

The Advance-Titan

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What will those leaving do next?

By Kelly Hueckman, Anya Kelley and Katie Pulvermacher

In October, 140 UW Oshkosh employees received layoff notices as administrators cut positions, offered early retirement and more to whittle down the university's \$18 million budget deficit. These notices stunned some while others said they saw it coming.

Two things are apparent: One, the university is losing hard-working employees. And two, UWO will be far different when most students return for the spring semester and so many familiar faces are gone.

Here's just some of their stories:

Debbie Gray Patton

Debbie Gray Patton started working at UWO in 1995. Throughout her 27 years at the university, she was ever-present and involved herself in as much as she could.

"I always joked that I personally loved college so much that I never wanted to leave, and that's why I work at a university," Gray Patton said. "I've always enjoyed working with students right out of high school and seeing them early on and getting to see them graduate. That's always super fulfilling."

Gray Patton's first position at UWO was working as a hall director for four years. She left UWO for about two years and returned to the university to work in the Dean of Students office for 12 years. In that position, she worked with accessibility services, worked on new student orientation and advised panhellenic organizations, along with her Dean of Students office work.

"Working with new student orientation, although exhausting, was super fun because you got to meet tons of people, current students as well as incoming students," Gray Patton said. "I liked working in the Dean of Students office very much. I think that in many ways, it was a perfect fit for me."

After, she had a split position with the Honors College and the University Studies Program (USP) before working completely for USP since 2014.

Gray Patton has been a team fellow for men's basketball and softball teams, has advised a fraternity for nearly 12 years and helped reform general education with the start of USP.

Being one of the many people laid off due to the budget deficit the university is facing, Gray Patton is now looking for new job opportunities.

"I'm kind of in a tough spot because of my age and my years of service," Gray Patton said. "I'm not old enough to technically retire in the UW System, but yet this is my 27th year. With that, there are certain benefits, and it would be nice to get a job in the system. That's something I'm considering, but I'm also open to considering other things."

Despite the circumstances, Gray Patton said she will still continue to support Titan athletics and UWO's students.

"Even though this is an out-of-my-control situation and it is not an awesome way to end, I'm not going to let it impact my feelings of the previous 26 years," Gray Patton said.

Isabel Álvarez

Isabel Álvarez started teaching in the fall of 1999, right after she finished graduate school. UWO has been her only place of employment.

"The current situation has impacted me and my work in ways that I had never imagined," Álvarez said. "My initial goal was to enjoy my last semester as much as possible."

Álvarez is from Spain, and after three decades of living in the U.S., she wants to relocate back to Spain and her family.

"Given the incentive to retire early and the situation of the university in general and the Department of Global Languages and Cultures in particular, it was clear to me that it was the perfect time to retire," Álvarez said.

Despite retiring, she doesn't have definite plans on moving to Spain in the summer.

"I would like to continue teaching Spanish, but, most likely, as community service," Álvarez said. "There is a large immigrant community in Spain, a good number of them minors in need of learning Spanish and I would like to be involved in that effort. Translating and private classes might be an option too."

Álvarez said her time at UWO has been amazing, but leaving is bittersweet.

"I got to work with the best colleagues, and I am proud of what



Debbie Gray Patton has worked at UWO for 27 years in USP, the Dean of Students office and as a hall director. Her love of UWO is evident through spiritwear, posters and photos at her desk.

my students have accomplished," Álvarez said. "I am excited about starting a new chapter in my life but, at the same time, sad for colleagues and students, who will have to navigate through very turbulent waters in the near future."

Kari Meszaros

Kari Meszaros' first thought was of her family when she received one of 140 layoff notices at UWO.

"[I was] just thinking about the financial implications and what that means," Meszaros said. "All of those things were going through my head. How do we make sure we are able to do the things we need to do to take care of our family?"

The news came just over a month before her husband's last day at his job, where his role was outsourced. He had worked at the same company for his entire career and worked his last day Dec. 1.

Mesaros has been a career development manager in the Student Success Center since she was hired by UWO in July 2022. After receiving her layoff notice, she said one of the biggest struggles has been balancing the task of searching for a new job while still being committed to her current job.

"[I'm] definitely feeling the

push and pull of 'do the job,' 'do the job search,'" Meszaros said.

Although she tries to keep a positive outlook on her career, she said it can be difficult to maintain this.

"I can't lie and say they have all been good days, because they haven't all been good days," Meszaros said. "But, in general I try to have a good attitude."

She said one of her main goals as she finishes out her final semester in her position is to ensure her coworkers who are staying have the resources they need to succeed in the future.

"Even those staying have an uphill battle," she said. "How can we, those who are leaving, support them to set them up for success and try our best so that the students get what they need?"

Mesaros said that although she is still figuring out the next stage in her career, she is trying to practice what she teaches to students doing the same.

"Being patient and trusting and trying to do the work so that you're going to be okay is a process," she said. "It isn't always easy."

Ash Bott

Ash Bott has worked as an administrative assistant in the Writing Center for almost two years.

"It still doesn't feel real, to be honest," Bott said. "Despite

spending the last couple months trying to put my life back together, I still can't believe that this is happening. Working with students was a dream, and it still hurts my heart every day to have had that ripped from me."

Since the layoffs, Bott said they have had to make sure things are set in the Writing Center before leaving.

"I have spent the last several weeks basically trying to train our student employees how to run this place without me, which has been interesting," Bott said.

Bott is also a graduate student, and the layoff has affected this significantly.

"Having my income, health insurance and stability torn from me in my first semester of grad school was, to put it lightly, difficult, and I've had to put school on hold basically while trying to put my life back together."

As a student at UWO, Bott can't relocate, can't work standard 9-5 hours and doesn't qualify for unemployment.

"The university has done nothing to help me or other students who were laid off," Bott said. "Every time I bring it up to them, it's just crickets. It's been so hard to go to school every day at a university where I feel so unseen, unheard and stepped on."

Turn to **Layoffs** / Page 3

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Kelly Hueckman/ Advance-Titan

(Left) Buxton looks over emails in her office. (Right) Buxton wears a bracelet that says 1908, the year Alpha Kappa Alpha was established. Buxton was a member as an undergrad, and wears the bracelet to remind herself of her involvement on campus.

Advocating community on campus

How Jasmine Buxton views UWO

By Kortney Marco
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It was the community that drew Jasmine Buxton to UW Oshkosh earlier this year as the associate vice chancellor for student affairs and dean of students. But it’s that same community she hopes will keep students here.

Buxton said she noticed the community at Oshkosh even as she was taking campus tours during the interview process. She could tell students enjoyed being here.

Buxton knows how important it is for students to feel that sense of community.

“I think it is different here as a person of color,” Buxton said. “I don’t see a professional community of people who look like me.”

Helping students feel like they belong and are welcomed is a goal of Buxton’s.

“I just want to make sure that students are picking up what we’re putting down,” she said. “What we are really saying is we want you to be here. We want this to be your first-choice school.”

Prospective students should know UWO will give them a great education and experience if they are involved in school activities and organizations, Buxton said.

“I want students ... who come here to say, ‘hey I want to be here. I love it here,’” Buxton said.

She also wants students to get past the stress the COVID-19 pandemic caused.

“I want us to get back to UWO of what it was prior,” she said. “I am trying to do that through student government, fraternity story, life, accessibility center housing.”

The college experience is more than just going to class, she said.

“I want you to go to class,” Buxton said. “Please go. Please learn. Please study. Please take the test. Please get an A. But outside of that, a bunch of other things can enhance your in-classroom experience.”

Buxton personally knows the importance of being involved during college. She was part of Alpha Kappa Alpha as an undergraduate. Buxton always wears a bracelet with the founding date of AKA, 1908, to signify her involvement with this sorority.

“I was involved with so many things,” she said. “I had a really good time in college ... and I learned how to do a lot of stuff. I loved going to class and my professors, but I loved everything outside of class. Not just parties, but meetings and sorority stuff.”

Her realization that she enjoyed helping students helped her decide to pursue a different career than her first choice of being a civil rights attorney.

“I wanted other students to have the same experience that I had,” Buxton said.

Oshkosh Student Government (OSG) Vice President Pro Tempore Jesse Ramsey said Buxton has had an impact on student government.

“She is always friendly, helpful and encouraging,” Ramsey said. “The attitude she brings to OSG is extremely positive overall, and the fresh ideas that she brings to the table have massively benefited OSG and ... the student body as a whole.”

OSA President Ben Blaser agreed.

“She has been very helpful with us all,” Blaser said. “She assisted us in amending our constitution, changing our name to OSG, planning events and much more.”

Buxton graduated from Miami University with a bachelor’s degree in Black World Studies, and from Indiana State University with a master’s degree in Student Affairs and Higher Education. Before Oshkosh, she worked at Delaware State University as associate vice president for student affairs, and later as senior associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students for about seven years, before starting her job at UWO in January.

Buxton said she loves working in student affairs.

“Higher education is interesting because ... you can do the same job at a different school ... and have a completely different experience,” she said. “I really came for a different experience to understand a new student population. (Oshkosh) just seemed like a good next step for me professionally.”

Buxton hopes to be an advocate for students by being an example for them.

“I try to help them,” Buxton said. “I try to be an example for them because of my role, my degrees, because of all this stuff. I want to help students figure out who they want to be and who they need to be.”

This advocacy extends to all students regardless of race, background and gender.

“Helping students from marginalized backgrounds feel like they belong here,” Buxton said. “Not just at this particular institution, but in the state, in the country. Helping them find a voice.”

UWO senior Jayden Flowers said Buxton has helped her adapt as a young Black woman on campus.

“Dr. Buxton is extremely helpful and understanding,” Flowers said. “She checked up on me throughout the end of the semester and helped me with the process all the way through.”

Flowers said she appreciates Buxton’s role.

“I appreciate Dr. Buxton being one of the very few Black faculty here at UW Oshkosh,” she said. “Being a young Black woman in a PWI (predominantly white institution) can be overwhelming at times and it is nice to know I have someone like Dr. Buxton in the role ... to positively impact this campus as a whole.”

Not only has Buxton been an example for students, but she also plans to include alumni experiences as well.

“My intention would be to engage alumni differently,” Buxton said. “Talk to the person who actually went here, who lived in this building, who did all the things, and had that professor. College is about legacy and I love that.”

Buxton wants students to know that college does not have to be difficult.

“Students need to know college does not have to be scary and doesn’t have to be hard,” she said. “The material can be hard in a certain class, (but) when you want to do something, you will make it work.”

Despite college being difficult, students should strive to complete their degrees, Buxton said.

“One thing you can’t get back ever is time,” she said. “So don’t come up here and mess around.

Buxton on the mic

In February, Buxton appeared on the UWO Now podcast to discuss helping and serving students. Some of the key points she mentioned include:

Buxton said that a lot has changed since she was a student.

“Students have always had issues related to who they are, who they’re becoming, mental issues,” she said. “They are more interested in having the conversation on campuses these days.”

Buxton also addressed the aims and responsibility of reaching out to students.

“The ways (students) communicate (is) always changing,” she said. “So we have to be at the forefront of that. ... A lot of it is about building relationships. It’s important for us to help students build relationships with each other.”

Buxton said that feeling like part of a community includes reaching out and supporting students in a myriad of ways.

“Students coming to college, they want a degree, they want to have fun, they want to be on a path to a great career,” she said. “I’ve appreciated how we’ve moved out of just simply multicultural education and diversity, equity and inclusion, and we’ve really dug into the work of inclusion ... women’s centers, gender equity and all those types of things.”

College is supposed to be a lot of things. We’re here to produce new knowledge.”

Even though college is about degrees, Buxton plans to create a lasting experience for students.

“We want students to develop friendships,” she said. “We want them to engage their faculty. We want them to feel like they belong. We want them to feel safe here. We want them to be prepared for life when they leave here for internships or for jobs.”

Calling all crime junkies!

UWO alumnus publishes book on unsolved cold cases from Madison

By Katie Pulvermacher
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“Be open-minded to different opportunities.” That’s the advice of UW Oshkosh alumnus, Kevin Damask after his journalism degree led him to publish his first book, “Cold: The Unsolved Murders of Seven Young Women” – a book sure to interest any true crime connoisseur.

His book answers these questions: What happened to seven young women, all around the same age, between 1968 and 1982? Why haven’t the cases been solved? Was a serial killer stalking the quaint capital city of Madison, Wisconsin? Why was key evidence destroyed by local law enforcement?

Two of the seven cases included in the book are of UW Madison students, the first case from 1968 and the last case in the book from 1982. The five cases written in between those two were women also around 20-21 years old.

“A lot of those cases (I wrote

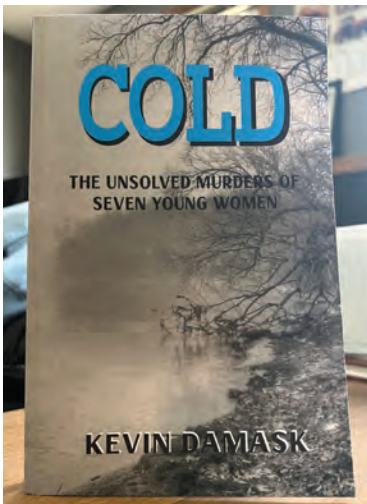
about) in the middle (of the book) happened in the late ’70s, early ’80s and there was a legitimate fear in the Madison area that a serial killer was stalking the area and abducting these young women,” Damask said.

In his book, Damask goes into the controversy over some lost evidence from a few cases that was discarded by local police forces in Madison. He focused some of his interviews concerning this.

“It’s maddening to think now that if this evidence wasn’t thrown away in the late ’80s, some of these cases would’ve been solved by now,” Damask said. “We’d have some DNA on that evidence to go after (if it wasn’t discarded). It’s really perplexing and makes you think. As journalists, you go after things that make you think and intrigue you.”

While the book is uncovering the truth behind the seven cold cases, Damask also worked on telling the stories of the young women.

“Another goal with the book



was to try to humanize the victims and to find out who these young women were as people,” Damask said. “I think that gets overlooked in news coverage. Oftentimes they over sensationalize the cases. If it doesn’t get solved right away, it often gets forgotten about.”

The book was inspired by a 2017 feature story he wrote for Capital Newspapers in Madison that won him a Wisconsin Newspaper Association award.

“I researched a bunch of cases (in the Portage, Juneau County and Wisconsin Dells area) and wrote a long form piece and interviewed detectives,” Damask said. “From that, I thought it would be something to dive further into for a book. I’ve always been interested in true crime especially now with the advances we have in DNA and genealogy to solve these old cases. It fascinates me.”

Damask said his career had its bumps along the way.

Following graduation with a journalism degree in 2005, Damask worked for the Oshkosh Northwestern, then at a small daily newspaper in South Dakota before returning to Wisconsin in 2007 for various reporting jobs.

“I worked for a few different papers for a while (in Wisconsin) and had a couple of tough years around ‘08 and ‘09 with a pretty big recession that hit,” Damask said. “I got laid off two times in less than a year from two different papers. It was pretty devastating, but I kept at it. I knew I wanted

to be a journalist. I kept going for the dream.”

He currently works for the Veteran’s Hospital in Madison on a program called My Life, My Story, where he interviews veterans and writes their life stories.

“It’s really a rewarding job,” Damask said. “I’m always amazed with the different people I meet.”

Damask said if he was asked if he would’ve written a book 10 years ago, the answer would’ve been no. He said it’s never a bad thing to take chances.

“I think a lot of students come out (of college) looking for their dream job right away,” Damask said. “Be open minded and don’t be afraid to work through things if you hit a rough patch. Don’t let a setback knock you off course.”

If you’re interested in purchasing Damask’s book “Cold,” you can buy it on Amazon.

“I worked hard on it,” Damask said. “Especially if you’re interested in true crime and cold cases, (this is a good book to read). It will appeal to a lot of people.”

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Layoffs: What’s in the future?

From Page 1

With the lay-off, Bott will be working two part-time positions this spring in order to make ends meet. Bott will start a position at Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services as a crisis advocate, and in January, as a graduate assistant on campus.

“I just need something to keep me afloat and insured while I’m in grad school; hopefully life will get a little more normal once I’m done with school,” Bott said.



Haylea Van De Yacht / Advance-Titan

Meghann Krueger

M e g h a n n Krueger was affected by the layoffs in her position as department assistant of sociology & public administration.

“I am still sad and frustrated that my employment is ending at UW Oshkosh, but I am confident that everything happens for a reason,” Krueger said. “I know my work experience and education will help me find a job that is the best fit for me.”

Krueger is applying for jobs and has signed up for the UW Oshkosh Priority Placement program, in which “eligible employees who have received notice of layoff or have otherwise been terminated due to budget or pro-

Debbie Gray Patton was affected by the layoffs. She said it has been fulfilling to meet students right out of high school and then see them graduate from UWO.

gram decisions are provided the opportunity to apply for non-instructional vacancies at UW Oshkosh before they become available to the public,” according to the UWO website.

Krueger said despite the layoff, she will continue to give quality service and effort until the end.

“I have continued to serve our students and my colleagues with the same professionalism and dedication I always have,” Krueger said. “Both students and colleagues have been very supportive, and they deserve the best customer service I can provide.”

EAA Museum highlights local history

Free webinar showcases historic flight of Clyde Lee

By Mattie Beck
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The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) will host a webinar on Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. to highlight Clyde Lee.

Clyde Lee, an Oshkosh resident, aimed to be the first pilot to fly from America to Oslo, Norway.

His journey will be highlighted in this webinar session, digging into the journey Lee made.

Lee was set to win \$10,000 as a reward for accomplishing the flight, and had originally painted his plane with the Oshkosh B’Gosh logo before a sponsorship fell through.

While on the journey, Lee and his flight partner were lost without a trace, disappearing during the attempt.

Earl Iverson, an Oshkosh resident, served as Lee’s flight manager and preserved photographs that are present today in the EAA Museum.

The webinar is set to highlight an event in local history, said Drew Stephani, the EAA communications specialist.

“We believe there are several people in the Oshkosh area that have no idea this event ever occurred,” he said. “Having the



Courtesy of EAA Museum
Clyde Lee poses by his airplane that will be used in his historic transatlantic flight attempt as the first to fly from America to Oslo.

opportunity to share this unique piece of local history is really special to our team.”

The webinar event is one of many that EAA puts on throughout the year.

“The event is part of our museum webinar series that tells the story behind some of the aircraft and/or artifacts within the EAA museum’s collection,” Stephani said.

Hosting the webinar is Museum Manager Chris Henry and Museum Collections Curator Amelia Anderson.

“I hope people are reminded about how far back Oshkosh’s aviation lineage goes,” Anderson said. “We’re more than just AirVenture.”

Anderson hopes that people also learn more about Lee and his journey.

“Oshkosh had a local in the 1930s catch the aviation bug and attempt a transatlantic flight,” she said. “Even though Lindbergh had flown to Paris already five years prior, it was still a treacherous journey and courageous act.”

Anderson will be leading the session through looking at donated items.

“A local man came into pos-

session of items belonging to Earl Iverson and donated them to us,” she said. “I just thought it was an interesting angle to tell Clyde Lee’s story from.”

The webinar is free to attend, but registration must be completed beforehand due to limited spots, registration can be done at pages.eaa.org/2023-12-12WBN_ClydeAndEarl_LP-Registration.html.

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Confessions of a Mall Santa

By Kelly Hueckman
hueckk24@uwosh.edu

Visiting Santa in the weeks leading up to Christmas has been a longstanding tradition for many families.

This year, Cassie Kappus, a mother of three, made over an hour-long drive to the Fox River Mall just to have her daughters take photos with Santa for the sixth year in a row.

“Memories and photos last a lifetime, so it’s something that you’ll never get back,” she said.

What some families might not realize, however, is just how much work goes into getting that picture-perfect Christmas memory.

On the outside, sitting on a gingerbread throne and smiling for photos might seem like a pretty straightforward (and maybe even desirable) job, but there’s more than meets the eye when it comes to working as a Mall Santa.

Al “Santa Al” Vollmer from Kimberly, Wisconsin opened up on the ins and outs of working as Santa for 18 years.

Spoiler: It’s not all milk and cookies.

It takes more than just a beard and a belly

That’s what the Santa who scouted Vollmer in an OfficeMax parking lot said when explaining the requirements to play the king of the North Pole.

On top of looks, Vollmer said it takes a certain type of social skills to keep the holiday cheer steady throughout the day.

“More so than just the appearance, you have to have the desire and the willingness to be a little bit patient with people and stay friendly,” Vollmer said.

The main mission of Mall Santas is to create a welcoming atmosphere for children — or “youngsters” in the Santa world — while making core memories for families efficiently.

“You gotta make sure you’re attentive to what’s going on with your photographer and your youngster and you have to be able to put the youngster at ease,” he said. “You have to have a little bit of personality is what it boils down to.”

However, it does help to have a white beard and an ample belly, also known as “the cookie zone” in the Santa business.

Christmas lists can take a dark turn

Typically, Santas are asked for common, popular toys from that year, whether it’s Tickle-Me-El-

mo, Heelys or, especially in 2023, Barbie.

However, Vollmer said he’s been caught off guard more than once by children’s requests.

“They’d say it with all sincerity, ‘Santa, can you make Mom and Dad stop fighting?’” Vollmer said. “I mean, what do you answer to that, you know?”

He said some children’s wish lists were more somber than others, with some asking for parents to come home from prison or military deployment.

Since Santa unfortunately cannot deliver on all requests, Vollmer said he shifts the focus to the fact that the youngster is loved and cared for.

“Those are really difficult things to answer,” he said.

Not all Santas go to school

While there are some professional Santa courses across the country, Vollmer received relatively little training before being thrown into the deep end that is the mall food court.

However, in the minimal training he did receive, Vollmer said the No. 1 rule is to keep hands visible in the pictures to avoid any inappropriate incidents or accusations.

“Santas have been accused of doing improper things with their hands,” he said.

To keep everyone safe, Vollmer said it’s standard practice to keep hands in the photos at all times, although this can be tricky with two or three kids on his lap. (And yes, he has had to hold trip-lets at once for a photo.)

The second rule of Santa training is to never promise children anything, since his jurisdiction over gifts ends after families take their photos. This way, children who don’t receive the gift they asked Santa for are let down a bit easier.

“You say, ‘Well, we’ll try,’ ‘We’ll see’ or ‘We’ll do the best we can with that,’” he said. “They do ask for expensive things.”

Santa never breaks character

In order to maintain the fantasy of Santa, it’s important for Mall Santas to stay in character at all times.

Occasionally, this can prove to be a challenge, especially in tense situations. Vollmer said he recalled one instance of a woman hitting her grandson’s face for misbehaving.

“I just lost it,” he said. “I said, ‘Ma’am, how dare you strike that child in Santa’s presence.’”

However, once he’s suited up, it’s typically an easy task to stay in character, Vollmer said.

“It’s really not too difficult to do that, you know,” he said. “You’re there and you’ve got the suit on, so you’ve got the image down.”

Parents can be naughty, too

Holidays are stressful for everyone, and crowded spaces, long lines and screaming children can cause tensions to rise for some parents taking their children to see Santa.

Vollmer said that in some venues, he’s had to be escorted by mall security guards in order to take his lunch break.

“People would be very angry,” he said. “They were actually using vulgar language, cussing.”

... and sometimes they’re too nice

Children aren’t the only ones who get excited for Santa; Moms do, too, Vollmer said.

“A lot of them like to kiss me on the cheek for the photo, and when they do that, I open my mouth real wide like I’m surprised,” he said. “But I know it’s all in fun.”

He does have a few lines he saves just for some of the more flirtatious visitors.

“I tell them, ‘Make sure Mrs. Claus doesn’t get a hold of this photo or I’ll be in big, big trouble,’” he said. “Or, ‘What about your husband; does he have a gun?’”

Yes, Santa’s been peed on

Mall Santas can sometimes have up to 60 children an hour placed on their laps — this leaves a lot of room for accidents. However, Vollmer said he’s only had one nervous youngster have an accident on Santa.

“He was somewhat frightened of Santa, but he was going to be tough and he got up on the knee,” Vollmer said. “Then I felt just a little bit of warmth on my left knee.”

Vollmer handled with grace what might have sent some people into panic. In the event that a child has an accident on Santa’s lap, he simply excuses himself for a short break to clean up without causing a scene.

Don’t worry; it didn’t stain the suit.

Santas get battle wounds

While many children are excited to see the man who’s supposedly going to bring them a pile of Christmas gifts, some are less than thrilled by a strange man in a red suit, Vollmer said.

“There are children who just don’t want anything to do with Santa,” Vollmer said. “Many are all excited to see Santa until they get a few feet away. They turn their faces away from Santa, cling to their parents and start crying.”

It’s not uncommon for upset children to show this in the final photo, where they’ll be captured with screaming or crying faces.

Vollmer said these photos can be fun in the future, but a little traumatic at the time, and even Santa doesn’t come out unscathed.

“The worst part of those photos for Santa is the bruised shins from the kicking little feet,” he said.

Santa loves his job

Despite the hardships, Vollmer said most Santas enjoy their job, and that he will even be Santa off the clock.

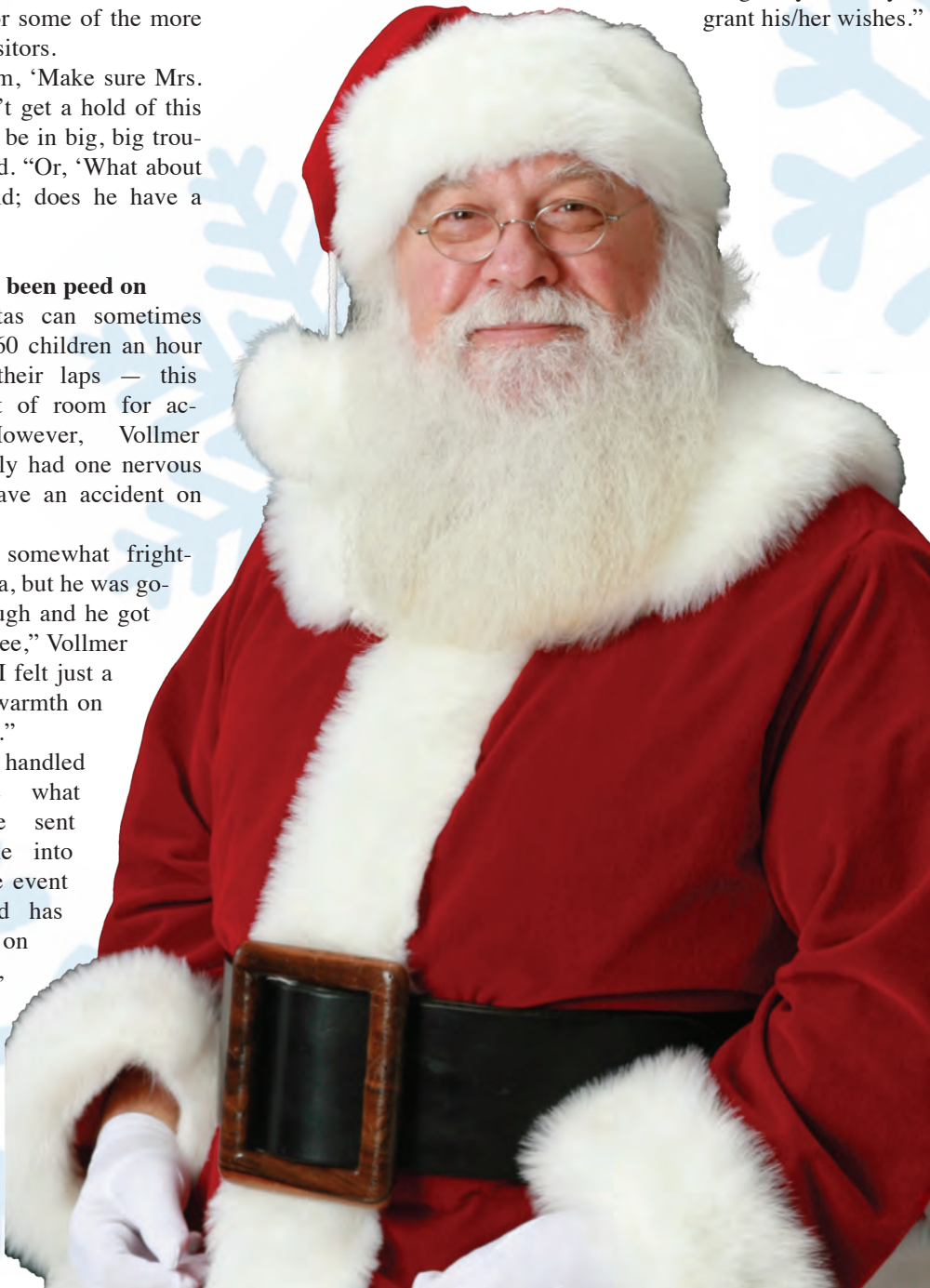
“I love being Santa,” he said. “I visit year-round with children that I see in stores, restaurants and on the street.”

He said some of his favorite memories have been meeting people with unique histories, including a 96-year-old woman who had visited Santa every single year.

Another woman, Vollmer said, came to him in tears of joy because she’d just brought her baby to Santa, despite being told she wouldn’t be able to get pregnant.

Vollmer said he’s grateful he ended up with the traditional Santa appearance with his full beard and belly, which allowed him to create some of his favorite memories.

“I always say that it is a blessing from God that He made me to look this way and allow me the privilege to do this work,” he said. “After all, that child is counting on you to try to grant his/her wishes.”



Senior Send-Offs

So long editor (and the many ceiling tiles)

By Katie Pulvermacher
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The Advance-Titan office and its staff have been my home for the past three years. I wouldn't be where I am today without the craziness of writing for UW Oshkosh's student newspaper.

Let's break it down.

My path to journalism wasn't the most conventional. I have to thank my brother for starting my love of journalism. Sorry in advance, Tyler.

Tyler took a journalism class in high school and didn't do too hot. The class produced content for my high school's newspaper, The Hartford Chronicle. Me, as a younger sibling, with competition on my mind, took the same class my junior year to prove I could do better.

I did in fact do better.

I took the class again my senior year but returned as opinion editor and co-editor. My time with the HC was brutal yet exhilarating.

There's no way I'd be as good of a journalist without the HC's adviser, Mr. Carter. Thank you for teaching me how to write a compelling story and being the best teacher ever.

Fast forward to college. I chose to go to UWO mostly for journalism, but subtly to follow in my parents' footsteps as UWO alumni.

I joined the A-T staff my second semester in spring '21. I wrote weekly opinion and news stories and took sports photos in Kolf when there were no fans in the

stands because of COVID-19.

My first editor position was news editor in fall '21. It was great getting back to working on pages and using my creativity.

I picked up managing editor in fall '22 along with news editor. My ambition was a bit too wild back then, but I produced my first award-winning piece during this time. "Fredric March, have we misjudged you?" won me a Hearst Award.

I was elected editor-in-chief in fall '22 and am now concluding my time with the A-T in this position.

Throughout the years, I've had the opportunity to go to media conventions. These trips brought me to Washington D.C. for MediaFest22, Madison for the Wisconsin Newspaper Association Awards and Atlanta for the College Media Association Awards.

A few notes from those trips: I still haven't eaten all the packs of oatmeal I purchased in D.C. and I still can't believe that we powerwalked basically the whole city in less than a week thanks to Barb.

I don't miss my voice that I lost during WNA, but I do miss the butter balls.

The never-ending escalator from Atlanta will forever remain in my nightmares and so will the fact that one of the 40 Coke products we tried at the World of Coca-Cola tasted like BBQ sauce.

Nonetheless, these conferences helped me be a better journalist both in and out of the newsroom.

Now comes the time for the inevitable thank yous to the people



who I will forever be in debt to for all they've contributed to my time at UWO.

Anya, I am so excited to see what huge things are in your future. You will be an outstanding EIC. Seeing your dedication and passion for the A-T grow from the start has been amazing. I'll be playing Ed Sheeran in your honor every Tuesday night.

Kelly, may you forever be the coolest person I know. Thank you for being someone I can rely on and for bringing a positivity to the office that no one can replace. Here's to February of 2023 remaining a night for the books.

Mattie, I wouldn't want anyone

else by my side throughout my whole A-T experience. Our summer ice cream runs and charcuterie boards will be forever iconic. I hope someone great can fill your shoes in the HR department.

Aubrie, keep doing what you're doing. I already know one day you'll be interviewing celebrities and writing the most groundbreaking articles. Thanks for joining in the craziness of the A-T.

Nolan and Josh, thank you for being the best football-watching buddies. The office wouldn't be the same without soundboards and insanely-good photoshopped memes. Nolan, go and be that lawyer-Marine-superhero. Josh, I

hope you can live out your dream of becoming a yacht chef. A toast to you both.

Kyiah, thank you for spending the countless late nights (sometimes early mornings) editing our stories and pages. You are the hardest worker I know. I don't know what any of us would do without you.

Cory, thank you for making the office a safe place for everyone. You were the most encouraging EIC and pushed me to be the writer I am today.

Kylie and Owen, you were my first two best friends on the staff. I will never forget the crazy weekend adventures we went on. Here's to darts, goldfish pizza and little hands.

Jacob, thank you for being my partner in crime. I'm forever grateful I met you. There's no doubt in my mind of what great things you'll do. Remember: slay football, Polito's mac and cheese pizza is superior, swings are named swings for a reason and the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.

Lastly, Barb. You will always be the most important educator in my life. I wouldn't be where I am today if you didn't pick me to win the NEWSPA Scholarship for Excellence. Your wisdom, advice and caring personality are far from unnoticed. Thank you for everything.

I am truly humbled to have been a part of the A-T. I have many incredible people who make up the staff. Thank you all for the greatest moments of my life.

A&E editor finally ends term after so long

By Mattie Beck
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I remember first walking into the newsroom my freshman year. It was the middle of the pandemic and my sorority sister Lexi all but dragged me down there.

"You're a journalism major? Me too! Here, come write for the paper with me," she said, and that's how my journey at the Advance-Titan started.

I started off as a shaky staff writer, scared to stray outside of my comfort zone, attending socially distanced meetings with the few members of the paper who were there.

All of that changed when Cory Sparks approached me my sophomore year about joining the editorial staff as the assistant arts and entertainment editor alongside the head editor Kylie.

I decided to take him up on the offer – the best decision I ever made.

Moving up to full arts and entertainment editor my junior year was amazing, so I'm sad to let it go after two strong years of putting together the section.

With all of this in consideration, I learned to make the paper my second home, my Tuesday nights spent downstairs in Reeve Memorial Union putting together a paper every week.

I even got to take a trip to Washington D.C., where I fell in love with the city and everything I



learned about journalism.

There were late nights (too many of them to count), birthday celebrations, music sessions where a new member of the staff played DJ, and, of course, graduation celebrations.

After watching so many of them and putting together the senior send-offs these past three years, I can't believe it's my turn.

I put my involvement in many places, with internships and my sorority Zeta Tau Alpha, but the Advance-Titan has always been something different in a good way.

So as I write this listening to

Taylor Swift (who's surprised?), I can't begin to express how thankful I am for the Advance-Titan.

I'm thankful for the experience it gave me, from the countless articles on topics I enjoy like Fox Valley Vintage Fest to the portfolio experience that gave me many internship opportunities.

I was able to write for every section in the paper. My crowning achievement was writing about Taylor Swift at least once every year in college.

The Advance-Titan also helped me find one of my dreams, which

is working in the sports field.

I'm thankful for how it helped me gain professional experience as a student, putting together a publication filled with articles I had written to present.

I'm thankful for how it shaped me into the writer I am today, fine-tuning my skills to what they are now (and teaching me so much about AP style).

But most importantly, I'm thankful for the people I met throughout my time at the Advance-Titan. The people are truly what made the experience of being on the paper the best.

I spent my Tuesday nights and Wednesday afternoons with some of the best people who I would have never met if I had not joined the paper, and here's a thank you to some of them.

Thank you to my fellow senior Katie, who I've gotten to know over these four years through the paper after we met as scared freshmen at a story meeting. I will miss getting ice cream and making the best charcuterie boards.

Shoutout to Anya, my fellow Swiftie who if we had not met at the paper, I would have never attended The Eras Tour with and had one of the best nights of my life.

Shoutout to Kelly the fashion queen of the Advance-Titan. Continue to slay queen. I'll treasure all the kindness you have shown me over the years.

Shoutout to Aubrie for introducing me to spin and bringing

so much laughter to my life that I didn't have before. Never stop sending me memes on Instagram.

Shoutout to the co-sports editors Jacob and Nolan. Thanks for letting me write for sports occasionally even if I had no clue what I was doing and asked a million questions.

Shoutout to Josh for always entertaining with a chess game at production nights.

Thank you to Barb, the best adviser I could have ever asked for. You taught me so much throughout my time here and made me the writer I am today.

Lastly, shoutout to Owen Larsen for taking a chance and joining the paper as a senior transfer student (let's pretend it wasn't somewhat forced). I hope I can take your place as a gopher at Minnesota.

I owe some of my best college memories to the paper, and I don't think I can ever express enough thanks for everything it has done for me.

I'm a better person because of my experience at the Advance-Titan, and I think I'll even miss the 2 a.m. Tuesday production nights.

To anyone whom I have ever had the chance of getting to know through the Advance-Titan, thank you.

After two years of arts and entertainment, I give my final sign-off as staff writer and editor. I think a piece of my heart will always have a home down in the Advance-Titan office.

Wrestling falls to UWSP

By Emily Buffington
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The UW Oshkosh wrestling team fell to UW-Stevens Point with a final score of 40-18 at the Kolf Sports Center Nov. 30 and placed 12th at the Milwaukee School of Engineering Invite Dec. 2 at the Kern Center in Milwaukee.

The Titans (0-3, 0-3 WIAC) collected three pins in the meet and dropped the remaining matches to the Pointers (1-0, 1-0 WIAC).

Andrew Schad earned the first six points for the Titans after pinning UWSP's Mohammed Abbosov in the 141-pound contest. Sam Johnson from UWSP fell to Cody Welker in the 157-pound tilt to earn the Titans another six points, and Camden Harms pinned UWSP's Ryan Dykes in the 285-pound match for the Titans final points.

UWO's Ira Schlottke lost by a 16-5 major decision against Sammy Nelson in the 149-pound duel. UWSP's Josh Heuss pinned Sophomore Joey Spizzirri in the 165-pound contest, Michael Loger fell to UWSP's Trystan Altensey in the 184-pound bout and UWSP's Logan Neitzel defeated Landon Saglin by fall in the 197-pound match.

The 125-, 133-, and 174-pound duals ended in Titan forfeits.

In the MSOE Invite Dec. 2, Loger placed fifth in the 184-pound competition after starting the first round with a bye. In the second round, he lost to Connor Collin of UW-Eau Claire by 6-2 decision.

In the 141-pound contest, Schad defeated Jesse Burg of Lakeland University by a 9-6 sudden victory but was pinned by Ashton Hayhurst of Triton College (Ill.) in the second round. In the first round of the 157-pound match, Welker defeated Gage Sweckard of Cornell College (Iowa) by pin. Welker moved on to defeat Cameron White of Triton College by 10-7 decision but was pinned next round by Tristan Drier of UW-Eau Claire.

Turn to **Wrestling** / Page 8



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.

Historic season comes to a close *UWO volleyball swept in Elite Eight*

By Nolan Andler
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Last weekend, the UWO women's volleyball team competed in the Elite Eight round of the NCAA tournament for the sixth time in program history in Claremont, California. Unfortunately for the Titans, that time California was short lived as they fell in their Elite Eight match to the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Athenas 3-0 on Wednesday night (Nov. 29).

Freshman Sami Perlberg led the team with 11 kills, and senior Riley Kindt was able to register eight kills. Izzy Coon and Kalli Mau led the team in assists with 13 and 10 respectively and Abby Fregien and Mau along with Perlberg led the

team with eight digs each.

In the game the Titans just couldn't close it out vs the Athenas. In set one, the Titans cut a 16-6 deficit down to a 19-15 deficit. But the Athenas were unfortunately able to weather the storm and ended the set on a 6-3 run to win set one.

Despite the Titans jumping out to a 7-2 lead in set two. The Athenas came back to tie it at 10-10. After that a 5-1 run by the Athenas helped close out set two for CMS. In set three, despite a valiant effort from the Titans to keep their season alive for one more set. CMS went on a 9-1 run to turn a 7-7 game into a 16-8 Athena lead, closing out the game and the Titan's season.

After the game, Coach Jon Ellmann tried to get the team to realize

that despite the loss, there is a lot to be proud of.

"We talked about how much we enjoyed going on this journey together, our seniors legacy, the ability we had to overcome challenges we were faced with," he said. "We were proud of our ability to consistently play Oshkosh volleyball, the Oshkosh volleyball way."

The 2023 season for the Titans was one that will be remembered for a while. UWO finished the season with a 37-2 record while going 33-0 in the regular season. The Titans topped the program's record to start the year, set by the 2009 UWO volleyball team. UWO also claimed their first outright regular season Wisconsin Intercolle-

giate Athletic Conference title since 2009.

Ellmann credits the team's ability to be so close together for this season being so successful.

"I'm so proud of how we found a way to be amazing teammates and friends while maintaining such high standards in our gym," Ellmann said.

While the Volleyball team is losing senior leadership, Coach Ellmann expects the experience of this season to help the team next season and beyond.

"We have a young team that returns a lot as well as a strong 2024 class," Ellman said. "We have learned a lot from our experiences this season and we are motivated to keep raising the bar."

Basketball goes 1-1 at McWilliams Classic

By Owen Larsen
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The UW Oshkosh women's basketball team traveled to St. Louis for the Washington University McWilliams Classic on Dec. 1 and 2 where they lost to DePauw University (Indiana) and beat the host school, Washington University in St. Louis (Missouri).

UWO headed to St. Louis after an eventful past three games, where they found themselves winning a game by 53 points, then by 66 in the next and their head coach, Brad Fischer setting the all-time program wins record in the following game.

The Titans first bout in St. Louis against DePauw University proved to be a tougher battle than their previous three games. The game remained close in the beginning, where UWO would enter halftime trailing 31-26.

DePauw would expand that lead to 13 after a good third quarter performance. The Titans

responded with a fourth quarter push, outscoring DePauw by eight in the period. Ultimately, the push was not enough as the Titans would fall 67-62, dropping their overall record to 4-2.

The Titans ran a tighter rotation than usual in this game, with only seven players tallying over 10 minutes of game time. Seven of those players would tally 20 or more minutes. Through the first five games, the Titans would usually have nine players tallying more than 10 minutes.

With increased minutes, we saw high scoring outputs from both guard Kate Huml (16) and forward Mallory Hoitink (20). Hoitink came off the bench in this contest, playing 20 minutes.

UWO would take on the hosts for the event, Washington University, the next day with hopes to right the ship after game one.

Turn to **Basketball** / Page 8



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

Mallory Hoitink scored a season-high 20 points against DePauw Dec. 1.

Sports



Scoreboard

Thursday, Nov. 30

Wrestling
UWO - 18
UW-Stevens Point - 40

Friday, Dec. 1

Women's Basketball
UWO - 62
DePauw University - 67

Saturday, Dec. 2

Women's Basketball
UWO - 73
Washington University in St. Louis - 60
Track and Field
Men's - 1/11, 279.50 pts.
Women's - 1/8, 228 pts.
Swimming and Diving
Men's - 4/8, 1,009.5 pts.
Women's - 4/8, 1,154 pts.

Upcoming Events

Men's Basketball

12/7 - at Whitworth University
12/9 - at Whitman College
12/18 - vs. Ripon College
12/20 - vs. St. Norbert College
12/29 - Nebraska Wesleyan University *
12/30 - Babson College *
1/3 - at UW-Whitewater
1/6 - vs. UW-Stout
1/10 - vs. UW-Platteville
1/13 - at UW-River Falls
1/17 - vs. UW-La Crosse
1/20 - at UW-Stevens Point
1/24 - vs. UW-Eau Claire
1/27 - at UW-Stout
1/31 - vs. UW-Whitewater

Women's Basketball

12/19 - at Berea College
12/20 - at Wittenberg University
12/29 - vs. Rockford College *
12/30 - vs. Ripon College *
1/3 - vs. UW-Whitewater
1/6 - at UW-Stout
1/10 - at UW-Platteville
1/13 - vs. UW-River Falls
1/17 - at UW-La Crosse
1/20 - at UW-Stevens Point
1/24 - at UW-Eau Claire
1/27 - vs. UW-Stout
1/31 - at UW-Whitewater

Wrestling

12/9 - at UW-Whitewater
1/6 - vs. MSOE **
1/13 - at Manchester University
Spartan Mat Classic
1/18 - at UW-Platteville
1/25 - at Lakeland University
1/27 - at Loras College Open

Swimming and Diving

12/8 - at UW-Green Bay
1/6 - at Lawrence University
1/12 - at UW-Stevens Point
1/13 - at Carthage College
1/19 - vs. Ripon College & MSOE
1/20 - vs. UW-La Crosse
1/27 - vs. Loras College
2/3 - at University of Illinois Chicago Diving Invitational

Swimming and Diving

12/8-9 - UW-Oshkosh Early Bird Open
1/20 - at UW-Whitewater Karl Schlender Invitational
1/27 - UW-Oshkosh Alumni & Friends Invitational

* - at Oshkosh Arena
** - UWO Senior Day

Basketball: Titans defeat WashU

From Page 7

However, the first quarter was not an ideal start for the Titans as they trailed by seven after the first quarter of play. The Titans would respond by holding Washington to only eight points in the second quarter, cutting their deficit to one heading into halftime.

The story of the second half would be the Titans offense where they would score 22 points in the third quarter and 24 in the fourth. Their scoring outburst would be enough to surge past Washington for a 73-60 victory, improving their record to 5-2 on the season.

Next up for UWO

Wittenberg Holiday Classic in Wittenberg, Ohio.
Game 1: vs. Berea College (Kentucky) Dec. 19 at 1:30 p.m.



Game 2: vs. Wittenberg University (Ohio) Dec. 20 at 3:30 p.m.



UWO's Bridget Froehlke drives to the basket against a Northland University defender in a road game earlier this season. Froehlke scored 18 points off the bench against Washington University Dec. 2.

Track breaks two school records

By Kelly Hueckman
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Both the UW Oshkosh men's and women's track and field teams opened their seasons with first-place victories at the Ripon College Winter Open while breaking two school records Dec. 2. They trounced the 11-team lineup with 279.5 points from the men's team and the 8-team lineup with 228 points from the women's team.

UWO junior Aden Sears broke the university's record for the 60-meter hurdle with a time of 8.16 seconds while senior Joshua Rivers broke the long-jump record with a 7.55 meter leap.

The men's team took home 9 first-place victories in total, one of which was awarded to Sears.

Jake Krause took first place in the mile with a time of 4:14.88 while Londyn Little took home first for the 400-meter dash with a time of 49.78 seconds.

To round off their first-place

victories in track events, the Titans took first in the 4x400 meter relay with a time of 3:27.20.

Oshkosh also scored well in field events, with Diego Villalobos taking first in triple jump with a distance of 14:09 meters and Kyle Wisniewski taking first in the high jump at 2:03 meters. At the pole vault, Zach Zirgibel took first with 4.90 meters while Isaiah Isom placed first in shot put with a 15.62 meter throw.

On the women's side, the Titans took home 10 gold medals. In the 3,000-meter run, Gwen Feitl won first place with a time of 11:16:27 while Cyna Madigan won the mile in 5:05.42.

Olivia Stenzel took home the gold in the 400-meter dash in 1:02.74, and Ella Ahlstrand grabbed first in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.94 seconds.

The track and field team will compete next in their home meet Saturday and Sunday in the Kolf Sports Center.



UWO's Joshua Rivers long jumps at Ripon College on Dec. 2.

Wrestling: Titans fall to Stevens Point

From Page 7

In the 149-pound bout, Schlottke was defeated by pin in the first round to Lucio Morgan of UW-Whitewater. Spizzirri received a bye in the first round of the 165-pound competition but was defeated by a 16-7 major decision to Titobilo Akenroye of the University of Chicago (Ill.). Saglin received a bye in the first round of the 197-pound tilt and was pinned by Peyton Smith of Concordia University Wisconsin in the second round. In the 285-pound contest, Brodie Driessen was defeated in the first

round by pin to Sloan Welch of UW-Eau Claire. Harms was also defeated in the first round by 7-4 decision to Seth Elliot of Concordia College.

Next up for UWO



at UW-Whitewater at 2 p.m. in the Kachel Gymnasium



Michael Loger led the Titans with a fifth-place finish Dec. 2.

Sports

Herd take down Cruise, sit in sixth place

By Jacob Link
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The Wisconsin Herd claimed their fourth win of the season after defeating the Motor City Cruise 131-122 at the Wayne State Fieldhouse Dec. 1.

The Herd (4-4) had three players score 20 points or more in the win and committed only six turnovers. Wisconsin shot 57.3% from the field and 37% from behind the arc while out rebounding the Cruise 40-38. Motor City (6-3) committed 11 turnovers and was held to 51.4% shooting from the floor and 34.4% from 3-point land.

With the win, the Herd remain in sixth place in the Central Division of the Showcase Cup standings and remain 1.5 games out of the final tournament spot.

Milwaukee Bucks two-way player Lindell Wigginton led the way with 26 points, seven assists and four rebounds for the Herd. Fellow two-way players TyTy Washington Jr. and Marques Bolden scored 24 and 20 points, respectively, while Jazian Gortman added 19 points off the bench. Chris Livingston nearly had a double-double for the Herd, scoring 17 points and seven rebounds.

Motor City was led by Xavier Simpson who scored a game-high 30 points, dished out six assists and grabbed three boards. Former Herd center Jontay Porter had a 23-point, 12-rebound double-double for the Cruise while Treveon Graham added 21 points.

The teams traded baskets for most of the first quarter until the Cruise went on a 5-0 run with under five



Charlie Bruecker / Advance-Titan
Wisconsin's Lindell Wigginton defends a Windy City Bulls player last season at the Oshkosh Arena.

minutes to play in the quarter to take a 23-18 lead after a Buddy Boeheim 3-pointer. The Herd quickly responded with a jumper from Washington and a 3-pointer from Alex Antetokounmpo to level the score at 23 all. With under two minutes to go in the period, Washington converted on a 3-point play to give the Herd a one-point lead, but Motor City ended the quarter on a 6-2 run to take a 33-30 lead.

The Cruise knocked down a 3-pointer to begin the second quarter to extend their advantage to six points, but the Herd went on a 10-4 run after a Gortman floater to tie

the game at 40. Wisconsin took the lead after a 3-pointer from Bolden and the Herd went on a 10-2 late in the quarter to take a nine-point advantage. Motor City scored three of the final four baskets in the second quarter to cut the Herd lead to 63-59 going into halftime.

Simpson converted on a finger-roll layup to begin the third quarter to cut the Wisconsin lead to two points. Back-to-back 3-pointers from Motor City gave the Cruise a one-point lead with 10 minutes to play, but Wisconsin went on an 8-0 run to take a 73-67 lead after a 3-pointer from Wigginton. The Herd

extended their lead to 12 points late in the quarter after 3-pointers from Washington and Gortman. Wisconsin held onto a double-digit lead for the remainder of the period and went into the break leading 101-89.

Gortman led off the fourth quarter by throwing down a dunk to extend Wisconsin's advantage to 14 points. The Herd's lead grew as high as 16 points early in the period, but the Cruise went on a 7-0 run with five minutes remaining in the game to cut the Wisconsin lead to 120-112. That would be as close as the Cruise came the rest of the way and the Herd held on for a nine-point win.

Showcase Cup Standings

East

- 1. Westchester Knicks* -- 7-3
- 2. College Park Skyhawks* -- 7-3
- 3. Delaware Blue Coats ---- 5-3
- 4. Capital City Go-Go ----- 5-4
- 5. Maine Celtics ----- 5-4
- 6. Long Island Nets ----- 4-4
- 7. Greensboro Swarm ----- 3-8
- 8. Raptors 905 ----- 1-8

Central

- 1. Indiana Mad Ants* ----- 7-1
- 2. Motor City Cruise* ----- 6-3
- 3. Sioux Falls Skyforce --- 6-4
- 4. Cleveland Charge ----- 5-4
- 5. Windy City Bulls ----- 5-4
- 6. Wisconsin Herd ----- 4-4
- 7. Iowa Wolves ----- 2-8
- 8. Grand Rapids Gold ----- 1-8

South

- 1. Rio Grande Valley Vipers* -- 6-3
- 2. Osceola Magic* ----- 6-3
- 3. Mexico City Capitanes -- 6-4
- 4. Oklahoma City Blue ---- 5-4
- 5. Birmingham Squadron -- 4-4
- 6. Austin Spurs ----- 4-5
- 7. Memphis Hustle ----- 4-7
- 8. Texas Legends ----- 2-7

West

- 1. Santa Cruz Warriors* --- 6-2
- 2. Ontario Clippers* ----- 7-3
- 3. South Bay Lakers ----- 6-4
- 4. Rip City Remix ----- 5-5
- 5. Stockton Kings ----- 4-5
- 6. Salt Lake City Stars ---- 4-6
- 7. G League Ignite ----- 1-8

*In a Showcase Cup Championship Playoff position as of Dec. 4.

Upcoming Herd Schedule



Dec. 9 at Windy City
at 5 p.m.



Dec. 11 at Indiana
at 5 p.m.



Dec. 13 at Indiana
at 5 p.m.

Meet the Wisconsin Herd's starting lineup

Lindell Wigginton

TyTy Washington Jr.

Marques Bolden

Wenyen Gabriel



Position: Guard (No. 28)
School: Iowa State
Ht: 6'8" Wt: 189 lbs.

Last season: Shot 48.2% from the floor and averaged 15.9 points and 5.9 assists per game in 18 games played with the Herd.

This season: Has shot 47.1% from the field and has averaged 22 points and six assists in four games played.

Fun Fact: Is one of three Milwaukee Bucks two-way players on the Herd roster.



Position: Guard (No. 23)
School: Kentucky
Ht: 6'3" Wt: 195 lbs.

Last season: Shot 47% from the floor and averaged 20.2 points and 4.8 assists per game in 18 games with Rio Grande Valley.

This season: Has shot 37.2% from the field and has averaged 14.8 points and 4.3 assists in six games played.

Fun Fact: Is one of three Milwaukee Bucks two-way players on the Herd roster.



Position: Center (No. 12)
School: Duke
Ht: 6'10" Wt: 249 lbs.

Last season: Shot 25% from the floor and averaged 2.3 points and 3.7 rebounds per game in three games with Salt Lake City.

This season: Has shot 62.1% from the field and has averaged 14.2 points and 6.7 rebounds in six games played.

Fun Fact: Is one of three Milwaukee Bucks two-way players on the Herd roster.



Position: Forward (No. 32)
School: Kentucky
Ht: 6'9" Wt: 205 lbs.

Last season: Shot 47.5% from the floor and averaged 13.8 points and 9.4 rebounds per game in 12 games with the Herd.

This season: Has shot 50.7% from the field and has averaged 11.4 points and 9.4 rebounds in eight games played.

Fun Fact: Gabriel was born in Sudan and played 68 games for the Los Angeles Lakers last season.

Glenn Robinson III



This season: Has shot 48.8% from the field and has averaged 9.7 points and 2.1 assists in seven games played.

Fun Fact: Robinson III, who came out of retirement to play this season, is the son of former Milwaukee Bucks No.1 draft pick Glenn Robinson Jr. who played for the Bucks from 1994-2002.

Position: Forward (No. 13)
School: Michigan
Ht: 6'6" Wt: 222 lbs.

Last season: Shot 42.4 % from the floor and averaged 5.3 points and two assists per game in 23 games with the Sacramento Kings during the 2020-21 NBA season.

What is the Showcase Cup?

The NBA G League's Showcase Cup is an in-season tournament very similar to this season's inaugural NBA In-Season Tournament. In the Showcase Cup, the G League's 31 teams are separated into four regional divisions, and each team plays 14 games within their division. The teams with the best winning-percentage in each division, along with the next four teams across the league with the best win-percentages, will advance to compete for the Showcase Cup in a single-elimination tournament during the NBA G League Winter Showcase in Orlando, Florida, from Dec. 19-22. The Ontario Clippers won the event last season and the Delaware Blue Coats won the innagural tournament held in 2021.

Recent Herd transactions



Sam Peek acquired from player pool Dec. 2.



Chris Livingston recalled to Milwaukee Bucks Dec. 1.

Opinion

Shop local this holiday season

By Anya Kelley
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As the holiday season rolls around, gift shopping can be hectic and stressful. While opting for big box stores and Amazon’s quick shipping may be convenient, shopping from local retailers can help you find more unique, quality and personal gifts for your loved ones.

By shopping small, you help stimulate your local economy. For every \$100 spent at a local business, about \$68 stays in the community rather than the \$43 that remains if you shop nationally, according to Sustainable Connections.

Also, when you reduce the amount you order online you also reduce your carbon footprint. The less long-distance shipping and transportation, the better for the environment.

Before you start your shopping, consider checking out these six small businesses located in downtown Oshkosh!

01 Vintage

Have a fashion fanatic in your life? Well, 01 Vintage is the perfect place to find unique pieces to fit their style. They have a wide variety of vintage and recycled clothes from band tees to ski jackets. 01 Vintage restocks daily and announces specialty drops on their socials. Their selection is carefully curated so you know you’re getting the real deal. Some of the products are on the higher end price-wise, but 01 almost always has deals going on. Bonus points for shopping sustainable fashion!

Adventure Games and Hobby

Adventure Games and Hobby isn’t your average board game store. Adventure Games carries collectibles, an expansive lego selection, every board game you could imagine and much more. But, what sets them apart is their monthly event schedule. Adventure Games offers events like their weekly Magic: The Gathering sessions and Learn-To-Play events during board game nights. Admission is often a few dollars, so sign your board game loving besties up for a fun night at this local hobby shop. This is a great gift for anyone trying to find a community with similar interests to their own. Prices vary based on the product, but prices are extremely comparable to any mainstream retailers. To preregister for events visit adventuregamesoshkosh.square.site or check out their Facebook page for the event schedule.

Art Haus

Art Haus is your one-stop-shop for all things art supplies. The shop is stocked with oil paints, watercolors, gouache, acrylic paints, colored pencils and so much more. Their staff is extremely knowledgeable and can help you find any of your niche art supplies needs. If you have an artist you’re shopping for, Art Haus is the perfect place to go. Their products are high end, and supplies are often limited, so prices are going to be higher than the big box stores. However, the artist in your life will thank you for your attention to quality. Support your local artists by supporting your local art shop.



Brooke Hansen / Advance-Titan

For every \$100 spent at a local business, about \$68 stays in the community rather than the \$43 that remains if you shop nationally, according to Sustainable Connections.

Camera Casino

Camera Casino offers a wide selection of cameras and gear for anyone, whether they’re just starting out or are professional photographers. While their selection is impressive, Camera Casino is so much more than just a gear shop. Camera Casino offers custom printing for canvases, notepads, puzzles and more. Their video transfer services can transfer tapes, film reels and memory cards onto DVDs. Camera Casino even offers hour-long classes for the aspiring photographer in your life. If you want to get someone something unique and personalized, Camera Casino is the perfect place to shop.

Eroding Winds Record Shop

Eroding Winds is a vinyl-focused retail store that is selling new and used vinyls from every music genre you can imagine. If you have a music lover in your life, chances are there’s a vinyl they’ve always wanted, and Eroding Winds probably has it. Along with their wide variety of vinyls, they also have a limited selection of cassette tapes and 7-inch records. While you’re there you can also snag some Eroding Winds merch so your friends and family have something stylish to dance in. Their prices vary based on the condition of the product, but prices usually range from \$15-30.

The Pampurr’d Pet

The Pampurr’d Pet is the perfect place to purchase a gift for your friends who call their pets their children. Locally owned, the shop provides a wide variety of specialty supplements, toys, treats and even full grooming services (dogs only). Their staff is knowledgeable and helpful when it comes to recommending the best new treat for a furry friend. If you know your friend or family member would rather receive something special for their pet, The Pampurr’d Pet is the place to go.

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Protect liberal arts curriculum

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UW system President Jay Rothman suggested that UW universities “shift away” from liberal arts programs, particularly at campuses with low-income students, in an effort to steer students toward more career-specific paths, according to emails obtained by The Daily Cardinal.

Rothman has since taken to X to defend his statements, writing that he has “not asked our universities to move away from liberal arts programs,” and adding that he is a “product of the liberal arts” himself.

In the string of Tweets, Rothman said he is “deeply disappointed by the mischaracterization of my communication with chancellors by The Daily Cardinal, both in its egregiously false headline and the framing of its story.”

The email contains a list of 16 suggestions for chancellors across the Universities of Wisconsin moving forward. Many of Rothman’s points are worthy... until you reach No. 13. Unlucky No. 13 – how fitting.

The email said:

“13. Consider shifting away from liberal arts programs to programs that are more career specific, particularly if the institution serves a large number of low-income students.”

Personally, we are siding with The Daily Cardinal on this one. It is hard to believe that Rothman thought his statements would have been taken any other way than negatively. We’d like to give him the benefit of the doubt and say that it sounded worse than it is, but adding in the final bit about low-income students really was the cherry on top of his sloppy suggestion.

The Daily Cardinal stated that in emails Rothman said some of his recommendations “will have no applicability to our situation or imply actions that we may not be prepared to take,” but they were “nonetheless instructive.”

To allude to the idea that only



Advance-Titan File Photo

UWO students are temporarily unable to declare a theater major due to low enrollment, but this temporary suspension may become permanent if the program doesn’t find a way to market themselves and amp up enrollment.

high-income families should be able to afford to send their children to universities with liberal arts programs is, not only a shame, but beyond insulting to limit one’s opportunities because of money.

To put it bluntly, it feels like these “suggestions” are really saying that if you don’t have enough money, go stand in the corner and watch while those with money get to do as they please – even if you are just as intellectually capable.

We think Rothman’s comments about shifting away from liberal arts programs at the universities will be politely ignored. Regardless, should we, as students, be concerned about the current attack on liberal arts universities?

Can’t career schools and liberal arts universities coexist as they do in life outside of education?

We think we (as students) forget the fluidity of our degrees. Not everyone will find themselves

employed in the exact field they earned a degree in – not even close, so it’s pertinent that universities turn out broad-minded adults. Our degrees aren’t the end-all-be-all in life, but critical thinking skills and the ability to communicate across fields is.

So, what does it mean to be liberally educated?

Well, it has nothing to do with politics if that’s what you were thinking.

Daniel Kontowski, author of “The Paradox of ‘Practical Liberal Arts.’ Lessons from the Wagner College Case for Liberal (Arts) Education in Eastern Europe,” explains liberal arts institutions as so: “Liberal (arts) education can be considered an innovation: promoting small scale, intensive and interdisciplinary education introducing students to all major fields of knowledge and developing their academic skills.”

Liberal arts education (LAE) creates well-rounded, free-thinking individuals who have knowledge that expands outside of their primary major. It forces students to step outside of the narrow path that specialized education puts them on.

It is important to provide students with the opportunity to choose whether they’d like a liberal education or a direct career path education. There should be no competition with STEM because even STEM majors are liberally educated under a liberal arts institution. Both have their advantages and disadvantages and it’s up to the student to decide what is best for them.

At UWO, “more than 75 percent of UWO students receive financial aid in the form of grants, loans and work study,” according to the UW Oshkosh Financial Fast Facts on the UWO website.

Would our university be recognized as a low-income university facing potential threats to our liberal arts curriculum? Rothman has just ignited an entirely new cause for concern.

And although Rothman was quick to clarify his statement, it’s still hard not to wonder where he stands.

We can understand the importance of career-specific options for students so as to not waste their time or money in college – but don’t punish the arts; they breathe life into our universities.

LAE teaches college students to think freely and critically rather than conform.

So, before suggesting that universities should “shift away” from liberal arts education, make sure you are aware of just what it means to be liberally educated. Being liberally educated is quite powerful.

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