

# The Advance-Titan

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## ‘It all started with a pair of underwear’ *Tiny houses offer struggling families a chance at self-sufficiency*

By Jessica Duch  
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By the end of her 34-year career, Julie Dumke, a former Oshkosh area teacher and co-founder and executive director of the Oshkosh Kids Foundation (OKF), realized some students needed more help than they were getting outside of school to be successful in their education.

“Something dramatically happened,” said Dumke. “The poverty level of Oshkosh went from very little to the fastest growing city of extreme poverty in the state of Wisconsin.”

The issue became exceedingly clear when Dumke spoke with a new gym teacher who said her students had stopped changing for class.

“I started questioning her on that, ‘Is it the attitude?’” said Dumke. “And she said, ‘No – there’s a whole bunch of kids who don’t have underwear – and they’re embarrassed.’ And I’m like, ‘What? It’s Oshkosh!’ You know, that’s not happening here.”

But Dumke soon realized how real the issue was. “When you look at the data, it’ll say it’s about 39% poverty level. Our northside schools are about 75%. So, of four kids, that means three kids are living in poverty.”

The revelation motivated Dumke to help children in crisis and led to a partnership with Wilson Jones, the former CEO of Oshkosh Corp., to start a foundation that would help children of struggling families find stable housing and education and become self-sufficient.

“At that time, our thought was we’d be buy-

ing backpacks or paying fees, or, sometimes giving haircuts because they couldn’t afford it,” said Dumke. “Never did I think at that time that we’d be building a Tiny House Village (THV) for homeless families.”

But amid COVID-19 and a moratorium on evictions, the foundation spent around \$26,000 a month to put 28 families in hotels. Dumke and OKF Board President Will Deppiesse knew they needed to find a creative solution to give families the best chance to succeed.

“That led to the Tiny House Village and the concept of having supporting services on site so that it’s not just people getting shelter,” Deppiesse said.

During their 18-month stay, families must take classes on things like financial literacy and employability skills, as well as meet additional requirements.

“To apply here at THV they must qualify for our TBRA (tenant-based housing assistance) and receive a voucher for this program,” said Cori Laux, the homeless prevention specialist at the Tiny House Village.

“They pay a portion of their income, and then the rest is covered by the rental assistance voucher,” said Deppiesse. Families continue to receive the voucher for 6



Jessica Duch / Advance-Titan  
(Top) Houses line the street of the Tiny House Village (THV). (Middle) A view of a kitchen inside one of the homes. THV provides an 18-month stay for homeless families.

months after graduating from the village.

The ultimate goal for the village is to be self-sustainable, with heated sidewalks to eliminate the cost of snow removal, residents mowing the lawn and the prospective installation of solar panels to eliminate electricity charges and bring in more money for services.

“That was TJ’s idea,” said Dumke of their first big donors, TJ and Valeta Rodgers. “He wanted to pay for and design the houses, and they had to be solar.” Rodgers is an Oshkosh native who founded Cypress Semiconductor and served as the business’s CEO for 34 years.

While they successfully carried out their idea, building the THV still had its many challenges.

“It was one year of meetings with the city because we don’t fit into any box,” said Dumke. “Our houses are not really considered houses; they’re not considered trailers. The city of Oshkosh was incredible in working with us to make this happen.”

“I’d say the other thing is that it was a difficult construction environment,” Deppiesse said. “There was a lot of inflation in materials and labor costs of construction, so the project cost ended up being higher than anticipated.”

Initial costs of construction were estimated at \$3.5 million, while the final cost totaled about \$6 million due to inflation, additional site requirements and more support needed from their construction partner, D&J Quality Construction.

Beyond the challenges of constructing the village, Laux also brought up obstacles that families dealing with homelessness may face.

“All families that have experienced homelessness also have faced some form of trauma, as well as difficulties providing necessities for their children,” she said.

“If you don’t have transportation, it is hard to find a job, make it to important appointments and to provide diapers, formula and food for their family,” Laux said.

Dumke said she believes the foundation and the village are a step in the right direction to help fami-

lies break the cycle of poverty.

“Every person deserves to have a home,” said Dumke. “It’s not a privilege, it’s a right.”

While Deppiesse and Dumke said there are no current plans to expand the village or the foundation, they could always use help from UWO students and the community.

“As we have more and more classes for families, or for the parents at the Tiny House Village, we’ll continue to need some support to help watch the kids in a neighboring room so the parents can concentrate on the programming,” said Deppiesse.

“If folks are interested from a monetary perspective, we do still need to raise money for the Tiny House Village, and we’re always going to find needs for the families,” he said.

During her Fireside Chat at UWO in October, Dumke also said she wanted to leave students with a piece of advice.

“Don’t ever put yourself in a box. Never tell yourself never. Because that’s just a label, and you can do anything. I’m proof positive,” she said.



Courtesy of Oshkosh Kids Foundation



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**Correction Policy**  
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Courtesy of Reeve Marketing



Courtesy of UWO Archives

(Left) Oshkosh 94 member Sheila Knox speaks alongside a panel of other members about Black Thursday’s impact on UWO. (Right) WSU-O student Henry Brown gives the black power sign during the protest inside of Dempsey Hall on Nov. 21, 1968.

# POV: The Oshkosh 94

## Remembering the legacy of Black Thursday

By Josh Lehner  
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UW Oshkosh faculty, staff and members of the Oshkosh 94 — a group of African American students who were expelled after protesting for equal rights on campus — spoke during a remembrance ceremony about the protest and its lasting impacts.

The event, which featured a panel of former students who were expelled following the 1968 protest, aimed to highlight the history of racial discrimination on campus and in Oshkosh, and how the community and campus have changed since.

In addition to the Oshkosh 94 members who spoke, UWO Professor of History Stephen Kercher and university archivist Joshua Ranger also gave presentations during the event.

### The history of Black Thursday

UWO, named the Wisconsin State University-Oshkosh (WSU-O) at the time, was growing rapidly. WSU-O was the largest public university in northeast Wisconsin in the 1960s, and by the end of the decade, it was one of the fastest growing universities in the country.

With increasing enrollment came flocks of new students, many of whom were African American. Kercher said that Oshkosh, like many of the surrounding cities, had a very small minority population.

“There used to be a larger African American community in Oshkosh [prior to the 1950s and 60s],” he said. “[But] these populations were either driven out or intimidated to make them feel unwelcomed.”

So the growing African American population at WSU-O was often met with mistreatment and ostracization.

One of the event attendees explained his experience on campus during this time while playing on the basketball team.

“I played with athletes that didn’t want to be involved with me [and] didn’t want me on the team,” he said.

When riding to away games, he said he had to sit in the back of the bus by himself.

“I would sit in the back of the bus and put my sunglasses on so they couldn’t see the hurt in my eyes,” he said. “And the coach would come back to me and say, ‘How are you? Are you going to be alright?’ I said, ‘I’ll be ok.’ But I was hurt.”

Continued mistreatment and discrimination led to the organization of Wisconsin’s first Black Student Union (BSU) in February 1968. The BSU advocated against the mistreatment of African American students in dormitories and in favor of fair grading policies, as well as African American history and literature courses.

But their requests went unanswered and, as the African American population on campus grew in fall 1968, racial tensions escalated.

Kercher stated on his website dedicated to Black Thursday that students were regularly called racial epithets, taunted and that, in at least one recorded instance, pelted with rocks by local teenagers.

Continued mistreatment by students, locals and the WSU-O administration led members of the BSU in October 1968 to give the administration a list of requests, including African American history and literature courses, the hiring of black faculty and the creation of an African American Cultural Center.

But by November, as time passed and nothing had appeared to be done, members of the BSU became impatient. Determined to make their voices heard, they agreed to march to the executive offices in Dempsey Hall the following day and confront university President Roger Guiles.

On the morning of November 21, 1968, 90 African American students organized with a list of demands for Guiles to sign.

Entering Guiles’ office, a group of the students presented him the list, which he rejected, saying that he did not have the sole authority to enact the demands.

Accounts of what happened after Guiles denied the demands varies, but, Kercher stated on his website, a spout of vandalism ensued, with “typewriters thrown to the ground, desks overturned, ink spilled onto carpets, windows broken and administrative files and records strewn about.”

Resolved to see change, students

vowed to wait in the executive office until the appropriate actions were taken to enact the changes.

In the midst of the commotion, a group of white students and plainclothes police officers had amassed outside of Guiles’ office. Shortly after that, a group of Oshkosh police officers in riot gear showed up.

The students were arrested and received charges such as unlawful assembly and disorderly conduct, with some being taken to prisons as far away as Green Bay.

News of the incident spread, causing black rights activist James Groppi to travel to Oshkosh in a show of sympathy. Additionally, nearly 1,000 activists marched down Algoma Boulevard toward the Winnebago County Courthouse in a show of support.

Continued protests caused Guiles to close WSU-O five days before Thanksgiving break in an effort to lower tensions. Guiles also sought to permanently expel the students who entered his office.

Some students were given the choice of returning to WSU-O, but most pursued their education at other universities.

Oshkosh 94 member Richard Brown said that, after he graduated from high school in 1968, he received a letter stating that, if he agreed to become a teacher, he would be financed for free. So he came to WSU-O.

“I was only here for about three months, and after I was expelled from all the universities in Wisconsin, I went to the University of Missouri, Lincoln University, ACB College,” he said. “And I fulfilled my ambitions and became a teacher, and I taught for 28 years at Rufus King,” he said.

Kercher’s website on the history of Black Thursday can be found at [blackthursday.uwosh.edu/index.html](http://blackthursday.uwosh.edu/index.html).

### Black Thursday’s impact

During a Q&A session, the panel of Oshkosh 94 members discussed what has changed since Black Thursday. Sheila Knox said that she’s seen a lot of changes on campus since then, including a lot more diversity.

“Many of the African American faculty and staff that you see were not there then [in 1968],” she said.

“There is a women’s center and a black studies program. There are many things you may take for granted that are here.”

Joel Johnson also said he’s seen a lot of change since then.

“The African American multicultural center still exists; it started in 1969,” he said. “And I’m proud to see that it’s still housed on campus.”

Robert Hayes said that there were about seven African American students on campus when he arrived in 1965. And, despite the positive change that’s developed since then, there have been some negative changes, too.

“I never thought, 60 years ago, that we would be taking some steps backward,” he said. “When you’re talking about critical race theory, taking books and things out of the libraries. ... That’s a change also, but it’s not a change for the better. You can’t learn one way and about just one culture. Those are things students have to stand up for.”

The panel also thanked UWO Chancellor Andrew Leavitt for his apology to the Oshkosh 94 and their families during a Black Thursday remembrance event in 2018. Leavitt is the first university administrator to formally do so.

Another change highlighted by the panel was the creation of the Center for Student Success and Belonging, which aims to help students reach their full potential at UWO through various initiatives. Byron Adams, the center’s director, spoke about how the Oshkosh 94 impacted the center’s creation.

“I think the reason we have so many support services on campus ... is because of the efforts of the Oshkosh 94,” he said. “I’ve been on campus now for 20 years ... so I’ve seen a lot of the changes that have happened.”

He also encouraged students to stay engaged and advocate for the things they need.

“Engagement works,” he said. “Using your voice, making sure that your needs are being met, and challenging us — as staff, administration, as faculty — to make sure that your needs are being met and you’re getting the experience you’re paying for, is important. You see the fruit of what that kind of action does.”





Courtesy of Heidi Nicholls

Students from Heidi Nicholls’ Ethnographic Methods class serve as student researchers for the Inclusive Excellence and Sense of Belonging Research Project. Various tasks they perform include developing interview questions, analyzing focus groups, writing field notes and drafting research papers from findings.

# Doing right by students

## *Focus groups aim to create a space for all students*

By Katie Pulvermacher  
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In an effort to learn the truth about student experiences at UW Oshkosh, Anthropology, Global Religions and Cultures Assistant Professor Heidi Nicholls and her student researchers turned to the experts: students.

“I want people to see that we can affect change,” Nicholls said. “No matter how it feels sometimes, people do care on this campus. We want to do right by our students. We want to honor our students. We want to learn and do better for our students. In order to do that, we must listen to our students.”

The original research was initiated by a previous student, Mia Wilson. She and Nicholls were trying to understand how to create more inclusive spaces for non-monoracially white students on the UWO campus and beyond. Thus began the Inclusive Excellence and Sense of Belonging Research Project.

“In the last year I found myself in spaces where we were discussing why students come to UWO, why they leave [and] the drop/fail/withdrawal rate,” Nicholls said. “However, we weren’t asking the students why. We weren’t asking the experts of their own experiences what was going on. I knew then I wanted to turn to the experts and learn.”

The research project began pre-COVID-19 and was recently brought back this past spring semester.

There have been around 15 focus groups and more than 20 semi-structured interviews with

more than 100 participants. In the most recent iteration of this research, there have been eight focus groups with about 50 participants and 20 more people asking to be interviewed.

There are different ways students can partake in the research. The first option is one-on-one interviews to delve deeper into individual experiences, reflections and wisdoms.

The second option is to join a focus group, in which other participants may evoke an idea, memory or topic you can contribute conversation to. Participants are welcome to join in both types of sessions.

Students on all three of the Oshkosh campuses are invited to participate in the research.

“The benefit of participating is lending your voice to this conversation,” Nicholls said. “Sharing your insights and wisdoms into these conversations ensures they are noted. People see what it’s like to be proactive and to actively be the change one may wish to see. This is about community building, enhancing and self-advocacy.”

Nicholls is working with students in her Ethnographic Methods class to collect data.

“My role in this project is as a student researcher,” Frankie Kerkhof said. “The team has been working on understanding the functions of ethnographic methods, developing semi-structured interview questions, participant and indirect observations, learning how to write field notes and drawing common themes from that data as each student has been learning how to craft their re-

search project prospectus to potentially use in the future.”

Although taking the class is a major-related requirement, Kerkhof said being a part of the team has meant much more than that.

“While I am doing this research as a class [and] major requirement, I have developed a passion for ethnographic research and understanding humans within their contexts, and, especially after this research project, this is a path I want to pursue as a career,” Kerkhof said. “I am also creating my own research topic in this class that will be a branch off of the inclusive excellence and sense of belonging topic that I will have completed by the end of the year and hopefully published in the future.”

Jon Bye, another student researcher in Ethnographic Methods, said he first got to know Nicholls in spring 2023, and her expert tutelage is the reason that he is in the course and an anthropology major.

Bye said his research roles are extensive thanks to Nicholls’ willingness toward student input in the project.

“I have taken part in such roles as assisting our team in formatting interview and focus groups questions, conducting semi-structured, one-on-one interviews, noting and analyzing focus groups, participant observation around campus and even working as a team to construct our first draft of a research paper – soon to come.”

Kerkhof said students should partake in this project because each student’s experience and story is meaningful and deserves to be recognized and heard.

“Since each person has a different story to tell, it is impossible to say what each student will take away from their experience, but I hope all students will feel empowered that their voice is heard and has the power to effect change,” Kerkhof said. “In order to get a better understanding of how students are feeling and thinking at UWO, the more students are willing to participate, the better understanding we will have.”

Nicholls said the sessions so far have given a lot of insight into the student body.

“I am not going to share any findings at this time as I want to allow people to come in and share their own truth,” Nicholls said. “What is clear is students on this campus have such innovative, creative and actionable ideas.”

Stipulations to the research are that no faculty or staff can be in the room during the studies, everyone needs to sign an informed consent and each participant must provide Nicholls with their pseudonym which is kept filed and locked away.

“My first priority is to protect the identities of participants,” Nicholls said. “One-on-one interviews provide an extra layer of protection. Of course with focus groups, I cannot control humans and their narrative once they step outside of the room. I share that as a potential risk. But I do ask that we honor one another and respect each individual’s privacy. I take the code of human research ethics very seriously.”

Kerkhof wants students to know that they are welcome to speak their mind in the research interviews and groups.

“There has been so much change and adaptation at UWO this past academic semester alone,” Kerkhof said. “As a student, I know the feeling of not knowing what to do or how to help or that students don’t feel like they have a say in what will happen moving forward. But I would like to encourage all students ... to speak up and tell their stories.”

Bye said he hopes some of the recommendations that come from the research will drive changes at the university.

“I hope that we can accurately scratch the surface of the variety of unique experiences that students have on our campus, with the greater purpose being to make recommendations for, not only changes that could be made around campus, but also, importantly, to validate and promote the structures on campus that are already doing good work supporting our students,” Bye said.

Nicholls said she hopes to identify what the university is doing well with, what it can improve on and what is missing.

“I want humans to know that we can shape, challenge and negotiate the spaces we operate in,” Nicholls said. “We can be the builders of our success. If that inner voice tells you, no one cares what I think, I’m telling you I do. Let’s make this a place that is better than we ever imagined.”

To participate in the Inclusive Excellence and Sense of Belonging Research Project, students can email Nicholls at nichollsh@uwosh.edu or watch their school email inboxes for emails from Nicholls on upcoming opportunities.



# UWO runs at nationals

By Jacob Link  
linkj13@uwosh.edu

Sophomores Cameron Cullen and Paul Proteau represented the UW Oshkosh cross-country team at the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships, with Cullen finishing 135th and Proteau finishing 91st in the men’s 8,000-meter race held Nov. 18 in Newville, Pennsylvania.

Proteau finished inside the top 100 after coming in at a time of 25:38.5 while Cullen claimed a time of 25:56.0.

UW-La Crosse’s Ethan Gregg took the individual title, winning the race with a time of 24:02.4. Following closely behind was Christian Patzka from UW-Whitewater, who claimed second place with a time of 24:20.07.

Cullen said running at the national meet was a surreal experience.

“Being able to represent not only myself but also my whole team and my family, who were supporting and cheering me on, was super exciting,” he said. “Competing against the best runners from around the country has helped to enhance my drive and desire to chase even greater performances and achievements as my career progresses.”

Proteau said running at the national championship meet was one of the most intense things he’s ever done.

“There was a unique thrill to [the meet] that made it fun and really challenging,” he said. “It reminded me of my first state meet in high school which is a race I really hadn’t thought of in a while. The environment of it all was completely foreign, but I knew Cameron and I had to go out there and just give it the best effort we could.”

Pomona-Pitzer (California) edged out UW-La Crosse for the team title, finishing with 158 points to UWL’s 159. Cullen said his goal for next season is to make it back to nationals with the entire team.

“It was an extremely fun experience, and one I will never forget, but definitely would be a lot more fun racing next to all the people who helped push me day in and day out throughout the whole season.”



Morgan Feltz / Advance-Titan

The UWO volleyball team celebrates its victory over La Verne University Nov. 18 at the Kolf Sports Center to advance to the Elite Eight.

# Titans advance to Elite Eight

By Nolan Andler  
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The UW Oshkosh women’s volleyball team hosted the Regional rounds of the Division III NCAA Women’s Volleyball Tournament on Nov. 16-18, taking down all three opponents to advance to the Elite Eight in Claremont, California.

The Titans swept their first two opponents in Greenville University (Illinois) and Gustavus Adolphus College (Minnesota), and beat the University of La Verne (California) 3-1 to clinch a spot in the quarterfinal round.

In the matches against the Panthers and Gusties, UWO hit 37 kills on 93 total attacks against the Panthers then against the Gusties, the Titans totaled 40 kills off of

112 total attacks. One of the biggest moments in the meet vurses the Gusties, The Titans opened up to an 11-1 lead in part thanks to four straight aces from Izzy Coon.

In the match vurses La Verne, despite losing the first set to the Leopards, the Titans were able to come back and win the match 3-1 behind 23 kills from Riley Kindt. The win gave the Titans a spot in the quarterfinals.

UWO now has their sights set on the quarterfinal round. Not only is this the first time that UWO made the quarterfinal round since 2009, but according to the tournament’s seeding, UWO will be the No. 1 seed in the final three games of the tournament.

The Titans will play their first game in Claremont against the No. 8 seed and host school Clare-

mont-Mudd-Scripps on Nov. 29 at 9 p.m. Central Standard Time. If they win, the Titans will advance to the semifinal round of the tournament and will play the winner of Johns Hopkins University (Maryland)/Hope College (Michigan) at 9:30 pm on Nov. 30. All of the games will be held at Claremont.

The Titans first opponent, the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Athenas (25-5) are the defending champions of the Southern California Intercollegiate Conference for the sixth straight season and are also the No. 8 nationally ranked team. The Athenas are led by Jenna Holmes. Holmes leads the team with 392 total kills and averages 3.96 points per game.

Johns Hopkins University, the No. 9 team in the American Coaches Volleyball Association

poll are coming into the Quarterfinal round behind their seventh straight championship in the Centennial Conference. The Blue Jays (25-4) are led by Simrin Carlsen. Carlsen is the team leader in kills with 447 and averages 5.16 points per game.

Hope College, the No. 2 team in the AVCA poll are the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association Conference champions with a 30-2 record. The Flying Dutchmen are led by Addie VanderWeide. VanderWeide leads the team with 482 kills and averages 4.34 points per game.

UWO took on vs Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Nov. 29. Check the results of the game at the UWO athletics website at uwoshkoshtitans.com.

# UWO men’s basketball improves to 4-1

By Jacob Link  
linkj13@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh men’s basketball team improved to 4-1 on the year last week after defeating both Edgewood College and North Park University.

Senior guard Will Mahoney scored a game-high 23 points to lead the UW Oshkosh men’s basketball team past Edgewood College 82-67 Nov. 21 at the Todd Wehr Edgedome in Madison.

The Titans (3-1), ranked No. 25 in the nation by d3basketball.com, held Edgewood (0-3) to 41.9% shooting and forced 16 turnovers. UWO shot 50.9% from the field but the Titans were held to just 23.5% shooting from behind the arc.

Mahoney nearly finished the game with a double-double, grabbing nine rebounds to go along with his 23-point performance. UWO had three other double-digit scorers, with forward Joseph Adamson and guard Quinn Steckbauer both

scoring 16 points in the contest. Guard Carter Thomas added 10 points while guard Michael Metcalf-Grassman scored five points off the bench.

Edgewood was led by forward Drew Houtakker, who scored a team-high 14 points and grabbed four rebounds. Cade Ellingson had 12 points and seven boards while Trey Traeder scored 11 points on 3-for-8 shooting from behind the arc.

The Titans jumped out to a 5-0 run to begin the game after Steckbauer knocked down a jumper to begin the game and nailed a 3-pointer on the next possession. The Eagles tied the game at five apiece with a Traeder 3-pointer and Edgewood took the lead a minute later after Ellingson knocked down another shot from 3-point land.

Both teams traded baskets for much of the first half and the game featured six lead changes in the first 15 minutes of the contest.

Turn to **Basketball** / Page 5



Morgan Feltz / Advance-Titan

Jay Dalton (10) gets a screen from Joseph Adamson (15) earlier this season.



Sports



Scoreboard

Saturday, Nov. 25  
Men's Basketball  
UWO - 69  
North Park University - 64

Monday, Nov. 27  
Women's Basketball  
UWO - 67  
Benedictine University - 41

Upcoming Events

Thursday, Nov. 30  
Wrestling  
vs. UW-Stevens Point at 7 p.m.  
Swimming and Diving  
at Carthage College Classic at 4:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 1  
Women's Basketball  
vs. DePauw University at 5 p.m.  
Swimming and Diving  
at Carthage College Classic at 9 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 2  
Women's Basketball  
at Washington University in St. Louis at 5 p.m.

Wrestling  
at Milwaukee School of Engineering Invitational at 9 a.m.  
Swimming and Diving  
at Carthage College Classic at 9 a.m.  
Track and Field  
at at Ripon College Winter Open at 11 a.m.

A-Trivia

What is the UWO volleyball's highest placement in the NCAA D-III tournament?

Answer: Second place in 1994



Morgan Feltz / Advance-Titan

UWO's Will Mahoney rises for a layup in Oshkosh's home opener against Illinois Tech at the Kolf Sports Center Nov. 8.

Basketball: UWO defeats North Park

**From Page 4**  
UWO ended the half on a 14-4 run behind 3-pointers from Matt Imig and Reed Seckar to take a 34-28 lead at halftime. The Titans started the second half on a 4-0 run to extend their lead to 10 points. UWO maintained a double-digit lead for most of the period and with 10 minutes to go, Oshkosh embarked on a 19-9 run to take their largest lead of the night at 74-55. The Titans saw their lead cut to as low as 11 points, but UWO cruised to their third win of the season. Mahoney and Steckbauer combined for 38 points to help the UW Oshkosh men's basketball team take down North Park University (Illinois) 69-64 Nov. 25 at the Kolf Sports Center.

The Titans (4-1), ranked No. 25 in the nation by d3basketball.com, shot 43.1% from the field and 48.0% from behind the arc. UWO held the No. 21 Vikings to 44.3% shooting as a team and 13.6% from 3-point land. Mahoney scored a game-high 20 points on 4-for-7 shooting from behind the arc and grabbed nine rebounds. Steckbauer finished with 18 points on 7-for-16 shooting from the floor. Thomas added 10 points while guard Jay Dalton scored six points off the bench for the Titans. North Park had three starters finish in double figures with Phil Holmes Jr. scoring 18 points, Kolden Vanlandingham finishing with 16 points and Shamar Pumphrey adding 11 points. Vanlandingham grabbed seven

rebounds while Pumphrey finished with six boards. Vanlandingham knocked down a 3-pointer to give the Vikings a 5-0 lead, but Oshkosh fought back to take a one-point advantage with 15 minutes remaining in the half after an Imig layup. North Park went on a 9-3 run midway through the period to take a six-point lead, but back-to-back baskets from Mahoney and Steckbauer put the Titans ahead 18-16 two minutes later. Oshkosh maintained the lead until a 3-pointer from Vanlandingham tied the game at 24 with less than two minutes to play. With 46 seconds to play in the half, Holmes Jr. converted on a layup but Adamson threw down a dunk with 26 seconds to go to tie the game at 26 apiece and close out

the first half scoring. The two teams traded baskets for the first five minutes of the second half until Seckar and Thomas nailed 3-pointers which extended Oshkosh's lead to six points. The Titans saw their lead grow to 11 points with 10 minutes remaining, but the Vikings cut the UWO advantage to 57-54 with six minutes to play. Vanlandingham converted on a layup with 22 seconds left to bring the Vikings to within four points, but two free throws from Mahoney iced the game with nine seconds to play as the Titans hung on to a five-point win. The Titans will hit the road to take on Whitworth University (Washington) at the Whitworth Fieldhouse Dec. 7 at 9 p.m.

Fischer winningest coach in program history

By Owen Larsen  
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The UW Oshkosh women's basketball team participated in the St. Norbert Nicolet National Bank Tip-Off Tournament in De Pere on Nov. 17 and 18, winning both of their games in the event by wide margins. The Titans weekend started with a matchup against the University of Olivet (Michigan). Olivet (2-1) found themselves stifled immediately by the Titans' defense. Olivet was only able to muster one point the entire first quarter. The game entered halftime with the Titans leading 37-16 after Olivet picked it up on offense in the second quarter. The second half mirrored closer to the first quarter when the Titans defense held Olivet to only 11 more points the rest of the game, allowing four points in the third and seven points in the fourth quarter. The Titans offense held its own with the team distributing the scoring very evenly, leading to a 80-27 victory, improving their record to 3-1. The 53-point victory was the largest by UWO since Nov. 21 2017 when they beat Edgewood College 93-31. The Titans would continue to ride their momentum the following day against Northland College. UWO held Northland

to single digits in each quarter of the game. UWO distributed the ball evenly once again and shot nearly 50% on the day. The dominant display by the Titans resulted in a 83-17 victory, improving their record to 4-1. The whopping 66-point victory was the largest UWO victory since earlier in the 2017-18 season, when they beat Manchester University by 68 points with a score of 95-27 on Nov. 18. Head coach Brad Fischer improved his coaching record to 239-66 after the weekend. His 239 victories made him tied for most in program history with Carol Anhalt, who went 239-124 from 1971-89. Fischer had the opportunity to have the record all to himself after their next game where they faced Benedictine University (Illinois) on Nov. 27. In the matchup, the Titans holding their opponents to a low score remained the theme. The Titans held Benedictine to single digits in each of the first three quarters. The Titans had a slow start on offense with only nine points in the first quarter but were able to pick up the pace for the rest of the contest. While outshooting Benedictine by a 22% margin and getting a 20-point outing by senior Kayce Vaile, the Titans headed to a decisive 67-41 victory. This gave Fischer his 240th win as head coach, making him the



Courtesy of UW Oshkosh Today

UWO women's basketball coach Brad Fischer has a 240-66 coaching record. winningest coach in program history. Fischer and the Titans will look to continue their momentum at the Washington University McWilliams Classic in St. Louis, Missouri where they will play DePauw University (Indiana) and Washington University in St. Louis (Missouri) on Dec. 1 and 2.



# Sports

## Wrestling seniors prepare for final season

By Nolan Swenson  
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UW Oshkosh wrestling seniors Adib Korabi and Cody Welker are hoping to leave their mark in their final season with the Titans.

Korabi was born in the United States, but lived in Syria and Saudi Arabia. He said that when he was young and still living in the Middle East, he enjoyed wrestling; however, when he came to the U.S., he began his career after being urged by his mother to pursue wrestling professionally.

“I wrestled and fought, but I didn’t know about the sport. In 2013 I moved back to the U.S. and I received a paper in the mail about wrestling tryouts,” he said. “After the first day I hated it, but my mom wanted me to stay. After the second day, I fell in love with it.”

Korabi said that he credits his mother for him reaching this point in wrestling.

“If it wasn’t for her I probably wouldn’t still be in the sport,” he said.

While looking at colleges, Korabi said that he had no intention of coming to UW Oshkosh; however, due to wrestling recruiting, he fell for the school and didn’t look back.

“I had no intention of coming here. I planned to stay in Jersey and wrestle DII or DIII, but the former coach called and recruited me,” he said. “After that, there was nowhere else I would have rather gone.”

Being a member of a team is give and take between the players and the program. Korabi said his contribution to the program is his spirit and in return, the program has made him grow as a person.

“What I give is that I make the energy in the room higher. I push people to be better, more physical and on a path to championships,” he said. “The team has given me brotherhood, knowledge of the sport and has made me grow as a man.”

Korabi said that he has high hopes for the season, and that it’s off to a better start than last season, even before they’ve begun competing.

“All the weights this year will be filled and I’m hoping to have a better record than last season, because a lot of guys from the 2024 class are returning,” he said. “There’s better energy in the room than last year.”

Korabi said that after his team winning the team’s Black and Gold Classic, he was impressed with everyone’s performances.

Welker said that he began his wrestling career around the same age circumstance as Korabi; after their parents had found out about their respective programs and pushed their kids to go.

“I was a kid about 5 or 6 years old and all I did was play video games and my mom and dad figured it was time to make me do something,” he said. “They found an ad on the floor and my dad committed me from there. It took me a while to get into it, but I’ve been doing it since.”



Courtesy of Adib Korabi

UWO’s Adib Korabi attacks his opponent in a meet last season. Korabi was born in New Jersey but lived in both Syria and Saudi Arabia.

During high school, Welker qualified multiple times for state and been a champion several times in his conference (sectional and regional). His highest achievements were placing fourth in state his junior year and fifth-place his senior year.

Welker said that when deciding colleges, Oshkosh stood out for its team. Welker’s friends and previous teammates had also coordinated to attend the same school.

“The biggest thing was the team that was here and the friends I came to school with,” he said. “A few of my friends that I came with are still on the team to this day. It was a group decision to be honest and we came here together.”

Welker said that the team dynamic is special and that choosing Oshkosh for its closeness has paid off in the relationships its given him.

“Our team is special in that aspect, I’ve known so many [of my teammates] for a big part of my life. When I came here on my visit, me and my friends found it easy to get along with everyone on the team and to set the culture of family on the team. There’s no one on the team I wouldn’t consider my best friend or brother.”

A previous UWO wrestler also inspired Welker, as he said that the player had coached him before UWO and was a powerful Titan athlete at Oshkosh.

“Nazar Kulchytsky is one of my club coaches from before UWO and he’s a big part of why I came to Oshkosh,” he said. “He’s one of the biggest names to come out of UW Oshkosh and I’ve looked up to him since I’ve met him.”

Welker said that the team has never been as close as in his years as an athlete, and that he expects that culture to continue

once he leaves.

“The team dynamic will continue for many years; there will never be another UWO wrestling team that is not close to each other compared to past years,” he said.

Korabi is pursuing a degree in the College of Business, but he intends to pursue a career in professional fighting.

“My major is project management... at the moment I don’t have any jobs lined up,” Korabi said. “My biggest dream as a kid was to fight, so I plan to pursue MMA after college. It’s up in the air, but I plan on training in Texas or Florida.”

Welker intends to stay in Wisconsin for work, while also bringing up the next generation of Wisconsin’s wrestlers.

“I’m a marketing major and I don’t have anything lined up, but I hope to go into the sales or marketing field,” Welker said. “I’ll probably stay in Wisconsin and coach a youth club in Oshkosh. (I) have family in Wisconsin, so I’d like to stay in the region.”



Courtesy of Adib Korabi

UWO’s Adib Korabi was pinned by UW-La Crosse’s Cole Hansen in his last 165-pound match Nov. 9. The Titans have started off the season 0-2 and will face UW-Stevens Point at home Nov. 30.

## UWO wrestling falls to Blugolds

By Emily Buffington  
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The UW Oshkosh wrestling team was defeated by nationally ranked UW-Eau Claire in the ninth Chancellors’ Cup on Nov. 15 at the Kolf Sports Center.

The Titans (0-2, 0-2 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) collected one match win in the meet, and dropped the remaining matches to the Blugolds (2-1, 1-0 WIAC), who are currently

ranked eighth in the nation by the National Wrestling Coaches Association. The final score sat at 49-6.

Andrew Schad secured the Titans’ six points, pinning Jaydon Sheppard in 2:39 in the 141-pound contest.

JP Culver was defeated by fall to Sloan Welch in the 125-pound duel, Ira Schlottke was pinned by Landon Church in the 149-pound contest, Joey Spizzirri lost by technical fall (18-3) to Jan Hernandez-So to in the 157-pound tilt and

Connor Collins pinned Tyler Blanchard in the 184-pound match. Michael Loger also lost by technical fall (18-3) to Ryder Depies in the 197-pound duel and Camden Harms put up a fight against Jackson Schichel before losing in a 10-3 decision.

The 133-, 165- and 174-pound duals ended in Titan forfeits.

The Titans will have another home meet on Nov. 30 against UW-Stevens Point at the Kolf Sports Center at 7 p.m.



# Christmas in the Air returns

## *EAA grounds welcomes the Celebration of Lights*

By Mattie Beck  
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The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) is holding its annual Christmas in the Air celebration this Saturday, featuring different activities to kick off the holiday season.

The free event welcomes all community members into the EAA Aviation Museum, 3000 Poberezny Road, which has been decorated to ring in the Christmas season with lights, trees and more.

The event includes the staple of Santa flying in via helicopter on the grounds.

Drew Stephani, EAA communications specialist, said there is plenty of holiday fun for everyone attending.

“We have a full day of activities for families to enjoy including holiday-themed arts and crafts, Santa’s Sleigh Design Challenge and treats at the Sweet Shoppe,” he said. “The main attraction will be at noon when Santa arrives by helicopter (weather permitting).”

Santa’s arrival is planned by a team at EAA to make sure the landing and arrival go smoothly.

“Our Aircraft Operations team does an excellent job coordinating Santa’s arrival every year,” Stephani said. “They keep a close eye on the weather leading up to the event to ensure the flight can be done safely.”

Along with this, other activities include:

- Pictures with Santa
- Letters to Santa
- Holiday-themed arts and crafts
- Santa’s Sleigh Design Challenge
- Cookies, cupcakes and milk at the Sweet Shoppe
- Santa’s Sleigh Design Chal-



Courtesy of Jim Koepnick Photography

The EAA grounds welcome the Celebration of Lights event to their grounds this year for the community to experience.

lenge is new this year, and Stephani said it is a great educational addition.

“Children will be tasked with designing a sleigh to help carry Santa and his bag safely down a zip line,” Stephani said. “This educational activity will allow kids to express their creativity

while also learning some basic science along the way.”

Along with the activities mentioned above, there are also performances from area musicians.

“Many different music, choral and dance groups from the surrounding area will be performing at different locations

throughout the museum, helping showcase some of the wonderful talents within our community,” Stephani said.

The full list of performers include:

- Fox Valley Chorus
- It’s About Time quartet
- Julie’s Touch of Silver
- Lomira Concert Choir
- Lourdes Madrigals
- Oshkosh North Madrigals
- Oshkosh West Madrigals
- Polka Dots
- Valley Christian High School Choir

Christmas in the Air is a team effort from everyone at EAA, Stephani said.

“Putting this event together every year is a team effort involving almost every department within our organization and an outstanding group of volunteers,” he said. “All of these areas working together effectively is what makes this one of the most fun holiday events in the Fox Cities.”

The event is held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and there will be a place for donations of unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots and non-perishable food items for Father Carr’s Place 2B.

Along with this event at EAA, the Oshkosh Celebration of Lights is also taking place on the EAA grounds at 1858 Neunteufel Ave.

“The Oshkosh Celebration of Lights team approached us after learning it would not be possible to host the event at Menominee Park as they have in years past,” Stephani said.

The park is unavailable due to an archeological excavation taking place.

“A road resurfacing project in the park had to be delayed because archaeologists unearthed a Native American village,” Stephani said. “This left very little of the traditional Celebration of Lights path available.”

Stephani said he hopes everyone is able to come and experience the celebration at its new location.

“We were happy to lend a helping hand to keep the long-standing tradition alive this year,” he said. “We look forward to everyone being able to experience the lights, the 5k run and our grounds in a new way.”

The Celebration of Lights opened on Nov. 24 and runs daily from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. through Dec. 31. Admission is \$20 per carload with \$5 off with a donation of a sealed hygiene product or multiple food items. Community Nights offer free admission, with a sealed hygiene or food item appreciated. Remaining community nights will be held Dec. 3, 5, 10, 12, 14 and 21.



Courtesy of Christina Basken / EAA

EAA Aviation Museum visitors will be able to greet Santa at Christmas in the Air on Saturday.



# The ugly truth of the Botox craze

## Gen-Z’s obsession with anti-aging can damage self-image

By Aubrie Selsmeyer  
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Young people are plumping their lips with filler and freezing their nonexistent wrinkles with Botox.

Are these facial alterations an act of confidence or a remedy for insecurities – or is our generation just afraid to age?

Being a twenty-something-year-old girl with access to social media, it’s very easy to be coaxed into a decision to improve my appearance. I’ve purchased many things on impulse that I later realized I didn’t actually need, but modifications to my face may call for more consideration.

This Thanksgiving, my cousin showed up with a new set of lips. “The faker they look, the better,” my 18 year-old cousin told me in regards to her new pout.

And it’s not that her lips didn’t look good, because they did – I just can’t understand why our generation has begun stressing about aging before we can legally order an alcoholic beverage.

We’re paralyzing our faces before we’ve gotten a chance to live in them.

Not to mention the expense and upkeep of these procedures once you’ve started them. It’s a slippery slope of wanting fuller lips, smoother skin, higher cheekbones and slimmer cheeks.

Anyone with a medical license can administer these injections, making them easily accessible in almost any office where medicine is practiced.

Injections have become the temporary alternative to cosmetic surgery, lasting three to nine months depending on what you have done. However, it is far more nonchalant, quicker to heal from and easier for people to conceal that they’ve had “work done” – which makes it a favored option to going under the knife.

These temporary fixes allow people to change with the trends. Big lips may not be in next season,

so thankfully your filler will have fizzled away with last season’s hype.

Dr. Kevin Brenner, a Beverly Hills doctor, told BuzzFeed News he “sees fillers as a way to test out your options for eventual surgical intervention.”

“On my younger patients, [Botox and fillers] are the gateway drug to surgery,” he said. “They come in and they get hooked on it, and eventually they start needing surgery because it doesn’t really have the same effect anymore, especially on the filler side. I use fillers a lot in combination with surgery, but I also use it as a bridge to surgery for different things. So it’s great for patient retention.”

Brenner’s statement alludes to the idea that eventually these fillers won’t fulfill your aesthetic desires anymore and you’ll resort to surgery for a more permanent fix. They’re merely a gateway until you’re so displeased with your appearance that you feel you must permanently alter it.

But hey, it’s great for patient retention!

Brenner goes on to say that in regards to transparency about having work done, younger generations are far more likely to discuss and even display these changes across social media whereas older generations shy away from it.

“My younger patients, millennials who were brought up with it, are way more open,” Brenner told BuzzFeed News. “There’s a big group of patients who are totally jazzed about me filming them, which is totally crazy to me. The older patients aren’t necessarily wanting anyone to know about it; the younger patients are more inclined to do it.”

Thank you, social media, for making us all a little too comfortable broadcasting the ins-and-outs of our personal lives on the internet. It is equal parts fascinating as it is harmful.

There would be no pressure for fuller lips and chiseled jawlines if



Courtesy of Oceanview Med Spa

Younger generations are much more likely to be transparent about getting cosmetic work done than older generations, according to Beverly Hills doctor Kevin Brenner.

we didn’t see it on social media first. In most cases, we are content with ourselves until we are convinced otherwise by social media influencers and celebrities.

It’s not to say that enhancing your features cannot be empowering, but it is rather alarming to see that so many young people are changing their looks before

they’ve given themselves a chance to grow into them.

The idea of beauty has become this elaborate equation with one correct answer, warping the common perception of what someone (especially a woman) should look like.

The beauty trends change with every season and every city and

you’ll never be quite perfect for any environment you find yourself in. There will always be someone with the next best thing on this merry-go-round of status chasing.

So no, you don’t look like every other photo of a touched up face on Instagram, and that’s a good thing.

## Advance-Titan Weekly Mix

Curated by the A-T editorial staff



1. End of Beginning - Djo
2. I’ve Got a Friend - Maggie Rogers
3. Northern Attitude - Noah Kahan
4. Professional - Tollbooth
5. Famous Last Words - My Chemical Romance
6. ‘87 Stingray - Tory Lanez
7. Slut! - Taylor Swift
8. I Believe In Peace - Shayfer James, Kate Douglas
9. Rockstar - Nickleback
10. First Time - Hozier

