at 1 p.m.
Women's Soccer
UW-Eau Claire at 7 p.m.
Women's Golf
at UW-Stevens Point Invitational
Football
UW-Platteville at 1 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 2
Women's Golf
at UW-Stevens Point Invitational



Courtesy of Bill Blake / Oshkosh Rugby Club

Brad Gorzek dives in order to advance past the tackling opposition. In Rugby, anyone can run the ball, allowing for greater diversity of strengths.

Oshkosh Rugby Club wants you!

By Nolan Swenson
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The Oshkosh Rugby Club, also known as the Mighty Pigs, has operated out of Oshkosh since 1978 and played at the Division III level against other Wisconsin rugby clubs. The team comprises of men ranging in age from 18 through their early 40s at all levels of physicality and experience.

Club President Bill Blake believes that rugby has had a recent revival, but said it is still misunderstood as football with a constantly running match. He said he knows that it goes deeper than that.

"To summate, in rugby, players are split into forwards and backs. The forwards are the 'Bigger Boys', and their goal is to do the heavy lifting through scrums and lineouts," Blake said. "The backs are more skilled players, smaller and more agile types. They do more plays with each other and coordinate moving of the ball."

Blake said that rugby is safer than football due to its many rules and regulations around contact.

"Basically ... everyone is treated like the quarterback," he said before adding that games are traditionally played with 15 players, or 10 during Pigfest and seven during the summer season.

The Oshkosh Rugby Club is more than just rugby; it's also about the culture it facilitates.

The team has been around for 44 years and has been doing more work to better integrate itself into the community in order to break negative stereotypes about the sport. Some of the work that Blake discussed was charitable efforts being required as part of membership dues, as well as working events.

"Some of these [events] include ringing bells, working water stations and doing work for Habitat for Humanity," he said.

In addition, the club holds an annual golf outing and donates its proceeds to a nonprofit organization.

According to Blake, everyone who is involved with the youth rugby organizations is a former or current player from the Pigs, which shows the extent that the program is going to try to create and improve rugby culture. The newest expansion is the flag program, where they partnered with the Oshkosh Parks and Recreation Department, and had about 35 kids participate. However, in the coming years, Blake said they hope to reach triple-digit attendance.

One of the biggest events in their season is Pigfest. Pigfest is

a tournament that's been hosted since the club's beginning.

"According to the older guys, it started as an excuse to get together, eat pig and play rugby," Blake said.

Now, they've cultivated it into something bigger.

"We've developed it into the largest 10s tournament in the Midwest," Blake said. "When I first got involved in leadership on the team, we only had two fields, but the county made a third, so we'll only be expanding and expanding this event."

The team fluctuates between 25 and 40 active players, and this year, seven members from the UW Oshkosh campus are on the team. Blake said he believes the reason for such low campus attendance is the distance between the field and school.

"A big reason we don't have players from campus is that it's all the way at the Winnebago County Park," he said. "It's hard for some people to get there if they don't have transportation."

Blake said due to the difficulty of getting players to the practice field, it would be easier for on-campus players without vehicles if there was a men's club established on campus, as there is already a women's club.

However, if that happens, that

means that the Oshkosh Rugby Club will not have access to any college students who are interested in the club, as it will be far easier to attend the on-campus team practices and games.

Having two clubs could be problematic, by doing so you divide the team and potentially weaken both. Another problem would be the creation of the program, as the Pigs will not be able to manage it the same way and will require the campus to take over something they are potentially unable to handle. All of this contributes to what Blake calls, "a weird in-between."

The difficulty of the situation is not opposition to the mindset, as Blake still wants a men's club available to on-campus men the same way it is to women.

"More rugby is better for everyone, so there's no real reason there shouldn't be a men's club on campus," he said.

For the time being, practices and games are held on their pitch at Winnebago County Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays, going from 5:30 p.m. until dark.

"However, as it begins to get darker earlier, a transition will be made toward the county park's softball diamond. The team will use the diamond's lighting in order to get more work done," Blake said.

UWO Volleyball sweeps North Park Invitational

By Nolan Swenson
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The UW Oshkosh volleyball team, UWO swept the tournament with three out of the four matches being shutouts this weekend at the North Park Invitational in Chicago.

The tournament began Friday afternoon against Baldwin Wallace University (Ohio). The match was one of the shutouts, with a score of 3-0. All three sets were decided within a decent point difference: 9, 7 and 8. In almost every set, there was an initial fight for the first. However while Baldwin kept pace, UWO excelled. This led to no major gap at any point, but allowed for comfortable wins in each.

The second match taking place on, Friday evening, was fought against the University of Chicago.

This match was closer, yet still a win, with a score of 3-2.

On Saturday, the Titans had one of their best wins against Kean University (N.J.) with a score of 3-0. Kean did not come within 10 points of the Oshkosh score, and was as far as 12 points away, which was not seen in any other match.

The final match of the weekend was played against the host, North Park University (IL) in a win of 3-0. The first of three sets had few moments of tension once UWO hit 10 points, as despite periods of North Park gains, UWO gained at an exponential level. The second set was closer when it came to gains, as the set had more of a back-and-forth score between the two universities. The final set of the weekend was a closer match than all preceding it, with a score of 25-20.



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

The team gathers after a volley. UWO improved to 16-4 in the season.

So far, this has been UWO volleyball's sole tournament shutout of this season, with more to come.

On Friday, UWO will face off with UW-Stevens Point in an away

match at 7:00 p.m.

A-Trivia

Who won in the football game last year against Platteville?

Answer: Oshkosh, with a score of 35-32

A-Trivia

What is the current record of UWO Tennis

Answer: 4-0

Robert ‘Bobbie’ Williams played four sports in three years and remains the most versatile athlete in Titan history.

The inaugural UW Oshkosh Athletic Hall of Fame class of 1974 included Robert "Bobbie" Williams, one of the greatest all-around athletes to ever wear Titan colors.

Williams played football, baseball, basketball and track and field from 1922-25, winning 10 athletic letters in three school years.

Williams came to the Oshkosh State Normal School (now known as UW Oshkosh) from New Richmond High School, where he earned all-state honors as a forward in 1921.

Williams was best known for his play on the football field as a half-back for Oshkosh from 1922-24, leading the Titans to an undefeated 7-0 season and giving UWO their second ever conference title in 1923.

In that season, UWO outscored their opponents 175-18 in a schedule that featured Northern Michigan University, UW-Superior, UW-Whitewater, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Platteville, UW-Milwaukee and Ripon College.

A 1923 article from the Oshkosh Advance said that Williams is one of the best open field runners to ever carry a football on a Wiscon-

sin gridiron.

“Oshkosh never had a player who could dodge, twist and squirm through an entire opposing team as Williams has this year,” read the Oshkosh Advance. “His long runs have thrilled the grandstand again and again this year, as he has ripped off long gains for the gold and white. His elusiveness in escaping tacklers is nothing short of marvelous.”

Williams, who played football, baseball and track and field alongside fellow hall of famer Edward "Ed" Hall, was also known to be a tremendous pass catcher for the Titans during his three seasons.

"Bobbie's spectacular playing will long be remembered. He was the rooters' idol. It was always with much joy that his supporters watched the swift running, stopping, pivoting and dodging of this small half-back," the Quiver yearbook said of Williams in 1925. "Time and time again he carried the ball for successive times, far

into the enemy's territory."

Williams was also a member of the baseball team from 1923-25, helping Oshkosh to an undefeated 1923 season in which UWO took down Lawrence College, Ripon College and UW-Milwaukee to finish 6-0.

The next season, UW O won the State Normal School Championship by going undefeated once again, defeating UW Milwaukee, UW-Whitewater and St. Norbert College to finish 5-0.

According to the 1924 Quiver yearbook, Williams liked to bunt the ball and use his speed to beat out the throw at first base.

“Bobbie Williams is another outfield star who is making a record for himself in baseball,” read the 1924 Quiver yearbook. “Undoubtedly one of the most sensational fielders in Oshkosh Normal history, he saved many a game by his stellar work in the gardens. He, too, is a good hitter and a whirlwind on the bases.”

A three-time letter winner on the basketball team from 1923-25, Williams led the Titans to two conference championships in a row.

Oshkosh opened the 1924 season with a string of losses, which included a loss to the Oshkosh alumni, but went on a three-game



Robert Williams was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in 1974.

winning streak which turned the season around. The Titans claimed the State Normal School Championship on the final day of the season, taking down UW-Superior in a 13-12 thriller.

In 1925, Oshkosh went a perfect 9-0 to grab another conference championship under coach Robert Kolf.

"For three years, Bobbie has been the speeding sensation on the basketball floor. Bobbie has won a place of admiration among the spectators by his accurate passing, his willingness to contribute to teamwork and his jolly good sportsmanship." the 1925 Quiver

yearbook said. "Many times has Bobbie out guessed his opponent and intercepted a pass or taken the ball from an opponent on the dribble."

Williams, who participated in track and field in 1924-25, helped the Titans finish second in the 1924 Intra-State Normal Track Meet and once held the school record in the broad jump with a 19ft. 10-1/4 jump.

The small but speedy Williams captured the hearts of many who followed Oshkosh athletics in the 1920s and fully deserves his immortal place in the UW Oshkosh Athletic Hall of Fame.

The image is a promotional flyer for "Parker John's BBQ & PIZZA". At the top center is the logo, which includes a pink pig character and the text "Parker John's BBQ & PIZZA" in a stylized font. Below the logo are three photographs of food: the top left shows a tray of BBQ chicken wings garnished with green onions; the top right shows a tray with coleslaw, macaroni and cheese, fried pickles, and two small dipping sauces; the bottom left shows a tray with french fries, a square of cheddar, a bowl of macaroni and cheese, and a rack of BBQ ribs. To the right of the middle photo is a white speech bubble containing the text "SHOW THIS AD TO RECEIVE \$5 OFF \$25!" and "Offer expires 10/13/22 Dine-in only." Below the photos, the text "ALL YOU CAN EAT NIGHTS" is written in large, bold letters, followed by "Wing Wednesday | \$15.99", "Ribs Thursday | \$19.99", and "Fishy Friday | \$17.99". In the bottom left corner is a QR code with a small pig icon. The bottom of the flyer features the text "1 MINUTE FROM CAMPUS | OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK" and "DELIVERY - CARRY OUT - DINE IN - FULL BAR - PATIO SEATING - CATERING". A "View Menu" link is located at the very bottom left.

Parker John's BBQ & PIZZA

SHOW THIS
AD TO RECEIVE
\$5 OFF \$25!

Offer expires 10/13/22
Dine-in only.

ALL YOU CAN EAT NIGHTS

Wing Wednesday | \$15.99

Ribs Thursday | \$19.99

Fishy Friday | \$17.99

1 MINUTE FROM CAMPUS | OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

[View Menu](#)

DELIVERY - CARRY OUT - DINE IN - FULL BAR - PATIO SEATING - CATERING

Arts & Entertainment



Willem Flaughter / Advance-Titan
Dear Dualidad: ‘a love letter to our identity’ brought Spanish rock to Titan Underground to share Latinx culture during Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month.

Dear Dualidad rocks out in TUG

By Kelly Hueckman
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Music, dancing and community. UW Oshkosh alumni duo Dear Dualidad brought all three to Titan Underground last Thursday as they played their hour-long set in celebration of Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month.

The duo is composed of Giselle Olivia and Javier Roman, both graduates from UWO with bachelor’s degrees in music.

Olivia, guitarist and vocalist, said that the two bonded over their Mexican-American heritage and musical background while taking music courses.

“When we first met ... Javier and I were the only Latinx people in the music program,” she said. “We naturally found each other because of our cultural background. However, we mainly connected because we found out we both had a mariachi background and began to jam in the practice rooms.”

Olivia said that she and Roman named the band with inspiration from the duality that comes with being Mexican-American.

“We had a hard time choosing the name because we weren’t sure if we wanted our name in Spanish or English, so we decided on both,” she said. “Finally, we decided that Dear Dualidad was perfect, as our music would be a love letter to our identity and heritage.”

Olivia said the duo hopes that their music will resonate



Willem Flaughter / Advance-Titan
Dear Dualidad is a duo made up of Giselle Olivia and Javier Roman, who are both UWO graduates.

with others with similar backgrounds.

“We wanted our music to be an open conversation between ourselves and everyone else who might have struggled in the past with this blend of cultures,” she said.

Dear Dualidad’s music is reminiscent of a multitude of different genres, which Olivia said she and Roman credit to their heritage. They draw inspiration from other Latinx musicians such as Selena, La Santa Cecilia and Los Angeles Azules, as well as popular genres

in American pop culture including alternative rock, funk and jazz.

“The beauty of our duality allows us access to draw from different realms of music,” Olivia said. “We try our best to fuse genres because it is so hard to stick to just one!”

Honing in on Latinx culture, Dear Dualidad encouraged their audience to fill the dance floor.

“In Latinx culture, dance is a huge component of celebrations,” Olivia said. “We want to get people moving and dancing because it elevates the mood of

the whole performance.”

Roman, guitarist, accordionist and vocalist, said he has always loved including the audience by getting them to dance. He said cumbia, a Colombian dance genre, is his secret weapon for doing so.

“I have always been drawn to cumbia engaging rhythm and love the way the groove just makes people unable to help... but move along with it,” Roman said.

Dear Dualidad performs around the Fox Valley and Mil-

waukee areas at events like Neenah’s Art After Dark and Milwaukee’s Mexican Fiesta and Frida Fest.

Although the duo performs some cover music during their sets, Dear Dualidad said they are looking to release new music as soon as possible.

Currently, they have three singles available on Spotify, two of which are original songs.

Olivia said that although Dear Dualidad plays their own music now, they were hesitant at first to share their songwriting in college.

“I felt that our peers would not understand our music and I often felt hesitant to share it,” she said. “In the end, music is a universal language and I’ve learned to feel comfortable in that.”

Roman said that it was during this time that he felt a strong sense of community with like-minded people.

He said that he appreciated the “unique and rare it is to be living and working with so many other people that have the same appreciation of music as us.”

Roman said that by building relationships with these people, he’s been able to find a way to create music with others.

“It is true when people say some of the connections you make in school will be some of the most important in your life afterward,” he said. “We are proof of that!”

First Fireside Chat held for students

By Liam Beran
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City of Appleton Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator and UW Oshkosh alumnus Timber Smith spoke to UW Oshkosh students at the Pollock House last Thursday, marking the first of five “Fireside Chat” events planned by the Center for Civic and Community Engagement.

Fireside Chats are intended to be “an opportunity for students to have meaningful conversations with local community members who are civically and community engaged,” according to a promotional email sent to the student body. Smith spoke to students on topics such as educational and professional opportunities, identity and life at UWO.

Smith, who is also a U.S. Army Reserves veteran, spoke about the experiences that led him to UWO and the course of his education here.. Smith first enrolled at UWO in 1992, but didn’t complete his undergraduate degree in sociology until 2011.

During that time, Smith worked various jobs, eventually working as a cultural retention and recruitment support specialist in the Appleton Area School District. Smith recalled working with African-American high school students in order to provide resources and skills promoting a successful transition to higher education.

“At that time in the Apple-

ton school district, for students of color, particularly African-American students, their graduation rate was 50%. And it’s not because of ability,” Smith said. “It was because of acclimation. They didn’t feel like they fit. It’s really hard to be a stellar student when the system itself isn’t necessarily treating you as such.”

Smith eventually transitioned to working for UWO, serving as an admissions counselor, senior equity coordinator and veterans resource coordinator. He recounted how he was able to use these positions to help support students in Milwaukee, his hometown, enroll in higher education.

“That was my gift back to Milwaukee,” Smith said. “That’s how I was able to serve. I went back and provided educational opportunity.”

Currently, as the DEI coordinator for Appleton, Smith serves as a consultant for Appleton residents and the 650+ city employees on issues related to diversity and inclusivity.

“I’m constantly consulting with different organizations, private sector businesses and leadership throughout the community so that we can have a thoughtfulness to whatever it is – events, hiring practices, housing problems,” said Smith.

“I was very pleased with our first event,” said Mike Leuder, interim director of the Center for Civic and Community Engagement. “I heard feedback from students that they were



UWO Flickr

Fireside Chat events are a chance for students to have conversations with community members.

very pleased meeting Timber and hearing his story.”

The next Fireside Chat will feature Aaron Preston, campus minister for His House Christian Fellowship of Wisconsin, at the Pollock House at 5 p.m. on Oct. 6.

OSA President and VP hope to help students

By Katie Pulvermacher
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When it comes to leading the student body, Oshkosh Student Association (OSA) President Daniel McKearn and Vice President Ben Blaser encourage a positive sense of community on campus.

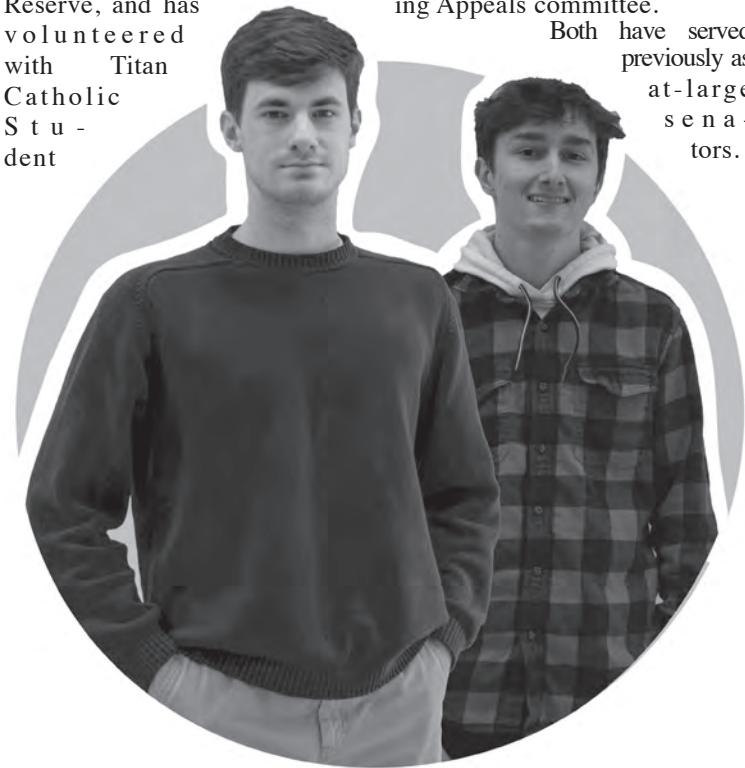
“Doing something is better than doing nothing if you want to make change,” McKearn said. “I really think it is important for students to find their community early on in their college experience.”

McKearn, a fourth year student majoring in public relations and advertising, has noticed the decline in campus-wide engagement, especially in club involvement.

“Student involvement should be something sought after, not something diminished or thought less of for seeming ‘different,’” McKearn and Blaser said in their candidate questionnaire from spring 2022. “Being a part of a community, more importantly the UWO community, should be welcoming and inclusive.”

Both McKearn and Blaser have extensive backgrounds to prepare for their roles. McKearn has worked for the Suicide Prevention Work Group committee, the University Body

Governance Group Committee, the Marine Corps Reserve, and has volunteered with Titan Catholic Student



he has also served on the Reeve Advisory Council and the Parking Appeals committee.

Both have served previously as at-large senators.

Courtesy of Daniel McKearn
OSA President and Vice President want a sense of community.

Organization, the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry and Father Carr’s Place 2B.

Blaser, a junior majoring in political science, has experience in the community through Fraternity Life where he is an Interfraternity Council delegate;

“I decided to run for OSA president because I had time in the Senate and had a lot of time with the previous president, Jacob Fischer,” McKearn said. “He told me a lot about OSA, a lot I did not know about, and how great it is. I knew that my

experience as a senator would help me understand the functionalities and purpose of the OSA.”

McKearn and Blaser said they believe COVID-19 had a huge impact on the decline of student involvement. They do not want this to hold back students anymore.

“As COVID-19 guidelines and regulations change, we do not want to have fear in finding a community here at UWO,” McKearn and Blaser said.

Blaser said OSA is always looking for students to join the Senate and other positions.

“Right now my biggest goal is to fill the Senate,” Blaser said. “We started the academic year with three senators, and are now up to 10. We still have 15 spots open, so if anyone is interested please apply.”

A month into the fall semester, things are already underway through OSA.

“Right now Daniel and I are working on filling the Senate, getting a new sign for Polk, and assisting Darryl Sims with his plans for our athletic facilities,” Blaser said.

McKearn said students and other visitors on campus seem to get lost trying to find the main entrance to Polk, hence the reason to put up a new sign. He said he also wants to display

more lights around campus.

“I deeply care about the safety of my fellow Titans and having more lights around campus is a good step in the right direction,” McKearn said. “I want someone to be able to read a book wherever on campus, regardless of what time it is.”

It is never too late to get involved, McKearn said.

“I waited until my senior year to finally get involved with clubs and orgs on campus,” McKearn said. “Knowing that there were great resources earlier in my college career, would have made my time more enjoyable from the beginning.”

McKearn and Blaser would not be in the roles they are in today without thinking they could represent the student body in a positive way.

“I am approaching my role with the utmost care for whom it represents – the students,” McKearn said. “I represent the voice of the student body and I plan to lead UWO into a more positive community where everyone feels welcome and where people can become leaders.”

Students interested in joining OSA as a senator or committee member are encouraged to email osa@uwosh.edu or call (920) 424-3202.

Should you rent a house?

By William Brush
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With the fall season approaching rapidly, UW Oshkosh students seeking to live off campus will have to step up to the plate and sign a lease for the next school year.

Admittedly, sifting through the multitude of houses and apartments surrounding the UWO campus to find the right one might seem like a daunting task.

Thankfully, it doesn't have to be.

As a veteran tenant of houses in the UWO area, here are the fundamentals of finding the right off-campus housing for you.

You won't get everything you want

When looking around for a house to rent, it might seem essential to have a home right by campus, with a two-car garage, a newly remodeled kitchen, spacious bedrooms and a comfortable living room.

Unfortunately, the price tag of your grandiose dream house will be through the roof, and I'm guessing most UWO students won't exactly have enough financial stability to afford such luxury.

When researching for your new home, start with the essentials.

How many bedrooms do you need? How many bathrooms? Are there any utilities included in the rent? How far away from campus are you willing to go? Are the walls thick enough so you won't hear your roommates watching a movie at 3 a.m. when you're trying to get some sleep before your 8 a.m. class?

Once you create a list of necessities, add a few things you might like but aren't essential. This could include a garage or a spacious backyard.

It's important to keep this in mind: this house isn't a forever home.

It's not going to be perfect, and you certainly won't find anything within your budget if you have a list of essentials a mile long. Keep the list short and simple.

Finding the right roommates: the three-question test

Let's face the facts: many of us would prefer to live alone.

Alas, due to financial constraints, most students will have to live with roommates when renting a house.

When finding the correct roommate, there are many factors you may want to consider.

When assessing potential roommates, I recommend considering these three questions.

First, is this person considerate of others?

This question generalizes more specific criteria you might want in a candidate.

For example, if an applicant is considerate of others, they will be more likely to be willing to clean up around the house or keep the noise down after 11 p.m.

Second, do I like this person?

In other words, can I interact with this person daily without wanting to strangle them?

If a roommate annoys you every time you talk to them, it's going to be a long school year for you.

Third, is this person financially stable?



Kelly Hueckman / Advance-Titan

Students should consider what they need from a house, roommate and landlord to get the most out of their lease.

Being able to pay rent and utilities on time is a requirement of all tenants.

If a roommate has financial trouble, it can create problems with your landlord and put a strain on the relationship between everyone in the household.

I've been fortunate enough to have fantastic roommates throughout multiple houses in Oshkosh.

Follow the three-question evaluation and it'll set you on the right path to finding an optimal roommate.

Not all landlords are equal

A landlord can either make or break your off-campus housing experience at UWO.

Desirable qualities of a landlord might include: quality com-

munication skills, quick response time to fix broken appliances and general disrepair, good integrity and the ability to accept multiple forms of payment for rent.

However, how are tenants supposed to assess a landlord before they sign a lease?

From personal experience, the best way to gain insight into a prospective landlord is to ask UWO students who have experience as tenants.

Perhaps bring it up in a conversation before or after class, or maybe during a meal in Reeve Union.

In addition, online reviews can provide discernment about landlords and the property management companies they work for.

From recent personal experience, I can tell you that having

an unreliable and lazy landlord is more of a headache than most realize.

Finding a satisfactory landlord should be a prerequisite for all UWO students seeking off-campus accommodation.

Finally, never sell yourself short when signing a lease.

Compromise is a must when it comes to finding a home on a budget, but it doesn't mean you should be unhappy with the house you've selected or the roommates you've chosen.

Besides, you can always resort to campus housing if needed. I'm sure UWO would love to take your money.

For more information about off-campus housing at UWO, visit offcampushousing.uwosh.edu.

You don't have to go to class... you get to

By Ivy Buchan
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You don't have to go to class.

Before you stop reading and go on your merry way, thrilled with the knowledge that you never need to attend another boring lecture for a gen ed that's well outside your field, let me clarify.

You don't have to go to class; you get to go to class.

I know that sounds like an absolutely repugnant (even boomer-esque) attitude; it has its roots in the work of existentialist philosophers like Jean-Paul Sartre.

Sartre argued that virtually every task we do on a day-to-day basis is a result of our own myriad choices, some made months or years prior.

As a result of this, Sartre proposed that it is out of alignment with reality to speak and act as if we are compelled by external forces to do these tasks.

He called this misaligned attitude "Bad Faith," and compared it to its counterpart "Good Faith."

When we act in Good Faith, according to Sartre, we acknowledge and take ownership of all our choices — for better and for worse — including ones like going to college in the first place.

This means that, instead of



Josh Fannin / Advance-Titan

Students can reframe tasks in Good Faith to help take control of their college experience.

lamenting to our friends "I have to write a paper," it would be more accurate and beneficial to say, "I get to write a paper," or even simply, "I have a paper to write."

The existentialists as a whole were not big on faith.

Their ranks include Friedrich Nietzsche, who proclaimed that "God is dead," and Simone de Beauvoir, who was fiercely feminist and anti-establishment in thought. Sartre himself had no great love of religion and was famously atheist.

Sartre believed that people had to take responsibility for their choices, actions and opportunities, and that religion often robbed people of the chance to do so. This

brought about his idea of Good Faith.

So what?

So, perhaps we all could use a little more faith of the sort that Sartre proposes.

Acting in Good Faith is not easy, which Sartre himself understood, and nor is it a cure-all for our problems.

Any reasonable person will know and admit that there are more than a few circumstances that can be out of our control.

But the attitude demanded to act in Good Faith — one of ownership and responsibility — is meaningful and beneficial in and of itself.

I find myself regularly thinking and speaking in "Bad Faith,"

whether about the dishes that await me at home or the next day's work, already casting stormy shadows over my mind.

Nevertheless, I practice reframing these tasks in Sartre's form: I get to do the dishes, because I own dishes and I have food to eat.

And that, in and of itself, is sometimes enough to give me back a little control.

I could say more — much more — about what I think of Sartre (and Nietzsche and Philosophy in general), but I will keep it to this: I believe that philosophy is the art of making problems and refusing to solve them because everyone needs their own solution.

And I believe that philosophers nearly always speak and write with

fervent hyperbole so that people will listen to them.

Did Nietzsche believe God was dead? Of course not; he didn't believe in God, so how could God be dead? It was always about making people hear, listen and think.

The idea of Good Faith is the same way — take it, think on it and find the best way to use it for yourself.

Take back some control this semester; you get to go to class.

And after class, you get to hang out with friends, read a book or play video games until ungodly hours of the night.

Everything is going to be alright.

Ivy Buchan is an administrative assistance in the UWO College of Business.

Letter to the editor guidelines

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

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

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

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