

# The Advance-Titan

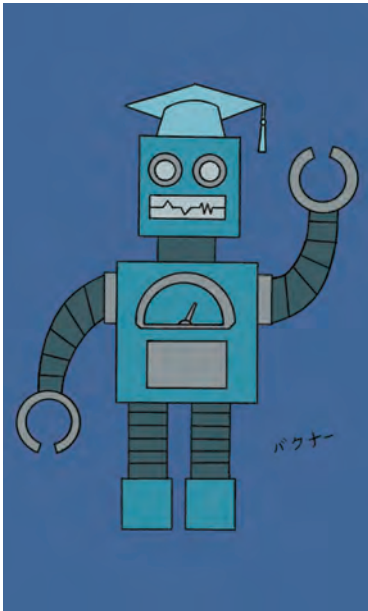
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## AI generates controversy in classrooms



By Kelly Hueckman  
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AI's recent developments and increased accessibility could present new challenges in classroom settings, but also act as a new type of aid, UW Oshkosh professors say.

At the forefront of AI technology, chatbot ChatGPT has been steadily gaining popularity since its initial launch in November 2022.

More recently, the bot set the record for the fastest-growing user base, thanks to its ability to write essays, code and even poetry.

Since ChatGPT's release, pub-

lic school districts from New York City to Seattle have banned or limited the use of the bot due to concerns of academic honesty.

However, universities like UWO have been slower to follow suit, raising questions about how AI-generated content fits into a college classroom.

Computer Science Department Chair George Thomas said he is encouraging his students to familiarize themselves with ChatGPT to better understand its capabilities.

"I asked all my students to try ChatGPT just so that they are aware of what current technology is capable of and to know that it is improving at a very rapid rate,"

Thomas said.

Thomas said the AI chatbots have limitations to the quality of its answers and particularly struggle to discern between fact and misinformation. However, they can solve smaller, more straightforward problems with ease.

As the technology improves, students have more opportunities to turn in AI-generated content as their own, in turn raising concerns of academic integrity.

"ChatGPT is a challenge because most standard plagiarism detectors such as Turnitin are ineffective in this case," Thomas said. "There is software that claims to detect AI-generated content but I think that next year,

as ChatGPT gets better, that software won't spot more and more instances of such AI-generated content."

Thomas said he urges students to refrain from turning in AI-generated content as their own.

"Our expectation is that students will submit their own work, which means not using the internet (which includes ChatGPT) for any work that is expected to be their own," Thomas said.

To combat AI-related plagiarism, the computer science department has placed more weight on in-class work, Thomas said.

"The short-term solution for many departments such as ours Turn to **AI content** / Page 2



## Restoring the Fox River's vitality

Courtesy of J.F. Brennan Company

*'We used to say that the river was burping' due to methane levels*

By Josh Lehner  
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In 2004, George W. Bush won the presidency, Internet Explorer controlled 95% of the browser market share and Usher, Green Day and Norah Jones topped the music charts.

Simultaneously, one of the most ambitious environmental cleanup projects began on the Fox River, right in the heart of Wisconsin.

"This was one of the largest projects of its kind worldwide," said Beth Olson, the Lower Fox River Cleanup Project manager for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. "It is considered both a success on its own and a model for how to do environmental work well."

On Jan. 9, the DNR announced the State Closure process in the Lower Fox River PCB Cleanup Project, effectively marking the completion of the 17-year-long cleanup initiative.

The DNR's oversight of the project began in 2004, starting

along 39 miles of the Lower Fox River and the bay of Green Bay, targeting polychlorinated biphenyl compounds (PCBs) in river sediments. PCBs are toxic chemicals used historically in carbonless copy paper production and recycling.

The DNR said that the project removed 6.5 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment, with the U.S. EPA estimating the cost to be roughly \$1 billion.

Cleanup of the toxic materials was completed in 2020 through a collaborative effort between the DNR, EPA, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, select tribal nations and a few corporations, the DNR said.

The Wisconsin DNR listed Georgia-Pacific, Glatfelter Corp. and NCR Corp. as the companies responsible for all work and costs.

The Wisconsin DNR also stated that long-term testing is underway to measure PCBs in fish tissue, sediment and surface water. Recent tests show a significant reduction in PCB levels compared

to measurements in 2006 for the upper reaches of the river. Going forward, the entire river and the bay will be tested every five years until the DNR and EPA's standards are met.

The cleanup initiative now

"Sawdust City" due to its expansive lumber businesses that sat along the water.) The paper mills that sprouted up between the late 19th and early 20th centuries were simply the newest players on the block.

This was one of the largest projects of its kind worldwide. It's considered both a success on its own and a model for how to do environmental work well.

-Beth Olson  
River Project Manager

moves into the EPA's hands, who must deem the work as complete to achieve State Closure.

### Polluting the water

The Fox River and its nearby waterways have long been a hub for industrial production essentially going back to European colonization. (The city of Oshkosh, for example, was known as

But paper production took a dramatic turn in the 1950s when NCR Corp. found a way to create carbonless copy paper, which didn't cover your hands in ink when you'd use it. The catch? PCBs — which were known to be toxic at the time — were used in its production.

PCBs can cause a whole range of health problems for humans

and animals, including cancer, said Greg Kleinheinz, chair of UW Oshkosh's department of engineering technology. "The effects on humans and other animals are similar," he said. "These may include adverse effects on the immune system, reproductive system, nervous system and endocrine system."

Kleinheinz said that the most common health effect of high-PCB exposure is skin conditions such as acne and rashes, although the effects may range depending on the length of exposure.

"Workers exposed to lower levels of PCBs over longer periods have shown likely liver damage," he said. "However, low-level exposures to PCBs in the general population are not likely to result in skin and liver effects."

The biggest issue with PCB contamination, Kleinheinz said, is that it travels up the food chain and increases in quantity.

"They build up in living organisms both by uptake from the environment over time and along Turn to **Fox River** / Page 3



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Correction Policy:  
The Advance-Titan is committed to correcting errors of fact. Messages regarding errors can be emailed to atitan@uwosh.edu.

# Leavitt announces budget cuts amid dropping student retention

By Josh Lehner  
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UW Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Leavitt announced the need to control spending and increase revenue Jan. 31, citing lower student retention, inflation and the school’s tuition freeze as areas of issue.

Leavitt’s announcement stated the need to “slow down the implementation of some of the special initiatives that were approved last year.”

The announcement did not supply any possible course-correcting routes, including which initiatives may be affected, and the chancellor’s office has chosen not to provide any additional comments until a follow-up announcement is released later this month.

Many faculty members have decided to abstain from commenting until more specific course corrections are announced. But some concerns have been voiced over how departments could be affected.

One concern is that some departments will be forced to cut class sections, meaning that fewer scheduling options will be available for students each semester. This could impact students’ ability to graduate on time.

Departments could also be forced to combine with other departments, which could jeopardize job positions that are no longer needed. Still, until more

information is released, it isn’t clear what will be done to correct the budget.

Faculty Senate President Jennifer Szydlik said that she has not heard any concerns from faculty. She also said that certain things mentioned in the announcement, such as lacking state support and the tuition freeze, have impacted the budget.

“I think that decades of dwindling financial support from the state coupled with the long-standing tuition freeze has kept the UW System under austerity for as long as many of us can recall,” she said. “We are a bit numb.”

Cindy Schultz, the academic department associate within the journalism department, said that Leavitt’s announcement didn’t provide a lot of information and has left some faculty in limbo.

“Basically, [it said to] tighten your belts with more information to come,” she said. “Right now, it feels like we are just waiting for that other shoe to drop.”

Another area of concern is cuts to department expenditures such as travel money for conferences, which is a crucial element for professors looking to become tenured. Schultz said that similar expenditure cuts have hindered the journalism department.

“The department has been making visits to area high schools in an effort to show students the various careers they can find with a degree from our program,” she said. “However, there are no re-



Chancellor Leavitt

sources for our departments to cover any costs associated with these visits, such as paying for mileage and printing and duplicating handouts.”

Tim Gleason, the chair of the journalism department, said that there are too many possibilities that could happen and that, until more information is released, nothing can be said for certain.

“At this point, we’re just waiting to hear the details,” he said. “You can’t make any adjustments until you know what types of changes are required, whether it’s a reduction in our budget or a reduction in our teaching loads. We’re waiting to find out what happens, and then we’ll do what we have to do to help the university.”

The announcement mentioned

that low student recruitment and retention were factors in the budget correction. Retention rates dropped to a 40-year low among first-year students in Fall 2021, due largely to the COVID-19 pandemic. The announcement states that the university budget was prepared for a 5% decrease in enrollment, but enrollment decreased by 8%.

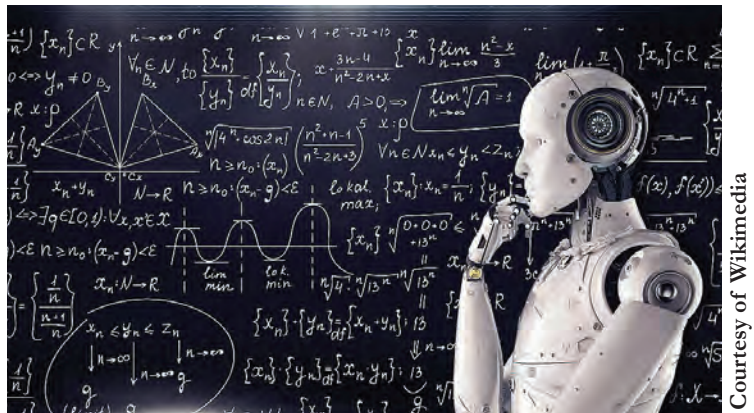
As a representative of the school faculty, Szydlik said that she is committed to student recruitment and retention.

“We have hired a new staff called Navigators, whose job it is to provide assistance to students who are struggling by connecting them to academic support, counseling, financial assistance, or whatever they need,” she said.

Szydlik said that many faculty and academic staff have participated in workshops focused on supporting students, and instructors have worked hard to build supportive classrooms.

“Still, the pandemic was tough on all of us, and mental health challenges and gaps in learning are apparent,” she said. “That, together with a really strong job market, makes recruitment and retention of students difficult for universities at this time.”

Provost John Koker said that he will be in discussion with university leaders and governance over the coming weeks. If further action is needed, he said that it will be announced toward the end of February.



Courtesy of Wikimedia

## AI content: Is it a useful learning tool?

From Page 1  
has been to put more weight on proctored assessments such as exams and in-class quizzes,” Thomas said.

“This is not always the best way to assess students,” he added.

Although the influx of AI-generated content raises concerns of students turning in work they didn’t create, it has potential as a useful tool when it comes to learning, UW Oshkosh professor Loren Snyder said.

Writers have already seen the benefits of using AI while writing with the rise of sites like Grammarly, which was launched in 2009, that review already-written work for errors.

Snyder referred to Bloom’s Taxonomy, a model illustrating the hierarchy of educational learning in six stages: remembering, understanding, applying, an-

alyzing, evaluating and creating.

He said ChatGPT can aid students in the creation process in the same way internet browsers have reduced the need to recall readily accessible information — a helpful service in the classroom.

“I think it can absolutely be helpful,” he said. “Google, for example, has taken away the necessity of remembering in Bloom’s Taxonomy. [ChatGPT] takes the creation away.”

Snyder noted that while some parts of learning may change, the most important part of education remains: thinking.

“I think the essential parts of a college education are contained in the middle of Bloom’s Taxonomy, and that is the capacity to think,” he said. “The capacity to create is also a vital skill, but fundamentally, it’s about thought.”

## ChatGPT’s poem: Trash or terrific?

The Advance-Titan asked ChatGPT to write a poem. Is it the next Robert Frost?

*Oshkosh, Wisconsin, by the lake so blue,  
A city steeped in history, and full of life too.  
With riverboats and trains, and planes that soar,  
It’s a city that never stops, and always has more.*

*From the grand Paine Art Center, to the Menominee Park,  
Oshkosh is a place that will leave its mark.  
Where families gather, and friends are made,*

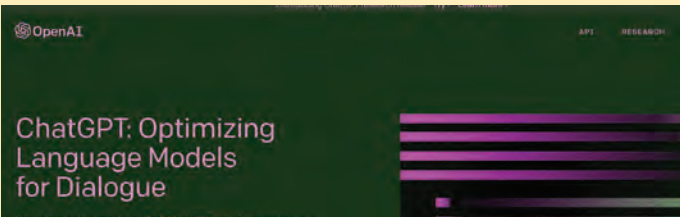
*In this city that’s always on the up-grade.*

*From the festivals and fairs, to the theater and art,  
Oshkosh offers something for every heart.  
It’s a place to learn, and a place to play,*

*With so much to see, and do every day.*

*So come to Oshkosh, and make some memories,  
In this city that’s full of love and diversity.  
Where the people are friendly, and the sun always shines,*

*It’s a place that you’ll always call yours, and it will always be fine.*





# Fox River: Addressing contamination issues

**From Page 1**  
the food chain,” he said.

The production of PCB-laden carbonless copy paper, now being produced by a myriad of companies, increased in the following decades. The EPA estimated that 700,000 pounds of PCBs were discharged into the river by various paper companies between 1950 and 1960.

Enter retired UW-Green Bay ecology professor Bud Harris. He said that the water quality was “atrocious” when he moved to Green Bay in 1969. The ecology of the area was different, Harris said, and there was methane in the water that would bubble.

“We used to say that the river was burping,” he said. “We would get these large [methane] releases that, if something could ignite it, would explode. It was a condition that was far from what it is now.”

However, not all of the water contamination is due to PCBs, which can’t be seen. The presence of methane and visible contaminants can be chalked up to, among other things, coal pollution, which was largely unregulated in the early and mid-20th century.

The DNR was monitoring water quality throughout the 1970s and into 1979 when PCBs were banned. It was around this time that Harris and his students made a startling discovery.

Harris received a small grant from the DNR to study the Forster’s tern, a fish-eating bird that is endangered in Wisconsin. He was expressly tasked with the goal of assessing the species population across the state.

“In that process, we noticed a differential in reproduction between the colonies in Green Bay and others across the state,” he said. “That alerted us that there may be some problems in terms of the reproductive capacity of the species. That was the clue that something was going on.”

Harris and his students began to look for causes of the disparity between populations. At the time, Harris was coordinating the Sea Grant research program at UW-Green Bay. He was able to negotiate with the leader of Sea Grant for some money to begin investigating what was going on.

“It became our research,” he said. “We saw real differences between the colonies [that were subjected to PCBs and those that weren’t].”

Harris and his students were able to link PCBs to the reproduction disparities, but now something had to be done to address the problem. Harris and his wife — who was working for Sea Grant at the time — organized committees and gathered expertise.

“Our task was to analyze the problem and move toward solutions,” he said. “There was a lot of discussion about how we might remediate the problem.”

Harris said that the paper companies, who provided major funding during this process, sat as representatives and experts on these committees. Through their testing and analysis, they were able to find contamination hotspots.

“Then the question was what we should do about it,” he said, adding that there was a lot of debate over the various methods of containing and removing contaminants. “It

took a lot of time to sort out before there was any action.”

### Getting involved

Harris and his students were not the first people weary of PCB contamination. The DNR and EPA were already working to understand the issue by the time they were banned, according to Olson.

“Research on PCB contamination in the Fox River, Green Bay and Lake Michigan was underway in the 1970s by scientists working in parallel with universities and other groups,” she said. “PCBs were a concern when EPA banned them and the DNR issued fish consumption advisories for PCBs in fish.”

The DNR, EPA and the state and federal departments of justice oversaw the cleanup work. But finding the key players involved in the contamination wasn’t straightforward, Olson said, as it wasn’t limited exclusively to paper companies.

“Anyone who used or recycled this carbonless copy player, including offices, contributed,” she said. “So there’s a large group of contributors to PCBs in the river.”

A slew of potentially responsible parties was identified, all of whom were suspected of having contributed to the contamination. The list was extensive and included the city of Appleton, the Neenah-Menasha Sewerage Commission, the U.S. Army Corps and even the state of Wisconsin, as the use of carbonless copy paper was widespread.

“There were hundreds and hundreds of contributors,” Olson said. “We were identified as a potentially responsible party because we recycled office paper. And when that paper is recycled, the recycling process discharges it into the river.”

Ultimately, Olson said, three primary companies were identified and tasked with completing and covering the costs for the cleanup: NCR Corp., Glatfelter Corp. and Georgia-Pacific.

“It took a long time to get to just these three companies,” she said. “When there’s a site and we don’t know where the pollution came from, taxpayers pay for it. Ultimately, the goal is to find out who did the polluting. If you can find that out, you can get them to pay for it so that the taxpayers don’t have to.”

Olson said that, when the cleanup first began, many of the paper companies willingly contributed money to begin studies on the river.

“As the magnitude of the project became apparent — 39 miles of river and estimates of \$700 million to clean it up — companies started looking at each other, saying, ‘You contributed more than I did,’” she said. “That’s a separate arena where the companies are suing each other for contribution.”

From 1998 to 1999, demonstration projects that removed sediment were conducted and proved successful.

### Cleaning the water

Out of the feasibility studies and demonstration projects came three main methods for extracting PCBs, and Olson said that choosing which to use came down to a variety of factors.

“We used sophisticated com-



Courtesy of Boldt Technical Services

Sediment is transported to the processing plant after being dug up by the dredger.

puter modeling of hydrodynamic forces, and considered sediment stability, ship traffic and other factors including the dynamic interplay of factors in the river system,” she said.

Dredging, capping and sand covering were the three primary cleanup methods used. The DNR describes dredging as the use of hydraulic pumps to move sediment to a processing facility.

Sediment that was brought up and processed was then disposed of via landfilling, which the DNR said it chose due to its efficacy and cost-effectiveness. The sediment was transported to licensed and authorized landfills in Wisconsin and nearby states.

In areas where dredging was less practical, capping was used. Capping places various thicknesses and sizes of sand, gravel and armor stone to permanently trap sediment in place. The caps’ designs differ from location to location, but they all completely isolate PCBs from the water.

Sand covers were used for areas with low PCB concentrations, either as the primary method of cleaning or to further clean dredged areas where small, residual amounts of PCBs remained.

The DNR explains the process of sand covering on their website, stating that “the sand effectively reduces the PCB concentration at the surface of the river bottom thereby reducing risk. Special-grade sand is spread in a uniform manner to settle evenly on the river bottom.”

The Lower Fox River was divided into five Operable Units (OUs), based on the geographical and physical characteristics of the area.

OU1 covers the area from Little Lake Butte des Morts to the Appleton Dam and was actively cleaned from 2004 to 2009.

In 2002, feasibility studies were completed. The 2002 feasibility report lists over 2.2 million cubic yards of PCB-laden sediment in OU1.

In 2010, the Remedial Action Certification of Completion was released, effectively certifying the end of cleanup for that area. According to the report, the total cleanup cost for OU1 was just over \$96 million.

The DNR reported that 372,000 cubic yards of sediment were removed and 114 acres were capped in OU1 during the cleaning period.

Cleanup efforts for OUs2-5 ran

from 2009 to 2020. OU2 covers the area from the Appleton Dam to the Little Rapids Dam, OU3 from Little Rapids Dam to the De Pere Dam, OU4 from the De Pere Dam to the mouth of the bay of Green Bay and OU5 covers the bay of Green Bay.

Monitored natural recovery — which utilizes natural chemical and biological processes to contain and reduce contaminants — was chosen for most of OU2 and OU5.

Dredging, capping and sand covering were used for OU3, OU4 and parts of OU5 near the mouth of the Fox River into Green Bay, where more than 6 million cubic yards of sediment were dredged and roughly 850 acres were capped or sand-covered, according to the DNR.

A variety of companies were involved in the actual cleanup efforts. Boldt Technical Services, a subdivision of The Boldt Co., served as the primary oversight contractor for the DNR, and the engineering company Ramboll worked as Boldt’s subcontractor. The marine construction firm J.F. Brennan Company was the project’s dredging contractor.

But even with plans in place and a stew of companies capable of cleaning the water, remediation was anything but straightforward. Olson said that, between 1997 and 2019, there were 22 milestone legal cases.

In 2012 and 2013, for example, Olson said that the court held the three paper companies liable for cleanup and government oversight costs after an 11-day trial.

“We went down to Milwaukee for the trial because the courtroom in Green Bay wasn’t big enough for all of the attorneys,” she said.

Despite the legal battles, Olson said that everyone did their part in the end.

“We had to have catalysts for movement every now and then,” she said. “But we got it done together.”

### Moving forward

In 2017 and 2019, the DNR reached pivotal agreements with the three cleanup paper companies that nearly pushed the project to the finish line, Olson said. The three companies — NCR Corp., Georgia-Pacific and Glatfelter Corp. — were mandated to cover all remaining costs by a federal judge, Wisconsin Public Radio

reported. These include long-term monitoring costs.

Active cleanup was marked as complete in 2020.

The DNR’s website states that “starting in 2022, all OUs will be sampled in one event and then every five years thereafter to be on the same monitoring schedule throughout the system and to coordinate with EPA’s 5-year review cycle for this project.”

As part of the State Closure process, the DNR mailed notice letters to 1,400 riverfront property owners informing them of the project’s completion and requesting final closure. Also, those receiving notice letters are being informed of cap areas, and are asked not to disturb them.

Moving forward, the DNR said long-term monitoring will be conducted to evaluate fish tissue, surface water and sediment. The integrity of the caps will also be monitored.

Olson said that the project was a major success and that it wouldn’t have been possible without cooperation from everybody.

“This project has been going well for over 20 years, from planning, through implementation and now the monitoring phase,” she said. “Each year, the EPA and DNR requested a ‘lessons learned’ session attended by experts from all parties involved in the cleanup. This effort smoothed the way for the coming year by learning from what went well and what could’ve been done better in the prior year’s work.”

Olson said that the legal action required by this project was an area that could have been improved.

“Litigation is one workload area that could have been reduced if there had been more voluntary compliance,” she said. “But a project of this size and scope is complicated.”

Overall though, Olson said that this project speaks volumes about what can be done for future projects on the Fox River, including addressing other forms of pollution.

DNR monitoring has reported PCB reductions of 90% in river water and 80% to 90% in sediment since 2006. Additionally, PCBs in walleye average 65% lower and are approaching the “unlimited consumption” advisory level, which the DNR said is a critical milestone.



Sports



Scoreboard

Wednesday, Feb. 1  
Men’s Basketball  
UWO - 74  
UW-Eau Claire - 63  
Women’s Basketball  
UWO - 65  
UW-Eau Claire - 57

Friday, Feb. 3  
Gymnastics  
UWO - 188.6  
UW-La Crosse - 192

Saturday, Feb. 4  
Men’s Swimming and Diving  
UWO - 129  
Ripon - 66  
Women’s Swimming and Diving  
UWO - 114  
Ripon - 87  
Men’s Basketball  
UWO - 79  
UW-River Falls - 70  
Women’s Basketball  
UWO - 54  
UW-River Falls - 44  
Track and Field  
Men’s - 1/13, 264  
Women’s - 1/10, 159

Upcoming Events

Friday, Feb. 10  
Gymnastics  
at Hamline University at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 11  
Men’s Basketball  
UW-La Crosse at 5 p.m.  
Women’s Basketball  
at UW-La Crosse at 3 p.m.  
Track and Field  
at UW-Whitewater Midwest Elite Invitational at 11 a.m.  
Wrestling  
WIAC Championship at UW-Stevens Point at 9 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 15  
Men’s Basketball  
at UW-Stevens Point at 7 p.m.  
Women’s Basketball  
UW-Stevens Point at 7 p.m.  
Swimming and Diving  
WIAC Championships at Schroeder Aquatic Center

A-Trivia

Which winter sport team has the highest winstreak currently?

Answer: Men’s basketball, with a streak of eight

Sturgeon spearing to begin Feb. 11

By Jacob Link  
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The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources announced that the sturgeon spearing season will open Feb. 11 at 7 a.m. on the Winnebago chain of rivers and lakes.

The Winnebago chain has one of the largest lake sturgeon populations in North America and once a year, the DNR allows sturgeon spearkers a chance to harvest the largest and oldest fish species in Wisconsin. The spearing season lasts from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a maximum of 16 days (Feb. 26) or until any of the predetermined harvest caps have been met.

This year, the cap on sturgeon harvesting on Lake Winnebago has been set at 280 for juvenile females, 714 for adult females and 985 for all males. The chain of lakes that make up the “Upriver Lakes” have a cap of 70 juvenile females, 79 adult females and 246 males. The Winnebago system of waterways has a cap of 350 for juvenile females, 793 for adult females and 1231 for males.

If the harvest caps are met early, the DNR will alert spearkers on the Winnebago System sturgeon spearing webpage.

The length of the spearing season is usually affected by the water by the water clarity of Lake Winnebago and the Upriver Lakes. According to the DNR, warmer temperatures this winter have prevented biologists from conducting water clarity assessments this week due to the safety of the ice. Data from the DNR shows that right now there is an average of 13.0 feet of water clarity around Lake Winnebago with mostly clearer water on the eastern shores and on shores along the west side of the lake.



Ice shanties line the surface of Lake Winnebago in February of last year. This is the 91st year of the tradition.

According to the DNR, “with better water clarity this year, we should see a good harvest, though the warm weather could deteriorate ice conditions which may reduce spearing success.”

The DNR also reported that they recorded low chironomid densities, which are lake fly larvae or red worms, and this may impact sturgeon numbers around Lake Winnebago.

Once a spearer has successfully speared a sturgeon, the tag on the carcass must be validated by tearing of the bottom portion and the fish must be brought to an official registering station where it must be registered by 2 p.m. on the day

it was speared.

Sturgeon harvested from Lake Winnebago must be registered at one of the registering stations on Lake Winnebago. Any sturgeon harvested from Poygan Lake, Lake Butte de Morts or Winneconne lakes must be registered at one of the Upriver Lakes registration stations.

The DNR reminded spearkers that no ice is 100% safe and that spearkers should check with local fishing clubs and conservation groups for local ice condition information because the DNR does not monitor ice conditions.

Eligible spearkers must have registered for a sturgeon license before Oct. 31 for spearing on Lake Winnebago and Aug. 1 for the Upriver Lakes.

The first modern sturgeon fishing season on the Winnebago system of lakes started in 1932 and is one of only two locations in North America where lake sturgeon can be harvested with a spear.

According to the DNR, “for many, the season is defined by the time spent with loved ones, not the harvesting of a fish. The social and traditional aspects of the sport keep most people coming back year after year.”

Wrestling prepares for WIAC championship

By Nolan Swenson  
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UW Oshkosh wrestling is preparing to close out its season after success at the recent Pat Flanagan Open, with six wrestlers on the podium.

Wrestlers Luc Valdez and Beau Yineman both took second at the tournament, and Denis Murphy took fourth, defeating a nationally-ranked wrestler in the process.

With the last tournament of the regular season over, the Titans look forward to the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Championship. It’s a championship that Coach Aaron Konitzer feels confident in as the team’s vigor has increased in the last month.

“The effort ever since the Cornell invite has been really high,” Konitzer said. “Tournament team wise, we’ve had a lot of placers, last weekend we had six placers. I’m excited for the conference tournament for the tournament style, going multiple matches in a day. The guys have responded well and we’re seeing the fruits of our labor.”

Valdez believes that victory will

be made off the championship mat and is reliant on his own initiative.

“The 125 class is all even,” he said. “It’s about whoever shows up that day ready for it. I can control my environment, keep my food correct, practice well and make sure I feel good for Saturday.”

Controlling the environment can only go so far without the mentality required for competing on the mat. Valdez has also taken steps to improve his neutral position.

“Last year and the first part of this year I was defensive and on my heels all the time,” he said. “I’ve been making a conscious effort to stay offensive and put people on their heels instead of waiting for my opponent.”

Murphy knows the WIAC competition is going to be tough, going as far as to call his opponents ‘studs’, acknowledging the volatility of wrestling in this conference.

“It’s been tough,” he said. “I’ve had overtime matches this year that have gone my way or the other. There’s not one guy in particular I’m looking out for, just one match at a time.”

He attributes his losses to a mentality that he has improved and is



Courtesy of UWO Athletics  
Beau Yineman pins his opponent in the Pat Flanagan Open Jan. 28.

ready to show at the conference.

“My biggest thing is setting a pace that lasts seven minutes,” he said. “If I look back on some of the WIAC losses I’ve had, it comes down to the last minute or so. Conditioning helps, but at the end of the day it’s a mental thing. I’m a senior and this is my last shot at it.”

Konitzer thinks that the team’s mentality is the sharpest it’s been and that it’s ready for the championship, then regionals.

“Guys are buying in, not just

to what we’re doing, but how we do it,” he said. “In these last two weeks, guys have responded really well. We’re starting to believe in ourselves. With a high effort, results are going to go our way. I’m excited for this conference tournament and then post-season.”

UWO wrestling takes on the WIAC Championship on Saturday at 9 a.m. and will be available to stream on the WIAC network.



# Remembering the Titans

Eric Becker was known for skills on the track and on the basketball court

By Jacob Link  
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The second UW Oshkosh athletic Hall of Fame class in 1975 featured two-sport athlete Eric Becker, who attended the Oshkosh State Teachers College (now UWO) from 1935-39.

Becker, a captain of the track and basketball teams at Oshkosh, helped the Titans to basketball conference championships in 1938 and 1939.

Born Oct. 6, 1917, in Oshkosh, Becker began his track career at Read Elementary School where he participated in the All-City track and field meet at Menominee Park in 1928. He finished third in the high jump, competing against other Oshkosh elementary schools.

Becker, a three-time letterwinner in basketball, was a star athlete at Oshkosh High School, where he set the school record for the 440-yard dash as captain of the track and field team his senior year. As a cross-country runner, Becker set a school record in his senior year by running a 2.25-mile course in 11 minutes flat.

“In his senior year, he broke an arm in the first game of the season against the alumni quintet and returned for only the last five games of the schedule but played sufficiently to win his letter,” the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern wrote of Becker in 1939.

Becker entered the Oshkosh State Teachers College as a history major in 1935, serving as team manager of the football team that fall. The team finished as undefeated South Division champs in the State Teachers College Conference that year, with a record of 5-0-1 under head coach Robert Kolf.

“Two fellows who are never realized as part of the football team are Marlon Batterman and Eric Becker, managers,” the Oshkosh Advance wrote in 1935. “When the season is over, the athletes go back to their studies while managers remain for weeks in the gym cleaning and packing away the goods. When the time comes to hand out any awards, the athletic council may get generous and award them a minor letter.”

Becker did receive minor letters for his efforts as team manager in 1935 and 1936, but his best-known contribution to Titan athletics came with the basketball team.

*A feature on every member of the UW Oshkosh Athletic Hall of Fame.*

Becker, who earned a letter every year he was on the basketball team, helped Oshkosh turn its basketball program into a regular contender for the STCC title. The 1935-36 basketball team finished fourth in conference play, going 7-10 with a team that featured nine freshmen.

“The new freshmen were all players of high caliber, but they lacked experience in conference competition, and smoothness of play, which is developed only after a great deal of practice and playing together,” the Quiver yearbook wrote in 1936. “If all the members of the team return next year, the team will undoubtedly wipe away the defeats which they suffered this year.”

The next season, Oshkosh finished with a 7-11 record, but the team made strides over the previous year, taking down the two-time defending STCC champions Stevens Point Teachers College 32-21 in the final home game of the season.

The Titans finally had a breakthrough in the 1937-38 campaign going 7-0 in conference play to finish in sole possession of first place in the STCC. Oshkosh entered the season as a dark horse, with Stevens Point heavily favored to win the state crown. In the first meeting of the season, Oshkosh defeated Stevens Point by 24 points, jump-starting a seven-game conference winning streak. In the final game of the season, the Titans played Stevens Point once again, this time falling 35-31. This shattered Oshkosh’s hopes for an undefeated season, but the Titans claimed their first conference championship since the 1926-27 season. At the end of the year, Becker was named to his first all-conference team as one of the top guards in the state.

Oshkosh was heavily favored to win the conference title in the 1938-39 season but had to face an uphill battle en route to claiming back-to-back STCC championships. Two starters were lost to injury early in the season and the Titans fell to Eau Claire and River Falls in their first two games of the conference season. After two more losses to



Stevens Point and Milwaukee, Oshkosh grinded out a 29-28 win over Platteville to secure their first win of the season. This jump started a three-game winning streak that set up a showdown with Whitewater to secure the conference title.

“The game was rough and the victor was determined on the free throw-line,” according to the 1939 Quiver. “The Kolfmen dropped in 20 of 27 free throws, which were the determining factor.”

Becker, elected captain of the team before the season, scored eight points for the Titans in the 32-29 victory, which gave the Titans back-to-back conference titles for the first time in school history. At the conference awards ceremony in Madison later that year, Becker was named to his second all-conference first team.

“In basketball, Eric has always been cool-headed and the floor general of the team, setting up plays and calling signals,” the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern wrote in 1939. “He is fast, has a good shot and is a good team player.”

As a freshman, Becker was a star on the track team, winning the state championship in the 440-yard dash. In the first meet of the season at Whitewater, scandal ensued when



Courtesy of UWO Archives

Clockwise starting from left: Becker was named captain of the track team in 1937; Oshkosh won their second straight conference championship in 1938; Becker returned to the track team in 1938.

Becker was elbowed off the track, but still managed to finish third. Becker would have his revenge in Whitewater in the state track meet when he won the 440-yard dash with lengths to spare, coming within 0.4 seconds of the state record.

In 1937, Becker remained one of the top Titan runners. The Titans finished last in the first meet of the season behind Milwaukee and Whitewater, but Becker placed second in the 440-yard dash. After defeating Lawrence University in a dual meet, Oshkosh placed fourth in the state track meet in Wisconsin Rapids. Once again, Becker finished second in the 440-yard dash and was elected honorary captain at the end of the year for his “outstanding track performance.”

Becker sat out the 1938 track season but returned to the team in 1939, much to the delight of coach Kolf. Although the Titans finished first in just one meet, Becker set the school record for the 880-yard dash that season, finishing in 2:08.2.

Becker, president of the Men’s Association and staff writer of the Oshkosh Advance, graduated with a teaching degree from Oshkosh in 1939.

After graduating, Becker became the head coach at the Oshkosh Vo-

cational School and continued to play in local basketball leagues. From 1939-40, Becker played for the Oshkosh Chris-Crafts basketball team, a “farm team” of the National Basketball League’s Oshkosh All Stars and helped the team to a runner-up finish in the state tournament in 1940.

Becker got a job in 1941 as a guidance counselor and basketball coach at South Milwaukee High School before moving on to various high schools around the state. In 1952, Becker became the superintendent of the Beaver Dam school district, where he served for over 20 years. While at Beaver Dam, Becker was named president of the Little Ten athletic conference and introduced the sport of wrestling to the high school.

Becker, who died in 2004, was best remembered for promoting the “equal opportunity for all young people.”

“He always indicated his belief that all youths deserve an opportunity to go to college and prove themselves,” the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern wrote. “He said often students who do not show promise at first go on to make greater successes than the obviously brilliant student.”

## Track and field defeats Ripon Herd fall to Warriors

By Nolan Swenson  
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Titan track and field steamrolled competition at Ripon Feb. 4, with women’s and men’s taking first by considerable margins.

The women’s team won with a score of 159, with Ripon at second with a score of 118. The men’s team was able to achieve an even larger gap, scoring 264, leaving Ripon in the dust with a score of 119.

The biggest event for the women’s team was in the 600-meter where five Oshkosh athletes

placed, earning UWO 30 points in a single event.

In the 200-meter dash, the men’s team placed the top seven athletes, earning 36 points for the team, and leaving a single point unclaimed.

Mid-distance runner Cyna Madigan led the Titans in the event. She attributes the win to having a strong group in the mid-distance/distance events.

In the event Madigan set a school record, with a time of 1:35.17, a confidence booster she plans to utilize in the next meet.

“I’ve had a personal record in the 800 recently as well,” she said.

“I’ve been having good confidence boosts lately, so I have good confidence looking forward to next week.”

Taking the top spot was Devin Williams with a time of 22.65, a time he’s proud of but plans to improve further.

“My goal by the end of the season is to get to break 22 seconds,” he said. “Then go on from there, one meet at a time.”

The Titans will return Feb. 11 at Whitewater for the Midwest Elite Invitational, involving teams from in and out of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

By Jacob Link  
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The Wisconsin Herd (5-12) lost their fifth straight game after falling to the Santa Cruz Warriors 122-104 at the Oshkosh Arena Feb. 7.

After cuting the Santa Cruz (7-8) lead to six points at the end of the third quarter, the Herd was outscored 37-25 in the final period to suffer their 12th loss of the season.

Rob Edwards and Joe Wiskamp led Wisconsin in scoring, both finishing with 17 points.

Alize Johnson finished with a double-double, scoring 14 points and grabbing 11 rebounds to go along with six assists. Paris Bass finished with 14 points and five boards.

For the Warriors, Lester Quinones and Jerome Robinson both scored a game-high 24 points. Quinones finished with a double-double after collecting 10 rebounds. Jayce Johnson also finished with a double-double, scoring 24 points and grabbing 18 rebounds.

The Herd will take on the Capital City Go-Go Feb. 10 in Washington D.C.



# Titans earn eighth straight victory

By Jacob Link  
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Guard Quinn Steckbauer had a game-high 24 points as the UW Oshkosh men’s basketball team defeated UW-River Falls 79-70 Feb. 4 at the Page Arena.

UWO, ranked No. 23 in the nation by d3hoops.com, had four of its five starters finish in double-figures. Steckbauer went 7 for 11 from the field, including 6 for 8 from behind the arc. Forward Levi Borchert scored 17 points in the contest while guard Eric Peterson had a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds. Guard Hunter Plamann added 10 points for UWO, who shot 52% as a team from the floor.

UWO opened the second half with a pair of free throws from guard Plamann and a layup from forward Borchert to take an eight-point lead. The Titans were able to maintain at least a six-point advantage throughout the second quarter until a Falcon 3-pointer trimmed the margin to three points.

Borchert converted on another layup, but UWRF’s Jack Leifker made back-to-back jump shots to cut the UWO lead to one point. With eight minutes remaining, UWRF’s Logan Jedwabny knocked down a 3-pointer to take the lead, forcing UWO head coach Matt Lewis to call a timeout.

Following the timeout, the Titans went on an 8-4 run capped

off by a Steckbauer 3-pointer and UWO took a one-point lead. After both teams went scoreless for almost three minutes, Plamann drained a 3-pointer which jump-started a 10-2 run for the Titans, who led 74-65 with 49 seconds to play. Oshkosh converted its free throws in the final seconds of the game to secure the eighth straight win for UWO.

In the first half, Oshkosh’s Peterson opened the scoring with a 3-pointer 15 seconds into the game, but UWRF went on a 7-0 run to take an early 7-3 lead. The Falcons maintained a four-point lead for most of the first half until a Marshall Holland 3-pointer and a pair of free throws from Mateo Renta increased the UWRF lead to nine points.

The Titans responded by going on a 9-0 run with just over five minutes to play in the half to cut the River Falls advantage to just one point. Peterson nailed a 3-pointer to give the Titans a two-point lead and UWO finished the half on a 8-4 run to go into the locker room up 35-31.

Oshkosh will take on UW-Whitewater Feb. 8 at the Williams Center at 7 p.m. and can clinch a share of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title with a win.

On Feb. 3, Plamann became the second player this season to reach 1,000 career points in Oshkosh’s 74-63 win over UW-Eau Claire at Kolf Sports Center.

The teams traded baskets for



Morgan Feltz / Advance-Titan  
Will Mahoney drives past a Blugold. UWO redeemed themselves after their first loss to UW-Eau Claire with a 74-63 win.

almost the entire first half, but the Titans led 36-35 after the first 20 minutes behind a 21-point half from Plamann. UWEC’s Brock Voigt tied the game with a free throw early in the second half, but a Plamann layup started a scoring run that saw the Titans open up an eight point lead. The Blugolds kept the game within reach, but

slowly, Oshkosh pulled away for the 11-point win.

Plamann finished with a career-high 33 points while his 12 field goals and six 3-pointers were career-bests. Borchert had his 36th career double-double, scoring 17 points and grabbing 16 boards.

WIAC Standings	
UW Oshkosh	----- 10-1
UW-La Crosse	----- 8-3
UW-Whitewater	----- 7-4
UW-Platteville	----- 6-5
UW-Eau Claire	----- 5-6
UW-River Falls	----- 4-7
UW-Stevens Point	----- 3-8
UW-Stout	----- 1-10

## Titans seize senior day

By Brandon Cobb  
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UW Oshkosh’s women’s basketball team has gone on a tear, bringing their win streak up to seven with their most recent win against UW-River Falls on Feb. 4.

The game concluded with a score of 54-44 after the Titans managed a 20 to 10 run in the fourth quarter, which was spear-headed by the Titans making 10 out of 13 in free throws in the fourth quarter.

Forward Kayce Vaile, who had seven points, 12 rebounds and three blocks, commented on the increase in intensity in the fourth quarter.

“We knew that the fourth quarter was going to be important and we had to come out first with energy and toughness,” Vaile said.

The seniors played a large role in the fourth quarter. Vaile even said they couldn’t have taken the game without their efforts.

“Our seniors, Ava Douglas and Jenna Jorgensen, showed that with the first four possessions of that quarter,” she said. “They came down and got to the free throw line and finished big shots that set the tone for the rest of the quarter that we are not going down without a fight. Without those two, we wouldn’t have been able to win the game.”

Another focal point of the game was bench depth as the Titans had eleven points and eleven rebounds coming off the bench. Vaile said the readiness to play off the bench came from the eager mentality going into the game.



Courtesy of UWO Athletics  
Ava Douglas dribbles down the court, followed by Kayce Vaile.

“Going into the game we felt good because we have been playing better recently and truly getting better,” she said. “But with every game, it’s a new obstacle. We were coming off beating Eau Claire, and River Falls did the same the week before, so we knew that they are a very capable team.”

With such a mentality, Vaile said that the team will continue to keep up their spirits and drive.

“The momentum keeps us hungry to keep getting better and working to be the best team we can be by the end of February,” she said.

After the win against River Falls, Vaile reflected on the season as it was now entering its final chapters.

“We have been through highs and lows all season which has made us the tough team that we are today. The challenges that we have face are what make us the

team we are,” she said. “We came in as a young team with little game experience. We now are a tough, strong, hardworking, energetic team that puts up a challenge every time we step out on the court.”

UWO took on UW-Whitewater on Wednesday, finishing one of their last three games of the season before the playoffs. Check the UWO Athletics website for results.

WIAC Standings	
UW-Stout	----- 8-3
UW-Whitewater	----- 8-3
UW Oshkosh	----- 7-4
UW-Eau Claire	----- 7-4
UW-La Crosse	----- 6-5
UW-Stevens Point	----- 3-8
UW-River Falls	----- 3-8
UW-Platteville	----- 2-9

## Swim takes win

By Doug Newhouse  
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On Feb. 4, the Titans swimming and diving team defeated Ripon for the last time for the season in the final dual meet before the conference swim meet at the Walter Schroeder Aquatic Center.

UW Oshkosh emerged victorious, the women’s team winning with 114 points and the men’s team won with 129 points.

Francesca Schiro soloed the 200 freestyle and finished with a time of 2:00.75 for a top finish and shows potential going into the final conference meet.

New to the team and first year student, Abbi Priestley, won the diving events with a score of 245.10 for 3-meter dive and 273.67 on the 1-meter qualifying for regionals.

On the men’s team, first-year student Damen Seremet won the

100-yard breaststroke with a personal record of 1:02.79.

CJ Willert was on the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 57.45, breaking the men’s record at UWO set in 1997.

For diving, first-year student Joey Jurva, scored a 208.80 in 1-meter dive and a 223.35 in 3-meter dive.

Senior Chase Millam said the team had a great time at the meet.

“It felt good to win,” he said. “It’s always fun to swim against Ripon because we’re pretty close to the other team. One of our swimmers has a relative who swims for the Redhawks, so it’s pretty cool to have a little bit of a rivalry.”

UWO swimming and diving will return on Feb. 15 for the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships in Brown Deer.



Courtesy of UWO Athletics  
UWO women’s swimmer races through the lanes at home.



# First Welcome Back Bash a hit

By Mattie Beck  
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The UW Oshkosh men’s basketball team hosted a Welcome Back Bash to help students celebrate the first week of the second semester on Feb. 1.

The event included dining in Kolf Sports Center, Reeve Union Board (RUB) activities and concluded with the men’s basketball game against UW-Eau Claire.

The idea for the welcome back event came from Matt Lewis, coach of the men’s basketball team, who reached out to multiple people on campus to partake, including Dylan Bram, the adviser for RUB.

“Matt Lewis ... wanted to replicate an atmosphere similar to other schools around the country,” Bram said.

The two were able to meet and plan the event, while also bringing in other organizations from campus, including Dining Services and Residence Life, to create more student activities.

“From there we had a couple meetings discussing how we expected the flow of the event to go, and then tried it out,” Bram said.

Lewis said he came up with the

idea when he ran into a colleague in an unexpected place.

“Missy Burgess and I bumped into each other at the Atlanta airport. We started talking about a student-centered event for the second semester,” Lewis said.

Burgess is the UWO associate director for student involvement.

“I have seen a few other universities try similar concepts and Missy wanted to give it a shot,” Lewis said.

Planning for the new event started over the summer.

“Dining Services, Aladdin, Reeve Union Board, Residence Life and the Athletics Department met several times, starting in the late summer,” he said. “We brainstormed ideas for the event and on how to market it.”

The organizations came together and planned out the event with different activities for students to do before the main event: the men’s basketball game.

“Dinner was available to students prior to the game in lower Kolf. Also before the game, there was an inflatable obstacle course, a bungee run, caricature artist, snow cones and cotton candy,” Lewis said.

All of the events were free to



Courtesy of UWO Flickr

The Welcome Back Bash held lots of fun events for students to enjoy before the basketball game.

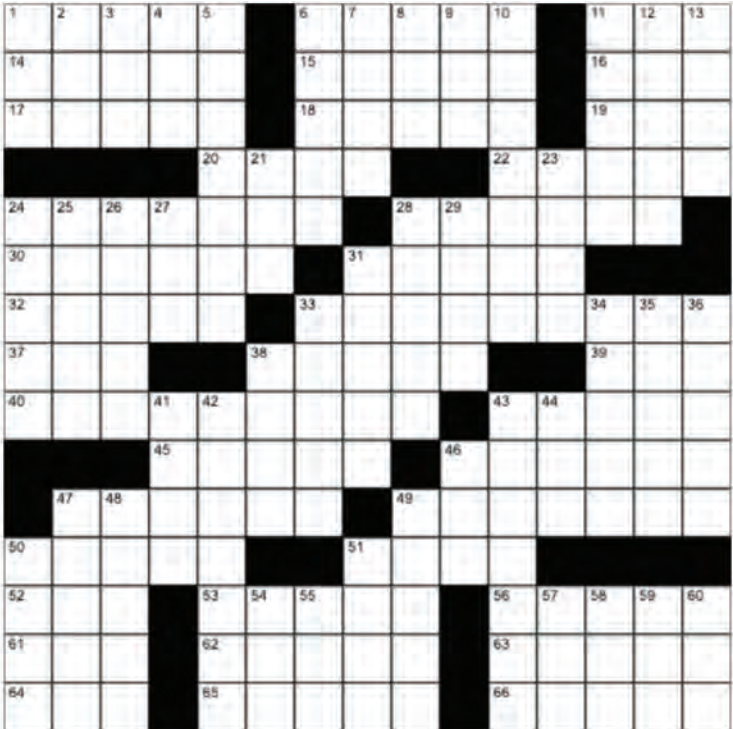
students with their TitanCard.

But activities didn’t end once the game started. “At halftime, all students were able to compete in rock-paper-scissors for a TV! Residence Life is giving the winning dorm an additional prize,” Lewis said.

Lewis said he is hopeful the event will be held again based on the attitudes of those who attended.

“Yes, I believe this will become an annual event,” he said. “We had about 600 students attend. It seemed like students really enjoyed the event.”

courtesy of bestcrosswords.com



- Across
- 1: Shoved aside

6: Monastery

11: Large container

14: The end of \_\_\_\_

15: French wine valley

16: Extra-wide shoe size

17: Gives a 9.8, say

18: Little bits

19: Figs

20: Girder type

22: Visit habitually

24: Acariasis

28: Rings bells

30: Impelling

31: Remove hair

32: Unpaid

33: Ensure

37: Bandleader Brown

38: Ready \_\_\_\_

39: Ancient

40: Unsettled

43: Shut

45: Get ready to drive

46: Recluse

47: Boot part

49: Sandy shores

50: Model airplane wood

51: Muffin topper

52: News letters
- 53: Make one

56: Rich cake

61: Accelerate

62: Shakers et al.

63: Dostoyevsky novel, with “The”

64: College sr.’s test

65: Group character

66: Some change
- Down
- 1: Musical aptitude

2: Genetic letters

3: Acquire

4: Bard’s “before”

5: Gallant in appearance

6: Rap sheet info

7: Rude person

8: Mouthpiece of a bridle

9: Diamond stat

10: Orthodox Jewish school

11: Locale

12: Ages

13: Student’s hurdle

21: Implore

23: “So be it”

24: Young salmon

25: Crouch in fear

26: Dispatch boat

27: Coal container
- 28: Pandemonium

29: Mature male European red deer

31: Morning

33: Small assemblage

34: Fang, e.g.

35: Beast of Borden

36: Paradises

38: Olive genus

41: Western Native Americans

42: Due to the fact that

43: Disordered

44: Director Jean-\_\_\_\_ Godard

46: Get the picture

47: Get to the point?

48: Martini garnish

49: Sanctify

50: Town

51: Director Preminger

54: Open mesh fabric

55: \_\_\_\_ bin ein Berliner

57: Poem of praise

58: Oysters \_\_\_\_ season

59: Rugrat

60: Aliens, briefly

Answers will be on @theadvancetitan Instagram on Fridays.

## 23rd Student Honors Exhibition currently at the Allen Priebe



Claudia Miller / Advance-Titan

Students’ work is displayed in the Allen Priebe Gallery. The art is in several different mediums.

By Claudia Miller  
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The 23rd Annual Student Honors Exhibition is currently taking place in the Allen Priebe Gallery in the Arts and Communications Center.

The exhibition, a highly selective invitational, features the work of 24 UW Oshkosh students. The art pieces on display include ceramics, paintings, photography, graphic design, printmaking and sculpture.

Much of the work in the Honors Exhibition tries to convey a message.

“I think a lot of work addresses a social connotation. A lot of my work has a deeper symbolism and hopefully makes people look at it a little bit longer,” said Ollie Krueger, winner of the Juror’s Best 2D award.

Krueger said he hopes his award-winning piece, “Mother Silent,” makes a point.

““Mother Silent’ is a criticism of the Catholic Church’s idea that women should be seen, not heard,” Krueger said.

Having artwork up on display provides a different way for the featured artists to see their work.

“Seeing it actually displayed on a pristine wall with good lighting adds another level and makes it feel very complete,” Krueger said.

The awards handed out included the Ceramics Award, Art Haus Award, Mike Dodson Award, Allen Priebe Gallery Award, Elsewhere Market and Coffee House Ceramics Award, Chancellor’s Graphic Design Award, Chancellor’s 2D Award, Chancellor’s 3D Award, Juror’s Best in Graphic Design Award, Juror’s Best

2D Award, and Juror’s Best 3D Award.

Eli Billstrom, Kely Carrasquillo, Katie Christensen, Lily Clifton, Ollie Krueger, Darrylann Moreno, Lauren Muth, Carleah Normington, Aidan Reimer, Carson Schunke, Karrah Sievert, Isabelle Skalecki, Sarah Vandersee, Lindsey Winkel and Macy Woxland each earned an award.

Honorable mentions were also named.

The exhibition is free and runs through Feb. 16. Gallery hours are 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, 7-9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, and 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The Allen Priebe Gallery is located in the main lobby on the first floor of the Arts and Communications Center, Room N102.



# Unban Trump’s Facebook:

## Letting him show his character is best for everyone

By Josh Lehner  
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Former President Donald Trump was booted off Facebook and Twitter shortly after his comments on Jan. 6.

We all know the story. Since then, he’s created his own social media platform and has been unbanned from Twitter, although he hasn’t yet posted.

For all intents and purposes, Trump’s name has faded into the microwave background radiation of the public consciousness.

Every so often he pops up, but he quickly fades away. For better or worse, this is a far cry from the attention he received while president seemingly eons ago.

But as the 2024 presidential election slowly approaches, should Trump be brought back? Meta has said it will reinstate Trump’s accounts on Facebook and Instagram in the coming weeks.

If Meta changes its mind and decides to keep Trump banned from Facebook, what precedent will this set for future world leaders and officials? More importantly, though, if Trump isn’t unbanned, can Facebook compete with Elon Musk’s Wild West-style Twitter?

Trump has obviously said some egregious things — no one’s denying that.

But there is an important question that needs to be answered: when does someone deserve to be banned from social media? Rules and guidelines are too vague when you get into the nitty-gritty details.

The problem is simply that no one really knows, but the public outrage that Trump has spawned certainly doesn’t help his case. There is a funny irony about the fact that Trump was banned from



Advance-Titan File Photo

Trump’s Twitter account has been revived — and not without controversy. This has since raised concerns about his Facebook account.

Twitter while terrorist organizations actively recruited on the platform.

But here’s the thing: Republican or Democrat, pro-Trump or anti-Trump, bringing him back may be in your best interest.

Republicans advocating for free speech will obviously feel vindicated by Trump’s return to the platform. And Trump’s reinstatement would certainly create a less murky precedent for future public officials who may or may not be as “outgoing” as him.

But for Democrats who want to see Trump as often as the back of their heads, his reintroduction to Facebook may antagonize enough moderates and close-to-center Republicans to swing an election.

I’m sure we all remember Trump’s antics on Twitter: the name-calling, the threats and the self-righteous tweets.

When Trump is allowed back onto Facebook and begins posting, these antics will likely continue, and many people who like the idea of Trump may be turned away.

In a 2019 Politico/Morning Consult poll, 46% of respondents said that Trump’s use of Twitter hurts his reelection bid, and 72% of respondents said that Trump used Twitter too much.

In this sense, Trump can be thought of as a performer: if the act is bad, then the audience won’t return to the show. But if you keep Trump out of the limelight,

he might haphazardly make it to Broadway.

Trump loves being the center of attention, but he thrives when he’s out of the headlines. President Biden’s 2020 victory was largely a referendum on Trump.

If Biden wants to defeat Trump again (assuming they face off), he had better hope that Trump is in every headline, or Trump will likely be our next president.

So should Trump be allowed back? I think so. Not because I agree with everything he says, but precisely because I don’t.

Yes, if Trump comes back, he’s going to say some false things — what politician doesn’t?

But the blowback that Trump receives from his claims and ac-

cusations has impacts too.

It’s been over two years since Jan. 6, 2021.

Still, media headlines and politicians hold it over him eagerly.

In other words, Trump is being held responsible in the court of public opinion, which wields a lot of power come election year.

So, though I don’t agree with everything Trump says, and despite the fact that I don’t think he should run for president, it’s imperative to let the court of public opinion make an educated and fair decision come election time — not Meta.

And how can a fair decision be made when Trump’s true character is hidden from the modern-day public square?

### Letter to the Editor

## On-campus jobs need to pay students more

By Jake Freeman  
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UW Oshkosh desperately needs student workers right now, but they seemingly still can’t find enough. What’s the problem?

The pay rate for these jobs is not appealing to students, and an increase in the minimum wage would attract more students.

With just a simple search, it can be found that the minimum wage for student workers is \$10 across campus.

Although \$10/hr is roughly \$3 above the state minimum wage, it is still unappealing to the eyes.

Although campus jobs are readily accessible to most first- and second- year students that could be looking for a job, they aren’t ideal for a young kid that may want to be up and moving around more than sitting down

and doing nothing most of the time.

Although getting a job on campus is fairly ideal for those who may not have access to their own form of transportation, the pay might just be what pushes them away.

There are quite a few advantages of on-campus jobs for students, though.

On-campus jobs are typically as flexible as it gets when it comes to scheduling around classes and other events that are school-related.

When it comes to transportation, it is nothing more than a 15-minute walk to whatever job one might have.

And of course, your bosses are most likely former students and understand what you’re going through, and it’s always nice to have a relatable boss.

Although these benefits are nice to have as a busy student, the pay just doesn’t seem to be appealing enough.

It’s seen all the time in the world: kids drop out of college because they aren’t able to pay for it and their parents don’t have

the financial means to pay for them.

According to iGrad, 30% of enrolled students drop out of college in the first year, and 38% of total college students drop out because of troubling financial situations.

I feel like one way to ease the financial pressures is to increase the minimum wage for these student jobs, which would make them more appealing to the crowd of people that may be going through financial struggles.



### Letter guidelines

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

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

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

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