

# The Advance-Titan

INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH CAMPUSES

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Jessica Duch / Advance-Titan

Students at UWO stage a protest demanding a free Palestine. This protest is just one in a long list of similar protests that have been occurring across the country.

## Protestors call for a free Palestine

By Anya Kelley and Kelly Hueckman  
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One week after the Palestine encampments began at UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee, UW Oshkosh had a march of its own.

Despite impending rain and humidity, protesters from the campus and surrounding community gathered in front of Polk Library to demand a free Palestine.

After a short opening statement from Sarah Osterbrink, the president of the Oshkosh Student Socialist Association, approximately 50 pro-Palestinian protesters marched around campus chanting "Palestine is our fight, students of

the world unite," and "from Oshkosh to Palestine, occupation is a crime."

Aspyn Rafac, a political science major at UWO, has family in the Chumash tribe on the Santa Ynez reservation in southern California. Rafac spoke on the genocide of the Palestinian people at the end of the march, drawing parallels on her tribes history with genocide.

"In 1846, my tribe experienced its own genocide, also known as the California genocide," Rafac said.

Rafac said that when her people revolted they were called "savages and wild redskins."

"They used that to justify their taking of our land, rape of our women and children, slaughter of

our men and sterilization of our people," Rafac said. "As an Indigenous American, I have seen too many parallels between Indigenous experiences and those of the Palestinian Indigenous people."

Instead of savages, innocent Palestinians are being called terrorists, Rafac said.

"Any person with humanity knows that no child deserves to die at the hands of violence for any reason, especially not for reasons far out of their control," Rafac said.

Rafac reminded the crowd that this is not a religious protest, but a protest against the actions taken by the Israeli government, U.S. government and those "complacent and continuing to escalate the

numbers of civilian lives taken in Gaza."

"As an American citizen, I was raised being told that it is the foundation of American liberty to be able to call out a corrupt government when it is no longer serving its people," Rafac said. "And with my voice, I demand that the UW System detach itself from PepsiCo, Oshkosh Corporation and other companies that are directly funding the Israeli military and are paying for the death of innocent men, women and children in Palestine with our blood money."

Last January, Oshkosh Corporation announced they would be producing hundreds of armored personnel carriers for the Israeli military. In December, the indus-

trial company said they received orders for at least 75 joint tight tactical vehicles from the Israeli Ministry of Defense.

PepsiCo has faced backlash after purchasing SodaStream, which has faced global boycotts due to reported discrimination against Palestinian employees and displacing Indigenous Bedoin-Palestinian citizens in present-day Israel.

Rafac called on Chancellor Andrew Leavitt to listen to student voices and involve students in the choices being made on their behalf.

Shortly after the march concluded, Leavitt released a statement regarding the march.

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## Police investigate third home invasion

By Jacob Link  
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The Oshkosh Police Department announced May 6 that they are investigating the third invasion of a woman's home in the last month after a male suspect entered a residence on the 800 block of John Avenue May 5. No one was injured in all three instances.

"Please remember to lock all win-

dows and doors, make sure video surveillance cameras are in working order and immediately call police to report suspicious situations and suspicious people around the campus area," OPD said in a news release May 6. "If you live in the area of where this occurred and have video surveillance cameras, we are asking you to review your footage to see if this suspect was recorded on your cameras."

At approximately 1 a.m. May 5, a female reported to police that she had arrived at her house and found the male suspect standing at the edge of her unoccupied bed in her bedroom. According to OPD, the female screamed at the suspect and left the residence. When she returned a while later, the suspect was no longer there.

The male suspect is described as being approximately 6 feet 2

inches tall and was wearing skinny jeans, a black shirt and a ski mask.

A similar incident occurred April 1 involving a male suspect who was reported to be wearing a slim fitting black jacket, dark pants, a white mask and was described as being around 6 feet 2 inches tall with a skinny build. At the off-campus residence located in the 800 block of Vine Ave-

nue, police say a female called at around 7:28 a.m. to report that the suspect was standing in the doorway to her bedroom and fled the scene after she yelled at him.

The second incident occurred April 14, when another female reported to police that a male had entered her house in the 1200 block of Wisconsin Avenue at around 4 a.m.

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## About the Newspaper

The Advance-Titan is an independent student newspaper published on campus since 1894. The paper is written and edited by students at UW Oshkosh who are solely responsible for content and editorial policy. Any UW Oshkosh student from all three campuses is welcome to work on the newspaper staff.

## Correction Policy:

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

# Students accuse UWO of discrimination

By Kelly Hueckman  
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A small group of UW Oshkosh students orchestrated a walkout in front of Dempsey Hall to advocate for better accommodations for students with disabilities May 1.

"There are some really major issues on campus, and as disabled students, we have not been quiet about these issues at all," first-year student Alex Rosin-Borland said.

Rosin-Borland is one of several members of UWO Disabilities Advocates (UWODA), a student-led advocacy group for the disabled community at the university.

The group, which formed this semester, has accused the university of discriminating against students with disabilities and violating Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"We have talked to the chancellors and the vice chancellors many, many times to get these issues fixed, and unfortunately, the higher-ups of our university just don't treat us like they treat the rest of the student body," Rosin-Borland said.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits organizations from denying people with disabilities equal opportunities to program benefits. According to the university, there are approximately 800 UWO students who receive accommodations.

Student Melissa Mitchler, a military veteran with multiple sclerosis, said she has had to repeatedly prove her disability with doctor's notes in order to receive accommodations, despite having come to agreements earlier.

Mitchler said that last year, a professor would not allow her to do a painting project on an easel brought from her home and instead required her to sit on the floor, despite her doctor's recommendation.

"He would rather have sat there and watched a grown woman who fought for her country and his freedom cry, pumped full of

opioid pain meds crying on the floor struggling [than accommodate my needs,]" Mitchler said.

Mitchler did not take any action against the university for the incident, but she did take a medical withdrawal from the class.

"My neck and back doctor (well, all of my doctors) cannot be happy enough for me to be done with this school because of the damage that it has done to my body and my well-being in general," she said.

The walkout also brought to light other issues students with disabilities have faced around campus. Rosin-Borland said the PVC pipes running across campus grounds, which have been in place for over a year, make it difficult for people with mobility problems to get around.

"Those are not accessible," she said. "Students who use mobility aids or have mobility deficits cannot navigate over those pipes at all."

Currently, there are two ramps that allow students to get over the pipes, neither of which is bolted to the ground.

"They're really unsteady, and that's just not safe," Rosin-Borland said.

Currently at UW Oshkosh, there is one person responsible for handling the intake and coordination of all student-related ADA accommodations, according to accessibility coordinator Holly Ludwig Callaghan.

According to UWO Chief of Staff Alex Hummel, there are currently 3.6 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff members who have servicing students with disabilities



Dakota Birenbaum / Advance-Titan

Students protest the lack of accommodations for students with disabilities outside of Dempsey Hall on May 1.

in their job description. This number was down from 6.6 FTE staff members before 250 staff members were laid off last fall.

UWO Chancellor Andrew Leavitt said he feels the university has properly addressed students' complaints and concerns of accessibility this semester.

"I consider our response to students' concerns, as we learn of them, to be very responsive," he said. "We never dismiss or hide or somehow try to minimize the concerns of students."

However, there is room for improvement, Leavitt said, particularly with an aging campus infrastructure.

"Certainly, the facilities continue to be an ongoing challenge, given the inventory that we have, primarily 1960s buildings," he said.

He said the university does its best to include several accessible facilities in each building, such as two sets of elevators in a single building in case one is out of order.

"We move as quickly as we can to address maintenance concerns as they occur," he said.

Leavitt also listed other accommodations the university offers to

students with disabilities, including personalized prioritized snow removal on campus and early alerts for at-risk grades.

He said he commends UWODA for shedding light on issues on campus, and that the university aims to address all concerns.

"Bravo to the UWODA for, you know, making sure that they are holding us accountable," he said. "But at the same time, I'd like you to know that we're acting with all deference towards making sure all of our students have the ability to learn."

Mitchler said she plans to continue advocating for UWO students with disabilities even after her graduation on May 18.

"I will keep up the fight; I will help them," she said. "And I think having an [alumna] as part of the organization is something that's very powerful."

At the same time, Mitchler said, she feels she shouldn't have to fight so hard to get accommodations.

"In 1990, we passed the ADA, and now it's 2024 and we're still fighting this fight," she said. "As a school, we could do better."

# Crime: Police unsure how many suspects

From Page 1

The female told police that she woke up and saw the second male suspect standing over her while she was sleeping in her bed. Similar to the first incident, the female screamed at the suspect, and he fled the scene.

Maddie Gunderson, who lives at the Wisconsin Street residence, said that she's scared to think that the suspect could become even more dangerous if they continue to enter women's bedrooms.

"I still can't believe this happened to us," Gunderson said. "I would [tell students] just always expect the unexpected. You never know what could've happened and things could have been so much worse. He could have had a gun or hurt us."

The suspect in the second incident is described as a white male, between 5 feet 10 inches and 6 feet tall with a muscular build and approximately college age with brown chin-length hair. According to the female at the scene, he was wearing a long-sleeved dark-colored T-shirt, dark pants and a black ski mask that covered half of his face.

"We take incidents like these seriously and want to remind citizens to be aware of their surroundings for their personal safety," an OPD press release said of the incidents. "Based off the differences in the suspect descriptions, it is unknown if these two incidents are related."

The UW Oshkosh Police Department offers a Home Security Survey that can be used to help off-campus students evaluate the security of their homes.

UWOPD said in an email to students that people are encouraged to immediately call the police to report suspicious activity on or near the UWO campus.

"This will allow law enforcement personnel the ability to respond quickly and gather information to assist during the investigation," UWOPD said in an email. "Residents can greatly increase their safety by ensuring that they routinely lock all windows and doors."

Catherine Clark, one of the women who lives at the residence on Wisconsin Street, said she never once felt unsafe and didn't think a break-in would ever happen

where she lives.

"We used to not lock the doors if someone was home, but now after anyone leaves or enters the house, the door is locked," Clark said. "It doesn't matter if someone is home. Our doors will stay locked."

Gunderson said that everyone in her house now locks the doors right when they enter and exit the home because they don't want similar incidents to happen again.

"It really sucks that this is something we are going to be constantly thinking about no matter how much time passes," Gunderson said. "I have trouble going into my room sometimes because I get so uncomfortable knowing a man went through and touched my clothes and took my underwear from my drawer."

Clark said the police handled the situation as best as they could have.

"They seemed a bit distressed that a similar thing happened twice, but they did everything they could to help," Clark said. "I think it's important to note that the perpetrator may have done more than break in. He took undergarments

from my roommate's room and threw them all around our kitchen. It was gross and violating. The police suspected some disgusting acts were done with the undergarments too."

The investigations are still ongoing and Oshkosh police urge anyone with information regarding the incidents to contact OPD at 920-236-5700 or the Winnebago County Crime Stoppers at 920-231-8477.

Clark said that she now finds herself scanning the area around her house when she leaves to see if anyone is watching her.

"I might sound a bit paranoid but I don't want anything like that happening again," Clark said. "The worst part is that the intruder actually broke in through an unlocked window and not a door. They scaled part of the house to get to that window. They were on a mission to get into our house and it was no joke or harmless prank. You really don't think those things would happen to you until they do."

*Editor's note: The names of the residents have been changed to protect their identity.*

## Protest: Pro-Palestine protestors receive backlash

### From Page 1

“Today, the Oshkosh campus was once again stage for the demonstration of free expression, legal protest and a shared commitment to public safety,” Leavitt said. “People exercised their First Amendment rights, and teaching, learning and service continued according to our mission.”

Neenah native Rosemary McCarthy brought her daughter River to participate in the march.

“I didn’t learn about Palestine until I was 42,” McCarthy said. “So I’m making sure that my daughter learns about the human rights in this world well before I learned about it.”

This is the McCarthy’s fourth march after visiting the Madison and Milwaukee encampments.

River, too shy to speak, had her mom tell the story of how she got the keffiyeh, a traditional Palestinian scarf, she was wearing on her head.

After visiting UWM’s encampment, River and her mom stopped by Aladdin, a Middle Eastern restaurant located in the Milwaukee Public Market.

The owner came out to thank River and her mom for supporting Palestine, giving River the keffiyeh she donned at the UWO march.

McCarthy recalls a moment when they felt unsafe after they left the encampment.

“Unfortunately, when we went to the Milwaukee Public Market, someone saw us wearing keffiyehs and decided to call [me] a moron,” McCarthy said. “But then a nice young lady saw what happened and gave us a rose and said she appreciated it.”

UWO’s march received minor

backlash from a group of male students who followed the protesters through campus chanting “USA, USA” and asking why the group was calling for death to the Israeli people.

A group of students sitting outside of Taylor Hall said they were unaware the demonstration would take place. When asked about their initial reaction to the protest, one student responded: “I don’t know. Seems kind of stupid to me.”

The major backlash came online.

On the anonymous posting app YikYak, students across campus posted about the march laughing at protesters and calling them names.

One post said, “hey!! Protesters no one here likes you.” followed by a smile emoji. Another said “would be unfortunate if a strike of lightning hit the protest.”

A Loyola University student who preferred to remain anonymous was visiting a friend in Oshkosh when they heard about the campus march. She said it was important for her to join the movement any time the opportunity presents itself, so she and a small group of friends attended the protest.

“The Palestinians’ movement is not really something that you can just choose to join in on,” she said. “It’s something that really takes precedence and has so many involvements your whole life.”

Shahnaz Hassan, also a Loyola student who traveled from Chicago to visit the same friend, said raising awareness about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict among students is crucial to see change.



Jess Duch / Advance-Titan

UWO students sport flags and signs in support of a free Palestine during a protest at UWO on May 7.

“I think that throughout history, if you look, all change starts in college campuses,” she said. “So, we do have all the power, especially. We’re supposed to be a democracy, so the power starts

**Youth is the future, and if people aren’t realizing it now, it’s harder for them to realize later.**

-Loyola student protestor

with people, and since the U.S. is funding so much into the genocide that is happening in Palestine, we need to start this movement.”

The other Loyola student echoed this sentiment. She said students should familiarize themselves with social issues.

“Youth is the future, and if people aren’t realizing it now, it’s harder for them to realize later,” she said. “Even if they’re not comfortable being part of movements yet, even just educating themselves and taking that first step [is beneficial].”

After the march, Niveen Sarras, a Palestinian-born pastor at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Neenah, shared how the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has personally affected her. Last year, five of Sarras’s family members, along with hundreds of other dis-

placed civilians, were sheltering in Gaza’s Church of Saint Porphyrius.

In October 2023, an Israel airstrike killed at least 16 people, according to the New York Times. Five of these fatalities were Sarras’s family.

“They were sheltering there,” Sarras said. “They thought they would be safe. Children, women, elderly died.”

Sarras expressed gratitude toward protesters for their support for her, her family and other Palestinians.

“I thank you for the demonstration, and I encourage you to keep doing this peacefully and to not pay attention to those who try to stop you from doing what is right and just,” she said.

## The many faces of UWO’s military veterans

By Kourtney Marco  
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Aaron Kloss said he graduated high school with no positive direction to head in life, so he decided to join the military.

“I wasn’t making smart choices causing some conflict at home,” he said. “Ultimately, I had to make a decision on what I wanted my future to look like.”

Kloss was in the National Guard for 17 years, serving three deployments in Iraq, and said he found some purpose through the experience.

“I had a realization that I needed to be doing this for a larger reason than what I had originally signed on for, and that progressed and evolved,” Kloss said. “I got married and had children, then it was ‘ok, I’m doing this to help take care of them.’”

According to USAFacts, the military has about 1.29 million active-duty troops and over 700,000 National Guard or troops in reserves as of September 2023.

Veterans after their service said there were aspects of their stories that are positive and difficult alike. They said staying in contact with other military members and sharing their experiences provides comfort.

“No vet is going to have the same story,” Josh Neubert, an Air

Force veteran, said. “There are going to be similar parts, but there are going to be other parts for other people. We’re individual people with individual lives.”

Neubert said he was inspired by his uncle’s service in the Navy and wanted to serve in the military like him.

“I looked up to him growing up,” Neubert said. “So, I just kind of wanted to follow in his footsteps a bit.”

Air Force veteran Ashlee Zetzer said her grandfathers, father and brother served in the military, but Zetzer was the first female military member of her family and joined despite not having support from everyone.

“I felt like it was really empowering,” she said. “It felt good to get out there and sacrifice something for something greater.”

Like many veterans, Zetzer said she valued the friendships she formed during her service through their shared experiences.

“You have to embrace who your new family is,” Zetzer said. “The military is the people that you get to know, that you learn from and you make bonds with. It’s a sisterhood and a brotherhood.”

Losing some of her friends to suicide was one of the hardest things about the military, Zetzer said.

“Suicide in the military is a

thing, and it is the leading cause of death in the military,” Zetzer said. “One of the hardest things is seeing somebody you love slowly die because of things they had endured during the military.”

Kloss said the hardest part of his service in the National Guard was changing from a civilian mindset to an active-duty one.

“It’s your job,” Kloss said. “You’re there eight hours a day doing what somebody else is telling you to do. A civilian mindset there’s all these options, and it’s more on you to make your own decisions and to guide yourself.”

Kloss said when he returned from his deployments, changing his mindset was harder each time.

“Those transitions have been probably the most challenging,” he said. “It was more difficult to come back after my second than it was to come back after my first.”

Army veteran Jon Wiczorek said he often finds himself needing to turn the active mindset off in everyday interactions.

“I sometimes slip back into that mindset,” Wiczorek said. “I’ve been told repeatedly to tone it down. What we did over there is no longer acceptable. You just don’t talk; you just sit there and do nothing.”

Wiczorek served six years as active duty and was deployed three times, experiencing constant



Aaron Kloss



Josh Neubert

awareness and attention every moment of the day.

“When you’re over there, you have adrenaline pumping, you have caffeine going through, so you’re alert,” Wiczorek said. “You feel almost invincible; you feel like you know everything, every sound, every touch, every taste, smell everything.”

Wiczorek said while on active duty, he began to ask what if questions about every circumstance and person.

“In Afghanistan, you learn the ‘what if’ games a lot,” he said. “‘What if that old dude there sitting behind a car? He’s got a bomb in the back.’”

Wiczorek said when returning to civilian life, constant alertness is no longer needed leaving him unsure about who he was anymore.

“In civilian life all that’s gone and it’s like I need stuff,” he said.

“I’m no longer the person I was. Do I like chocolate? I don’t know.”

Zetzer said a big aspect of the service is the mental game the military requires of its participants.

“You have to go in, and you have to fight,” Zetzer said. “I feel like a lot of people might go into it and be like ‘it’s gonna be easy.’ It’s hard, but it’s not impossible.”

Kloss said the important thing to remember while serving in the military is to be prepared to change.

“Understand that it’s going to come,” Kloss said. “You are not going to be the same person prior to joining the military that you’re going to be when you leave the military, good, bad or ugly.”

# Sports



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

The UWO softball team celebrates after sweeping the doubleheader against UW-Platteville on May 1. UWO earned the No. 1 seed in the WIAC tournament.

## Softball claims regular season title

By Nolan Andler  
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The UW Oshkosh women's softball team clinched the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title over the weekend with sweeps over UW-Platteville and UW-Eau Claire.

UWO was able to win both games at Platteville with scores of 3-0, and 4-0 respectively. Sydney Nemetz and Abby Freismuth started both games for the Titans and were able to go the distance in both games.

In game one, all the offense needed was two RBI singles from Brianna Davis and Abby Garceau and an RBI triple from Hannah Ritter to the game. Then, in game two, Cali Divito scored on an RBI sacrifice fly from Ritter in the top

of the third to get the lead. UWO was able to extend the lead with a three-run sixth inning thanks to RBI doubles from Davis and Morgan Rau to make the score 4-0.

The sweep versus the Pioneers set the Titans in a position where if they split their doubleheader versus UW-Eau Claire, UWO shares the title but if they sweep the Blugolds then the Titans clinch the WIAC outright. The team was able to accomplish the latter of the two potential scenarios as they swept the Blugolds. The Titans made sure that they did not leave any room for error in the two games as they crushed UWEC in both games with scores of 6-1 and 10-4 respectively. UWO blew open game one immediately with a three-run homer from Sophie Wery in the first and a two run ho-

mer from Rau in the third to make it 5-0.

The Blugolds were only able to scrape across one run in the game thanks to a solo homer. The second contest of the doubleheader started out close as UWO scored two runs in the third inning with a single from Garceau and a fielder's choice from Wery.

Even though the Blugolds responded with three runs in the bottom of the inning to take the lead at 2-3 UWEC, the Titans did not go down, UWO answered with a four-run fifth inning thanks to two RBI doubles from Ritter and Rau, an RBI single from Wery and a bases-loaded walk to make it 6-3 Titans. UWO was also able to put together a three-run seventh inning to really put it away and clinch the overall WIAC regular season title.

Head Coach Scott Beyer said that the team used the win in game one as motivation to take both games.

"After we won game one, we knew that we had a share of the title, and between games the players were very determined to win the title outright," he said. "When they did it, the excitement and joy was amazing. The team worked so hard, and to see that pay off is an incredible feeling."

With winning the regular season title, the Titans get to host the WIAC tournament this weekend. Beyer said that it will be an advantage for the tournament to run through Oshkosh.

"It will be nice to be in our own beds for sure," he said. "There is a sense of confidence you have at home versus on the road and we

will need every advantage we can get."

Beyer also realizes that to win this title. They will need to continue playing at their best, even though they are the host team.

"We are going at this as any other weekend. We know what we and the teams we will face are capable of," he said. "We have beaten each team in the tournament before, so we will be confident and work on the normal things we always do."

The 2024 WIAC women's softball tournament starts on May 9. The Titans will play their first game at 2 p.m. against the winner of the matchup between UW-Eau Claire and UW-Whitewater.

## Baseball secures spot in WIAC tournament

By Will Withers  
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The UW Oshkosh baseball team went 1-3 in their weekend series against UW-Platteville on May 4 and 5 with the scores 5-4, 11-1, 14-4 and 6-5.

The Titans came into the series after the team split with UW-Stout. Platteville came into the series having won four of their past five games.

Connor Brinkman got the start in the first game. He allowed nine hits and a walk with six strikeouts in eight innings.

Leading off in the top of the first, Jake Surane hit a two-run home run sending in Jack McNamara for 2 RBIs.

The second inning also had some action. Junior Mason Kirchberg led the inning with a solo shot over the left field wall. Then Braydon Skenandore singled to right field. After advancing to second on a passed ball, he scored off a Brendan Max double. Those two runs made the score 4-0 Titans.

The Pioneers then scored one run in the fourth and fifth innings off RBI singles. An RBI triple scored two more. The Titans couldn't put any more runs on the

board, so they finished the game with a score of 5-4.

Sophomore Connor Walters got the nod for the second game. He only allowed two hits and a walk with five strikeouts in the seven-inning complete game.

Surane again produced a first inning two-run home run, scoring Max. In the top of the second inning, Max hit an RBI single to center, scoring Owen Housinger, sending Skenandore to third base and Carter Stebane to second.

The Pioneers scored their only run of the game in the bottom of the third inning with a sacrifice fly to center.

The fireworks came out in the fifth, with a Kirchberg RBI single scoring Surane and advancing Nick Shiu, who then scored on an RBI bunt from Housinger. Stebane followed that up with a double over the center fielder's head, scoring Housinger and Kirchberg. Then, Skenandore scored on a Max RBI single to center, and Stebane scored on a sacrifice fly from McNamara, ending the inning with the score sitting at 9-1.

The sixth inning brought the Titans' final two runs. Housinger hit a sacrifice fly to right to score Shiu, then Skenandore hit another sacrifice fly to center to score

Zach Taylor. Due to the 10-run rule, the Titans won 11-1 in the seventh inning.

The Titans came back the next day to play another two games, with Brett Gaynor on the bump. He allowed a run on six hits in four innings with Aaron Huijbrege coming into the fifth. He was given the loss after allowing five runs and five hits and a walk.

Game one was scoreless until Taylor hit a sacrifice fly to score Surane. Then, Danny Connelly scored Shiu on an RBI line out.

In the fifth, Stebane scored on an RBI groundout by Skenandore. Then, Surane hit a solo shot to left field, making the score 4-0.

Platteville scored in both the fifth and sixth innings, then their bats exploded, scoring eight runs in the seventh to make the score 11-4.

After stranding two on-base in the top of the eighth, the Pioneers scored three runs to end the game right there due to the 10-run rule.

Sophomore Aidan Trusky got the start after the loss. He pitched four innings, allowing zero runs on four hits, with two walks and a strikeout.

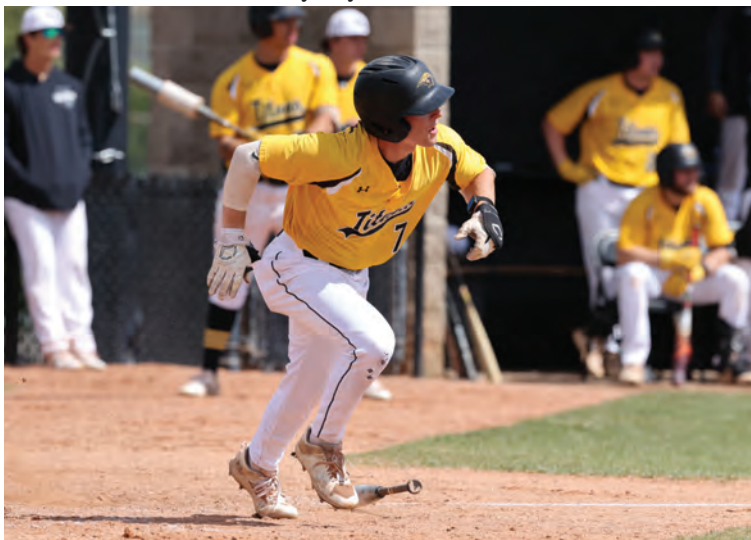
The Titans struck first on a Stebane sacrifice fly to center, scoring Kirchberg. The Titans struck

again after Surane walked, stole second and reached third on a throwing error. He scored on a sacrifice fly by Taylor.

In the fifth inning with three walks, Riley Pfeiffer, Taylor, and McNamara all scored, making the score 5-0 Titans.

The Pioneers scored one in the bottom of the fifth, then put up four runs in the bottom of the seventh off a two RBI single and a sacrifice fly. Platteville then put another run on in the eighth making the score 6-5 Pioneers.

The Titans could not rally any-



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

Jake Surane takes off from the batter's box after hitting a home run.

# Sports

## Meet the Titans's long snapper

By Jacob Link  
linkj13@uwosh.edu

Only one player for the UW Oshkosh football team played every possible snap at their position during the 2023 season. The player: Casey Webber. The position: long snapper.

"People forget about us long snappers until we mess up and only upon mishaps are we seen," Webber said. "In some ways, the goal of a long snapper is to go unnoticed and unseen, which usually means you did your job."

According to Webber, long snappers are one of the most forgettable positions in football. Snappers are usually seen yards away from their teammates during games and practices throwing balls between their legs with as tight of a spiral as a quarterback. Practically the definition of a "specialist," long snappers rarely see the field during games, only entering play when their team needs a field goal or punt.

Webber said that most people he meets in public have no clue what a long snapper is.

"I have spent a lot of time attempting to explain what a snapper is and have often been met with looks of confusion," Webber said. "I have to break down the position for people pretty regularly, and I'm typically met with either a look of complete confusion or a nod of the head as if the person knows exactly what I am talking about, even though it is very clear that they do not."

Former UWO long snapper Noah Phillips said that long snappers are a vital part of special teams, one of the three phases of football.

"They are responsible for snapping an accurate and timely ball to the holder on a field goal and extra point and to the punter on a punt," Phillips said. "A long snapper needs to be an athlete. This means delivering a perfect snap, having the strength to withhold a block and to have enough speed to run down the field in coverage to pursue the returner."

Webber saw anywhere from six to 12 plays during Titan football games last season during his junior year, his first full year as a starter. He said even though snappers don't get much playing time, they still have to be ready at all times because they never know when they'll be needed to sprint out onto the field and throw a perfect snap between their legs.

"It is definitely weird not knowing when you will be called upon and in what situation, and this forces the utmost focus at all times during a game," Webber said. "Regardless of the snap count, the focus and process remain the same: take it one snap at a time and treat every snap like it is my last. In other words, I do not get ahead of myself and think about the future, but rather focus on the here and now."

According to Sports Illustrated, from the beginning of football up until the 1980s, long snappers were just back-up tight ends or other position players who were called into the game to snap a few balls and then went back to playing their original position.

While George Burman is credited with being the first dedicated long snapper in the NFL when he played for Washington in 1971, Steve DeOssie revolutionized the

position when he was drafted as a linebacker and long snapper by the Dallas Cowboys in 1984. According to Sports Illustrated, DeOssie was one of the first long snappers to start handling rushers one-on-one, transforming the position into one not just about snapping the ball, but also about tackling and blocking.

Since DeOssie's playing days, the position has become a lot more specialized. Webber and former UWO snapper Alex Meyer said that they both started long snapping in middle school, almost by accident.

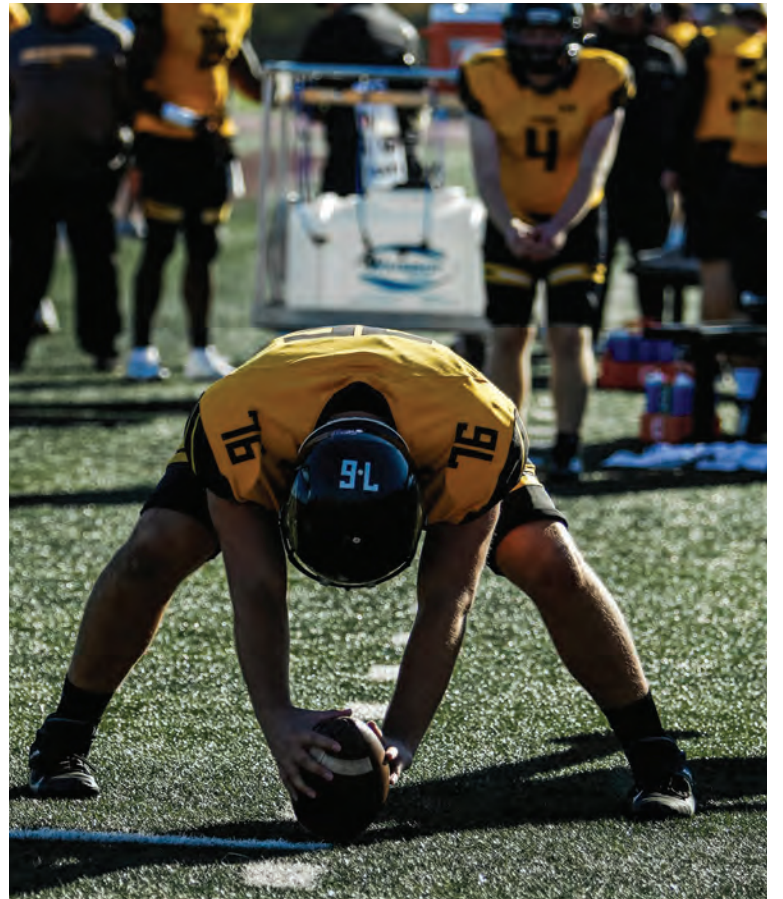
"I believe I got into long snapping in sixth or seventh grade when they were looking for someone to try it out, and I gave it a shot and loved it," Meyer said.

Webber said he was taught how to long snap by coach James Halford, an ex-marine who snapped for Indiana University.

"I first got into long snapping as a middle school football player after I was the only one that volunteered to try at the time," Webber said. "In high school, I was the only one willing and the only one with a little experience, so I once again gave it a shot. Long snapping was very much a secondary thing that I did in high school to help the team, and only once I got to college did I start to really focus on it solely."

Phillips took a little different route to becoming a snapper after he was recruited to go to UWO as a wide receiver. He said he battled injuries his first three years and was going to quit the team and coach until he found out that the long snapping position was open.

"I then proceeded to practice without any experience," Phillips



Morgan Feltz / Advance-Titan  
Casey Webber prepares to snap a ball to teammate Jacob Link.

said. "I started watching videos and learning how to throw the ball in between my legs."

Phillips said he grew his skill-set as a long snapper after visiting snapping coach Kyle Stelter in Eau Claire.

"Coach Stelter trains collegiate and professional long snappers," Phillips said. "I learned so much from him and really polished up on my snapping. From there, it was repetition and countless hours of practice."

Webber said that being a long

snapper is just like any other position on the UWO football team.

"At the end of the day, we are all trying to have fun and win football games; it just happens to come in different forms regarding our impact on the team and duties on game day," he said. "We all have the same goal in mind and the same mindset, which is to win as many games as we can."

## Track competes at outdoor championship

By Owen Larsen  
larsenow07@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh track and field teams competed at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference outdoor championships in Platteville on May 3 and 4, with the men's team placing second and the women's team placing third.

The men's team won six events and had 12 All-WIAC mentions.

Caleb Cornelius claimed the top spot in the high jump with a height of 2.09 meters and his teammate Kyle Wisniewski took second place with a height of 2.09 meters. They both earned All-WIAC nods.

Despite finishing in second place, Davian Willems set the outdoor 100-meter dash program record at 10.31 seconds, earning himself a place on the All-WIAC first team.

Danny Vinson, Rashaad Henderson, Londyn Little and Dylan Gramley took first place in the 4x100-meter relay to earn themselves an All-WIAC appearance each.

Three of the four 4x100-meter relay winners would also earn All-WIAC nods in the 200-meter dash. Little took first place with a time of 21.16 seconds with Henderson and Gramley following, respectively, for second and third place with times of 21.18 and



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

Amelia Lehman runs for one of her event wins at the the WIAC outdoor championships. 21.36 seconds

Henderson added a third accolade on the weekend after being named the Max Sparger Scholar-Athlete at the conclusion of the event.

Isaiah Isom earned his place on the All-WIAC first team by getting first place in the shot put with a distance of 17.43 meters.

Charlie Nolan, Aden Sears and RJ Bosshart all earned All-WIAC appearances in the decathlon.

Steven Potter earned a spot on All-WIAC in two events, taking second in both the 1,500-meter run and 800-meter run.

The women's team saw four event wins and six first team All-WIAC appearances over the weekend.

Amelia Lehman won the 1,500-meter run with a time of 4:38.38 and the 5,000-meter run with a time of 17:38.97, earning all-WIAC in both events.

Maddy LaVoi joined the All-WIAC list with a first place finish in the 400-meter dash with a time of 57.05 seconds

Cyna Madigan and Libby Geisness earned their spot on All-WIAC with second and third place finishes in the 800-meter run with

times of 2:13.11 and 2:13.61.

Madigan earned another accolade when she received the Judy Kruckman Scholar-Athlete award at the conclusion of the event.

The Titans would get three second team All-WIAC honors from Julia Steger, Olivia Stenzel, Madigan and LaVoi who together finished in second place in the 4x400-meter relay.

The track and field season continues at the UW-La Crosse Eagle Open on May 10 at 3 p.m.



## Scoreboard

### Saturday, May 4

#### Baseball

Game 1  
UWO - 4  
UW-Platteville - 5  
Game 2  
UWO - 11  
UW-Platteville - 1

#### Softball

Game 1  
UWO - 6  
UW-Eau Claire - 1  
Game 2  
UWO - 10  
UW-Eau Claire - 4

#### Track and Field

WIAC Outdoor Championship  
Men's Team - 2nd Place  
Women's Team - 3rd Place

### Sunday, May 5

#### Baseball

Game 1  
UWO - 4  
UW-Platteville - 14  
Game 2  
UWO - 5  
UW-Platteville - 6



Student and community protesters march on the UW Oshkosh campus demanding freedom for Palestinians and calling for the Universities of Wisconsin to pull funding out of Israel.



Lily Weber, vice president of the UW Oshkosh Student Socialist Association, leads chants such as “free free Palestine” and “Biden, Biden, you can’t hide, you’re committing genocide.”



Counter protester follows marchers through campus chanting “USA USA” while sporting an “I <3 ISR” pin.



Students carry signs showing support for Palestine.



Oshkosh community member plays the drum along with chanting protesters.

# History in the making

Following Columbia University in New York, campuses across the U.S. sprang into action protesting the Israeli/Palestine conflict.

UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee took the lead setting up encampments on their library mall's. Now, UW Oshkosh is the third university in Wisconsin to join the fight.

*UWO's march for Palestine*

Photos by Jessica Duch / Advance-Titan



Six-year-old River McCarthy stands among protesters. River has attended four marches in support of Palestine with her mother Rosemary McCarthy. Rain is wearing a keffiyeh — a traditional Palestinian scarf that has become a popular symbol among pro-Palestinian protesters.

## Arts &amp; Culture

## A-T adviser Barb Benish retires

By the Advance-Titan staff

Six years and 153 issues later, our beloved adviser Barbara Benish is retiring. Seniors write their own sendoffs, but after everything she's done for us we thought we'd write this for her.

Barb, thank you for everything you've done for us over the years. We're going to miss you, but we have a feeling you'll still be around.

Here's your very own adviser sendoff from Advance-Titan staff and alumni.

**Joe Schulz**

In September 2018, I joined the A-T as a junior with zero journalism experience. Barb was always an encouraging mentor for me and the other A-T reporters and editors. She was often our "news mom." As most mothers do, Barb wore multiple hats. She helped us navigate campus politics, newspaper finances and even served as our de-facto legal counsel. When a local business or campus official was mad at the newspaper because of something naive college kids published, Barb helped us organize meetings with stakeholders to set things right. Just ask her about the "barista bellyaches" story sometime.

Barb cares deeply about the Advance-Titan. She used to work at the paper during her time at UWO, and she always pushed us to serve the campus and wider community. She trusted us to cover stories beyond campus to help fill the void of hyperlocal coverage.

She also served as an outstanding advocate for her students when we graduated. She was happy to serve as a job reference and many graduates, including myself, found jobs in journalism or public relations on her recommendation.

**Kelly Hueckman**

Where would Oshkosh be without Barb? Her contributions to Oshkosh's journalistic landscape have been immeasurable, and the world has so much to learn from her skills, work ethic and pure desire to learn. As a student, it is a blessing to have crossed paths with her.

If I had to describe Barb in one word, it would be "go!" As an adviser, she teaches us to have that same curiosity and live as many experiences as we can. She is eager to pass along her knowledge and skills to new journalists like us and isn't afraid to take the time to get us where we need to go. She's spent countless hours proofreading stories, giving feedback, looking over resumes and writing letters of recommendation for our benefit.

Barb is a steady force in any environment. At the A-T, she has grounded us in a newsroom of tears and comforted us when some of us were convinced our careers were over before we even started.

The world has so much to learn from Barb, whether that be in her writing and design abilities, her sheer intelligence or her lust for learning.

**Cassidy Johnson**

Barb has been a ray of sunshine from the moment I met her. The first time we met, we sat and talked for hours while she taught me how to upload the newsletter and stories



Cassidy Johnson / Advance-Titan

In classic Barb fashion, she edits her own sendoff after telling the staff there was no way she'd let them publish an entire page about her. Too bad so sad Barb! We love you too much.

onto the website.

Barb has had an awesome impact on me and my college experience in so many ways, but the most impactful thing was her willingness to take a chance on me and others. Barb sees the potential in every person, and works with them until they see it, too. It was this positivity that motivated me to do better and work harder.

Despite being the oldest in the room, she never felt out of place. She fit right in with us, always smiling, laughing, joking and even dancing with us during production nights. Her age is truly just a number; Barb is the definition of young at heart. She looks the part, too!

I'm going to miss all the wonderful ways she's helped the A-T and its members, but most of all I'm going to miss her smiling face and bright demeanor lighting up our office in the basement. I'll never forget joking with her, dancing to Nicki Minaj with her, or the face she makes when she overhears us say something crazy. Barb is truly such a special soul, and even though I selfishly want her to stay, Thank you for all of your years dedicated to the A-T. The impact you've had is irreversible and irreplaceable.

**Angela Satterlee**

Barb welcomed me into the A-T with open arms. I was completely unfamiliar with a newsroom setting but when I walked in for the first time I felt right at home. She taught me so much about what it means to be a journalist and a leader. If I ever had a question, I knew I could go to Barb and she'd be able to answer me without judgment.

Not only has Barb helped me in the A-T, but she recommended me for a position as a publications intern for the same organization she freelances at. Without her I wouldn't be where I am, and because of her we've all grown to have the skills to continue the A-T and make her proud.

**Leo Costello**

Barb has been in the background of my life since I was a kid growing up in Oshkosh because her children are about the same age as my siblings and I. But it wasn't until the A-T that she really came into my life as a mentor and a bottomless pit of encouragement. I had a tough go in college, my 10-year story making its way into an A-T article

that launched me behind the commencement podium. I'm not sure if that would have happened without Barb.

She looked past my inner struggles, saw what I was capable of, and worked to bring that to the surface in many small but meaningful ways. Barb doesn't do what she does because it's her job. She truly loves bringing out the best in people, even if they don't see it themselves. Barb also really understands the power of journalism and encourages the impressionable A-T staff to take chances and make the right kind of mistakes before entering the more risk-averse workforce. To this day, Barb is still my go-to college reference for jobs and she's always a phone call away if I need some career or life advice.

**Cory Sparks**

Barb is someone who has always been willing to go above and beyond for others. As a member of the Advance-Titan's production nights for 3½ years, I vividly remember Barb's "I'm just stopping in for a bit" introductions turning into nights where she'd spend hours helping us perfect that week's issue. She never wavered when it came to lending herself as a resource and always led with compassion. There aren't many advisers, or people in general, out there who have a heart like Barb's!

**Katie Pulvermacher**

I know everyone says this, but Barb is truly everyone's mom away from home. I still find myself, as a graduate, texting her for advice on all sorts of things. Her kind words go a long way. Whether it be bringing in caviar from sturgeon spearing for the whole staff to try, showing us pictures from her latest camping adventure, or telling us the craziest Barb lore, Barb always kept the office lively and was a friendly face and encouraging mentor.

Barb and I basically have the same phone and phone case. The amount of times during production nights that our phones ended up right next to each other is countless. Let's just say our phones got mixed up just about every Tuesday night.

Washington D.C. was a memorable trip. She somehow had the staff power walking all of D.C. when we had time off after the newspaper

conference ended for the day. I desperately wanted ice cream on this trip and Barb convinced everyone to go on a walk to get some. After walking far enough to exhaust everyone, we arrived to find the shop closed. But Barb promised me that we would get some ice cream, and she found a gelato place for us all to go the next day. She always helps you reach your goals — even if that goal is eating some ice cream.

**Lexi Langendorf**

I walked into the A-T office for the first time feeling nervous and unfamiliar. Barb pulled up a chair beside me, welcoming me warmly, and gently began guiding me calmly and patiently as I learned my way around the editing software. She encouraged me and complimented my work so that by the time I was finished, my mood had completely shifted, and I was feeling confident and secure in my new editing role.

As I got to know Barb, I started to understand that my very first impression of her was symbolic of who she always was. She naturally left you feeling better than you had before interacting with her. Barb was always a comfort and a light to be around because you always knew every interaction with her would be genuine and kind. Even in silence, she radiated supportiveness and confidence in every student she worked with.

**Anya Kelley**

Oh Barb, what am I going to do without you?

A month into my transfer to UWO, Sara Steffes-Hansen urged me to email the A-T adviser to ask for a story assignment. "She's very friendly and super helpful; give her an email!" Little did I know that would be the beginning of the whirlwind that is working for a student newspaper.

From my first story assignment, to becoming the assistant news editor, and now serving as editor-in-chief, Barb has guided me every step of the way. I don't think I ever would have figured out In-Design if it wasn't for her (terrifying) crash course on the program.

Barb, I wouldn't be the reporter I am today if it wasn't for you. I will carry the lessons you've taught me through my career and I can't thank you enough. But don't think you can get rid of me quite yet! I'm still going to come over and hang out

with your cat... and you of course.

Try and take a break sometime. Maybe leave your laptop at home for a weekend? I promise the world won't end.

**Owen Peterson**

I was lucky enough to work with Barb for all four years I was at UWO, and I can confidently say that the A-T would not be the wonderful, welcoming place it is without her.

It really cannot be overstated just how much Barb brought to the A-T — and I'm not just talking about the tacky singing fish or questionable assortment of CDs. Her kindness and leadership made the A-T not only a great place to be, but an amazing opportunity to learn and grow as a writer.

More than anything, her dedication to helping each staff member grow is truly admirable. I know I would not be the person I am now if it were not for her believing in me and pushing me to do more — a sentiment I'm sure is shared by other staffers.

To end, I'd like to say this: There's a reason so many staffers refer to the A-T as 'home,' and it's Barb.

**Nolan Swenson**

Barb is a radiant person. Despite how happy I am for her that she will have more time to focus on her amazing self, I know that this campus is lesser without her.

All of my peers have become who they are as a result of her love and investment and I can't thank her enough for it. She is a true leader and I hope that as I grow, I'll have half the impact she has had.

**Kyiah Nelson**

When I first started at the A-T, Barb was so welcoming. She was incredibly patient with a table of completely new copy editors who had never heard of associated press style, and who weren't even journalism majors.

Me being me, I had a million questions about the style, where to find things and how to best correct things in different situations. She answered all of my questions without ever discouraging me from asking.

While I was easily the slowest copy editor of the three, she praised me for being thorough. I began to take pride in that strength because of her. Later on, she even referred me to do some freelance work, an experience I learned a lot from.

Barb treats us like people and asks about our lives. She is always excited to celebrate our accomplishments. Honestly, she's been a role model for me — she lights up any room she's in, and you feel her absence when she leaves.

Even when I was thinking ahead to graduation over a year ago, it was hard to think that I won't see her on my Tuesday nights. But imagining the A-T without her is... strange. Of course, it will carry on, but she is definitely a staple in the A-T office.

Barb, thank you for everything you've done for the A-T and for me. I will miss you, as will the rest of the staff.

# Arts & Culture

## Senior Sendoffs

# Sports editor's last baseball story

By Owen Larsen  
larsenow07@uwosh.edu

I'll be quite honest, I didn't expect to be here working for this paper. I didn't even expect to be in Oshkosh.

I started my college career in Minnesota in 2020 planning to be an economics major. That quickly went into the gutter once I took a calculus class my freshman year. Yikes, that first exam! What in the world was I thinking?

I always enjoyed writing so the next natural progression was to look at journalism being my major. When I say I enjoy writing it might be an understatement. When my family moved during my senior year of high school we collected around three (my mom says it might've been more) trash bags worth of notebooks filled with my little sports stories, predictions and results from experiments I'd conduct on Madden, NBA2K or any other sports video game you can think of. Some of these notebooks probably dated back to 2008 when I was 7. Sometimes I'll find one from around then and just think about how bad my handwriting was in first grade.

It was pretty clear I wanted to write about sports once I became a journalism major at Minnesota and I needed to find out what that'd look like for me. I quickly discovered that the Big Ten is stingy and getting access to cover those sporting

events is pretty difficult. I pivoted to find other ways to be creative. If you saw my work from Minnesota you'd probably be surprised considering I've only written about sports here at the Advance-Titan, but most of my stories were about local artists, musicians, DJs and composers in the Minneapolis area. Once I discovered that I can enjoy this field outside of sports, I finally felt like I was going down the right path.

One thing led to another during the entirety of my junior year in Minneapolis and I eventually decided I'd be spending my final college days at UW Oshkosh.

It was very hard to come to a decision to head to a place that I had very little idea about for my senior year. However, there were a lot of things however that made this transition easier for me.

First, thank you to our former Arts and Entertainment Editor Mattie Beck for dating my best friend and feeling compelled to introduce me to our Editor-in-Chief Anya Kelley, Managing Editor Kelly Hueckman and former EIC Katie Pulvermacher a week before the fall semester started and collectively convincing me to join the paper. Also shoutout to the goofiest interview I'll ever have in my life, hopefully, thanks to Anya and Kelly. Thankfully I met the number of pull-ups required to be sports editor.

Thank you to Nolan Swenson



Owen Larsen / Advance-Titan

Sports Editor Owen Larsen interviews a University of Minnesota student for a story in Fall 2022. Larsen will graduate from UWO on May 18.

and Jacob Link for showing me the ropes of the sports section when I first arrived. Thank you to Nolan Andler and Jacob for helping me out with the sports section this semester, and to the handful of students who needed to write a piece for their classes.

The rest of the A-T staff was awesome in making me feel accepted in this previously un-

known place. From the production nights where I was there until 3 a.m. to the ones where I got to catch the second half of the Bucks game and got random angry emails from someone who's lost the plot, I'd do it all again. Most of the A-T staff has been here longer than my measly single school year, but everyone should know that

the A-T is a great place and I'm shocked there aren't more people involved.

I often get the question, "Why would you transfer here from a school like Minnesota?" To answer this question one last time, trust me. I made the right choice, and the A-T is probably the biggest reason why.

# How All-vuh-row found his place at the A-T



Ella Rider / Advance-Titan

The Advance-Titan says goodbye to our copy desk editor Alvaro Rivera. He plans to get a public relations internship after graduation.

By Alvaro Rivera  
rivera24@uwosh.edu

I joined the Advance-Titan in the spring of 2023, which was during my first year here at the UW Oshkosh - Oshkosh campus. In my first two years of college, I went to the UW Oshkosh - Fond du Lac campus and I transferred to the Oshkosh campus in my third year of college. I was involved in a few club activities during my time at UWO-FDL such as the Student Activities Committee. Once I came to UWO I never joined any clubs or activities until I found out about the Advance-Titan.

I discovered the Advance-Titan through my editing class. Barb, our adviser, came to class to talk about it and she addressed the need for copy editors. She really sold me when she talked about the benefits of joining. She mentioned how it's a welcoming environment that's filled with many interesting people, it looks good on a resume, and it's an opportunity to get extra credit in the editing class.

I've learned a lot of valuable lessons from being in the Advance-Titan that will be very helpful throughout the rest of my

life. I was able to improve my copy editing skills while making sure that stories followed AP style, were grammatically correct and met tight deadlines. Whenever I was unsure of something, I could always count on Kyiah or someone else in the room to help me out and answer my questions.

From my experience, the best part about the Advance-Titan is the remarkable people that I was able to meet. Through this, I was extremely fortunate to have met Josh, Jacob and Nolan. They have made my time here enjoyable and I couldn't imagine my life without them. Everyone else in the Advance-Titan is extremely kind and they make spending time in the office worth it!

I honestly never saw myself being a part of a student newspaper, but I'm very happy that I was. I'm glad I decided to step out of my comfort zone and showed up during that one production night during the spring semester of 2023. My memories and experiences with the Advance-Titan and the people within it are truly unforgettable. I can't wait to see what the future holds for the Advance-Titan; I'm certain that the students will keep cooking up amazing papers!



# Arts & Culture

## Senior Sendoffs

# A-T's graphic designer signs off

By Michael Buckner  
bucknm86@uwosh.edu

My time at the Advance-Titan staff didn't start in my first year of college. I spent my first semester in business management before changing my major to graphic design.

But it was one of my South Scott Hall residents, then Sports Editor Nolan Swenson, who persuaded me to work for the A-T as a graphic designer. From there, I met a group of hard-working and dedicated staff members who are uniquely talented in their own right.

The Advance-Titan gave me the opportunity to show off my graphic design skills and incorporate everything I learned in the classroom. The paper allowed me to enhance my skill set and get more creative in doing my

own thing, creating designs that helped clarify and explain what stories were about.

With the help of everyone on the A-T staff, I got honest feedback that helped improve my graphics. The staff helped me navigate the work-client relationship of graphic design.

I was even interviewed for a story in the paper during Black History Month, which included examples of the work I've completed in my personal time.

Aside from graphic design I also learned some things that we all take for granted, like how to communicate better in the workplace and maintain a work life balance. Thanks to the staff, I was able to develop these skills so I can transfer them into the workplace.



Ella Rider / Advance-Titan

Michael Buckner creates his last graphic for the Advance-Titan, where he's worked since 2022.

# Copy desk chief and perfectionist graduates

By: Kyiah Nelson  
nelsok45@uwosh.edu

Hi friends,

How in the frick is this the last paper I'm going to work on?

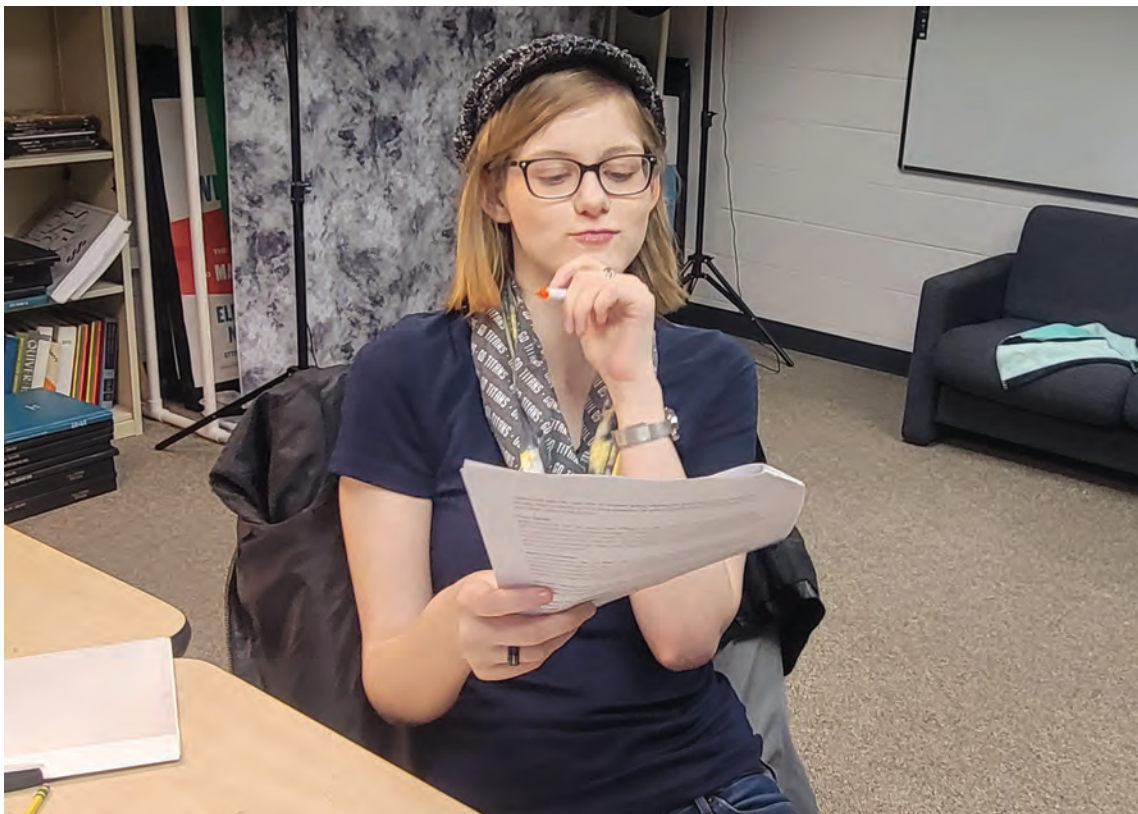
For the many readers who don't recognize my name (do you read the bylines, anyway?), I'm the Advance-Titan's local grammar nerd. I'm primarily a copy editor—I edit stories for facts, grammar and spelling.

I also edit for legibility. Mostly because lots of new writers try and write like they speak which is like really pretty hard to read and they're not really aware of it, but as I always say, the best way to get better at writing is to get feedback on it.

As a perfectionist at a profoundly understaffed copy desk, I've had nightmares about some of the mistakes that have been published. Other days, the feeling of seeing a nearly immaculate paper is like no other.

I started at the A-T after the pandemic. I saw a poster in Reeve Memorial Union looking for, among other things, copy editors. I ended up in the far corner of a windowless office in the underdeveloped basement of Reeve with a dictionary-sized book, a glossary and two strangers who were just as new as me.

As someone who liked grammar, that part of copy editing almost came naturally—I was



Angela Satterlee / Advance-Titan

Kyiah Nelson is celebrating her last production night as the copy desk chief for the Advance-Titan.

lucky on that front. But none of us three babies were journalism majors, so we had to forsake our Oxford commas and tackle the beast known as the Associated Press Stylebook; that's another story, though.

Trent Allaback and Savannah Bartelt, thank you for sharing those first semesters with me.

The Advance-Titan is inseparable from my experience at

UW Oshkosh; I've learned so much and met so many fantastic people.

Kelly and Anya, you rock. You've made my experience at the A-T so much better. Thank you for your company and helping at copy desk some of those busy nights. I admire the fact that you can do a bit of everything—it's sure to help you in the future.

Angela, I'm so glad you joined the A-T. You're a great friend and your positivity is contagious. Thank you for bringing your energy into the sometimes stifling basement every Tuesday night and for helping me with those dense sports articles (ew). I know you'll do great things in the future.

Owen and Nolan Jr., I know I trash talk your sports section,

but I really appreciate the work you do and all that goes into it. I'm looking forward to seeing the awesome things you do.

Jacob, thank you for putting up with all my sports questions and helping me get the information I need to fact check. I know you'll do great wherever you end up.

Barb, thank you for everything you've done for the A-T and for me. Thank you for encouraging me and valuing my strengths when I'm concerned about my weaknesses. Everything I'm thankful to you for is too much to put here, but it's hard to imagine the A-T (or my Tuesday nights) without you.

Anyone who knows me knows I appreciate the little things. Every person who helps or has helped with production night has done at least one little thing I'm grateful for. To anyone I haven't addressed yet, thank you.

To our student readers, I encourage you to get involved in the A-T. On top of the marketable skills and the portfolio you can build from it, the A-T is made up of so many great people.

If it's not clear by now, I love the A-T. As crazy as I went some production nights, I loved being in that singularity of a space with wonderful people and a task that I truly enjoyed.

## INTERESTED IN WRITING FOR THE ADVANCE-TITAN?

Become a member of UW Oshkosh's student-led newspaper for next semester!

Email [atitan@uwosh.edu](mailto:atitan@uwosh.edu) for details. We have open positions for copy desk chief, distribution manager, sports editor and assistant sports editor. We are always looking for more writers, copy editors and photographers.

No experience needed!



Dakota Birenbaum / Advance-Titan

UW Oshkosh's Disability Advocates band together outside of Dempsey Hall to protest the university's DEI defunding and unfair treatment.

# Disability Advocates fight back

By Advance-Titan Staff

Last week, the UW Oshkosh Disability Advocate staged a walk-out after compiling a 12-page document titled "Issues and Demands: Addressing ADA and 504 Violations at UW Oshkosh for Students."

In a country where over 13% of our population has a disability, it's quite tragic that we have universities that are not offering equal opportunities for success to people who are in need of accommodations.

34 years after the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed, it is embarrassing to go to a university that has malfunctioning push plates on doors, elevators out of commission for extended periods of time and professors who make students jump through hoops just to get their legally required accommodations.

We need to listen to the people who are suffering from the university's lack of support for the

disabled community, not interrogate them for doctor's notes. It is imperative that their concerns are addressed by the university.

Being a college student with disabilities is already hard enough; UWO should be trying to make their lives easier, not harder.

This is exactly why the diversity, equity and inclusion program was enacted in the first place, and quite frankly, this feels like more of a dismantling than a defunding. DEI budget cuts were administered just this year, and the results have already snowballed into an avalanche.

Not only are students unable to access the resources they need, but some faculty members are taking this as a sign that they don't need to try or care anymore. DEI was more than a program; it was a statement to the university's students that the administration cares about those with disabilities and wants them to succeed.

Wisconsin's defunding of DEI feels like the opposite. Last year, the Wisconsin Assembly cut funding to the Universities of Wisconsin unless they restructured the DEI programs. When we defund the DEI programs, we dismantle the entire concept of diversity, equity and inclusion.

As most people know, not all disabilities are visible. Learning disabilities are one example, and one that is critical considering what all of us are here for. It's ironic that some professors of higher education are so uneducated on this subject, especially when their whole job is to help students learn. It's even more upsetting that staff members left in the accessibility program seem to understand even less, basically just telling students to quit.

One of the major reasons DEI had to be defunded in the first place was due to the huge deficit the university was in — a deficit partially

created by a lack of enrollment and retention.

How they thought defunding DEI would help with this is beyond us, but the cherry on top is accessibility staffers advising students with disabilities to transfer or change career paths. All this is doing is creating a vicious cycle, one that is hurting not just the students but the university as a whole.

One of the areas clearly overlooked regarding cuts in the wake of the university's deficit is continued support for students with disabilities. Students being told that they shouldn't learn here, or that they should change their majors or classes chosen on the basis of their disability is an affront to genuine education that UWO should stand for, as well as a clear lack of ability on the behalf of the professors guilty of such to approach their responsibility to students. Every professor should be completely willing to fully support students with dis-

abilities as much as they can, working with these students to provide them an immersive education.

The same thing goes for the university as a whole. Maintaining services such as automatic door buttons, elevators, ramps and every other disability-oriented service should be their priority. Any failure to do so reasonably is viewed by students who make use of these options as a desire by the university to focus on things they view as more important — more important than these students' ability to pursue an education at this university.

Demands for these options are obviously reasonable, and it is the responsibility of the university to provide these, despite any and all budget shortfalls. The university should not be discussing tearing down and remodeling buildings if the budget doesn't allocate funds to maintain services absolutely necessary for students.

## Letter to the Editor:

# UW-Madison should allow encampment for protestors

By Ann Frisch  
frisch@uwosh.edu

Dear Chancellor Jennifer Mnookin. I am reading your statement as you became chancellor at UW-Madison.

"Lawyers have to listen carefully," she says. "They have to think strategically. They are, fundamentally, trained as problem solvers and sometimes have to persuade people that don't necessarily see the world the way they do. They also have to be willing to engage across difference and think seriously about alternative points of view. I do think those are qualities that I will bring to this role as chancellor."

I am a professor emerita at UW Oshkosh, and am calling on you to bring justice and good resolution to the encampment of students who are protesting the university's involvement in supporting the State

of Israel, their universities, and their military forces through investments in arms sellers by Black Rock and others.

My daughter is a graduate of UW-Madison. If she were on campus today, she would likely be in the encampment opposing the genocide in Gaza. If I were a student there, I would also be there.

I have some idea of the pressure you are under from many sides. I can imagine that you are doing the kind of thinking that you ask lawyers to do.

Given your philosophy I think you could do what no one else is doing: first, give them a permit to have their encampment, and engage them respectfully with the power they bring to the table. Bring in your investment staff, and the parties involved in other relationships with Israel which constitute sup-

port, I believe, for Israel, and have public discussions on the programs UW-Madison has that are supporting the genocide. Let there be public discussion on this. Are they really profitable investments? Are they risky investments? Do they violate conventions about not selling instruments of mass destruction, ones that cause indiscriminate suffering to civilian populations? Make the point that when UW-Madison engages with Black Rock, it is far broader than the genocide in Gaza.

I am also doing what I can to get people to divest from Black Rock: they are complicit in investing your money in companies that produce nuclear weapons.

This campaign is about ideas and their consequences. Should taxpayer money be used to fund genocide? Extinction?

To not provide authority to do an

encampment on campus is an old way of thinking by taking away the power of the protest.

UW-Madison has taken a stand to support Israel. Please engage the UW-Madison community in searching for how and why UW-Madison supports Israel's genocide, and what could be done to bring justice.

How difficult would it be to just not take sides in this? Conduct the inquiries, consider how UW-Madison is complicit in supporting the genocide. Take action befitting a great university. It could be discussed in the broader context as well: Should universities be investing in nuclear weapons? Military weapons?

UW-Madison's institutional statement on diversity says: "Diversity is a source of strength, creativity and innovation for

UW-Madison. We value the contributions of each person and respect the profound ways their identity, culture, background, experience, status, abilities and opinion enrich the university community. We commit ourselves to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, outreach and diversity as inextricably linked goals."

This is a good time to embrace those values and act on principles. The creative outcome is acceptance of the challenge and dialogue. It is not about knee-jerk divesting or knee-jerk removal of the protest. It is about dialogue of the power of university relationships and funding and its complicity in this genocide and the destruction of the planet.

I think you might be the person who could do this.

Thank you.

## Opinion

# Drop your vape: Therapeutic or therapy-inducing?

By Cassidy Johnson  
johnsonca51@uwosh.edu

Created and advertised originally to “help” those addicted to cigarettes, vapes came out on the scene in 2003 as a “healthy” alternative to smoking and have gotten increasingly popular since then. This is seen especially in recent years as vape companies are appealing to young adults more and more.

Of course, while vaping may help you quit smoking cigarettes, you’re really just trading one addiction for another; not to mention a more intense and harder-to-kick one. In comparison to cigarettes, vapes are tastier, more accessible, better smelling, rechargeable, and can be hit virtually anywhere because of the smoke-less vapor. Vape companies go out of their way to make disposable vapes as colorful and cool-looking as they can. Additionally, I’ve even seen some vapes with screens on them that have cute little icons that dance or spin whenever you take a hit so you can get even more of that psychological reward from hitting it.

Don’t be fooled. All of this is specifically designed to be addictive, even more so than cigarettes.

According to the National Institute of Health, of 3,754 college students in their 2018 study, 55.2% had used vapes before, 23.2% of which were daily users. With the stress, anxiety and depression that can come with being a college student, it’s no wonder almost a third of college students vape in search of a coping mechanism. The buzz they get from nicotine provides somewhat of an escape from reality. Moreover, with its popularity in recent years, vaping has become much more socially accepted—with users and vape stores at almost every corner, non-vapers may be encouraged to try it. You can’t even go to a party or bar without seeing somebody hit a vape.

Besides the obvious and scary physical health risks of vaping such as damage to your lungs, immune system, and your (still developing) brain, your vape isn’t helping you de-stress as much as you think it is. In fact, it’s likely

doing the opposite. According to the Truth Initiative, an anti-smoking organization, vaping can actually worsen symptoms of anxiety, depression and even ADHD. So, yes, while hitting your vape may relieve stress in the moment, what you’re really doing is trading short-term stress relief for long-term anxiety.

As college students, we are especially targeted and fed the lie that vaping can be a viable coping mechanism with our busy schedules, seemingly boundless responsibilities, and the stress and anxiety that comes with being a student.

I know I’m starting to sound like your mom or those annoying quitting ads you always skip, but it’s much more than statistics that’s motivating me. I can throw as many numbers and statistics as I want, but I have more than that. I have firsthand experience.

I started vaping my freshman year of college in search of an escape from the anxiety that comes with being a college student. I ignored all of those anti-vaping ads, too, even hitting my vape to them in what I thought was humor and retaliation. Now, I wish more than anything that I would’ve listened. I wish I would have thought twice before buying my first vape at Marley’s, and I wish I had known the magnitude this decision would have on me. The normality of vaping is what made me not even think twice. I thought that if everyone else was doing it, surely I’d be okay. The idea that vaping is much better than smoking cigarettes convinced me that I was making a responsible decision.

I was so naive for thinking that the thing that helps me deal with my stress couldn’t possibly be causing me anxiety. In truth, it was just happening so slowly I couldn’t tell. It crept up on me. After a year of consistent and daily vaping, I experienced one of my first panic attacks. Shortly after, I was put on anxiety meds to help manage my worsening social anxiety and ADHD. At the time, I just chalked it up to a tumultuous freshman year.

After almost three years, it got to the point where the only time

I didn’t feel anxiety was when I was hitting it. I couldn’t breathe as deeply, couldn’t sing as well, couldn’t run or dance or even walk up three flights of stairs without feeling winded or having chest pains. It wasn’t just physically killing me, it was also taking away all the life I had.

I never thought I would be strong enough to quit, but one day it got so bad that the anxiety I was feeling on a daily basis from my vape was worse than the anxiety of letting go of this comfort and dealing with the withdrawals. Finally, I put it all in a plastic bag and threw it into the dumpster. It wasn’t easy, but I can confidently say that dealing with withdrawals was a small price to pay for getting my life back.

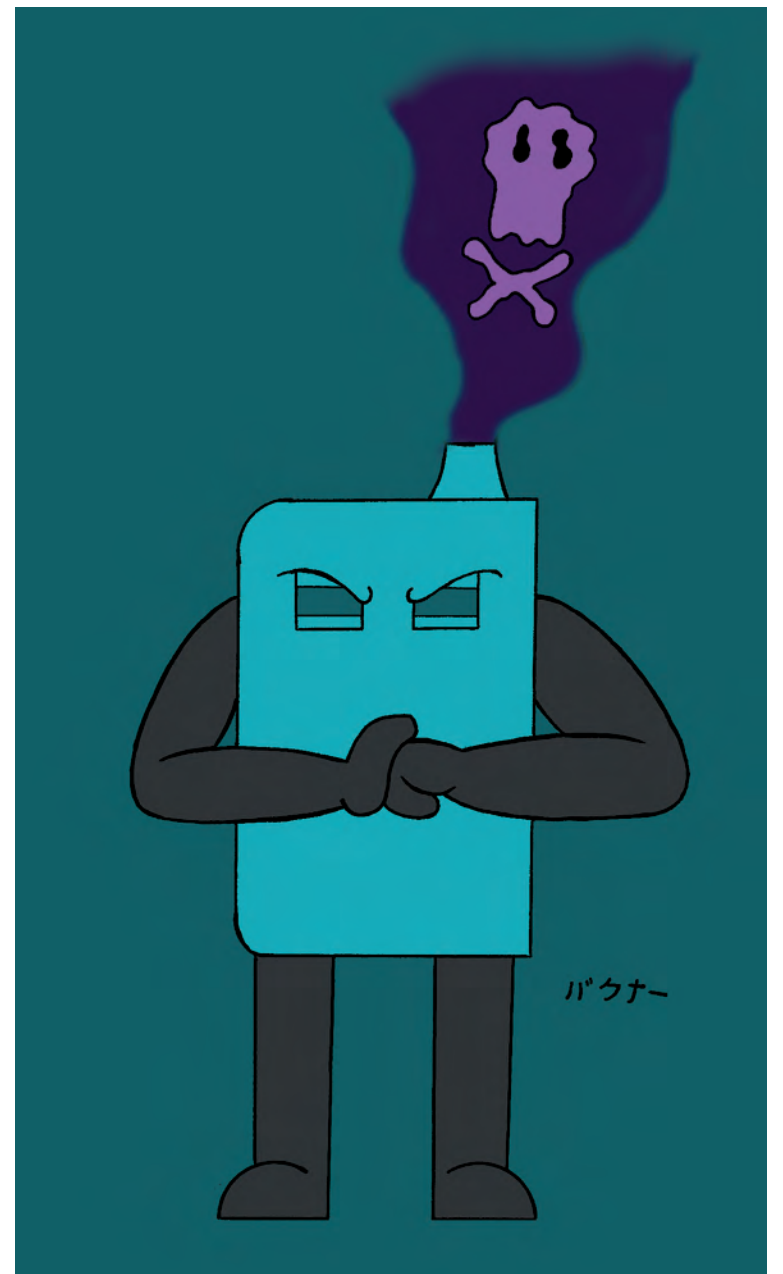
While I am proud of myself for finally quitting, I wish it had never gotten to that point in the first place. I sincerely don’t wish the anxiety, enslavement, fatigue and heaviness on even my worst enemies. That’s why I want to write about this.

Although the anti-smoking ads that Truth Initiative and others put out do have a lot of great information and resources, they didn’t necessarily motivate me to quit personally. The resources on their website and the text notifications I receive from them have been vital in dealing with withdrawal and temptation post-quitting, but I think a raw testimony can be a helpful tool.

Learn from my mistakes. If you’re thinking about starting, don’t; if you’re thinking about quitting, do it. If you’re thinking, “that won’t happen to me,” stop it. Yes it will, and it only gets harder the longer you wait.

Even just starting small by leaving your vape at home when you go to classes or work can help you wean off the drug and prepare you for withdrawal. Things like drinking soda from a straw, chewing gum, or sucking on lollipops can help mimic the oral fixation of vaping, and keeping an object like a lip oil or a highlighter in your pocket can also help mimic the presence of a vape.

Quitting vaping is a mental battle as well, so I recommend



バウナー

Graphic by Michael Buckner

According to the NIH, 24% of college students are e-cigarette users, and the prevalence of cardiovascular disease symptoms is doubled in comparison to non-users.

keeping a list of reasons why you want to quit to look back on when you feel that urge and temptation. Truth Initiative also has a sleuth of helpful resources on their website such as other people’s testimonies, the benefits of quitting, a free text sign-up that sends advice and motivation straight to your phone and more.

Once you’ve quit and have found the best way to deal with your withdrawals, all that’s left is to find another coping mechanism to replace vaping. This can be anything — running, breathwork, listening to music, praying, meditating, exercising, self-care or even just screaming into your pillow. All of these things release dopamine into your brain, the same hormone that is released when you hit your vape. What’s better? These things are naturally occur-

ring, so you’re not manipulating your natural dopamine levels, not to mention they don’t cost a dime.

Granted, it will get worse before it gets better. The first few days feel similar to the flu, with symptoms like the shakes, fatigue, nausea and anxiety, nothing you haven’t done before. Besides, those first few days are such a small price to pay for a lifetime of freedom from this harmful drug.

Take it from me, somebody who thought it was impossible to quit. It isn’t. I know it can be daunting, but just take it one day at a time. The first few days were the toughest, but after just three days I started to feel better. I felt more energized, less anxious, more focused, and overall happier. So, put down your vape, and pick yourself up. College is hard enough without dealing with addiction.

## Submit a letter today!

### Letter Guidelines:

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

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

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

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

## Letter to the Editor

### UFSO thanks the Advance-Titan

By David Siemers  
siemers@uwosh.edu

The leadership of United Faculty and Staff of Oshkosh, our faculty and staff union, want to express our public appreciation for your coverage of this year’s events at UW Oshkosh. In a media environment where local news is hard to find, you have distinguished yourselves. Your professional news coverage and insightful editorials have spoken truth to power. As important as

it is to celebrate our school’s accomplishments—and it is—we also need to keep our eyes on what conditions are like for our teachers and learners and staff. Students deserve optimal learning conditions and support. These are matters of public concern. We need UW Oshkosh to thrive for our region and our state to thrive. The Advance-Titan staff has helped shine a light on these critical issues in this very trying year, and we are grateful.

David Siemers, President,

United Faculty and Staff of UW Oshkosh and Political Science Department

Jim Feldman, Environmental Studies and History

Michelle Kuhl, History

Gabriel Loiacono, History and Social Work

Misty McPhee, Environmental Studies and Biology

Stephanie Spehar, Anthropology and SIRT

Paul Van Auken, Sociology