

# The Advance-Titan

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## UWO to implement direct admission

By Josh Lehner  
lehnerjo70@uwosh.edu

UW Oshkosh is working toward implementing direct admission, which would automatically admit high school students with the right GPA and test scores, voiding the need to enroll.

UW-Green Bay implemented the program earlier this month, but it won't take effect until 2024. According to the school's press release, "all high school seniors graduating from Green Bay Area Public Schools in 2024 and forward will no longer be required to complete a college application and will instead be directly admitted to UW-Green Bay."

UWO Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Erin Grisham said that direct admissions aims to correct the bureaucracy of enrollment, which she said is a barrier to many high school students who aren't determined to go to college.

"This initiative aims to encourage students," she said. "Arizona has had a version of this initiative in place. If you take certain courses and get a certain GPA, you know that you'll be accepted. I think it really empowers students and families and shows that college is accessible."

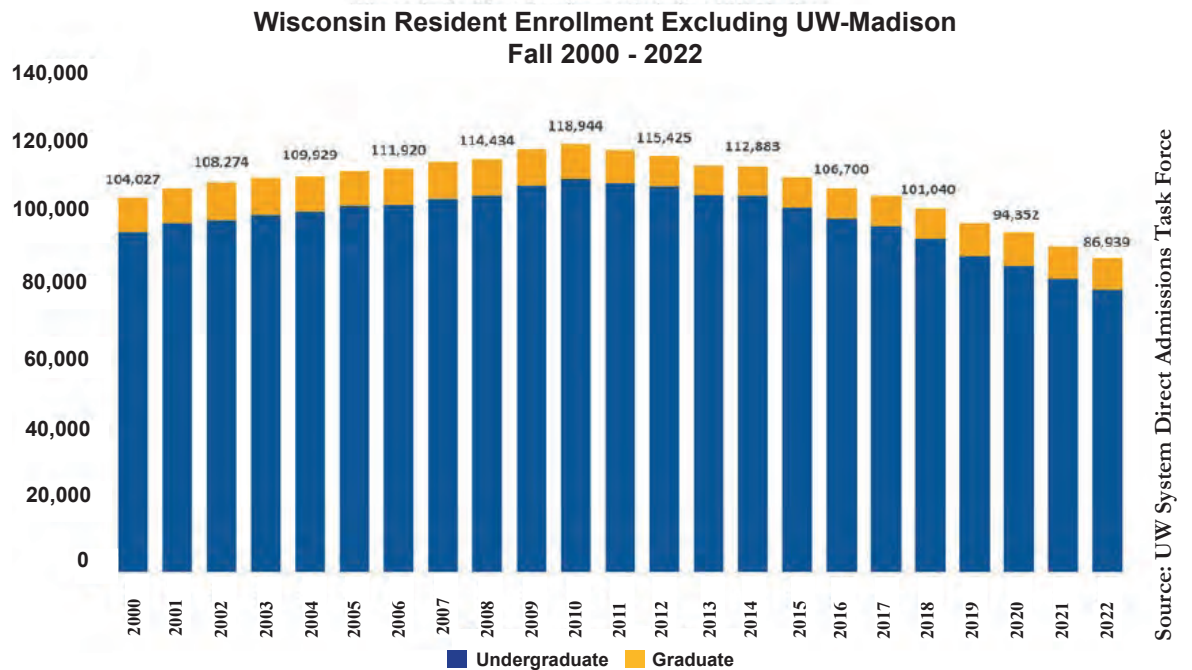
Grisham worked with the UW Board of Regents to produce a report looking at the potential benefits of the initiative for Wisconsin. According to the report, under direct admission, it is common that "students, parents and high schools receive letters indicating a student has been admitted to a set of institutions and outlining steps for how the student can 'claim their place' using a common and free application."

The report cites an Idaho study showing a 8-15% enrollment growth from in-state students after implementing direct admission.

Idaho's enrollment growth stands in stark contrast to the UW System, which has experienced a total enrollment drop of about 29,000 students since 2010 (excluding UW-Madison), according to the report.

"Recent declines in enrollment have been related, in part, to changes in the ... percentage of high school graduates immediately enrolling at UW System institutions," from about 32% in 2017 to 27% in 2021, the report states.

When asked about direct admission during his town hall last month, UWO Chancellor Andrew Leavitt said that UWO is looking



into it and referenced UWGB, which is the first UW System school to implement the program.

"Green Bay is a leader in this, and they are moving swiftly forward," he said. "A lot of other UW System schools are looking at this to determine if it will fit in."

UWO Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management Aggie Hanni said that direct admission's primary benefit is encouraging students who otherwise wouldn't attend college by not

only reaching out to them, but also by providing financial and housing resources.

"We take it for granted how much of a barrier it is to apply to an institution," she said. "It guarantees them a spot and intends to target resident students — those who live in Wisconsin. They will basically be guaranteed a spot at a UW System school."

Hanni said that this initiative would involve UW schools working in tandem with certain high schools to contact students

and their families and by holding events and visiting local high schools. Details are still being worked on, but Hanni said that implementation of direct enrollment is moving forward in pragmatic steps.

"We're still in the process of figuring out the logistics, such as what the qualifications for students will be," she said. "The earliest that this would likely be implemented is Fall 2024, which is likely standard for all UW schools opting into this initiative."

## Everyone loves snow days . . . except commuters

By Anya Kelley  
kelleyan55@uwosh.edu

In America, over 1,300 die in vehicle accidents due to icy, snowy or slushy conditions annually, according to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The FHWA also estimates that about 900 people per year die in a crash during snowfall or sleet.

So, why the hell am I still expected to risk my life for classes when there's bad weather?

It's been a pretty mild winter this year, but when we get hit, we get hit hard.

As a commuter student, weather is something I pay close attention to. Especially because I have to drive 30 minutes to get to campus.

Classes rarely get canceled (thank you for canceling during snowstorm Olive, UWO) so I usually have to decide for myself what's going to be the safest option.

If 511 Wisconsin is telling me the roads have basically turned into an amateur ice skating rink, I usually decide against driving.

I'm a pretty responsible student. I always email my professors at least an hour before classes start to let them know I'll be absent.

I even give them a list of everything I'll get done for their class and ask if there's anything

### Opinion

else they'd like me to do... that's more than most can say!

Sometimes, they're totally chill with it. But every now and then you have that one professor who says that it isn't an excuse and that you'll have to use one of your "free days" or suffer a penalty.

Last time I checked, I'm paying for my spot here. Even if I was skipping just for the sake of skipping, why do they care?

I don't think one lecture is worth my life. I mean, the average net worth of people under the age of 35 in the U.S. is about \$14,000. So, in theory, my life is worth about one semester of school here.

I think professors sometimes need to take a step back and realize it's really not that serious.

If their kid was commuting, would they want them driving in perilous conditions?

If we're staying home from classes, maybe don't assume the worst. And hey, even if you do, you're still getting paid, so mind your own business.

I don't think one lecture is worth my life.  
- Anya Kelley,  
News Editor



Advance-Titan

Phone: 920-424-3048

Email: atitan@uwosh.edu

Website: advancetitan.com

Editor-in-Chief  
Katie Pulvermacher  
pulvek45@uwosh.edu

Managing Editor  
Kelly Hueckman  
hueckk24@uwosh.edu

News Editor  
Anya Kelley  
kelleyan55@uwosh.edu

Assistant News Editor  
Josh Lehner  
lehnerjo70@uwosh.edu

Arts & Entertainment Editor  
Mattie Beck  
beckm88@uwosh.edu

Opinion Editor  
Aubrie Selsmeyer  
selsmeyeau72@uwosh.edu

Co-Sports Editor  
Nolan Swenson  
swensonno56@uwosh.edu

Co-Sports Editor Jacob Link  
linkjl3@uwosh.edu

Advertising Manager  
Luke Bussey  
busseylu85@uwosh.edu

Social Media Editor  
Ellie Ramsay  
ramsayel01@uwosh.edu

Web Editor Cassidy Johnson  
johnsonca51@uwosh.edu

Copy Chief Kyiah Nelson  
nelsok45@uwosh.edu

Copy Desk Editors  
Savannah Bartelt, Trent Allaback

Graphic Designers  
Michael Buckner  
bucknm86@uwosh.edu  
Josh Fannin  
fannij41@uwosh.edu

Staff Writers  
Brandon Cobb, Doug Newhouse,  
Claudia Miller, Payton Murphy,  
Alexis Schaffer, Frankie Kerknof

Photographers  
Kayla Curtis, Charlie Bruecker,  
Morgan Feltz, Willem Flaugher

Distribution Manager  
Doug Newhouse  
newhousedo78@uwosh.edu

Faculty Adviser Barb Benish  
benish@uwosh.edu

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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.

# OSA gears up for Election Day

By Frankie Kerkhof  
osacomms@uwosh.edu

Elections for the 2023-24 Oshkosh Student Association officers and representatives will be held next week. UW Oshkosh students will be able to vote for president and vice president, as well as senator at-large.

Polls will be open for 36 hours — from 8 a.m. March 7 to 8 p.m. March 8 — and students should watch for an email, sent out at 8 a.m. March 7, which will include a link to the ballot via Titan Connection.

The president and vice president candidates include:

**Jana Metko and Devin Heinz:**

Jana Metko, a junior majoring in human service leadership, is running for OSA president. She is engaged on campus through the New Student Family Programs. Students may remember her as a Titan captain from Titan Takeoff or from her work with the Clash Collective Thrift Store. She also has worked as a peer mentor and tour guide. In addition, she is president and student outreach director of Chi Alpha and helped develop volunteer training for the Center for Civic and Community Engagement. She says: “Through my experience at UW Oshkosh, I have struggled with academic, environmental and relational challenges. I know what it is like to start from the bottom and feel like there’s no one there to support your journey back up. Given this aspect of my life, I have gained a greater understanding of campus and the needs many students have. I want to have the opportunity to meet students where they are at and help to advocate for more connection between students and the resources available on campus.”

Devin Heinz, from Oshkosh, is running for OSA vice president.



Metko



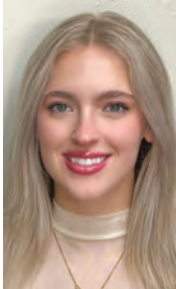
Heinz



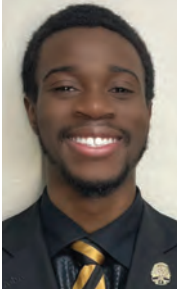
Blaser



Rucinski



Bubolz



Toheeb-Lawal

He currently serves as OSA director or government and community relations, tasked with the responsibility of managing student body relations with the community, as well as relations with local, state and federal government actors. Prior to being in student government he interned for Tom Nelson’s campaign for the U.S. Senate and as a civic influencer with the Center for Civic and Community Engagement. He says: “My purpose for running in student government is to serve as an advocate on behalf of the interests of the student body with an emphasis in supporting students from historically marginalized, underrepresented and underserved communities.”

*Why are they running?* We’re running because we are incredibly passionate and committed to serving the student body’s interests. Since becoming students at UW Oshkosh, we have been involved in a wide array of organizations that have afforded us the opportunity to see many perspectives that students may have on campus. These experiences have gotten us to reach the conclusion that student success stems from being empowered, being recognized and being taught to compromise. If elected OSA president and vice president, we commit to following through on ensuring that these principles are the guiding force behind student governance.

**Ben Blaser and Jakob Rucinski:** Ben Blaser, a political science ma-

jor from Janesville, is running for president. He currently serves as the OSA vice president and previously was an OSA senator. After graduating from UWO in 2024, he hopes to go to law school.

Jakob Rucinski, a chemistry major from Oshkosh who was born in Germany, is running for vice president. He is currently serving as the OSA vice president pro tempore and was an OSA Senator prior to that. After graduating, Rucinski hopes to go to medical school.

*Why are they running?* “We are campaigning on a variety of topics. We are first and foremost campaigning on the previous successes that we have had in OSA, such as reviving Senate and increasing lighting on campus. We are campaigning on our experience; our prior OSA involvement has given us the knowledge to solve issues effectively. We also want to bring back paper towels, end floor-wide bans in dorms, increase dairy-free options in our dining halls, fix Assembly and ensure that every identity on campus feels welcomed.”

**Anna Bubolz and Abdul-Karim Toheeb-Lawal:**

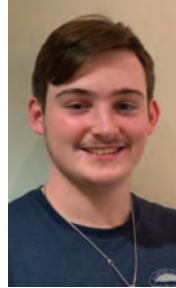
About the candidates: Anna Bubolz is a junior with a chemistry major and a Spanish major. She is a community adviser in Taylor Hall, and part of the UWO track team. Abdul-Karim Toheeb-Lawal is a sophomore majoring in information systems who has a

minor in African American Studies. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and is also on the track and field team.

*Why are they running?* “Our campaign is focused on the betterment of mental health for every student. We are also concerned with more diversity and inclusion on campus.”  
Senator At-Large Candidates:

**Jesse Ramsey**

*Why are you running?* “I am running to encourage participation in student government. I want to use my position as senator to



Ramsey

encourage careful spending of student dollars to create an affordable and high quality education for all who attend UWO. I am from the small town of Oxford, Wisconsin, and I am a political science major and an economic minor. I am currently an At-Large Senator in the OSA Senate and I am running for next year.”

**Daniel Smith**

*Why are you running?* “I applied to be a senator again because I really enjoyed being a part of Senate during the 2022-23 school year and I hope to be able to be a part of it once again.”

## Shamrock Shuffle is a Titan tradition

By Payton Murphy  
murphypa14@uwosh.edu

With spring peering around the corner, many are becoming restless to experience warmer weather and enjoy spring activities. On the UW Oshkosh campus this means spending time outdoors, breaking out the shorts and tank tops and participating in the annual Shamrock Shuffle 5k.

The Shamrock Shuffle is a 5K walk/run held annually by the Student Recreation and Wellness Center since 2007 to celebrate and welcome in the new season. This year’s Shamrock Shuffle will be held March 11, and is spearheaded by UWO’s Recreation Coordinator for Outdoor Recreation, Gregory Batten.

“[The Shamrock Shuffle] is one of those events that has become a Titan tradition,” Batten said. According to Batten, the Shamrock Shuffle came into existence shortly after the creation of the Student Recreation Department. The goal of the 5k is to celebrate spring by getting people outside to enjoy the warmer weather, as well as to bring community members and UW Oshkosh patrons together.

There is a \$20 registration fee for community members and a \$15 registration fee for UW Oshkosh students, which covers the



Advance-Titan File Photo

Clash Titan leads runners at the start of the 2019 Shamrock Shuffle held on the UW Oshkosh campus.

cost of participating in the event, as well as the cost of a long sleeve, tri-blend shirt. The money raised by registration not only goes to covering the cost of holding the event, but also goes to other good causes.

“Anything above and beyond registration all goes into our foundation account, which we then can use to support scholarships or other student success type programs on campus,” Batten said.

The Shamrock Shuffle is not only for UW Oshkosh students and staff, but is open to all, regardless of enrollment status. The major goal of the Shamrock

Shuffle is to get people out and moving, which is why it has been dubbed a walk/run.

“We have worked hard to eliminate any of the competition and race feel,” Batten said, “We really want it to be a community fun event.”

In an attempt to truly fine tune the event for everyone, at 9 a.m on March 11, the Student Rec Center will hold the second annual Beat Clash Kids Dash for children ages 4 to 10. The race is a 1K and will be located in the RecPlex Dome. Children will race against Clash the Titan in hopes of beating the beloved mascot and winning a

medal. Registration for this event is \$10 and includes a short sleeved T-shirt.

The Shamrock Shuffle will begin an hour later, at 10 a.m., at the Student Recreation and Wellness Center, 735 Pearl Ave. The run will take participants along the Wiouwash Trail before weaving back through the UW Oshkosh campus. Registration is \$15 for students and \$20 for community members and includes the cost of a long-sleeved shirt. To register, go to uwosh.edu/recreation/shamrock-shuffle/.



# Sports



## Scoreboard

**Friday, Feb. 24**  
**Gymnastics**  
UWO - 191.675  
UW-Eau Claire - 184.275  
**Men’s Basketball**  
UWO - 82  
UW-Eau Claire - 62  
**Women’s Basketball**  
UWO - 57  
UW-Whitewater - 65

**Saturday, Feb. 25**  
**Wrestling**  
UWO - 9/19  
**Track and Field**  
Men’s - 2/8, 141.33  
Women’s - 3/8, 65  
**Softball**  
UWO - 2  
Lakeland University - 1  
UWO - 5  
Lakeland University - 4

**Sunday, Feb. 26**  
**Men’s Basketball**  
UWO - 79  
UW-Whitewater - 92  
**Baseball**  
UWO - 4  
North Park University - 1  
UWO - 6  
North Park University - 5

## Upcoming Events

**Friday, March 3**  
**Men’s Basketball**  
vs. Fontbonne University, Mo., 7 p.m.  
**Men’s Basketball**  
vs. Washington and Lee University, Va., at Ohio Northern University 4:30 p.m.

**Saturday, March 4**  
**Baseball**  
at Webster University, Mo., 4 p.m.  
**Softball**  
vs. UW-Superior 2 p.m.  
vs. Lawrence University 4 p.m.  
**Gymnastics**  
at UW-Whitewater 4 p.m.  
**Track and Field**  
at Ripon College Final Qualifier

**Sunday, March 5**  
**Softball**  
vs. Lawrence University 12 p.m.  
vs. UW-Superior 2 p.m.  
**Baseball**  
vs. North Park University at Sauget, Ill., 2 p.m.  
**Track and Field**  
at Ripon College Final Qualifier

**Tuesday, March 7**  
**Track and Field**  
at NCAA Division III Indoor Championships at Birmingham, Ala.

# Seniors leaving swim and dive

By Nolan Swenson  
swensonno56@uwosh.edu

On Feb. 18, UW Oshkosh’s swimming and diving seniors, Chase Millam and Hayden Freeman, competed in their last competition as Titans. Milliam competed in the freestyle event during his time at UWO, but his time swimming began before entering campus here. He said when he originally began, it felt more obligatory than a sport he loved.

“I started when I was 7 by jumping right into competitive swimming,” he said. “I wasn’t that good as a kid, but I went out and did my thing. It wasn’t something I liked; I just did it.”

He said that as he aged, he was able to appreciate the different components of being on a swimming team better, especially the team aspect.

“I started enjoying it in high school due to the team component of it in my program,” he said. “That made me really love it. I went to state individually my sophomore year of high school and went every single year after.”

Despite showing collegiate-level performance, Milliam said he thought he would be unable to swim in college due to a wrist injury he suffered before his freshman year.

“I thought about swimming in college but at the end of senior year I shattered my wrist and I took the first two years at UW-Milwaukee.”

In the wake of COVID-19, he said that he decided to make several adjustments in his college experience.

“When COVID-19 hit, some things changed,” he said. “I switched schools and majors and then joined the swimming team for the last two



Chase Millam



Courtesy of Hayden Freeman

UWO’s Hayden Freeman swims down the lanes. Freeman typically swims the butterfly event.

years.”

Millam said that he’s proud of both his and the team’s progress and was constantly reminded why he became a Titan.

“The team has been really successful this past season,” he said. “Individually I beat my high school times at the end of last year, and I beat even more times from my previous year. It’s one of those things where you do it and you feel that relief, and you remember why you originally joined the sport.”

Millam said that UWO’s team has been a small, but tightknit team that allowed everyone to be closer to each other.

“It’s awesome; it’s a smaller team than what I was used to in high school and compared to other college swim teams,” he said. “The size of the team makes everyone closer and look out for each other.”

Millam said that he’s leaving the team satisfied both with his own and the team’s performance, and he sees growth for the team in the future.

“It’s an up-and-coming program and they’re looking for ways to improve the team,” he said. “Being a part of that rebuilding is a great experience. It’s been overwhelmingly positive this year, especially since it’s my last season. Seeing everyone come in and crush their goals has been very rewarding for me.”

Freeman also joined Oshkosh after a long break from competitive

swimming but enjoyed his experience nonetheless. He began his swimming career later in youth and it soon became his favorite sport.

“I got into swimming my sophomore year of highschool,” he said. “Before that I was into cross-country and track ... I joined [the swimming and diving team] for cross training, and I ended up falling in love with the sport for its own thing.”

After that experience, Freeman wanted to swim in college but, akin to Millam, he didn’t join a collegiate swimming and diving team his freshman year.

“At first I wanted to swim in college, but I started college at the Fox Valley campus,” he said. “But they didn’t have a swim team, so I ended up just swimming alone for two years just for training and fitness. When I transferred to Oshkosh, I wanted to get back into it, so I decided to join the team in order to meet people and get back that team aspect.”

Freeman said that his time on the team was worth the sacrifices that it required and that those sacrifices had benefits.

“In Oshkosh I really enjoyed my time on the team,” he said. “At the end of my last meet I beat a high school time, and I wasn’t expecting that because I was a different athlete then. It was worth every morning that I didn’t want to go, and every afternoon when I wanted to stay

home.”

Freeman said he’s looking forward to seeing where the team goes, as he sees bright futures for the athletes and team.

“The sky’s the limit for the team and we’ve had a lot of recruits on campus,” he said. “It’s really cool to see that people are interested in the program. The team is super young, and there are only two seniors, so a lot of people will return. It’s a very exciting time to be a fan of the Oshkosh swim team - they could be on the verge of something special.”

Both Titans will be leaving their mark on the team, and moving on to life outside college.

Millam would like to do documentary work with his degree. He has a job lined up with a Chicago marketing company to do post-production and social media work.

Freeman will graduate after the fall semester with a communications degree and plans to stay in the area as he said that the region is flush with opportunity. This way, he will also be able to root for the Titans as a proud alumnus.

“I’ve had a really enjoyable time as a Titan athlete and I can’t wait to see the meets as a proud alum,” Freeman said.

# UWO gymnastics bests Blugolds

By Nolan Swenson  
swensonno56@uwosh.edu

UW Oshkosh (4-6) defeated UW-Eau Claire (3-6) 191.675-184.275 last Friday.

A major component of the win for the Titans was Emily Buffington, who earned 38.725 cumulative points throughout the night, setting a team record. She said that this was a culmination of her work this year.

“I’ve been working hard all around all year so it was cool to go out there and get a record,” she said. “I was just happy to go out there and help the team any way that I could.”

Buffington competed in all four events, averaging a score of 9.681 for her events, a score that no Blugold’s was able to match.

The night was successful due to strong individual performances. The lowest average UWO score, which was in the bars, was a score of 9.317.

Buffington said that this win came from the Titans’ willingness to try difficult maneuvers.

“I think we have a bit more depth of difficulty and hitting our routines cleanly was a big help for us,” she said.

Coach Lauren Karnitz said that this performance comes in part from the team falling into their places and getting confident with their positions.

“People are getting healthy. They’re hitting their strides and getting confident with their skills,” she said. “You can see that play out in

these last meets for us because we changed the way we brought energy into the gym on a daily basis that has turned over to the competition gym.”

The team is consistently improving, with scores increasing meet after meet and getting ready to face off against the final opponent, UW-Whitewater (4-4). Buffington said that with this energy, they’re ready to move past dual meets and get to conference.

“All of us feel confident, our practices are going really well and our energy is up,” she said. “We keep getting better and better each weekend and we’re looking forward to getting this out of the way and going to the conference.”

Karnitz said that consistency will

be an asset for the team when closing out the season.

“It’s hard to know what’s going to happen meet to meet because you get different judges and different judges see different things,” she said. “Floor and vault have been our strengths. But we’re upping our consistency on bars, and that has been showing the last few meets.”

Karnitz said that she’s looking forward to the championships, but their placement isn’t all that counts.

“Someone has to win, why not us? But that’s not our focus,” she said. “We have to be the best version of ourselves and it has to be exactly how we practice our routines.”

The Titans will take on UW-Whitewater on March 4 at 4 p.m.



# UWO basketball enters MARCH MADNESS

## Men’s NCAA Division III regional at Oshkosh



**UW Oshkosh**  
21 - 6



**Fontbonne**  
16 - 11



**Hope College**  
19 - 9



**Bethany Lutheran**  
23 - 4

By Jacob Link  
linkj13@uwosh.edu

**UWO:** Oshkosh’s last appearance in the tournament came in 2022, when the Titans lost to Case Western Reserve University (Ohio) in the second round of the tournament. UWO’s best finish came in 2019 when they were crowned National Champions. UWO was selected as an at-large team into the tournament. Oshkosh captured the regular season Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) title after going 13-1 in conference play. In their last game, UWO fell to UW-Whitewater in the championship game of the WIAC tournament. Oshkosh will be led by senior forward Levi Borchert who is averaging 15.5 points per game and 10.9 rebounds per game. Borchert, who has 15 double-doubles this season and is shooting 54.9% from the floor, led the WIAC in rebounding and was fifth in scoring this season.

**Fontbonne University (Missouri):** The Griffins’ last time in tournament was in 2009, when they lost in first round to Wheaton College (Illinois). Fontbonne is 0-4 all time in the tournament, never making it out of the first round. The Griffins come into the tournament riding a four-game win streak, defeating Webster University (Missouri) 55-49 in the St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SLIAC) tournament championship game, giving Fontbonne an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament. They went 10-4 in the SLIAC regular season, sharing the regular season crown with Webster. The Griffins will be led by senior guard Caden Clark who averages 13.6 points per game and shoots 40.4% from the field.

**Hope College (Michigan):** Hope’s best finish in the tournament came when the Flying Dutchmen were runners-up in 1996 and 1998. Last season, Hope lost to Wheaton in the first round of the tournament. Hope enters the tournament on a six-game win streak, defeating Calvin University (Michigan) 61-54 in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) tournament championship game to earn an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament. Hope went 10-4 in the MIAA regular season, finishing third in the conference. The Flying Dutchmen will be led by senior guard Evan Thomas, who averages 15.9 points per game and 6.8 rebounds per game, shooting 43.9% from the field.

**Bethany Lutheran College (Minnesota):** This marks the third time the Vikings have been in the tournament, falling in the first round in 2020. The team’s best finish came in 2018, when Bethany Lutheran won their opening game for the Viking’s lone tournament win. Bethany Lutheran goes into the tournament riding a five-game winning streak, defeating UW-Superior 93-75 in the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) tournament championship game to earn an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament. The Vikings went 12-2 in the UMAC regular season, securing the regular season title. Bethany Lutheran will be led by sophomore guard Drew Sagedahl, who averages 17.6 points per game, shooting 41.3% from behind the arc.

## Men’s NCAA Bracket (Oshkosh’s section)

All times Eastern | \* - host university



## Women’s NCAA Division III regional at Ada, Ohio



**UW Oshkosh**  
19 - 8



**Washington and Lee**  
22 - 6



**Ohio Northern**  
23 - 4



**Berea College**  
26 - 2

By Jacob Link  
linkj13@uwosh.edu

**UWO:** This will be Oshkosh’s 17th appearance in the NCAA tournament, most recently falling to UW-Whitewater in the Elite Eight last season. UWO’s best finish in the tournament came in 1996 when the Titans went a perfect 6-0 to claim the national championship. The Titans go into the game coming off a loss to UW-Whitewater in the semifinals of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament. UWO finished the regular season 8-6 in the WIAC, tied for fourth place with UW-La Crosse. Oshkosh will be led by junior forward Kayce Vaile, who averages 10.6 points per game and 8.1 rebounds per game. Senior point guard Ava Douglas enters the tournament averaging 9.3 points per game while shooting 45.1% from the floor. Alongside Douglas will be senior shooting guard Jenna Jorgensen, who averages 9.2 points per game and leads the team with 42 3-pointers made while shooting 30% from behind the arc.

**Washington and Lee University (Virginia):** The Generals will be making their fourth appearance in the NCAA tournament this season and have never progressed past the opening round. Last year, Washington and Lee fell to New York University in the first round of the tournament. The Generals enter the tournament on a seven-game winning streak, defeating Shenandoah University (Virginia) 73-57 in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) championship, earning Washington and Lee an automatic bid into the tournament. The Generals went 16-2 in the ODAC, earning them the regular-season title. The Generals will be led by freshman forward Mary Schleusner, who averages 14.1 points per game and 11.5 points per game while shooting 46% from the field. In her last game, Schleusner scored 30 points and grabbing 19 rebounds.

## Women’s NCAA Bracket (Oshkosh’s section)

All times Eastern | \* - host university



**Ohio Northern University:** The Polar Bears will be making their first appearance in the tournament since the 2016-17 season when they advanced to the Elite Eight for their best performance in the “Big Dance” in school history. ONU claimed their spot in this year’s tournament with a victory against Marietta College (Ohio) in the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) tournament championship game. ONU went 15-3 in conference play to secure the OAC regular season crown. The Polar Bears will be led by Brynn Serbin, who averages 15.2 points and 5.8 rebounds per game while shooting a team-best 43.1% from the floor.

**Berea College (Kentucky):** The Mountaineers will make their second appearance in the NCAA tournament in school history this season. Back in 2020, Berea fell to Illinois Wesleyan University in the first round of the tournament. The Mountaineers come into the tournament on a six-game winning streak, taking down Piedmont University in the Collegiate Conference of the South (CCS) tournament championship game. The Mountaineers will be led by junior guard Aaliyah Hampton, who averages 14.5 points per game and leads the team with 56 steals.



Sports

UWO wrestlers qualify for nationals

By Brandon Cobb  
cobbbr32@uwosh.edu

Seniors Luc Valdez and Beau Yineman both punched their tickets to the NCAA Division III Championship with two second place finishes at the Upper Midwest Regional on Feb. 25.

Both Yineman, who wrestles at 197 pounds, and Valdez, who wrestles at 125 pounds, would lose their first place matches in closely contested overtimes. The match was the first double-overtime of Yineman’s lifelong wrestling career.

Along with them, senior Denis Murphy placed fifth and junior Cody Welker placed sixth, falling short of a spot in the national championship but allowing the Titans to place ninth overall in the tournament.

Head wrestling coach Aaron Konitzer said the effort led to success for the Titans at regionals.

“We had a high effort and we took ninth as a team which is in the top half,” Konitzer said. “If you look at our region you can see a lot of nationally ranked teams. I was pleased with us competing with



Courtesy of Concordia University Wisconsin  
Luc Valdez pins his opponent in the second day of the NCAA Division III Upper Midwest Regional.

them and just getting after it.”

The D-III championship will be Yineman’s second consecutive national championship appearance and both Yineman and Valdez’s final appearance in collegiate wrestling. Yineman said he’s looking forward to returning to the national

stage.

“Thinking about last year’s tournament, it was just really fun,” Yineman said. “I’m looking forward to going down there and having fun because of the environment and the bigger stage.”

Looking ahead towards the

NCAA D-III Championship, the wrestling program is gearing up for the biggest stage of their wrestling season. Konitzer said that both wrestlers have been preparing for nationals throughout the season.

“I fully expect both of them to be contending for a spot at the podi-

um,” Konitzer said. “It’s just a matter of how high they get up. They both have wrestled some tough competition throughout the year. Not just Division III — D-I, D-II and junior college. We definitely had a tough schedule for them and I think they are battle-tested.”

Yineman said that the big stages are where he performs the best.

“I enjoy that [nationals] environment more. It’s a good time,” Yineman said. “Mentally, I was okay at the big stage last year when I wrestled and when I wrestled at state in high school. It’s not something that’s gonna throw off my philosophy. If anything, it encourages me to go out there, wrestle, have fun, relax and not overthink and do what I have been doing all season.”

Both seniors Yineman and Valdez will be wrestling on March 10 for number one in the nation at the D-III level at Roanoke, Virginia.

“All we can do is control our effort,” Konitzer said. “We can’t control how other people train or scout us or anything else, but we can control a high pace and dictate the tides. That’s the stuff we will continue to make adjustments to in the next two

UWO track has top-3 finish at meet

By Nolan Swenson  
swensonno56@uwosh.edu

UW Oshkosh competed in the indoor track and field Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championship with the men’s and women’s teams placing second and third respectively on Friday and Saturday last week.

Both teams placed below UW-La Crosse, who took the meet with scores of 228 and 324 in the men’s and women’s competitions.

The loss is in part due to the size of the Eagle’s team, where they had multiple athletes taking events, filling the leaderboards and snuffing out Titan contributions.

Senior Eli Tranel, placed second in the pole vault, with a height of 4.89 meters. He said that their loss comes from difficulties on the team, not solely the opposition’s overwhelming numbers.

“We did pretty well with the cards we were dealt,” he said. “A lot of guys were injured and were trying to gear up for nationals and more outdoor goals. The team did what they wanted to, but La Crosse had a lot of depth and some team members of ours left the team. Thinner numbers and injuries got us.”

Sophomore Caleb Cornelius, took first in the high jump and said that in spite of the loss, the team’s performance was a strong effort that showed their team’s ties.

“As a team, we did good and we had people who brought energy,” he said. “Of course, we also had people who didn’t do as good as they wished, but at the end of the day everybody came to the conference and tried to give it their all. We were loud from the first day and brought great energy. Even though we didn’t win, we gave it our best.”

Tranel said that despite the loss, he feels that the team is on the right path, and will be ready for when



Courtesy of UWO athletics

UWO’s Steven Potter runs in the mile run at the WIAC Indoor Championships Feb. 25 hosted by UW-Stout.

nationals come.

“The team is on track to peak more towards nationals,” he said. “We did well, but we could’ve done better. We want to give more than what we did over the weekend, but being on track for nationals is one of our goals.”

Cornelius qualified for nationals with a high jump of 2.04 meters and said that he’s ready to represent the team in Alabama.

“It means a lot to me to go out around the team and cheer their events on,” he said. “It’s something that’s very big to me.”

A personal contribution Tranel said he plans to put into nationals is consistency for his jumps.

“I did decent, but I was inconsistent,” he said. “My consistency is getting better, as a pole vaulter it’s one thing to go high, but another thing to go high when it counts. My goal at the end of the season is to stay ranked first, so I’m going to

try and maintain that by nationals. I know I can do it, and I have the confidence to do that.”

The team will compete next at Ripon College, and Cornelius said that the team is ready to move on from this loss and continue their efforts.

“I think we’re going to move on very well because we’re not a team that likes to hang our heads,” he said. “We stay positive and look towards the future. The outdoor season is going to give us another shot and I think it’s going to be a very good season.”

UWO track and field will return March 4, at the Ripon College Final Qualifier and Tranel said he knows that with hard work, the team will soar.

“We’re going to keep working on little things and working on consistency,” he said. “Sooner or later it’s going to click for us, and then the sky’s the limit.”

Sports roundup

Baseball

The UW Oshkosh baseball team opened their 2023 season with back-to-back victories over North Park University, Illinois, in a doubleheader at the Holmgren Athletic Complex in Chicago Feb. 26.

The Titans (2-0) controlled the first game 4-1 before edging out the Vikings (0-5) 6-5 in the second game. Senior short-stop Matt Scherrman went 7-for-7 in the doubleheader, finishing with three doubles, three singles and a home run in 10 plate appearances.

In the first game, Conner Brinkman finished the game with four strikeouts, giving up no runs and four hits in eight innings pitched to secure his first win of the season. In one inning of work, Logan King gave up one run on two hits and had one strikeout. Scherrman went 4-for-4 in the game, hitting three doubles, a single and was walked once. Mason Kirchberg finished the game 3-for-5 with a home run, two singles, an RBI and two runs.

In the second game of the doubleheader, Cameron Mulvihill gave up two earned runs, six hits and three strikeouts in 5.1 innings pitched, and earned his first victory of the season. Waco pitched 3.2 innings, giving up two runs and three hits, but striking out eight batters to secure his first save of the year. Scherrman went 3-for-3 in the game, hitting a home run and two singles while scoring two runs and getting walked twice. The Titans will be back in action March 4 against University, Missouri (1-2) at GCS Credit Union Ballpark in Saugeat, Illinois, at 2 p.m.

Softball

The UW Oshkosh softball team opened its season by taking both games of a doubleheader against Lakeland University 2-1 and 5-4, respectively, at the UWO Rec Plex Feb. 25.

UWO starting pitchers Maddie Fink and Sydney Nemetz combined to throw 10 innings, allowing no runs and striking out nine batters.

In the first game, Fink pitched five innings, allowing no runs, four hits and struck out four batters to get the win. Abby Freismuth came in as a relief pitcher for the final two innings, giving up one run on one hit and striking out three batters. Sophie Wery finished the game 2-for-2, hitting a home run and a double while scoring two runs.

UWO got off to a fast start in the second game of the doubleheader, taking a 1-0 lead in the first inning after Hannah Ritter drove in Abby Garceau from second base with a single.

Nemetz went five innings, allowing one hit and no runs while striking out five batters to record her first win of the season. Kiley Ryan pitched in relief, allowing four runs on five hits in 1.2 innings.

Garceau had three of UWO’s seven hits in the game, scoring two runs and hitting a triple. Ritter finished the game 2-for-3 with three singles and a run.

The Titans will take on UW-Superior and Lawrence University March 4 at the UWO Rec Plex in a doubleheader starting at 2 p.m.



Arts & Entertainment

# Anthropology Club Spotlight

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

The Anthropology Club helps bring UW Oshkosh students together and gives them the opportunity to learn about anthropological and multicultural views of the world.

The club also is meant to help students develop leadership and communication skills, along with building professor-student relationships and out-of-classroom experiences.

Gloria Eddy, club president, said the club’s main benefits are the relationships gained and the learning experience.

“You get to interact with students and faculty across all of the subfields,” she said. “Anthro Club reminds us that it is important for these subfields to interact because every subfield is equally important to the discipline of anthropology as a whole.”

Eddy said the club can also help students in and out of the classroom.

“[A] benefit is that we have a lot of events that involve the anthropology department professors,” she said. “Creating relationships with your professors is very important as a college student ... it can aid you in finding jobs or internships, help you get into grad school and guide you in deciding what to do after undergrad in gen-

eral.”

Along with allowing space to network with professors and meet other students, the club also hosts events for members to attend.

“Our events are meant to be relaxing and fun while also creating important relationships with others in your field,” Eddy said. “During our events we have a great time and it’s fun being able to interact with peers and professors outside of a classroom setting.”

Some of the events held by the Anthropology Club include anthropology jeopardy, a pizza party with the department professors and pub nights.

“We also try to get more people excited about anthropology by hosting speaker events,” Eddy said, adding that later this semester they have a forensic dentist coming to speak on campus.

She recommends those who are interested in anthropology in any way join the club.

“Events are a great environment to ask questions about anything including classes, the different subfields, opportunities and anything else,” she said.

Her favorite part about the club is the people she’s met and the friendships she’s made.

“I’ve personally made a lot of friends being in Anthro Club and having friends who are pursuing the same major as you or have the same interests as you can make



Courtesy of Anthropology Club  
Anthropology Club hosts many events throughout the semester including pub nights and more.

college a lot more enjoyable,” Eddy said.

The UWO Anthropology club began decades ago.

“The club has been around since the late 1980s or early 1990s, but since then it hasn’t always

been active,” she said. “During COVID-19, the club hit a period of inactivity and we’ve been trying to increase participation in the club ever since.”

Since the pandemic, the club has gained more members every

semester.

If you’re interested in joining the club, contact Eddy at eddyg66@uwosh.edu. Information for club meetings are posted on the third floor of Swart Hall.

# Graduating seniors reminisce at Greek Awards

By **Katie Pulvermacher**  
pulvek45@uwosh.edu

Graduating UW Oshkosh Greek Life members are reflecting on their time in philanthropy after the Greek Awards celebrated the dedication of the 11 chapters on Feb. 26.

“Considering I never even considered Greek Life to be an option for me, I would have to say I never expected to become so involved,” fourth-year student Jack Liddicoat said.

Liddicoat is a member of Delta Sigma Phi. He previously served as the vice president of membership development and president of the chapter. He currently serves as the new member educator for Delta Sigma Phi.

“Ultimately, I view myself as someone who wants to see things done ‘the right way,’ which led me to run for and be elected into the positions I have held,” Liddicoat said. “I also credit [my girlfriend] Mattie for motivating me to engage further with the whole of the Greek Life Community, rather than my chapter alone.”

Liddicoat won the Outstanding Senior in Fraternity Life award and his chapter received Fraternity Chapter of the Year.

“For the award of Outstanding Senior, I felt that winning it meant my efforts had been properly recognized,” Liddicoat said. “Serving as a fraternity president can sometimes be a thankless task, as most of its duties are not seen by those within the chapter. This award meant that those sleepless nights, stressful meetings, etc. were all worth it.”



Sam Sasin

He said his chapter faced a number of difficult circumstances during his presidency, but as a united chapter, they were able to move forward toward a brighter future.

“As for Chapter of the Year, I found that to be more a reflection of the combined efforts made by my fellow brothers,” Liddicoat said. “I am thankful that our brotherhood was able to receive such an honor.”

Liddicoat said the biggest thing he’s taking away from Greek Life is the immense sense of brotherhood he found within his chapter.

“I have developed friendships with a number of guys that I know will be a part of my life forever,” Liddicoat said. “That alone is enough to take away and is far more important to me than any leadership opportunities I may have received. I am thankful for such opportunities, but the bonds amongst my brothers is what I value most as I move on from UWO.”

Fourth-year Gamma Phi Beta

member Sam Sasin said she’s feeling nostalgic after the Greek Awards.

“I truly had no idea what I was getting myself into when I first joined,” Sasin said. “No one in my family had ever been involved in Greek Life so it was a whole new world to me.”

Sasin served as education vice president in 2020, chapter president in 2021 and was the vice president of recruitment and retention on the Panhellenic Council in 2022. She won the Founders Award and the Outstanding Senior in Sorority Life award.

“These awards mean everything to me,” Sasin said. “I like to challenge myself and taking on an entirely new leadership role after serving as my chapter’s president is extremely difficult and is hardly ever done. I was determined to stay involved even as a senior and these awards are something I earned through all that hard work and dedication.”

She said she is thankful for all the leadership experiences and relationships she made by being a member of Gamma Phi Beta.

“I was lucky to meet some amazing women in my sorority early on who have become some of my best friends,” Sasin said. “They really inspired me to push myself because they told me that they believed in my potential to do great things. I have those sisters to thank for where I am today.”

Both Liddicoat and Sasin encourage students to join Greek Life and see for themselves what it’s all about. Fill out the Greek Life interest form here: [tinyurl.com/UWOFSLInterestForm](https://tinyurl.com/UWOFSLInterestForm).



Jack Liddicoat

Other award winners included:

**Founders Awards**

- Amitai Wheat, Alpha Phi Alpha
- Guillermo Pernia, Delta Sigma Phi
- Kailey Cohen, Zeta Tau Alpha
- Mark Putzer, Omega Delta Phi
- Yingyakia Vang, Gamma Alpha Omega

**Outstanding Greek Scholar**

- Emelia Smith, Zeta Tau Alpha

**Greek Philanthropist of the Year**

- Alissa Wade, Zeta Tau Alpha

**Outstanding Recruitment Counselor**

- Raeann Hefter, Alpha Xi Delta

**Emerging Fraternity Member of the Year**

- Jonah Gagnon, Beta Theta Pi

**Fraternity Member of the Year**

- Grant Steffen, Beta Theta Pi

**Emerging Sorority Member of the Year**

- Elyssa Belling, Zeta Tau Alpha

**Sorority Member of the Year**

- Mattie Beck, Zeta Tau Alpha

**Staff Adviser of the Year**

- Tyler Volkert, Beta Theta Pi

**Alumni Adviser of the Year**

- Kim Katz, Sigma Sigma Sigma

**Chapter Awards**

**Highest GPA Spring 2022**

- Omega Delta Phi (Fraternity)
- Zeta Tau Alpha (Sorority)

**Highest GPA Fall 2022**

- Alpha Phi Alpha (Fraternity)
- Sigma Sigma Sigma (Sorority)

**Most Improved Fall ‘21 to Spring ‘22**

- Sigma Sigma Sigma

**Most Improved Spring ‘22 to Fall ‘22**

- Sigma Pi

**Outstanding New Member Program**

- Zeta Tau Alpha

**Outstanding Social Media Presence**

- Zeta Tau Alpha

**Outstanding Philanthropic Program**

- Zeta Tau Alpha

**Outstanding Inclusive Excellence Program**

- Gamma Phi Beta

**Chancellor’s Awards for Greek Excellence**

**Excellence in Leadership Development**

- Zeta Tau Alpha
- Alpha Xi Delta

**Excellence in Brotherhood/Sisterhood**

- Gamma Phi Beta
- Sigma Pi

**Excellence in Civic Engagement**

- Zeta Tau Alpha
- Delta Sigma Phi

**Excellence in Scholarship**

- Sigma Pi
- Sigma Sigma Sigma

**Excellence in Greek Unity**

- Delta Sigma Phi

**Sorority Chapter of the Year**

- Alpha Xi Delta



# Has Gen Z canned commitment?

By Aubrie Selsmeyer  
selsmeyeau72@uwosh.edu

My parents have always said that my generation has it so much easier connecting with each other via cellphones and social media.

And although I love the convenience of having all of my friends at my fingertips, I sometimes wish it wasn't that easy. Life would be so much simpler if we spent less time communicating through our phone screens and more time face-to-face.

In fact, sometimes I feel like the amount of time we spend talking through a screen alters our ability to function in verbal conversations. Social media has caused a disconnect in our lives.

Not only has social media/technology affected the way we communicate face-to-face, but how we interact with significant others. According to Pew Research Center, 51% of Americans admitted to their partners being distracted by a cellular device while they are trying to talk to them.

On the flip side of things, social media is used to reminisce about past relationships with about 53% of people saying "they have used these platforms to check up on someone they used to date or be in a relationship with," according to the Pew Research Center.



Aubrie Selsmeyer / Advance-Titan

The Statista Digital Market Outlook estimates the number of online dating users in the U.S. to increase to 53.3 million by 2024 compared to 44.2 million in 2020.

Social media nurtures relationships built over the phone and makes it too easy for people to keep tabs on their exes, two very unhealthy habits.

And it wouldn't be the digital age of dating without the "talking phase."

So what exactly is the talking phase? Cosmopolitan describes it like this, "the apparently Gen-Z-coined phrase is a vague descriptor for an early pseudo-relationship full of texting and talking — and

maybe even full-blown dates and hookups — but no commitment."

The talking phase is basically a pre-dating stage where you may even accidentally get yourself entangled in a messy situation -- a romantic or sexual relationship that's not yet defined -- that no one wants to find themselves in.

The key thing to note about this phase is that it's predominantly

just texting.

Many relationships don't make it much further than this stage because, unfortunately, some people are just better at texting.

If you're anything like my parents and you're still wondering what exactly it means to "talk" to somebody, here's the quickest way I can summarize it: Talking isn't dating, but in order to date, you must conquer the talking phase. Makes sense, right?

It is everything that a relationship entails without actually calling it a relationship, because that's way too scary.

My dad told me that when he met my mom he had to remember her phone number and write it down when he got home from the bar, and by some miracle, he did

it. Their talking stage consisted of phone calls over the rotary dial phone from his kitchen.

Social media has falsified relationships and made them unnecessarily confusing for everyone.

In this digital age of dating, you have to remember two things: don't get yourself into a situation-ship, and don't keep tabs on your ex on social media.

# Don't have a dream job? Me neither.

By Kelly Hueckman  
hueckk24@uwosh.edu

A few weeks ago, a professor of mine asked the class: "What's your dream job?"

Most of us have heard this question before, dating back to our elementary school days when our answers were along the lines of "an astronaut," "a veterinarian" or "a princess."

Now, as a college student, I heard responses like "a sports broadcaster," "a pediatrician" or "a social studies teacher." All of these are fine occupations and certainly serve a great purpose in society.

But then another hand shot up, and a girl said, "Well, I suppose my dream job would be to not have a job... but still get paid."

If you're anything like me, I'm willing to bet that last option doesn't sound too bad; I'd take a lifetime of vacation over any job, especially considering I don't have my heart set on one.

No, I've never really envisioned myself 15 years down the line and saw myself in a specific occupation that truly fulfilled me.



Kelly Hueckman / Advance-Titan

About 1/3 of college students change their major at least once, according to a past study by the National Center for Education Statistics.

But does that mean we're lazy if we don't have a dream job? Are we passionless empty shells of being that have no motivation in life and, by default, are inherently useless?

The short answer: no.

The less short answer: Not everyone has a dream job and not everyone needs a dream job.

Past studies show that a significant percentage of college students change their major within three years of enrollment, though this percentage varies by students' original fields of study.

Just because we graduate, does that mean we can no longer change our mind, or are we subject to a lifetime in a profession we chose before our pre frontal cortex was even fully developed?

We shouldn't feel obligated or pressured to be passionate about a single career path. As humans, it's in our nature to grow, evolve and change — and we shouldn't bully ourselves out of that because we don't have a dream job.

Now, don't confuse this with

me telling you to quit your job and pray for the best; I'm not saying that at all.

Our society relies on people getting their jobs done. Getting up and going to work — whatever work that may be — is integral to having a functional civilization, and along the way, there are bound to be jobs that most people don't want to do.

Still, your garbage needs to be picked up, your grocery store's shelves need to be stocked and that deer you hit on your way home from work needs to be dragged off the side of the road.

I'm sure the people that perform these tasks didn't pipe up in second grade and say "Yeah, my dream job would probably be to pick up roadkill off the highway," or "It's always been my calling to stack nonperishables — especially when they're on a BOGO sale."

But this doesn't make any of these people any less successful, because a job title does not always need to define a person. They get their check, just like electricians and dog trainers and painters and security guards, but they also have a life *outside* of their careers.

Fulfillment doesn't always come from your 9-5; it comes from hobbies, spending time with family, getting your friend through her first breakup, teaching your dog a new trick, traveling or whatever else might brighten your day.

So, can we finally let go of the idea that we need to have a dream job?

The question of what your dream job is or if it exists certainly requires us to make some much-needed self-exploration, and can even give us some guidance.

Still, if you can go to your job and not hate your life every single day because of it, I'd say you're on the right track. If it also puts food on your table and pays for rent, you've got it made.

That's not to say that we shouldn't take pride in our work, which can be extremely rewarding for some.

But we shouldn't seek total achievement in *only* our jobs. Instead, we should aim to fulfill ourselves by enjoying ourselves outside the workplace.