

# The Advance-Titan

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Katie Lechton / Advance-Titan

The UW Oshkosh volleyball team celebrates after advancing to its third straight Elite Eight in the NCAA tournament at the Kolf Sports Center on Nov. 22.

## UWO wins Oshkosh Regional

By Nolan Andler  
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The UW Oshkosh women's volleyball team made its third straight NCAA Elite Eight appearance by winning the Oshkosh Regional at Kolf Sports Center over the weekend of Nov. 20-22 for the NCAA Division III Tournament.

The No. 3-ranked Titans did it by sweeping its three opponents in Greenville University (Illinois), No. 25 Gustavus Adolphus College (Minnesota) and No. 21 Washington University in St. Louis (Missouri).

"We have goals and checked boxes that we strive to reach every year," junior Samantha Perlberg said about reaching a third straight Elite Eight. "(Three Elite Eight appearances) in a row feels awesome, but we always want to go further."

In their opening round match against Greenville, similar to when the Titans opened the 2023 tournament over the Panthers, UWO swept Greenville 3-0 in the first round on Thursday, Nov. 20. Despite having a lead as large as 12-7 in the first set, the Titans had to survive a fight from the Panthers, winning set one 25-23 after Grace Juergens punctuated the set with a kill. After the first set, things were calmer for the Titans. A 10-3 start to set two behind two aces from Riley Borrowman allowed the Titans to cruise to a 25-17 set two win. Set three was close until a 7-3 run by UWO turned a 12-12 tie into a 19-15 UWO lead. From there, the Titans were able to get the set

three win 25-18 and advance to the second round with a date versus the Gustavus Adolphus Gusties. Perlberg led the way in the win over the Panthers with 12 kills and 13 aces. Borrowman recorded four aces on the night, Izzy Coon led with 22 kills and Callie Panasuk led the team in digs with 16.

In the game versus the Gusties, UWO once again completed another sweep. Similar to the game against Greenville, the first set was the closest set of the night. Despite never fully relinquishing the lead, UWO never had a lead larger than four points. That was until a 3-0 run behind two kills from Juergens ended the set with a 25-20 win.

A 9-3 lead in set two, behind five Gustie attack errors and three kills from Perlberg, allowed the Titans to cruise to the set two win 25-17 as UWO never had a lead lower than four. The third and final set of the night was close until a 7-2 lead by the Titans turned a 10-10 tie into a 17-12 UWO lead.

UWO used that lead to get another 25-17 set win to sweep the Gusties. Perlberg once again led with a high of 12 kills and one ace. Coon and Jaclyn Dutkiewicz each had the team high in assists with 15 respective kills, and Panasuk once again had the lead with 21 digs. A big part of this game, however, was the front duo of Lauren Grier and Maren Motz. Grier recorded seven blocks with four kills, and Motz recorded five blocks with four kills. UWO also held down the top defense and top scoring offense in the

Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in Gustavus.

"Our game plan is to just do us and do what we need to do," Juergens said when talking about the game plan against the Gusties.

The last step that the Titans had between themselves and their third straight Elite Eight appearance was the Wash U Bears in the Sweet 16. Unlike the first match on Sept. 5, where the Titans escaped the Bears 3-1 with a pair of 26-24 set wins, UWO swept Wash U in the rematch between the two teams with set scores of 25-18, 25-17 and 25-20. Set three, which was the closest set of the day, went down to the wire as UWO held only a 19-18 lead late in the set. The Titans were able to put away the Bears and win the 2025 NCAA D-III Oshkosh Regional with a 6-2 run behind three kills from Juergens.

A 15-kill performance from Juergens got her the team high on the night. Borrowman led with three aces, and Grier and Hannah Moe each tied for the team lead in blocks with four, respectively. Coon led the team on the night with 20 assists and Panasuk once again led with 18 digs.

Head coach Jon Ellmann said he credits the team's ability to stick together for how they were able to improve and get better throughout the regional.

"We are this diverse group of 25 women and our coaching staff, there are so many mini microstories that help us find success," Ellmann said. "Ultimately, ev-

eryone getting into the best phase to be as productive and positive to compete at the highest level possible is the goal."

The Sweet 16 win was another check to a season where UWO swept both the WIAC regular season and tournament championships.

Ellmann said he realizes that this time in the Elite Eight, there is more to be accomplished this time.

"(In 2023) when we ended the season with a regional trophy and a conference regular season championship trophy, we realized as a staff the next year that what we did is hard to do," Ellmann said. "To have the same two trophies sitting in our locker room, there is an awareness that we did this special thing twice in a row, but there is a severe hunger to do more."

UWO will play No. 19 Calvin University (Michigan) in the Elite Eight round. The Knights are not only the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association Tournament Champions, but Calvin is also the winner of the Bloomington, Illinois, Regional, which is where the Elite Eight and National Championship rounds will be played. The Knights beat UW-Whitewater and host of the regional in Illinois Wesleyan University to win their regional.

The Titans' Elite Eight match against Calvin took place Wednesday afternoon. The score of the contest can be found at uwoshkoshtitans.com/.

UWO's potential Final Four matchup would be at 5 p.m. Thursday night, with the national title game on Saturday.



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Courtesy of UWO Flickr

Student nurse Cade Schmitz participates in a lab exercise at Clow Social Science Center. UW Oshkosh was recently named as one of the best schools for male nurses.

# UWO named top school for male nurses

By **Jacob Link**  
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UW Oshkosh was named one of the best schools in the U.S. for men in nursing for the ninth time by the American Association for Men in Nursing (AAMN) in October.

UWO earned the title as one of the nation’s “Best Schools for Men in Nursing” alongside other prestigious nursing schools such as Duke University (North Carolina), Johns Hopkins University (Maryland), Rutgers University (New Jersey) and Vanderbilt University (Tennessee).

Jason Mott, a UWO professor and president of the AAMN, said that the distinction is aimed at recognizing colleges and universities that demonstrate student success for men in nursing.

“This award demonstrates UWO’s commitment to increasing the number of men in nursing as well as creating a positive envi-

ronment for men in nursing,” Mott said. “The recognition is a draw for UWO, as I have talked with male students who are coming to UWO because of it.”

According to Mott, UWO has earned the recognition more times than any other school since the AAMN began handing out the award.

University officials said that each year on its applications for the award, UWO highlights the outreach and service led by the school’s Men in Nursing Club, which looks to bring together both men and women to advocate for the profession and engage the community.

At this year’s 50th annual AAMN national conference in Orlando, Florida, UWO sent three students, Rebecca Volz, Jayden Campbell and Lily Nadolny, to accept the award.

Campbell, a junior from West Bend and president of the Men in Nursing Club, said that the award

reinforces what he has been seeing on campus.

“To me, it shows the commitment and hard work that all nursing majors have put in both inside and outside of the classroom to better the community and further their education,” Campbell said.

Campbell said he encourages young men who are considering the major to not be discouraged by outdated stereotypes about who can become a nurse.

“You are the change that health-care needs as diversity in nursing is a major issue,” Campbell said. “If nursing is your calling, dive in headfirst. You’ll have moments of doubt, but don’t let someone else’s opinion of what nursing should look like get in your head. You are just as capable and just as important.”

The university reported that about 15% of nursing students at UWO are male, with between 30-40% male representation in the accelerated bachelor of science in

nursing and nurse anesthesia-related pathways.

UWO junior Jeremiah Ennen, a nursing anesthesia student from Buffalo Center, Iowa, said that he chose to come to the school because of the reputation that the nursing major holds.

“UWO’s DNP-NA program offers some of the most diverse clinical experiences, ranging from independent practice in rural settings to Level I trauma centers, providing me with the best clinical experience possible,” Ennen said.

Mott said that a welcoming, student-centered culture is what keeps putting UWO on the AAMN list.

“Being ranked amongst the top universities in the nation highlights the opportunities that we have at a university the size of UWO,” Mott said. “UWO has been and will continue to be a leader within AAMN and will have a strong role in changing the nursing profession nationally.”

# Two Winnebago County men die in plane crash

By **Isaac Pischer**  
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Two Winnebago County men died Nov. 24 after a TBM-700 plane, which had departed from Oshkosh, crashed into a gravel quarry adjacent to the Monroe Municipal Airport.

According to the Green County Sheriff’s Office, 911 communicators received a report of the crash at 5:14 p.m. in the area of the W4600 block of State Highway 59, in the town of Sylvester.

According to flight tracking software, the aircraft, identified as a Socata TBM-700 turboprop, departed Oshkosh’s Wittman Regional Airport at around 4:40 p.m. Reports then indicate that the plane was inbound to land at the Monroe Municipal Airport when it crashed into the quarry located on the north side of the highway.

Responding fire departments, including Monroe Rural Fire De-

partment and Juda Fire Departments, extinguished the large fire, which involved aircraft debris and construction equipment within the quarry. Green County EMS also responded to the scene.

The sheriff’s office confirmed that two men, later identified as a 43-year-old male from Oshkosh and a 41-year-old male from Omro, were killed inside the plane at the time of the crash.

Investigators are looking into poor weather, including dense fog and visibility limited to a quarter mile, as a potential factor. Such conditions require a pilot to fly using instruments rather than by sight.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Aviation Administration arrived on the scene the next day to begin their joint investigation.

The sheriff’s office detective bureau remains involved in assisting on scene and is maintain-



Courtesy of Pete Webber Flickr

The TBM-700, which crashed into a Green County Quarry in Southern Wisconsin. The accident killed two from Winnebago County.

ing scene security, but does not expect to release any further information.

According to NTSB officials a final report is expected within 18 to 24 months, determining

probable cause along with issuing any possible safety recommendations. A preliminary report, containing factual information, will be released in the next couple of weeks.



# Stephanie Land shares her poverty experience

By Vladyslav Plyaka  
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Bestselling author and activist Stephanie Land spoke to UWO students and the community about her past experience as a single mother persevering through poverty as part of the “When the Ends Don’t Meet” event at the Culver Family Welcome Center on Nov. 13.

But behind the story of her award-winning books and Netflix series “Maid” is the story of a single mom with a kid who lived through food and housing insecurity, working as a house cleaner, struggling to make ends meet.

“(In this) country we have historically lived by a myth that if you work hard and play by the rules and pull yourself up by the bootstraps, you are going to make it,” Land said. “Yet, currently, a single mother with two children earning the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour would need to work 252 hours per week ... just to make a living wage.”

According to Land, estimates show that at minimum 1.2 million children in the U.S. public schools will experience some form of homelessness this year, with over 75% of these homeless families being headed by single women. The National Homelessness Law Center reports that violence against women is a leading cause of people becoming homeless.

Land said that about 2.2 million domestic workers who provide housekeeping, cooking, caregiving and other services are often seen as least valued and most vulnerable.

“The majority of these domestic workers are women, mostly women of color and who immigrated (to the U.S.) in the hope for a better life,” she said. “They take care of what is most important to us. ... Yet, our society treats someone with a degree in higher education and a good-paying job with more dignity than someone cleaning restrooms.”

Land said prior to publishing her book “Maid,” she put out an essay about her experience being a house cleaner that reached 1 million clicks within days.

“I pissed off a lot of rich people with that essay, and I knew this because they told me in many colorful ways,” she said. “But I started to see that as people who hired house cleaners, they were actually the ones who were feeling exposed because I had forced them to see that the person who was in their house working was not just a human being but also a witness.”

Land recalls receiving thousands of messages from people who read her story of being a single mom living in poverty after she went viral on the internet.

“One person wrote to me, ‘Your story is my story, but my daughter’s name is Molly,’” she said. “Some sent me photos of their cleaning buckets and selfies with their grown children in a cap and gown, saying, ‘Well, I still work as a house cleaner, but I made sure my kid got through college, so they have a better life.’”

Land said that she feels differently when people comment on her story as an example of “true resilience” and tell her to be proud of succeeding.

“When I lived in poverty, my anger and despair had no use or value,” she said. “I had no choice but compliance. I didn’t have the privilege to feel.”

The event, “When the Ends Don’t Meet,” also included two exhibits from UWO students focused on stories of people exploring the realities of poverty in the Fox Valley and current policies surrounding those issues. More



Courtesy of Patrick Flood

**Stephanie Land, a bestselling author whose books were turned into a Netflix series, talks to students and the community about her past experience of a single mother struggling to make ends meet.**

than 50 students were included in the preparation of the display as part of their classes.

In UWO Professor Grace Lim’s “Telling Stories for Fun, Profit and World Peace” class, students partnered with Day by Day Shelter, the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry and the Tiny House Village to capture stories through interviews and photography.

Lim, an instructor in the university studies program and founder of the Humans of Oshkosh Storytelling Project, said that students received valuable experience while working on the exhibit.

“My students learned that meaningful storytelling starts with showing up and listening,” Lim said. “They saw that the people they interviewed aren’t defined by hardship but by strength and humanity. Those lessons will

stay with them long after the semester ends.”

In Amber Lusvardi’s class, “Sex, Power and Policy,” students had an opportunity to explore how policy shapes efforts to tackle poverty and interview elected officials and community leaders.

Lusvardi, an associate professor of political science, said that in her field of studies, people often look into the future to find ways to solve problems in society, hoping students will do the same as an outcome of the efforts they put in the event.

“I would really hope ... that (students) would take a moment to think about the future, like ... what can we as individuals do to try to fix these problems in our community?” she said.

Land said that changes in poverty can happen when people start to share their stories with society accepting them.

“This is the only way that we’re really going to start to see change in this country ... people sharing their stories with food insecurity,” she said. “By lifting up these stories of people with lived experience in the margins of society is when we will grow empathy and compassion ... There are countless other stories just like (mine) that need to be told.”

The event was supported by the Speaker Series, the Center for Civic and Community Engagement and the Whitburn Center, with additional partnership from the University Studies Program, the College of Nursing and Health Professions and STEM and the School of Public Affairs and Global Engagement.

# Geology department receives new equipment

By Jacob Link  
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Although areas of study across UW Oshkosh have struggled to replace equipment in recent years due to the university’s financial situation, the geology department has been able to keep its technology up to date behind donations from alumni and emeriti faculty.

Geology Professor Timothy Paulsen, who has taught at UWO since 1999 after obtaining his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, said that when the department’s proton magnetometer stopped working, he knew it was going to be tough to get a new one.

“It was an older piece of equipment, and the cost of buying a new one is roughly on the order of \$10,000 or so,” Paulsen said. “Trying to replace that is really hard to do these days because of budget cuts.”

A proton magnetometer measures small variations in the Earth’s magnetic field, allowing for certain objects to be detected based on how they interact.

The machine uses the principle of Earth’s field nuclear magnetic resonance, which is a physical

phenomenon where a nuclei in a strong magnetic field is disturbed by a weak oscillating magnetic field, and produces an electromagnetic signal.

Paulsen said that it’s a tool that is commonly used when scientists are looking for buried gas drums.

“The Earth has this magnetic field, but when there are certain objects, made of certain materials, they’ll actually interact with the magnetic field,” he said. “So it’s one way of actually discovering whether or not you have a buried ore deposit, or, for example, maybe there are buried drums or pipes, or other types of things that you’re trying to locate. By looking at those variations, you can kind of, in a remote way, sense their presence.”

Paulsen said that the proton magnetometer is a necessity for geology students because the department uses the machine in its lab classes.

“A lot of our students get jobs in the environmental industry, looking for clean water resources, looking for hazardous materials and such,” he said. “This kind of gives them really good training for what they’re going to potentially be using when they actually

work in the real world.”

After the proton magnetometer stopped working in the spring of 2022, in the midst of UWO’s budget deficit, Eric Hyatt, a former geology department chair, reached out to alumni and emeriti faculty to help fund a replacement. Carol Jones, the wife of former UWO geology professor Norris Jones, who died in 2020, answered the call and donated \$12,000 to the UWO Foundation to be used for replacing the proton magnetometer.

Paulsen said that Norris Jones, who earned his Ph.D. at Virginia Tech and worked on a widely used geology lab manual, was a great instructor at the university that his students loved.

“People really liked his teaching style and taking his classes,” he said. “He was a good friend of the department. All of the old faculty were really good.”

Paulsen said that because of Carol Jones’ donation, students were able to use a new proton magnetometer in lab classes starting last spring.

“The students love it,” he said. “One thing that I found is that students, when they get to use equipment, they’re really excited to use



Courtesy of Timothy Paulsen

**Tealyn Wendler (left) and Mikayla Widenski (right) use a proton magnetometer outside Polk Library during the spring 2025 semester.**

it. It’s one thing to learn about science in the lecture, it’s a whole other thing to actually operate devices to actually learn about what you’re seeing in real time.”

Paulsen said that Carol Jones’ donation is an example of how other departments can still obtain new equipment without relying heavily on the university.

“There have been dwindling resources made available to the university over the past decade or so, and so, donations, like from alumni or other people, make

a big difference,” he said. “We have a number of accounts in the foundation, and so some of those accounts are created to actually support field trips that we take ... and that can get expensive. There are accounts in the foundation that are used to help subsidize some of that, so that the students can get out in the natural world and do that. When donors do that, it helps with lab equipment. It helps with the running of field courses like what we do every semester in the department.”





Elijah Plonsky / Advance-Titan

(Left) Manohar Singh speaks with the UWO Alumni Network and provides his contact information to a former student. (Right) Singh meets with UWO Alumni Director Christine Gantner (in yellow) after the Singh Across Wisconsin event reception.

# Singh reflects on statewide outreach event

By **Elijah Plonsky**  
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Chancellor Manohar Singh has spent the fall traveling across the state meeting alumni, employers and community partners as part of his new outreach effort, “Singh Across Wisconsin.”

For Singh, who became UW Oshkosh’s 12th chancellor in July, the tour is more than a statewide introduction — it’s a chance to understand the people shaped by the university and the workforce shaped by its graduates.

“Traveling across the state helps us showcase the accomplishments of faculty, staff and students; it’s a moment of pride for us,” Singh said.

The trip, which includes stops at regional businesses, reflects what Singh calls a “tribute” to the regional business partners and alumni who continue to drive Wisconsin’s economy.

**Listening as leadership**

To lead the university forward, Singh said he must first listen.

“Our alumni love us,” he said. “Learning from alumni is one of the best ways for us to see what their vision would be — what their dreams are — for the university.”

In each city, he asked alumni about their experience at UWO, where the university should improve and how it can support the next generation of students.

“This is my tribute to their success, as well as my expression of gratitude to say, ‘Thank you for choosing the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh,’” he said.

**The tour and the strategic plan**

Singh said the tour aligns directly with the university’s three-pillar strategic plan: student success, career readiness and financial stability.

“If you look at the three pillars of our strategic plan — student success, career readiness and financial stability — this initiative speaks to all of them,” he said.

By strengthening alumni networks and employer ties, Singh hopes to expand internships, job placements, philanthropic support

and overall enrollment — all areas central to the plan.

“Creating students who can find jobs is going to help us create more spots and opportunities for future generations of students,” he said. “It also leads to enrollment going up.”

Singh said the tour across the state also aims to reinforce UWO’s position as a workforce engine for producing high quality talent.

“You will see our nurses, school teachers, accountants and entrepreneurs — everywhere you go in Wisconsin,” Singh said. “That’s our contribution: sending workforce talent to the world.”

**Alumni as university partners**

Throughout the tour, Singh has repeatedly emphasized the role of alumni as collaborators, mentors and leaders in shaping UWO’s future.

“Our alums love us, and they are so dedicated,” he said. “They’re willing to support us in our endeavors to make students successful in their journeys.”

That support comes in the form

of mentorship, guidance, employer partnerships and philanthropy — essential keys to the university’s long-term success.

“We need to continue to deserve their love, affection and respect,” he said. “The alumni network inspires us to stay the best, so that every tomorrow is better than every yesterday.”

Singh also said that alumni contributions, whether time or financial support, will also help strengthen scholarship opportunities and ensure UWO remains accessible.

**Building community partnerships**

Equally important to Singh is deepening ties with employers across Wisconsin, many of whom are UWO graduates themselves.

“We want employers to give us guidance on what kind of talent they’re looking for and collaborate with us to design curriculum to satisfy their needs,” Singh said.

He described UWO as an “anchor institution” that thrives on collaboration, and says the success of the university hinges on the involvement of

every stakeholder in the community.

“It takes a village to function as a successful anchor institution,” he said. “Leaders are supposed to be the ones to take the entire village together and unleash the force of the collective.”

**Looking toward tomorrow**

As the tour concluded, Singh said the next phase will focus on bringing alumni back to campus, inviting them into classrooms, labs and student spaces to share their expertise directly.

“The next step is to invite those who want to come to campus — meet our students and see for themselves how wonderful they are,” he said.

Singh said many alumni have already committed to participating in strategic planning efforts this year, with the goal of inclusively shaping UWO’s long-term vision.

“This tour will strengthen the drive to be together and do what is best for our students, the next generation, the community and the nation altogether,” he said.

# Oshkosh Arena implements clear bag policy

By **Isaac Pischer**  
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The Oshkosh Arena is adopting a new, mandatory clear bag policy effective immediately to enhance patron safety, facility management firm VenuWorks announced in preparation for the busy holiday season.

Under the new rules, which are a strategy aimed at ensuring a safer and more efficient entry process for all guests, clear bags with dimensions no larger than 10 inches by six inches by two inches will be permitted inside the venue.

“This policy helps us create a safer environment while ensuring that guests can still bring essential items in a way that is quick and efficient during entry,” Andy Linton, VenuWorks Executive Director, said.

While the clear bag rule is strict, the arena will allow bags of any size that are used for medical purposes, in addition to lactation bags and diaper bags.

The new bag restriction is one component of the arena’s comprehensive security policy, which prohibits a variety of items to main-

tain a safe environment, including weapons of any kind, as well as alcohol and illegal substances.

“Our top priority is the safety and security of everyone who visits Oshkosh Arena,” Linton said.

VenuWorks announced the new patron policy as the venue prepares to host two shows this week — Ozzy’s Birthday Bash featuring Crazy Train Dec. 3 and Lonestar Christmas and Hits Tour with Collin Raye Dec. 4.

Also in December, the Harlem Globetrotters’ 100 Year Tour will be using the facility on New Year’s Eve, and the UW Oshkosh’s basketball teams will be hosting the BSN Winter Classic Dec. 28-29.

The Wisconsin Herd, the NBA G League team for the Milwaukee Bucks, hosts the Grand Rapids Gold (Dec. 13) and the Iowa Wolves (Dec. 14 and Dec. 16) at the arena later this month.

“Oshkosh is a safe and welcoming community, in part, because community members come together in the spirit of keeping it that way,” Linton said. “That’s what we are asking everyone to embrace with this new bag policy.”



Zach Bellin / Advance-Titan

Players from the Wisconsin Herd and the Capital City Go-Go warm up for their matchup at the Oshkosh Arena Jan. 25.



# Three cross country runners compete at nationals

By Matthew Hoyman  
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The UW Oshkosh men's cross country team sent three individual qualifiers to the NCAA Division III Championship on Saturday, Nov. 22, in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Seniors Cameron Cullen, Paul Proteau and Trent Chadwick represented the Titans in what was a successful trip.

The trio earned a trip to the nationals after Cullen placed ninth with a time of 24:52 and Proteau finished 13th with a 25:05 mark, marking their second All-Region award for both of them. Chadwick earned his first All-Region honor with a time of 25:34, placing him 27th.

At nationals, Cullen ran a 24:26.8, averaging a 4:56 mile pace, and finished 20th overall, becoming the first All-American for Oshkosh since 2019.

Cullen was overwhelmed with emotion in the final moments of the race.

"As I crossed that finish line, I put my fingers up to the sky and pointed up as a sign that I was able to accomplish this goal of All-America through God and for God," Cullen said. "I was overcome with joy as a goal I had spent the last four years and thousands of miles (around 10,000) chasing was finally attained."

He added that he was especially grateful for the teammates, coaches and family members who pushed and supported him throughout his journey.

Cullen called the race the proudest moment of his Titan career.

"Showing up and having the

best race of my life in the biggest race of my life was awesome," Cullen said. "Taking 20th place and becoming the 44th Cross Country All-American in Oshkosh history is super cool, and I am honored to put my name in the history books."

Head coach Eamon McKenna praised Cullen for his commitment and resilience, especially after a health setback last season.

"Cameron has a very serious and disciplined demeanor and approach to pretty much everything he does in life," McKenna said. "He is ultra competitive, and that is easily observed as a runner, as a student or even just playing games or having discussions with the team."

Proteau finished the championship at 25:44.9, placing him 163rd overall with a 5:11 mile pace. He completed his career with two career All-Region performances, an All-WIAC Honorable Mention award and two national championship appearances.

The Titans saw Proteau as a highly touted runner in a promising recruiting class because of his scoring abilities. He put together the experience, wisdom and patience he gained to have his best season.

McKenna said Proteau's journey this season was about rediscovering the joy he had lost after qualifying for nationals as a sophomore in 2023.

"Paul's intensity and need to feel something while running always helped him push to new heights," McKenna said. "This year was emblematic of his love for the grind and the sport."

Chadwick finished his last race as a senior with a time of



Raegan Nelson / Advance-Titan

Cameron Cullen competes in the inaugural Titan Fall Classic at the XC Ranch in Oshkosh Nov. 1.

25:45.3, putting him two spots behind Proteau with an overall placement of 165th and a 5:11 mile pace at nationals, after achieving his first All-Region honors at the North Regional Championship.

Chadwick wasn't expected to be a varsity runner early in his career, but he continued to work hard and moved his way up the ranks among the Titans.

"Making the NCAA championship means a lot to me," Chadwick said. "Thinking back to my high school self ... someone who didn't even know if he wanted to run in college ... and seeing all that doubt disappear made qualifying feel surreal."

"Trent's toughness and intensity in chasing something special set him up to reach nationals as an individual, a wild achievement based on his starting point," McKenna said.

Chadwick will remember his time in Oshkosh fondly.

"I think that Oshkosh is the best place I could have gone to get the growth I have gotten," Chadwick said "I will remember the connections I have made and the people I have made an impact for and the people who have made an impact on me. It was really eye-opening going into nationals this year with all the support I have gotten and all the people I talk to on the weekly and them reaching out,

stating that they are proud and look up to me."

In reflecting on the trio's careers, McKenna said the seniors have left a lasting mark on the program.

"I am very proud of all three of these guys for setting strong examples for our team, and even when they weren't perfect ... each of them has a redemption story based on resilience ....," McKenna said. "It was a special honor to see these three men achieve things and earn accolades they never had before during their senior year, and it was so rewarding to see them conclude their UWO cross-country careers at the national championships."

# Men's basketball beats Augustana College 84-77

By Christian Cortez  
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The nationally ranked No. 17 UW Oshkosh men's basketball team defeated Augustana College (Illinois), 84-77, at the Vikings' Roy J. Carver Center on Saturday, Nov. 30.

The Titans shot 29-of-54 from the field and 14-of-32 from three. Oshkosh out-rebounded Augustana 30-24 and had seven steals off of 12 Augustana turnovers. Brandon Beck led the team with 20 points, shooting 8-of-14 from the field and 3-of-4 from the three. Beck had also led the team in rebounds, grabbing six boards. Joey LaChapell followed with 15 points, shooting 5 of 9 from the field, 3 of 7 from three and 2 of 3 on free throws.

Augustana scored the first points of the game off of free throws, but the Titans took command, starting with a tip-in layup from Jonah Rindfleisch and back-to-back threes from Oskar Kangas and Carter Thomas, giving Oshkosh the lead 8-2. Nate Nazos and Thomas combined for six points to increase the lead to nine. The Vikings then scored



Nolan Andler / Advance-Titan

UWO guard Joey LaChapell (2) tries to navigate his way around defenders in the game against Saint John's (Minnesota).

five more points to cut the lead down to four.

After a 3-pointer from Logan Rindfleisch, a layup from Beck and a jump shot from LaChapell, the Titans led 34-24 with four minutes left in the half. The half ended with the Rindfleisch brothers scoring on five

free throws, ending the half with the Titans leading the Vikings 50-35.

LaChapell opened the second half with a 3-pointer before an 8-0 run by the Vikings, cutting the deficit to 53-43. Oshkosh then began to get its momentum back, having a game high of 20

points twice, off a Logan Rindfleisch free throw and a jump shot from Kangas.

Augustana cut the lead down to ten after scoring four consecutive points after Beck made the score 78-67 with three minutes left in the game. The Vikings kept the game close, not

allowing UWO to take a double-digit lead. Oshkosh shot six free throws at the last minute of the half, making four of them.

The Titans improved to 5-1 and faced Benedictine University (Illinois) on Dec 3, at Kolf Sports Center. The score can be found on uwoshkoshtitans.com.





## Scoreboard

**Saturday, Nov. 22**  
**Women’s Swimming and Diving**  
UWO - 110  
Lake Forest (Illinois) - 122  
**Men’s Swimming and Diving**  
UWO - 129  
Lake Forest (Illinois) - 113  
**Women’s Basketball**  
UWO - 84  
Wheaton (Illinois) - 59  
**Men’s Basketball**  
UWO - 85  
Carroll - 76  
**Women’s Volleyball**  
UWO - 3  
Washington (Missouri) - 0  
**Tuesday, Nov. 25**  
**Men’s Basketball**  
UWO - 90  
Edgewood - 63  
**Sunday, Nov. 30**  
**Men’s Basketball**  
UWO - 84  
Augustana (Illinois) - 77

## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, Dec. 3**  
**Women’s Volleyball**  
vs Calvin (Michigan) at 2 p.m.  
**Men’s Basketball**  
vs Benedictine (Illinois) at 7 p.m.

**Thursday, Dec. 4**  
**Women’s Swimming and Diving**  
at Carthage College Classic  
**Men’s Swimming and Diving**  
at Carthage College Classic  
**Men’s Wrestling**  
vs UW-Stevens Point at 7 p.m.

**Friday, Dec. 5**  
**Women’s Swimming and Diving**  
at Carthage College Classic  
**Men’s Swimming and Diving**  
at Carthage College Classic  
**Women’s Basketball**  
at Linfield (Oregon) at 7 p.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 6**  
**Women’s Swimming and Diving**  
at Carthage College Classic  
**Men’s Swimming and Diving**  
at Carthage College Classic  
**Men’s Wrestling**  
at UW-La Crosse Duels  
vs No. 24 Central (Iowa) at 10 a.m.  
vs Augustana (Illinois) at 11:30 a.m.  
at No. 5 UW-La Crosse at 1 p.m.  
**Men’s Basketball**  
vs No. 11 Calvin (Michigan) at 3 p.m.  
**Women’s Basketball**  
at Pacific (Oregon) at 4 p.m.

**Sunday, Dec. 7**  
**Women’s Wrestling**  
at Carthage College Open at 9 a.m.

### A-Trivia

Who did the UW Oshkosh volleyball team face in the 2024 NCAA Division III Championship Elite Eight?

Answer: UWO lost to John Hopkins University (Maryland) 3-2.

# Sports

# Oladipo returns to pro basketball

By Zach Bellin  
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After suffering a torn patellar tendon in the 2022-23 NBA play-offs, now-Wisconsin Herd guard Victor Oladipo hadn’t played a regular season professional basketball game until Nov. 11 in the Herd’s NBA G League home opener.

“It’s for the people,” Oladipo said. “... People enjoy watching the journey and seeing you overcome stuff and be successful.”

Oladipo knows a thing or two about overcoming “stuff.” From 2018-23, he only played in 138 NBA games, missing 272 contests over the course of those five seasons.

“The hard things are fun, and it makes for a better story,” he said. “... I can do the easy way out. I could retire, I could go do something else, but it’s a testimony for the people and it gives them hope, especially right now in society and life today.”

Before joining the Herd, Oladipo was the second overall draft pick by the Orlando Magic in the 2013 NBA Draft and made two all-star teams, as well as an appearance in the 2018 NBA Dunk Contest, all as a representative of the Indiana Pacers. Outside of his prominent years as a Pacer, he spent time playing for the Miami Heat, Orlando Magic and Oklahoma City Thunder.

On top of the NBA experience, Oladipo had appeared in a few NBA preseason games for the Guangzhou Loong-Lions, a team out of China that took on some of the best American teams, ahead of this year’s regular season.

“It was a great experience,” he said. “Being able to go out there and showcase that I’ve been



Jacob Link / Advance-Titan

Wisconsin Herd guard Victor Oladipo makes a no-look pass to a cutting Herd teammate against the Grand Rapids Gold Nov. 19.

working really hard as far as the past two years, showing guys that I’m happy now ... I’m just enjoying the ride.”

Oladipo said he isn’t focused on returning to the NBA just yet and is instead focusing on where he’s at right now with his game and the team.

“I’m trying to help the guys around me get better, as well as the team, as well as myself,” he said. “You know, just being a great leader and helping the guys in the organization.”

Since acquiring Oladipo’s returning player rights and a 2026 NBA G League second-round draft pick from the Santa Cruz Warriors for a first-round pick in the 2027 NBA G League draft, he’s averaged 14.3 points, 4.8 rebounds and 3.7 assists in 25.6 minutes.

He’s specifically working on trying to remain consistent in all aspects of the game, including minutes played and his approach to each game.

“It’s been two years, so you know, there’s never been a time where I don’t feel like I can get better,” Oladipo said. “I’m just gonna go out there and practice, push myself and continue to improve.”

Oladipo said that he brings experience to the young Herd roster in a way that’s different than simply on the court tactics.

“Experience not only in the game, but experience in life, and showing guys that you got to play every game like this could be your last,” he said. “Because it could be. So just giving guys that understand that you can’t take any moment or game for granted.

Leave everything you have out there as long as you know that you can live with the results.”

Playing in a place like Oshkosh is unfamiliar for Oladipo, and he said he acknowledges that, but doesn’t let it deter him from taking a new step in his career.

“It’s been different obviously, but I feel like it’s a journey most can relate to,” he said. “It’s ups and downs, it’s peaks and valleys, but I embrace it.”

Oladipo and the Herd return to the Oshkosh Arena Saturday, Dec. 13 to face off against the Grand Rapids Gold, the Denver Nuggets G League affiliate. After a 2-7 start to the season, the Herd will have two chances to re-route the ship against the Motor City Cruise and Noblesville Boom before coming back to Oshkosh on Dec. 3 and Dec. 11, respectively.

# Hall of Famer of the Week: Jack Friess

By Zach Bellin  
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In early October, UW Oshkosh honored former baseball outfielder Jack Friess by selecting him to be a part of the 2025 UWO Athletics Hall of Fame class.

“The journey I’ve had has been nothing I could have ever imagined,” Friess said. “I was just a little guy from Cedarburg that came up here to play both basketball and baseball, and after two years (of basketball and baseball), I just stayed with baseball. I’ve been very fortunate to be around an awful lot of good people.”

In his only season of professional baseball, Friess played for the Chicago White Sox’s Gulf Coast League affiliate in 1971. He would go for a batting average of .284 with five extra base hits and 13 runs batted in while appearing in the GCL.

Friess’ best collegiate season came in 1971 when he and the Titans went on a run to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics World Series hosted in Phoenix that year and finished fifth.

Throughout the season, Friess would hit for a batting average of

.345 with two home runs, seven doubles, 31 runs batted in and 18 stolen bases. Those statistics earned him All-District 14 and All-Area IV First Team honors as well as an All-Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletics Conference Honorable Mention.

At the World Series, he had three hits, two notably coming in clutch fashion. One was an inside-the-park home run, and another a two-run triple to help the Titans collect their one and only win against Grand Canyon University (Arizona).

Friess said the trip down to Phoenix was his first time ever being on a plane and recalled being in the town with his teammates.

“It was really special,” Friess said. “I was just in awe ... because it was in Phoenix with my teammates, who it was a real privilege to play with, and it was a real cast of characters (the team).”

While playing for the Titans from 1968-71 and starting each of the games he appeared in, the team accumulated a record of 87-39, while going 47-7 in conference play. Oshkosh swept both the conference and district championships in those four years.

Friess taught for a few years



Katie Lechton / Advance-Titan

Jack Friess walks toward the podium to give his acceptance speech at the UWO Athletics Hall of Fame Ceremony.

at a couple of different schools after his playing career, then returned to baseball, this time as a coach in his hometown of Cedarburg as the high school’s head varsity coach. Cedarburg would name its baseball field after him following his 41-season career coaching the team.

The UWO Athletics Hall of

Fame joins a long list of hall of fames Friess has been inducted into now. In 1999, the Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association inducted Friess. He was a part of the 2012 Old Time Ballplayers’ Association of Wisconsin class as well as the Cedarburg High School Hall of Fame as an athlete in 2012 and a coach in 2024.





Photos by Katie Lechton / Advance-Titan  
(Left) Chancellor Manohar Singh speaks at the ceremony. (Right) UWO Chamber Choir members Nathan Prince, Boston Gies, Tre-Thomas Martin carol at the ceremony.

# First lighting of Sankari Park

## UWO Chancellor Manohar Singh starts a new holiday tradition

By Isaac Pischer  
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UW Oshkosh Chancellor Manohar Singh inaugurated what he hopes becomes an annual tradition at UWO Dec. 2, with the Lighting of Sankari Park. The park, named in honor of former professor Farouk Sankari, and located between Clow and Radford Hall, became a beacon of light and community spirit, hosting a new hallmark event intended to foster unity during the holiday season.

“We’re here because of the Sankari family,” Alex Hummel, Executive Director of University Relations said. “We’re grateful for the family members of our beloved faculty member Farouk Sankari.”

Farouk, a professor in the Political Science department, died of a heart attack on Nov. 16, 1990.

According to Singh, this idea

started as an imagination of his, that started with snowfall, and with the help of his administration and the Facilities and Grounds department, they became reality.

“(They) take my sometimes imagination that may not be practical, and they translate it,” Singh said. “Their dedication is much more beyond what I had imagined.”

Singh also thanked the UWO Choir who was in attendance, whose voices brought an “unimaginable, beautiful” sentiment of bonding.

“Since ages, this is the moment where we come together and celebrate our togetherness,” he said. “And the music that you gave us is just a topic.”

Singh’s remarks then transitioned to the university’s mission of togetherness, noting that the effort was not just about serving the students, but about

supporting the entire community, while highlighting the university’s commitment to its students, noting that 46 percent are first-generation learners.

“We have dreams that we want to fulfill,” Singh said. “We have moments that are tense, but then we have moments that we can celebrate, the spirit of love, affection, kindness (and) giving. This day is a reminder of how we can prevail together.”

Singh then concluded his remarks speaking about the unity that this season brings, whether one is religious or not.

Singh and Sankari’s family then led those assembled in a countdown, before the lights were illuminated, leaving many onlookers impressed.

“Especially with all the snow, it’s perfect,” a student said.

The lights created a magic, which Singh said was a core



Cassidy Johnson / Advance-Titan  
Third-year studio art major Genevieve Haartman gazes upon the lit trees following the ceremony.

symbol of the university’s shared spirit.

“We are one, always. And these lighting up of the parks and the trees during these days,

it’s just a reminder how beautiful life is and how beautiful we are together as a university, Singh said.”

# UWO alumnus releases new poetry collection

By Isaac Pischer  
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UW Oshkosh and Advance-Titan alumnus and acclaimed Wisconsin poet Carrie Voigt Schonhoff has released her highly anticipated third poetry collection, “Shadow Work,” on Oct. 7.

Following the success of “The Liminal Space” and “The End of the Beginning,” Schonhoff continues her deeply personal exploration of healing, resilience and the inner landscapes that shape the human experience.

“Shadow Work invites readers into a deeply reflective journey, embracing the hidden corners of self-discovery and transformation,” marketing director Margaret Geiger said in a statement.

According to her website, Schonhoff is known for her evocative and intimate style and writes with honesty and tenderness, illuminating themes of love, loss and rebirth.

“Shadow work is anything you need healing from, anything that causes trauma,” Schonhoff said, defining the collection’s theme. “It’s always good to work through



the trauma and turn it into healing.”

Her own journey through being widowed in 2012 has profoundly shaped her work. This experience taught her to embrace vulnerability, cherish resilience and find beauty in the spaces between truths that she shares through her writing.

Award-winning author Simon Van Booy praised the collection, saying, “There are poems in this collection so powerful, so penetrating, that reading them will transport you to those lost or secret rooms of your own life as

great poems always do.”

Schonhoff often finds that her work resonates deeply with others.

“Every time I come out with a new book, people remind me of how much they can relate,” she said, adding a belief that poetry can be a bridge, helping to connect, understand and find comfort in one another’s stories.

One of Schonhoff’s favorite poems in “Shadow Work” is “Kintsugi,” named

after the Japanese art, which involves sealing broken pottery with gold.

This concept of embracing imperfections

as part of the beauty of a whole mirrors a belief of hers.

“You gotta do the work, where there’s triggers,” she said. “When we get upset, it’s essential to understand the root cause.”

Schonhoff also shared a significant part of her writing philosophy, which involves immersion and experience.

This approach has led her to dedicate focused periods, often weeks at a time, to writing residencies.

Beyond the paper, Schonhoff is the founder of Liminal Artistry, a platform dedicated to fostering connection and collaboration among writers and artists. She also regularly hosts poetry jams at local elementary and middle schools, inspiring young voices.

For aspiring writers, Schonhoff offers simple advice,



“Relocation is key for a writer in general, it’s fuel for your work,” she said. “You need to have the experience.”

“If people want to write, they should do it; everyone has a story to tell.”





Cassidy Johnson / Advance-Titan

(Left) Drosselmeyer’s Workshop is lined with glowing Christmas trees. (Right) The Sugar Plum fairy’s room decked with whimsical decorations.

# ‘Nutcracker in the Castle’ returns

## Dive into the magical world of the nutcracker at The Paine Arts Center

By Cassidy Johnson  
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If you’re like me, you dreaded leaving your festive, freshly-decked house over Thanksgiving break. Many college students can’t afford a full-size Christmas tree in our dorm rooms or apartments, so we’re stuck with cheap plastic trees from Target and some flimsy Dollar Tree tinsel. While I love our crafty decorations and Charlie Brown-esque trees, it’s time to step out of hibernation and see some real Christmas decora-

tions that not even your mom can compete with. Now until January 6, The Paine Art Center and Gardens is bringing back their annual ‘Nutcracker in The Castle’ exhibit for their 19th year. The exhibit envelopes you in the nostalgic story of The Nutcracker by allowing you to actually be in the art instead of just looking at it. Each and every room is decorated and furnished to perfection for historical accuracy and story fidelity so it makes it that much easier to immerse yourself into the fantasy. The grandest tree

in the exhibit, however, is in the ballroom standing at 20 feet and trimmed with over 1,000 ornaments. Visitors can also live out their fantasy at The Land of Sweets and the Sugar Plum Fairy’s Palace. If seeing all those sweets make you hungry, you can also visit her bakery, The Sugar Plum Fairy’s Cupcake Cafe. If you’re more winter-wonderland than candyland, you can also visit the Land of Snow or Godfather Drosselmeyer’s Workshop. Although the entire exhibit is romantic — especially during

the candlelight tours — Drosselmeyer’s Workshop is especially romantic if you’re looking for a place to pop the ‘relationship’ question. With only one week of classes left, it’s now or never to bring that special someone on a date to lock things in before you leave school for almost two months. There’s even a gift shop for visitors to get their very own nutcracker, although there’s no guarantee he’ll turn into a magical prince. Regardless of who you bring or what you need, there’s something

for everyone. There’s the candlelit tours for couples, the scavenger hunt for families, and the unguided tours for you and your friends to freely explore the castle. Even if you go alone, there’s the chance to submerge yourself in nostalgia and maybe heal some of that inner-child with the chance to become Clara for a little bit. You can find more information about times, prices and make a reservation at [thepaine.org/event/nutcracker-in-the-castle/](http://thepaine.org/event/nutcracker-in-the-castle/). Reservations are required for the candlelight tours, and recommended for the self-guided tours.

# Student Winter Fashion Lookbook

## Tips and tricks to stay cute and cozy during this winter season

By Natalia Koritkova and Gianna Bay  
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The brutal Wisconsin Winter is officially here, and many students are battling to balance both comfort and style. Students shouldn’t have to sacrifice their personal style to stay warm, so we reached out to some students to give their own personal tips on how to stay both cute and cozy.

### 1. Cutesy Clean Girl

Third-year Human Service Leadership major Reese Hagen describes her winter fashion as basic, cutesy and comfy. Most of her fashion inspiration comes from Pinterest, and she said that her favorite thing about winter fashion is the layering. “I love being able to bundle up, and it’s also a chance to add more accessories,” said Hagen. One of her favorite accessories in

particular to style and layer with is a knit headband. “They’re cute while keeping your ears warm,” Hagen said. “It’s nice that it doesn’t mess up your hair the way a hat does too.”

### 2. Comfy Streetwear

Commuting to and from class, Luke Mathison said he has a casual/comfy streetwear style, and that he gets inspiration from “the mirror,” aka prior looks, as well as from fashion creators online. He tries to dress for the weather, layering to stay warm with his favorite thing about winter fashion — knitwear. Being a generally cold person and having minimal winter-specific accessories, Luke likes to add a little something to his outfits by adding a nice pair of

fluffy socks as a statement piece.

### 3. Alternative Streetstyle

An aspiring psychologist, Haylie Ferguson, is in her third year of college and more excited to finish this winter semester than ever. As she puts it, there’s not much space for self-expression, when all she can do is wear baggy clothing to layer on as many pieces as possible.

She would describe her fashion sense as mostly alternative with business casual pieces. Comfort is important, but there has to be a line between lazy and cozy. Expanding on what she wore in her childhood, which were baggier clothes from a dark color scheme, she decided to add some twists and tweaks here and there. Her looks are completed with eccentric jewelry, chains or hair-

styles. The other big inspiration that introduced streetwear style to her, was her trip to Korea, where this fashion is very popular. The one thing she does appreciate about this weather is the fact that she can have her style without getting hot. No matter your personal style, there’s a way for you to stay both fuzzy and fashionable this holiday season.





# Letters to the Editor:

## America must address its housing crisis

By Josie Bangaoil  
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One of the most important decisions for many Americans is finding a place to live. House hunting is slowly turning into a crisis that is negatively impacting many communities. With rent increasing rapidly, finding affordable housing has become harder than ever, and many people are stuck living further away from their jobs. Housing costs are hurting our economy in ways that aren't always so obvious.

When people are stuck living far from their work, they are more prone to missing important opportunities. A long work commute limits the time that could be spent with family and loved ones. Many people in the younger generations are more hesitant to buy a house and stay living with their parents, often delaying the process of starting a new family. The housing crisis is causing many people to miss out on important life milestones like starting a family.

The reality of the situation is

pretty simple. We do not have enough housing. Scarcity is driving up the price of rent and houses. Everything in our economy has grown except housing the population, number of jobs and the number of people who rely on housing to work remotely are all rapidly increasing, but housing is not. Demand for housing has surpassed the supply of housing, and as a result, rent and housing prices have skyrocketed.

A housing shortage comes with many consequences. As more and more people are forced to live farther from work just to find affordable housing, our communities become less productive. Workers who are forced to commute an hour or more just to get to work lose time and energy. Which in turn hurts our economy.

The solution to the housing crisis is almost just as simple as the problem. We need to incorporate more mid-sized housing into our communities. Duplexes, small apartments, townhouses, etc., all provide more housing



Jess Duch / Advance-Titan

Houses line the street of the Tiny House Village in Oshkosh, which are used to help fight poverty in the city. Julie Dumke helped start the project to provide assistance to struggling families.

for a lower price than some apartment complexes. Many cities have already experienced more relief after trying it out. Although this method has its own drawbacks, such as zoning

rules and other constraints, by advocating for change, we can begin to provide communities with more housing options.

At the end of the day, housing should be looked at as an oppor-

tunity, not just a building. Housing doesn't just affect people personally; it affects the whole community, and the sooner we fix it, the better off our economy will be.



A-T File Photo

The Oshkosh YMCA took over the UW Oshkosh Children's Learning and Care Center in 2023.

### Improve childcare shortages

By Ileah Gerald  
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Every week, I hear the same story from working parents in our community: "I can't find childcare." What sounds like a personal family problem is actually a growing economic one, and it affects all of us whether we have children or not.

Local childcare centers are struggling to stay open because they can't afford to pay competitive wages. As a result, many classrooms sit empty, not for lack of demand, but for lack of staff. Parents who can't secure a spot are forced to reduce their hours, decline promotions or leave the workforce entirely. When that happens, businesses lose workers, productivity falls and our economy grows more slowly.

This shortage is no longer an isolated issue for young families it is a break on the entire labor market. Employers throughout Wisconsin report trouble hiring, yet thousands of qualified parents are sidelined simply because they have no safe place to bring their chil-

dren during the workday. The math is simple: When affordable childcare is unavailable, labor force participation drops.

There is a straightforward way to relieve the pressure. Local and state governments should expand incentives for childcare centers such as wage support programs and startup grants so providers can hire and retain the staff needed to operate at full capacity. This is not charity; it is an investment. Every dollar spent improving childcare access returns multiple dollars in economic activity by allowing more parents to work and businesses to grow.

Childcare is not a luxury. It is essential infrastructure, just like roads and broadband. If we want a functioning local economy, we need to treat it that way. Strengthening childcare capacity is one of the fastest, most cost-effective ways to boost our workforce and support the stability of families in our community.

Our economy depends on workers, and workers depend on childcare. It's time our policies reflected that reality.



Courtesy of Naval News

Oshkosh Defense displays XMAV, its newest autonomous vehicle, at the AUSA conference in Washington, D.C.

### Should the U.S. fund its military?

By Cadence Unger  
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In 2025, Oshkosh Defense secured over \$380 million in contracts from the U.S. Army and Air Force, including \$214.7 million for 240 Medium Tactical Vehicles and \$167 million for 225 trucks and 54 trailers under the Family of Heavy Tactical Vehicles program. These deals aim to modernize America's fleet, enhance tactical mobility and strengthen homeland defense. Yet the question remains: at what cost?

Defense modernization is undeniably important. A military that cannot move quickly or adapt to new threats risks falling behind. Oshkosh's trucks, some autonomous-ready, represent cutting-edge technology

and provide jobs in Wisconsin's manufacturing sector. But while these contracts stimulate a narrow slice of the economy, they also divert billions from urgent domestic needs.

Imagine channeling even a fraction of this spending into education, housing or green infrastructure. For instance, \$1.5 billion could fund more than 30,000 full-ride college scholarships or build thousands of affordable housing units. Investments in clean energy or healthcare would ripple across communities, creating broader, more sustainable growth than defense contracts concentrated in a handful of firms.

The danger lies in allowing defense spending to dominate our economic priorities. A militarized economy risks side-

lining innovation that serves public welfare. It reinforces inequality by funneling wealth into defense contractors while leaving schools underfunded and housing unaffordable. In an era of climate urgency and rising inequality, armored trucks may not be the wisest investment.

This is not an argument against defense. National security matters. But balance matters too. Redirecting even part of these funds could empower communities, reduce long-term costs and build resilience against challenges that no fleet of tactical vehicles can solve.

America must ask itself: Do we want to be remembered for our armored trucks or for the futures we built when we chose to invest in people?





# Long Distance

By Suzanne Dawood  
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Welcome to Sex In-The-920! I’m the Carrie Bradshaw of UW Oshkosh, or your college sex guru. The semester is coming to an end, and some relationships may end with the semester. Long distance is a difficult thing to fathom. Even coming back together after long distance can be awkward. You can either come back and pick up right where you left off, or you have to learn about your significant other all over again. Long distance can be good for some relationships, or even break many. So I couldn’t help but wonder, can long distance make or break a relationship? It’s important to recognize that every relationship is different, so my opinion may not relate to your circumstances. I believe that long distance can be very good for a relationship. At the end of the day, you are not your part-

ner. Distance can allow you to grow as an individual and remember who you are and what your goals are. Also, you don’t know what you have until it’s gone. Long distance can allow you to strengthen your relationship. What’s meant to be will be, and if your relationship will work long distance, then it probably will work in person too! Communication during the distance is important. Remember, your partner won’t know what you want until you tell them. So it’s important to communicate constantly and work through your differences. If a relationship doesn’t work long-distance, it may just be the wrong time. I believe that right person, wrong time exists, but you can’t put everything on pause over that fact. Communication, honesty and emotional intelligence will get you through the harshness of long distance.

## “Whatcha Think?”

### How’s the fall semester?



**Julia Skinner, Freshman**  
“I was originally gonna be here for a semester, and then transfer to UW- Eau Claire, but I’m not gonna do it anymore. I love it here!”



**Rachel Anderson, Freshman**  
“It’s been really good. It’s been a lot of fun, and I’ve been liking all of my classes!”



**Madi Wendtland, Freshman**  
“It’s busy because I’m a music major, but I’m having a good time! It’s going pretty good.”



A-T File Photo

A car sits parked off campus on a side road last year. Some students have said they struggle to find parking spots on campus.

# The Faustian contract of a parking permit

By Alex L.

In the grand narrative of the modern university, where the pursuit of knowledge and the betterment of humanity are the stated, lofty goals, there exists a shadow realm. It is a domain not of enlightenment, but of entrapment; not of reason, but of capricious rule; not of academic freedom, but of bureaucratic subjugation. In this Faustian drama, the sprawling, often underutilized, asphalt landscapes of the campus are the grimoire upon which the pact is signed. The university, tempted by the promise of effortless financial gain — \$25, \$50, \$80 at a time — has willingly transformed its relationship with students, faculty and staff from one of mutual support to one of predator and prey. The goal is no longer to facilitate education, but to monetize desperation. Every parking space becomes a potential toll booth; every faded line, a tripwire; every minute past an arbitrary time limit, a cascading financial penalty. The administration, like Faust in his study, has gazed upon the ledger and found the allure of this dark revenue too powerful to resist, sacrificing its goodwill and the mental well-being of its constituents for the cold comfort of a bottom line with a budget yet still in ruin. If the administration is the Faust of our tale, then the individual parking enforcement officer is the Mephistopheles — the agent who executes the terms of the infernal contract. In their relentless, unsmiling efficiency, they are not public servants; they are the acolytes of a system that has sold its soul, and they are here to collect the debt from the innocent. To step onto the campus of UWO with a vehicle is to step into the literary universe of Franz Kafka. The rules governing parking are not designed for clarity or fairness; they are a labyrinth designed to ensure failure. They are a text akin to the law in “The Trial,” accessible in theory but utterly incomprehensible in practice. In Kafka’s “The Trial,” the protagonist Josef K. is arrested and prosecuted by a remote, inaccessible authority for a crime that is never revealed to him. This is the precise experience of receiving a parking

citation from UWO. The ticket appears on the windshield like an accusation from an unseen judge. The burden of proof is inverted; one is guilty until proven innocent, and innocence is a standard that is both shifting and impossibly high. “I did not see the sign” is not a defense. “The signs were contradictory” is dismissed as inattention. “I was only two minutes late” is an admission of guilt. The entire procedure is a theatrical performance of justice designed to affirm the system’s infallibility and the individual’s inherent fallibility. It is a trial where the verdict is predetermined, and the process itself is the punishment. Kafka’s “The Metamorphosis” begins with the protagonist, Gregor Samsa, waking to find himself transformed into a monstrous vermin. A similar, if less literal, transformation befalls the UWO student who falls afoul of the parking enforcement apparatus. With the issuance of a ticket, their identity is fundamentally altered. They are a problem to be managed. This metamorphosis is psychological and financial. The student’s focus is violently wrenched from lectures and textbooks to fines and appeals. The crushing weight of tuition, books and rent is now compounded by a \$50 penalty for parking in a spot that was, according to a sign obscured by a tree branch, reserved for “Campus Visitors” between the hours of 1 and 3 p.m. This is not an administrative hiccup; it is an existential shift. The student is made to feel like a criminal, an outsider, a Gregor Samsa in their own academic life, scuttling through the lots in a state of perpetual anxiety, fearful of the next citation that will further cement their monstrous new identity as a source of revenue. In Kafka’s “The Castle,” the protagonist K. spends the entire novel trying to gain access to the mysterious authorities who govern the village from a castle that is always visible but never reachable. This is the perfect metaphor for the administrative heart of UWO Parking Enforcement. One knows it exists. It has a name—the Parking Services Office—and a location. But it is, in a functional sense, a castle on a hill. Attempts to contact this authority are met with automated phone systems, unresponsive email inboxes and office hours that perfectly coincide with the times students are in class in a building on the farthest outskirts of campus. The Faustian bargain always comes due, and the price is never worth the fleeting power it purchased. For UWO, the cost of its pact with the parking devil is the systematic corrosion of its own community. A university campus should be an ecosystem of trust and collaboration. The relationship between the institution and the student should be a partnership in the pursuit of knowledge. UWO Parking Enforcement actively destroys this foundation. Every student with a parking permit is a potential mark. The system teaches a cruel lesson: that the institution you are paying tens of thousands of dollars to is not your ally, but an entity that will nickel-and-dime you with the ruthless efficiency of a private corporation. This breeds resentment, cynicism and a deep-seated alienation. The university, in its Faustian quest for revenue, has consumed the very communal spirit that gives it value and purpose. The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Parking Enforcement is not a mere nuisance. It is Kafka-esque in its execution, a labyrinth of absurd rules and opaque procedures that torment the individual and assert the irrational supremacy of the bureaucracy. To reform this system requires more than adding a few parking spots or tweaking the fine structure. It requires a spiritual reckoning. The university must tear up its Faustian pact. It must choose to value people over penalties, clarity over confusion and community over coercion. It must dismantle the Kafka-esque castle and build a transparent, humane and logical system whose primary goal is to serve, not to punish. Until it does, it remains an institution that, while it may teach literature and philosophy in its classrooms, has tragically failed to understand its most vital lessons about power, morality and the human spirit. The students continue to push the boulder up the hill, the castle gates are shut and the devil, in his bright orange vest, is still making his rounds.



Opinion

Senior Sendoffs

# A-T editor drinks last post-production beer

By Josh Lehner  
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So this is the end of the line. Let’s get this over with.

I joined the Advance-Titan four years ago — back when COVID-19 still had us all wearing masks. In fact, I joined by accident.

My original intention was to write one article to fulfill a class requirement. But I got roped in afterward, and I figured I had better try my hand at journalism if I aimed to make it a career.

From an ignorant staff writer to becoming a slightly more competent (and perhaps too indifferent) managing editor, it was a long ride. Writing for the A-T took me across the country: I saw the esteemed Watergate journalists Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein speak in Washington D.C., and I talked to New York Times editors and stared down the most outrageous beer prices in New York City.

I’ve certainly learned a lot over the years from the work the papers required. There are bastions-worth of experiences you gain from running a student newspaper, and I’m grateful for it all — including issuing corrections, last-minute problems, difficult sources and everything in between. I probably

wouldn’t be 1% as capable as I am had it not been for the paper.

The A-T has also given me some of my closest friends and fondest college memories, many of which I can’t imagine being allowed to print.

But some of my fondest memories are the simplest, such as grabbing a drink after a long night of editing the paper — when editing didn’t take until 4 a.m. to finish — or grabbing \$1.50 burgers from Molly McGuire’s on Thursdays.

Really, I guess, the A-T gave me the best of every world.

Typically, there’s supposed to be a whole section in these listing people’s names and saying something, but after four years of the newspaper, there’d be too many people to list, quite frankly. To save some time and not exclude anyone, then, I’ll just say something about all of the current editors whom I’ve seen every Tuesday night during my last semester.

First, the editor-in-chief, Jacob Link — the only person at the A-T who’s been there longer than me: Don’t have too much fun without me next semester, and make sure to have a few beers after every issue for me.

To the news editor, Vladyslav Plyaka, keep vibing and enjoying

your production-night Zyns.

To the assistant news editor, Isaac Fischer, keep being a diligent journalist and writing tons of stories. News definitely needs it.

To the sports editor, Zach Belin, keep grinding and doing good work. You’ll always be known as “The Thing” to me.

To the other sports editor, Nolan Andler, keep pushing yourself and working hard. I was always jealous of the Culver’s you’d buy every production night.

To the assistant sports editor, Dylan Przybylski, don’t distract Jacob and “The Thing” too much. I’m sure you’ll do really well stepping up to sports editor next semester.

To the arts & culture editor, Cassidy Johnson and opinion editor Suzanne Dawood, thanks for putting up with all our rambunctious antics, including (but not limited to): watching “Family Guy” in the office, listening to copious amounts of Kendrick Lamar and 21 Savage and no shortage of crazy office conversations.

And finally, to our copy desk chief, Izaac Downie, thanks for putting up with our stories and fixing them up. I’m sure you wanted to pull your hair out sometimes. I know I did.

All right. That’s it. Sayonara.



Nolan Andler / Advance-Titan  
Josh Lehner (left) started at the A-T as a staff writer and worked his way to news editor then Managing Editor.

# Copy Desk Chief edits his last story at the A-T

By Izaac Downie  
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The time has come for me to say goodbye to UWO and to the best club/extracurricular on campus, the Advance-Titan.

When I first started the newspaper, I had no idea what I was doing and what I was getting myself into. I walked into the old office in Reeve Union for a random meeting during my third year and didn’t know a single person. I didn’t have any actual experience to my name, and I thought writing about my fish fry experience at a restaurant near campus was “real journalism.”

Through the student newspaper, along with an internship for my hometown newspaper, I found out what real journalism was really like and fell in love

with it more. While reporting and writing articles is the backbone of journalism, I started to enjoy the grammar and dreaded AP style that comes with journalism writing, and decided to become the copy desk chief since I enjoyed reading through and adding suggestions to everyone else’s writing. It ended up being a blast, and I am really thankful I decided to get more and more involved with the Advance-Titan over time. I will cherish many memories from my time here.

Over the years with the school newspaper, I met some of the friendliest and nicest people. To those graduating and those continuing on in journalism and with the Advance-Titan, I wish you all the best of luck in school and with your future endeavors!

I want to give a special shout-

out to the fellow editors and staff spending late nights on the newspaper and drinks afterwards. Y’all really made my last semester bearable when I just couldn’t wait to graduate. I wish I had applied myself a little sooner so that I could have gotten to know you all better, but I wish you all the best in keeping the newspaper together.

To those in the journalism program or those who have an interest in journalism and are not yet a part of the school newspaper, my best advice I can give is to join in sooner rather than later. You will automatically be welcomed and can grow into a better journalist and student in general. Plus, who wouldn’t want that free journalism experience that you can use in your resume and to build your portfolio?



Courtesy of Shaely Hoch  
Izaac Downie started at the A-T as a staff writer, eventually making his way into the Copy Desk Chief position.

# Assistant Copy Editor signs off

By Angela Satterlee  
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From the basement of Reeve Union to the third floor of Sage Hall, from sports writer to Arts and Culture editor, from Barb to Birkenbine, I’ve gone through many changes at the Advance-Titan. But one thing has remained the same throughout my years here: my love and passion for journalism.

When Katie Pulvermacher and Anya Kelley convinced me to join the newspaper my sophomore year, I had no idea what would become of it. I had no idea the lifelong friends I’d make, like Cassidy Johnson and Kyiah Nelson, and the family

I would make along the way. I also had no idea how much hard work it was going to take.

At first, those long nights working until 3 a.m. seemed daunting, but the longer I did them, I realized no matter how many hours I was putting in, I was right where I belonged. I figured out who I wanted to be and what I wanted to be, so I am beyond grateful because without them, I would’ve been so lost.

I came to UW Oshkosh to pursue a journalism degree, but at the time, I didn’t really know what that meant. All I knew was that I loved writing, I always had something to say, and I was usually good with words (though writing this has been

a struggle). Since joining the A-T, I’ve learned what it means to be a journalist. To interview individuals with the hope of one day uncovering the greatest stories ever written. Thanks to the A-T, the dream I had to get in print came true. I have so many more dreams now and I know that I can make those a reality too.

I am obviously devastated to be saying goodbye to this chapter of my life here at UWO and with the A-T. However, I know so many great things are ahead of me, and I can’t wait to share them with my A-T family. Thank you for becoming my home away from home. The memories I’ve made will carry with me forever.

# Staff writer keeps it short

By Madison Hull  
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Hi! I joined the newspaper in February 2025 after seeing an Uncle Sam ad on the Advance-Titan website. Although I was only part of the staff for two semesters, I enjoyed my time here.

As an English major, I love writing, and I like using my skills further in a fun setting.

The newspaper made me think I can write about things that are not boring, assigned books, but instead things I am passionate about and interested in. I wish that I could have come to the newspaper sooner! I never saw myself as being a part of a student newspaper, but I am incredibly happy that I did! I cannot wait to see all the amazing stories next semester, even if I will not be a part of it.





## Top Writers

- 1. Jacob Link ..... 88 stories
- 2. Isaac Fischer ..... 54
- 3. Zach Bellin ..... 47
- 4. Nolan Andler ..... 38
- 5. Cassidy Johnson ..... 18

Website Visits:  
**118,044**

Stories Written:  
**376**

## Biggest Stories

- 1. Manohar Singh selected to be 12th chancellor
- 2. Students protest Leavitt’s decision to outsource University Books & More
- 3. ‘No Kings’ protest condemns Trump
- 4. UAW Local 291 remains on strike in Oshkosh
- 5. Air Wisconsin lays off 500 employees