

The Advance-Titan

INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH CAMPUS

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What's inside:

@theadvancetitan
atitan@uwosh.edu



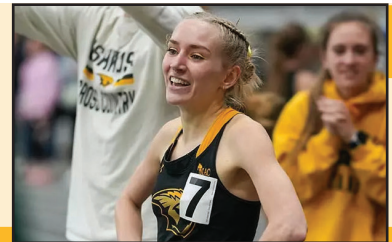
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Student dies in skiing accident

By Zach Bellin
belliz88@uwosh.edu

UW-Oshkosh students, staff and faculty are mourning the loss of sophomore Ally Blattner after she died in a skiing accident Feb. 5 at Granite Peak.

UWO Chancellor Manohar Singh wrote in an email sent out to students and staff that the Oshkosh community is ready to stand in support of Blattner's family and her loved ones in any possible way.

"On behalf of the University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh, I extend our heartfelt sympathies to Ally's family, friends, classmates and all who knew her," Singh wrote. "This loss

is felt deeply within our community. I encourage each and every one of you to take care of yourselves and to look out for one another as we grieve together."

Blattner held roles in various clubs and organizations around campus, such as being the vice president of recruitment for the sorority chapter Sigma Sigma Sigma and vice president pro tempore of the Oshkosh Student Government (OSG).

"Ally was a pillar of leadership within our chapter and on campus," Sigma Sigma Sigma wrote in a social media post. "The impact and legacy she has left is tremendous. We are beyond heartbroken, but

we are so thankful to have had the opportunity to call her our sister. Though she was taken from us far too quickly, Ally will forever be remembered by her big smile, big heart, and the big plans she had to make our world a better place."

In a tribute on social media, OSG said that Blattner's smile and gentle spirit will never be forgotten.

"She had a gift of bringing light into every room and bringing a fresh perspective filled with positivity and warmth," OSG said. "The way she uplifted others and brightened the space around her will be deeply missed. We are deeply grateful for the impact she made on our student government and community."

According to Blattner's obituary on btnfuneral.com, she loved to be with others and spend time crafting, playing violin, playing with pets or cheating at board games. Through Blattner's time as a student at Neenah High School, she worked as a certified nursing assistant at Brewster Village and also spent time working at Sharehaven Home at Evergreen Retirement Community.

The family requests that donations in Blattner's memory be directed to the Boys and Girls Brigade in Neenah, the March of Dimes, the Tri Sigma Foundation, Touch of Class at Neenah High School or through volunteer service at a nursing home or mental health facility.



Ally Blattner

A visitation will be held for Blattner Feb. 12 at Brettschneider Trettin-Nickel Funeral Chapel in Appleton from 4-7 p.m. as well as another at St. Joseph Catholic Church from 9 a.m. until the Mass at 11 a.m.

Sturgeon spearing begins Saturday

By Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is gearing up for the opening of the sturgeon spearing season Feb. 14 on the Winnebago System chain of lakes and rivers.

DNR Winnebago Sturgeon Biologist Margaret Stadig said that the Lake Winnebago System continues to be one of the healthiest populations in the world.

"Protecting and maintaining this special opportunity has and continues to require tremendous time and resources," Stadig said. "Participation in the spearing season and license purchases fund this important conservation work. As required by law, spearing license sales are used to fund the Winnebago System's lake sturgeon management program."

The Winnebago System holds one of the largest populations of lake sturgeon in North America, and the spearing season lasts for a maximum of 16 days, closing on March 1, or until any of the harvest caps have been met.

This year, the Lake Winnebago harvest caps have been set at 280 for juvenile females, 659 for adult females and 981 for males. On the upriver lakes, which are Lake Poygan, Lake Butte des Morts and Lake Winneconne, the caps are 70 for juvenile females, 73 for adult females and 245 for males.

The DNR said in a preview for the season that the spearing harvest is usually dictated by water clarity and ice conditions

on the Winnebago System.

"This year's assessments indicate excellent water clarity throughout Lake Winnebago, which is on track with other highly successful years," the DNR said. "The DNR does not check water clarity in the upriver lakes, although clarity is usually not a major factor in predicting harvest on these waterbodies because they are shallow."

Anyone that participates in spearing must bring their sturgeon tag with them, and any fish that is successfully harvested must be brought to any of the 10 official registration stations before 2 p.m. on the day it was speared. When transporting a harvested sturgeon, the fish must be openly exposed and visible to a person in a passing vehicle.

Spearers can find daily harvest updates on the Winnebago System Sturgeon Spearing webpage and the DNR encourages participants to check this year's regulations.

Stadig said that chironomid larvae (red worm) sampling this past summer indicated that both Lake Winnebago and the upriver lakes chironomid larvae abundances are growing, which helps the sturgeon.

"The trawl report indicated there was a small increase in the gizzard shad numbers, but the numbers are still generally down," Stadig said. "We are hopeful that the abundance of chironomids and the plethora of other forage available will be reflected in the size of lake sturgeon harvested this spearing season."



Jacob Link / Advance-Titan

A lake sturgeon sits outside of Jerry's Bar in Oshkosh during last year's season. Jerry's is one of 10 DNR registering stations around the Winnebago chain of lakes.

Stadig said that the rising cost of inflation and a lack of a license fee increase over the last few decades has slowed conservation spending, resulting in the closure of a few sturgeon registering stations.

"We try to only close those

stations where the harvest is lowest and to leave at least one station open in each major area of the lake," Stadig said. "We are truly sorry for any inconvenience this has caused. As always, please sign up for the sturgeon updates that are

emailed daily during the sturgeon spearing season for the most up to date season information and registration station closures."

The sturgeon spearing season will officially begin at 7 a.m. on Saturday morning.

The **Advance-Titan**

Email: atitan@uwosh.edu
Website: advancetitan.com
Facebook: @theadvancetitan
Instagram: @theadvancetitan

Editor-in-Chief
Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

Managing Editor
Vladyslav Plyaka
plyakavl38@uwosh.edu

Advertising Manager
Luke Bussey
busseylu85@uwosh.edu

News Editor
Zach Bellin
belliz88@uwosh.edu

Assistant News Editor
Open

Arts & Culture Editor
Cassidy Johnson
johnsonca51@uwosh.edu

Opinion Editor
Suzanne Dawood
dawoodsu14@uwosh.edu

Sports Editors
Nolan Andler
andlern63@uwosh.edu

Dylan Przybylski
przybylsdy63@uwosh.edu

Assistant Sports Editors
Katie Lechton
lechtonka22@uwosh.edu

Matthew Hoyman
hoymanma40@uwosh.edu

Photo Editor
Jessica Duch
duchje18@uwosh.edu

Social Media Manager
Reagan Nelson
nelsonra47@uwosh.edu

Copy Desk Chief
Christian Cortez
cortezch82@uwosh.edu

Reporters
Justice Cyr, Joey Egan, Lela Meinke, Brayden Junkers, Alex Marzu, Elijah Plonsky

Faculty Adviser
Ben Birkinbine
birkinbineb@uwosh.edu

About the Newspaper
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Correction Policy
The Advance-Titan is committed to correcting errors of fact that appear in print or online. Messages regarding errors can be emailed to atitan@uwosh.edu.

Advance-Titan
The Advance-Titan is looking for writers, as well as photographers, web assistants, ad sale representatives and more. Open to all majors and students on the UW Oshkosh campus.



Vladyslav Plyaka / Advance-Titan

People gather in downtown Oshkosh at the Opera House Square for “A Candlelight Vigil” to commemorate Renee Nicole Good on Jan. 8.

ICE agents and Oshkosh

Winnebago County Sheriff defends partnership with ICE

By Zack Bellin and Joey Egan
belliz88@uwosh.edu
eganjo64@uwosh.edu

The Winnebago County Sheriff’s Department defended the office’s partnership with ICE in front of a room with not enough seats for attendants at a Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting Feb. 2.

Not one speaker during the opportunity for public comments supported the partnership between departments but Winnebago County Sheriff John Matz continued to defend the partnership, claiming that there’s been no changes in operations since first becoming partners 25 years ago, even with Winnebago County and many others across the state joining the 287(g) agreement.

The 287(g) agreement provides the county with the choice of three different strategic models, which Winnebago County declared themselves as users of the Warrant Service Officer Model according to Matz. This means that ICE and local authorities aren’t actively searching for undocumented immigrants, but instead are being turned over to ICE if guilty of criminal charges.

With the community’s outpour of concern about the possibility of ICE operations taking place in Oshkosh and the surrounding cities, UW-Oshkosh students had mixed opinions.

“The possibility of ICE being present in Oshkosh is something that frightens me, not just for myself, but for all UWO students and Oshkosh community members,” Emma Pankow, the president of UWO College Democrats, said.

Pankow said she believes that ICE doesn’t belong anywhere near a college campus.

“College campuses are meant for learning and growing your community,” she said. “Col-



Cassidy Johnson / Advance-Titan

The Oshkosh community gathers for the “No Kings” protest Oct. 18 along Congress Avenue. Participants hold U.S. flags and protest signs.

lege campuses are meant to be safe spaces for all students and ICE having a presence on college campuses completely takes away the safety that campuses are supposed to provide to their students and staff.”

There’s been no official reports of ICE being near UWO or having any presence in the area but Mitchell M, UWO’s Turning Point USA secretary, said he believes that in certain circumstances ICE should be allowed.

“Only in extremely rare situations, ICE shouldn’t come in and check everyone’s papers in every dorm, but if they have legitimate suspicion and a proper warrant, they should be allowed,” M said.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin, regardless of immigration status, everyone has constitutional rights; the right to

free speech, to have a lawyer in criminal proceedings and the right to be protected from unlawful searches.

When law enforcement, including ICE, asks someone about immigration status, one of the constitutional rights is to remain silent and refuse to answer questions. If able, provide any legal documents that prove immigration status.

Instructions by the Universities of Wisconsin Government Affairs Office released Jan. 27, 2025, said that if ICE shows up at a school or university workplace, students, staff and faculty are recommended to be respectful, ask the agent for their name and to see their government issued badge and then call the Office of General Counsel (OGC) at 608-262-2995.

The instructions also said that people who are questioned by ICE should never give false pa-

pers or documentation as it can be used against someone. They also recommend trying to remember important phone numbers of family, friends, work, school and lawyers.

If someone has been arrested or needs to challenge a deportation order, they should not sign without a legal counsel present because of the right to an attorney.

Overall, the Universities of Wisconsin recommended that students, staff and faculty remember to never lie about immigration status as it could land them in worse trouble. They also said that people should never sign any papers that they don’t understand and always talk to a lawyer before signing anything.

If someone is arrested and charged as a criminal, they should always have access to a lawyer.



Advance-Titan File Photo

Ice shanties line the surface of Lake Winnebago. A UW-Oshkosh student fell through the ice while attempting to walk across the Fox River on Feb. 3.

Student falls through ice on Fox River

By Jacob Link and Cassidy Johnson
linkj13@uwosh.edu
johnsonca51@uwosh.edu

A 23-year-old UW-Oshkosh student fell through the ice while attempting to walk across the Fox River on Feb. 3, but was able to get himself out of the water and was uninjured.

Freshman San Jang, an international student from South Korea, said he thought that it would be fine to walk on the ice because he saw people fishing on Lake Winnebago.

“It was a great experience be-

cause I could reconsider my life,” Jang said. “My attitude (towards) life was reckless. I realize that the life of a human is like an ant.”

At 8:10 p.m. Jang, as well as a witness in the area, called the Winnebago County 911 Communication Center to ask for medical assistance near Ohio Street because he was “cold and wet” after falling through the ice.

Law enforcement and first responders arrived at the scene and the student did not have any life-threatening injuries.

According to an email from UWO Environmental Health and

Safety Specialist Danielle Juan, Jang was walking back from a parking lot across the river and decided to take a shortcut across the ice instead of using the bridge.

Juan said that although the student was able to get out of the water safely after leaving their backpack behind, the outcome could have been a lot worse.

“As winter conditions change quickly and ice thickness varies, crossing the river is extremely dangerous and should never be attempted, even if it looks frozen,” Juan said. “Please help keep yourself and others safe by: staying

on designated, well-lit pathways, avoiding shortcuts across the river or other unsafe areas, watching for posted safety signs [and] reporting hazards when you see them.”

The Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office said in a press release that any ice can be dangerous.

“We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that no ice is 100% safe,” the release said. “This is particularly true in areas with a current, such as the Fox River.”

Juan said that students should download the UWO Mobile App for their safety.

“[The app] includes a Blue Light feature that allows you to call the UW-Oshkosh Police Department directly from your phone,” Juan said. “It’s a fast, reliable way to get help anytime you feel unsafe or need assistance on campus.”

Jang, whose shirt froze to him when he was in the water for around a minute, said he was not scared when he broke through the ice.

“I felt nothing but the desire to survive,” Jang said. “First of all, never underestimate the river, because it’s flowing water.”

Climate change may have effected cold spurt

By Lela Meinke
meinkele16@uwosh.edu

Residents of Wisconsin have felt some of the most drastically cold temperatures in recent history these past few weeks, with Jan. 22-25 hailing plummeting numbers which hadn’t been reached in nearly a decade.

Temperatures reached as low as 29 degrees below zero with the windchill, and hospital visits spiked due to cold related ailments, demonstrating the severity of this aptly named “arctic blast.”

Scientists around the nation, including professors at UW-Osh-

kosh, argued that a speculative link has been drawn between the patterns in polar vortexes that cause these extreme weather events and the effects of an unstable climate.

UWO Biology and Environmental Studies professor Shannon Davis-Foust said that while there are many compounding factors that lead to cold snaps in certain regions, the weakening of the polar vortex could be the reason for the Midwest’s recent cold snap.

“The hypothesis is that, because the Arctic is warming faster than other regions, it destabilizes the polar vortex, which normally traps cold air in the Arctic,” Davis-Foust

said. “This weakening of the polar vortex causes a ‘wobble’ in the cold, Arctic air over the North Pole. Note that Siberia experienced a major warming in January while much of North America was experiencing cold snaps.”

UWO geology professor Timothy Paulsen said that it is important to remember that the climate does not equate to weather.

“Weather refers to short-term conditions,” Paulsen said. “Climate is the long-term average of weather conditions over many years. Many people believe that a cold snap like the recent chill we experienced means that global

warming does not hold true, but this is not the case. This being said, climate change can lead to changes in weather patterns (storm intensities, number of cold days or heat waves, etc.) because of a number of different factors.”

Kaitlyn Trudeau, a senior research associate for climate science at Climate Central, said pacific waters south of the Baja California Peninsula were running 4 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit above average for late January — unusual warmth that’s been made 50 times more likely by carbon pollution.

The Gulf of Mexico is also abnormally warm, up to 4 degrees

Fahrenheit above normal conditions, made 10 to 30 times more likely by climate change. A warmer atmosphere is a thirstier atmosphere, capable of holding more moisture, and warmer oceans fuel greater evaporation, loading winter storms with additional moisture.

When that moisture falls into Arctic air, precipitation totals can increase — whether it falls as rain, sleet, or snow.

“Judging climate change by a cold storm is like judging a baseball season by a single inning,” Trudeau said. “But, climate change had a tangible impact on this storm.”

UWO warns students of ‘Homework Helper Scam’

By Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

The UW-Oshkosh Information Technology department is warning students of a “Homework Helper Scam” after the Better Business Bureau reported a rise in fake tutors extorting college students.

According to Chief Information Officer Mark Clements, scammers act like they are providing homework or tutoring services and continually demand payment by threatening to report the student to the Dean of Students for violating the school’s academic integrity rules.

Clements said in an email to students Feb. 4 that it is normal that students may struggle in a class and there are ways that they can receive help from the university.

“Shortcuts may feel tempting in the moment, but they undermine your learning and can carry serious consequences,” he said. “The good news: UWO offers free, legitimate academic support to help you succeed the right way. The Center for Academic Resources (CAR) provides one-to-one and small group tutoring, as well as Supplemental Instruction (SI) for many challenging courses.”

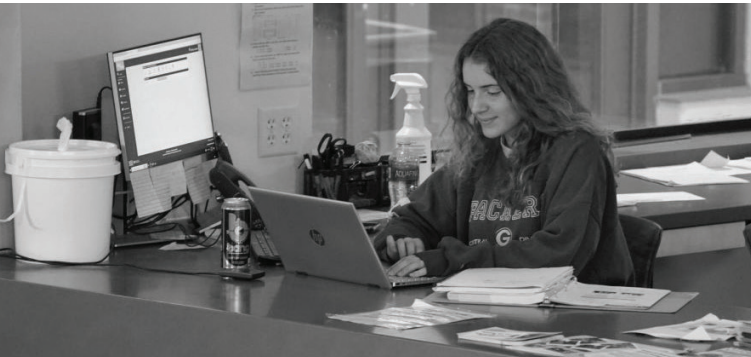
Hiring someone to complete a student’s assignments is considered cheating according to university policies but getting assistance from a UWO tutor to help someone understand the course material is allowed.

If a student wants to get help from CAR, they need to sign up on the UWO Navigate page. Accord-

ing to the university’s website, tutoring is available for many 100 and 200-level courses and a list of the 14 different SI sessions can be found at www.uwosh.edu/car/si/. There is also a special drop-in math tutoring option for Math 104 through Math 273 that is located in Swart Hall in room 118 starting the second week of the semester.

The Better Business Bureau recommends that if a student wants to hire a tutor themselves, ask family members and professors for advice before providing payment. They also recommend asking the individual tutor or service for at least three references to determine if they actually have the experience that they claim and suggest deciding on tutoring rates up front.

Clements said he recommends



Willem Flaugher / Advance-Titan

A student finishes their homework in Fletcher Hall.

that students utilize the support they have on campus rather than letting a potential scam put someone’s academic integrity at risk.

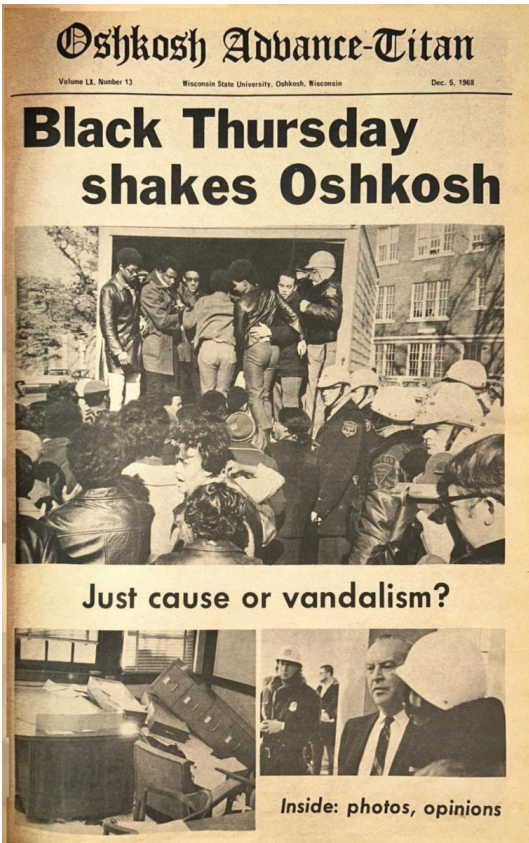
“Using tutoring and SI helps you better understand course material, perform more confidently on ex-

ams and build problem-solving skills that will benefit you long after your classes are over,” he said. “If something feels off about an online ‘homework help’ service, trust your instincts and reach out for help from trusted campus resources instead.”

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebrating 100 years of Black History Month

Remembering Black Thursday



Taken from an Advance-Titan issue from Dec. 5, 1968

It was 8:35 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 21. Vice President Sherman Gunderson opened the outer door of the presidential suite, and hastily noted that a large number of persons were in the office area of President Roger Guiles to the left of the reception room, but hurried into his own office to the right of the reception room to get ready for another busy day.

As he was removing his coat, two Black students walked into his office, puffing at cigarettes, and asked, “Who are you?” Somewhat startled, Gunderson identified himself, immediately surmised the nature of the situation and invited the two Black students to sit down and talk.

“We’re not here to talk – we’re here for action,” one asserted. Gunderson persisted in his efforts to engage the pair in conversation but got no results.

“What’s the matter, whitey, are you nervous?” one asked. Such is the account by the vice president of the start of his role in the activities culminating in the destruction in Dempsey Hall. Gunderson reported the demonstrators appeared well organized. They barred any of the office staff from leaving the rooms. They commandeered the telephones and blocked incoming and outgoing calls.

The damage was done by concerted action of the group, was done in the space of three to five minutes, and was done “very efficiently,” he said.

The destruction began about 9:10 a.m., he estimated.



Advance-Titan File Photo
Some of the 90 Black students arrested are seen in court. Each student was being charged for unlawful assembly and disorderly conduct.

What was reported in the A-T at the time?

By The Advance-Titan
atitam@uwosh.edu

Damages in Dempsey Hall

Damage to Dempsey Hall and equipment totaled at least \$12,000, according to preliminary estimates by Wisconsin State University at Oshkosh officials, following the Black student demonstrations Nov. 21. But the costliest damage appears to have been done to university files, and there is no way to get an accurate monetary calculation on that.

An itemized list of the damage in Dempsey Hall showed the glass in 13 doors was smashed by the demonstrators. Wrecked or badly damaged were eight metal desks, 11 metal files and 10 chairs. Eleven manual and electric typewriters worth \$3,600 were wrecked. In the business office, four calculators and adding machines valued at \$2,475 were ruined. Clerks reported that demonstrators attempted to toss machines out the windows, but the machines struck the window frames, shattered the glass and bounced back into the room and fell to the floor.

In all, six rooms in Dempsey

Hall suffered major damage.

Five demands

This is the statement which members of the Black Student Union asked Guiles to sign:

“Your signature on this paper will signify your assurance that our demands will be met and in evidence at or before the beginning of the next semester. In reiteration, Black Student Union demands are that you:

Remove (Marice Spittler, director of financial aids) from his present position and any related capacity.

Provide a structure and furnishings for the Cultural Center (which was so eagerly accepted by your administrators).

Hire Black instructors.

Implement a course in the following areas of Black culture: history, literature, language.

Activate a Black Student Fund which will be used to secure Black speakers, purchase Black literature and to aid the financing of the Afro-American Center.”

“We place full implementation of our demands in your hands. Black students will not be in-

involved in a lengthy dialogue as to how these demands will be met. We expect a written report on what concrete form our demands will assume placed on the desk of our counselors by Friday, Nov. 22, no later than 10:30 a.m.”

In the courthouse

Five Black students entered the courtroom of Judge James Sitter, and took seats in the front row.

Charges against them were then read: unlawful assembly, punishable by a fine of \$500, one year in jail or both; and disorderly conduct, carrying a penalty of either a \$100 fine or 30 days in jail.

Bond was set at \$250 each, and the five were led back down to the courthouse basement. Another five were brought up and the process was repeated. Court clerks and other officials worked overtime to process the students through fingerprinting, mug shots, and the drawing of formal complaints against them.

After processing, arrangements were made to house the students. Over 80 students were distributed among a local gymnasium, the county jail, and neighboring jails

in Fond du Lac, Outagamie and Washara Counties where they spent what officials termed “a quiet night.”

Friday afternoon, the parents of those students still in jail arrived at the courthouse.

Most of the students were free on bail Saturday night.

City riots

It wasn’t really a riot as many outside news sources indicated, but the events of the evening of Nov. 21 were far from usual for the Oshkosh campus.

After a meeting conducted by Black militant commandos from Madison and Milwaukee, the sympathizers for the Black students in jail, opposing forces of the Black students’ actions, and curious minglers marched from the Union to the Winnebago County Court House. The main idea was to voice protest. Shouts of “Let our brothers go. Now!” resounded around the court house.

The commandos decided there should be a sit-in in the Titan Room that evening, but when the marchers returned, the Union was locked. Some managed to break

through the guard of Union officials and police at the front door, but about 75 students made it into the Titan Room. While the students were preparing their sit-in inside, many others gathered outside. About 2,000 students formed the crowd outside at the height of the evening.

The students found they would probably not get anywhere pressed around the Union, so began marching on Guiles’s home at 9:45 p.m.

At this time more police entered the area and guarded other campus buildings, including the president’s home.

There were very few incidents of vandalism although some students were attempting to break a spotlight off a police car. Inside the Union, rumors passed through the police ranks that air had been removed from front tires of the squad cars.

By 11 p.m. all but three or four students remained in front of the Union.

The WSU-O “riot” was over. No one was injured and very negligible damage was left behind. The show was over. And so were classes for the next six days.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, Feb. 12

Black History Month Radio Broadcast – Texts of Resistance Part 1
5 p.m.
90.3 WRST-FM

“Red Tails, Blue Depths: The History of the Tuskegee Airmen in the Great Lakes and the Finding of the P-39 Airacobra”
National Museum of the Tuskegee Airmen
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Sage Hall Room 1214

Friday, Feb. 13

Know Your Rights: Student Advocacy Workshop
7 p.m.
Reeve Union Concourse – Table No. 4

Saturday, Feb. 14

Black History Love Letters 2.0
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
A FREE Synchronous Virtual Event (Advertised as 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. EST)

Register to attend through Eventbrite

Monday, Feb. 16

Monday Night Movie: Get On Up – The James Brown Story
6 p.m.
Sage Hall Room 1216

Free Admission, snacks & beverages

Tuesday, Feb. 17

The Black Experience at Work: A Real Talk Discussion
4 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Reeve Union Room 209

Wednesday, Feb. 18

6th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration and Awards Program/Oshkosh 94 Scholarship Program
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Reeve Memorial Union Theater Room 307

Keynote Speaker: State Representative Kalan Haywood II.

Thursday, Feb. 19

Black History Month Radio Broadcast – Texts of Resistance Part 2
5 p.m.
90.3 WRST-FM

Saturday, Feb. 21

1st Annual Gospel Music Workshop of Oshkosh (GMWO)
2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Arts & Communications Building – Room N28

Sunday, Feb. 22

Divine Voices of the Valley (D.V.O.V.) “Tiny Desk” Concert
6:30 p.m.
Sage Hall Room 1210

Free Admission

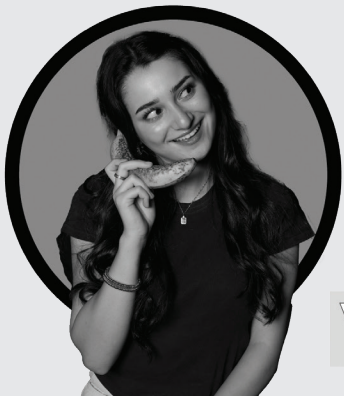
Thursday, Feb. 26

UWO Jazz Ensemble Concert
7:30 p.m.
Theatre Arts Center

Tickets available for cash at the door

Friday, Feb. 27

3rd Annual Night of “Soulfood and Jazz” with Distinguished Alumnus Maurice “Moe” Wince
5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Culver Family Welcome Center



S*X

IN-THE-920

Your College Sex Guru.

Back in the game

By Suzanne Dawood
dawoodsu14@uwosh.edu

Welcome to Sex In-The-920! I'm the Carrie Bradshaw of UW-Oshkosh, or your college sex guru. Since Valentine's Day is right around the corner, Cupid is about to shoot his arrows. Whether you're getting out of a relationship, getting into a new one, or just wanting to be alone, this holiday is thrown in everyone's face. Red and pink are the only colors that are seen throughout the entire month of February, and with the new semester, it's time to get back in the game.

Now, I'm experiencing this as we speak, so I think I know a thing or two. As I go on little dates with my partner, I couldn't help but wonder, how did I get into this place, and how does anyone get in a relationship? The answer isn't simple, and I have talked about this a bit before, with be on the look out. That idea fits into this as well. I truly believe if you want to get back in the game, or in other words, get into a relationship, you can't be a bench warmer the whole time. All talk no action, am I right?

I feel like I constantly hear people say: "I hate being single, I want to be in a relationship so bad!" but, I also hear people ask me: "Suzy, how is it so easy for you to find new people to talk to you?" Well, answer one, I write this column, but answer two is that I actually put in effort. Look, I'm not a relationship therapist, my major isn't even psychology, but it's not rocket science. You can't just expect someone to come up to you and ask you on a date, it doesn't work that way. I have collected a list of my best advice on how to get into a relationship, or even just make a friend.

1. Make yourself available
Now, this may seem obvious but honestly in college individuals are lazy. I truly believe in the motto: "If they wanted to they would". But, the more available you are, the easier it will be to make plans with someone, and compare schedules. You have to remember that while you are in a relationship with someone, you are not that person. You are your own individual self, you have your own life, ambitions, goals and thoughts. But, the cleaner your schedule, the easier it will be to make a plan. It's important to also be understanding of another person's life. Validating what they're doing, or them being

busy is key to a good relationship, unless you think they're lying. There's usually always a way to work around a plan, but if someone makes excuse after excuse, and cancel after cancel, then they probably don't want to hang out. Try again with someone else who actually wants to make time for you!

2. Make effort
I can't stress this enough. I know I say this every time I write one of these, but it's true. You wouldn't believe how many people do not put any effort in!

You can't just expect someone to come up to you and ask you out. I mean, it's possible for that to happen, but if you want something, you have to go for it. My dear friend made this good point to me. I was complaining about how my partner wasn't grabbing my hand, and she said to me: "Well they can't read your mind, so if you want to be held, you just got to do it yourself". That's one of the truest pieces of advice she's ever given me! You never know what anyone is truly feeling, or thinking, unless you communicate with them, and communicating is a small step of effort being put in.

3. Trusting yourself
A big reason why you may not be finding a relationship is because you may not be emotionally available. I believe you truly can't love someone until you love yourself. How can you give your heart to someone, if you can't see why they'd want it?

It's also easier to love someone if you feel more confident in yourself and your capability to be in a relationship. You may realize you're not ready to be in a relationship during the talking stage, and that's really okay! You have to give yourself grace and understanding so someone else can too.

Valentine's Day can be a frustrating holiday for some, but self love is also so important. If you celebrate, a partner is not needed. You can always be your own date, and show yourself love, and love yourself like no-one else can. Always remember that you know yourself best. If Valentine's Day isn't for you, you can always treat yourself after a long weekend to your favorite meal, movie, or sweet treat! Cupid still loves to fly around before and after the holiday, so don't be afraid to be struck by his arrow.



Will you be my Valen-Titan?

Romatic vs. romant-ICK

By Genevieve Haartman
haartmange52@uwosh.edu

Valentine's Day is approaching quickly, and as a hopeless romantic, I love this holiday. Yet, some acts of love can be adorable and others can be rather icky. So, I want to talk about some things I find to be romantic and what I find to be a romant-ICK.

- 1. The Rose Bear**
Starting off strong with a major ick, the Rose Bear. As much as some people may love this, I feel that a personalized and thoughtful flower bouquet would be much more meaningful than this bear. I find it to look tacky and cheap, and the last thing I want on Valentine's day is to feel like any gift was last minute and grabbed off the shelf in a rush.
- 2. Heart-shaped jewelry**
This is another gift that screams "This will suffice, right?" Personally, I would never wear a ring with a heart shaped stone, maybe a necklace with a small heart shaped pendant if it's tasteful. But if I were to be given this, I

would instantly know that this person doesn't truly know me. I find that to be one of the ickiest romantic acts of them all; not knowing your partner.

3. Flowers
Flowers are almost a given on Valentines Day! Especially a beautiful bouquet of fresh roses, or one catered to the person's favored flowers. I find that flowers are one of the most romantic gifts, especially when given on random occasions. But flowers on Valentine's Day are still just as romantic.

4. Personalized gifts and gift baskets
Being able to put in the effort to create a personalized gift or assemble a personalized gift basket is almost the most romantic gift you can give. It shows you understand and know your partner. Spending the time to create a gift that they will specifically love or appreciate is so romantic. The effort, time and consideration that goes into these kinds of gifts make it much more sentimental and memorable than a box of

chocolate and a bouquet of dyed flowers.

5. Dinner at home
This can go either way, being romantic or an ick. The line that decipherers if this is romantic or not is the amount of effort put in. A candle-lit dinner with a well considered meal, romantic music in the background playing, and maybe some cute decorations and nice ambiance can be one of the sweetest Valentine's Day gifts. But if dinner is practically an afterthought, maybe something lazy, with no true effort present, that can be the biggest ick of all.

At the end of the day, people know what is appropriate for their relationship, but the effort and consideration is always the biggest determination of whether something is romantic or an ick. Everyone deserves to be loved and seen for who they are and what they love. I hope everyone has a wonderful Valentine's Day and that you do not have to face a disgusting, romant-ick act of "love;" you do not deserve an icky love.



Cassidy Johnson / Advance-Titan

Protesters gather by the sundial in downtown Oshkosh last year.

Minnesota resident shares thoughts on ICE

By Nolan Andler
andlern063@uwosh.edu

If you have paid attention to the news over the past month and a half, you have most likely heard about the ICE occupation in the Minneapolis and Saint Paul area of Minnesota, especially after the recent shootings of Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti. For anyone out of state, you might think of Minnesota in a different light, whether it's with this or even earlier with the George Floyd killing along with the protests and riots that followed.

Why I wrote this piece is because I want to say that despite some things you see on the news, not everything you see is true about my home state. While I have not seen every event that has happened related to ICE in Minnesota, I want to discuss what I have seen with my own eyes and my thoughts about what has been going on in my own perspective.

People will say that Minnesota, especially the Twin Cities and Saint Paul is a violent place. While there is some violence that happens in the area, the Twin Cities is a beautiful place. I go to about 20 Minnesota Twins games a year and have seen nothing out of the ordinary around the Twins stadium, Target Field which is located in downtown Minneapolis.

ICE began to target Minnesota, especially the Twin Cities area as part of its "operation metro surge" to get rid of the illegal immigrants that are criminals especially in Democratic-run sanctuary cities. Minneapolis is also targeted because of the fraud related to the Quality Learning Center which misused government funds.

Because of this, our community has been under siege. People are scared to go out because of the fear of getting arrested and deported. My mom said that when she and her friend went to Minneapolis for breakfast one weekend, that a lot of places which are owned by people of other ethnicities or immigrants were closed. Schools have closed because of violent encounters with ICE in the past month.

The way that ICE puts everyone in danger because of how they operate, and that anyone can impersonate them. My house had a person come up to our house on a random day in January, he looked like he was a random solicitor but when he covered our ring camera and also had a notification that ICE was in our neighborhood from our ring neighbor's feature. It is unconfirmed but based on what our friend's contact from our town municipality said related to that person, it could've either been a plain clothes ICE agent or an impostor.

Our encounter with that per-

son is just another example of why no one is safe with ICE. Our community also was rocked when the reports that there were two killings related to ICE happened. The Renee Nicole Good shooting sparked a lot of the protests that are currently happening and I was in Minneapolis when Alex Pretti's shooting happened. Luckily the event I was at was Twinsfest at Target Field so it wasn't near where Pretti was killed but the Twins had to cancel the fanfest an hour early so we had to leave early to make sure we got home safely.

What I have seen is that the Twin Cities as a whole aren't letting ICE fully take control of the area. On almost every overpass that is above highways anywhere in the Twin Cities, people are holding signs protesting ICE. My family's ring account has been getting overwhelmed with notifications from the neighbor's feature that there is ICE in the area to let people in the community know. And people aren't afraid of the brisk winter temperatures to protest the way ICE has been operating.

My one message that I want to say is ICE says they are going after the dangerous criminals. So do that, do not go after the families that are trying to start a new life here. There is nothing illegal about trying to find a safe and happy life.

Amelia Lehman breaks UWO record in 3,000-meter

By Matthew Hoyman
hoymanma40@uwosh.edu

Amelia Lehman broke the school record in the 3,000-meter run for the UW-Oshkosh women’s track and field team at the Warren Bowlus Open, Jan. 31, hosted by UW-Stout in the Johnson Fieldhouse.

Lehman finished the race in 9:28.14, shattering the previous school record of 10:39.45 set by recent Hall of Fame inductee Christy Cazzola in 2013 at the Iowa State Classic. Following her historic performance, Lehman was named the WIAC Kwik Trip Women’s Track Athlete of the Week.

Lehman said she realized last fall that she had a chance to break the program record after seeing progress in her training.

“I knew that the training I had been doing for these past two years would grant me the ability to break the record,” Lehman said. “I was being consistent and workouts were going really well. Our plan for the race was to go out at a faster pace than the record to make sure we had a chance.”

Despite the goal, Lehman said she didn’t know she was close to breaking the record.

“I wasn’t even paying attention to the time and what we were running because I knew if I did that, I would have panicked,” Lehman said. “My only goal for this race was to give a great effort, especially at the end pushing when I knew it was going to hurt the most. When I broke the record, I was pretty excited to create some sort of history.”

Breaking Cazzola’s record was meaningful for Lehman, who has established herself as one of the most accomplished



Courtesy of Terri Cole / UWO Athletics
Senior Amelia Lehman catches her breath after running a 9:28.14 in the women’s 3000-meter run Jan. 30, beating Christy Cazzola’s UWO record.

runners in the UWO history, including two national championship appearances in 2022 and 2024.

“Passing Christy Cazzola’s record was an awesome accomplishment, especially considering she has 17 national titles,” Lehman said. “Passing her record makes me excited for the championship season because I know I am going to be making history here at UWO like she did. It’s cool because it makes me believe that I could do amazing things like she did.”

Lehman said she credited her

improvement over the past few years to increased dedication both physically and mentally.

“Within the past few years, I really amped my training,” Lehman said. “I started doing more miles throughout the week. My workouts were more intense. I also made sure to eat more and sleep more to help with recovery and training.”

Lehman said she also emphasizes the importance of journaling as a key factor in her personal growth.

“I haven’t been the most confident person, but through journaling and focusing on

the good things in life helped change my perspective on life,” she said. “I journaled about facing my fears and running the race already inside me. Journaling about being a confident person was crucial to me being a more confident runner and person.”

As her collegiate career continues, Lehman said she hopes her journey leaves a lasting impact on the program.

“I want to be remembered for my fierceness and how I never gave up despite the heartbreaks that I went through,” Lehman said. “I started here

as the slowest runner on the team who couldn’t even break six minutes in the mile to now hold a record here with an average pace of 5:04. I want to be remembered for someone who didn’t give up when I had deep depression that caused me to sit out for half a season and for someone who didn’t give up despite having intense anxiety and panic mid-race which caused me to drop out of races. I have had to deal with the biggest heartbreaks this sport has and I am still here running with fire and passion in my heart.”

Women’s basketball eclipses 20 wins this season

By Nolan Andler
andlern063@uwosh.edu

The No. 3 nationally ranked UW-Oshkosh women’s basketball team split its two games against No. 21 UW-Platteville and UW-River Falls at Kolf Sports Center over the past week. After suffering its first loss of the season with a 47-43 score to the Pioneers Feb. 4, the Titans rebounded with a 69-43 win against the Falcons Feb. 7.

In UWO’s game vs the Pioneers, forward Paige Seckar led the team with 11 points, going 4-for-11 from inside the arc while going 3-for-6 on the free throw line.

Platteville had 19 second chance points with 24 points in the paint compared to UWO only scoring six second chance points despite having 22 points in the paint. The Titans also had 13 turnovers in the game, with six coming in the fourth quarter. Despite UWO building a 37-30 lead with 9:33 left in the fourth quarter, it was those elements that caused the Titans to lose the lead and the game with Platteville handing the Titans their first loss of the season.

“Our main goal was to get back to who we are as a team,” Seckar said after the loss. “We felt like we lost some of our rhythm on Wednesday night, so to move forward we knew we needed to come together and trust in each other and in our preparation.”

That sentiment also resonated with others on the team.

“We knew we had to get back to playing like ourselves and focusing on the little things,” guard Kate Huml said. “We all knew that game was out of character for us, so the main focus was getting back to who we are.”

In the game against UWRF, the Titans took care of the Falcons to get back in the win column. Guard Sammi Beyer led the team with 13 points by going 6-for-14 from the field and 2-for-6 from 3-point range. The Titans outscored the Falcons in 16-4 in second chance points and 40-16 in points in the paint.

Guard Avery Poole said that going into the game against UWRF, finishing plays was the focus.

“There were a lot of second chance points we gave up and left on the board,” Poole said. “Seeing that and learning from it was

a huge focus in practice to finish plays and stay on our misses to put ourselves in the best position possible in the game.”

An accomplishment with the win over the Falcons was that UWO improved to a 20-1 record on the season, which locked the Titans’ 13th straight 20-plus win season with Brad Fischer as the Head Coach. The win made Fischer the coach with the most 20-plus win seasons in a row in the WIAC record, breaking Bo Ryan’s previous record at 12 with UW-Platteville men’s team.

Playing under Coach Fischer is an honor that the players said they are grateful for.

“It’s been a real honor to play under Coach Fischer, and his record is really a testament to all he does for this program,” Seckar said. “His knowledge of the game is really what leads us to having these 20-plus win seasons, and without his prep and hard work, we would not be able to do what we do.”

Poole said she also enjoys playing under Fischer. “(Fischer) puts a ton of time and energy into the success of the team and that is why he is so successful,” Poole said. “It has been an honor



Courtesy of Steve Frommell / UWO Athletics
Sammi Beyer drives against the UW-River Falls defender Feb. 7.

playing for this program and the winning culture he’s created.”

The Titans will travel to the Sonnentag Event Center at Eau Claire to take on the UW-Eau Claire Blugolds Feb. 11 with tipoff at 7 p.m. UWO will then return home to Kolf Sports Center Feb. 15 as UWO will host the

UW-Stout Blue Devils with a 3 p.m. tipoff. The Titans’ game against the Blue Devils will be streamed live on the WIAC network and on the radio at 90.3 WRST- FM. You can catch the results of the Titans’ game at UW-Eau Claire at uwoshkosh-titans.com.



Scoreboard

Wednesday, Feb. 4

Men’s Basketball

UWO - 76

UWP - 75

Women’s Basketball

UWO - 43

UWP - 47

Friday, Feb. 6

Men’s Track and Field

Non Scoring

Men’s Wrestling

UWO - 0

Cornell (Iowa) - 51

Women’s Gymnastics

UWO - 190.875

UWL - 192.450

Saturday, Feb. 7

Men’s Track and Field

1st of 7, 183

Men’s Track and Field

Non Scoring

Women’s Track and Field

2nd of 8, 135

Men’s Swim and Dive

MSOE - 160

UWO - 136

Women’s Swim and Dive

UWO - 213

MSOE - 71

Women’s Basketball

UWO - 69

UWRF - 47

Men’s Basketball

UWO - 62

UWRF - 53

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Feb. 11

Men’s Basketball

vs UW-Eau Claire at 7 p.m.

Women’s Basketball

at UW-Eau Claire at 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 13

Men’s Track and Field

at UW-Whitewater Invitational

Women’s Track and Field

at UW-Whitewater Invitational

Women’s Gymnastics

at Winona State University (Minnesota) at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 14

Men’s Wrestling

WIAC Championship at Eau Claire, Wisc. at 11 a.m.

Men’s Track and Field

at UW-Whitewater Invitational

Women’s Track and Field

at UW-Whitewater Invitational

Women’s Track and Field

at Boston University Invitational

Women’s Basketball

vs UW-Stout at 3 p.m.

Men’s Basketball

at UW-Stout at 7 p.m.

A-Trivia

When was the last time that both UWO basketball teams swept UW-River Falls in the same season?

Answer: Both UWO teams Swept the Falcons in the 2022-23 season.

Track and field athletes set records

By Katie Lechton
lechtonka22@uwosh.edu

UW-Oshkosh men’s and women’s track and field showed up and showed out on Feb. 7, as multiple athletes scored top three placements at either the Ripon College Red Hawk Invitational, the Illinois Wesleyan University Multi/Keck D-III Select, and the UW-La Crosse Mark Guthrie Legacy Invitational.

The first record to fall was one that has been shattered previously this season, as graduate student Collin Kao broke the UWO pole vault record for the third time. The new record of 5.20 meters placed Kao both second in Division III and, in the event in Bloomington, Illinois, short of Western Illinois University’s Arnie Grunert, who won the event with 5.30 meters. UWO juniors Cavan Dobberstein and Bryce Smith also had big performances in the heptathlon at IWU, claiming first and second in the event. Dobberstein won the event with 4,941 points, with Smith taking second with 4,842 points.

In La Crosse, the school record in the men’s 4x400-meter relay, set in 2023, was broken by the quartet of junior Dylan Doss, freshman Sean Malay, junior Lucas Koerselman and sophomore Tyran Bender with a time of 3:13.80. They placed fourth in the event, behind host UW-La Crosse, who ran a 3:13.10. The Titans also swept the podium in the 60-meter dash, with Doss winning the event, senior Davian Willems placing second and junior Nolan Milas placing third, in addition to winning the 200-meter dash. Junior Lucas Nicholson placed second in the 800-meter run.

At the Red Hawk Invitational, the UWO women’s squad placed second overall in the competition with 135 points, falling short of the top spot to St. Nor-



Courtesy of Terri Cole / UWO Athletics

Collin Kao competes in a pole vault event earlier this season, Kao broke the UWO pole vault record last Saturday.

bert College, which scored 138.5. Freshman Mia Riley placed third in the 60-meter dash, with fellow freshman Maya Van Schyndel reaching silver in the 60-meter hurdles. Junior Amara Smalls finished in third place in the 400-meter run, while freshman Megan Hoffman completed the 800-meter run in second place. UWO took the top two spots in the 3,000-meter run, with freshman Lehna Mitchell winning the event and junior Allison Van Der Wegen placing second. The 4x400-meter team consisting of sophomores Anabell Mitchell, Adriana Garcia, Hoffman and freshman Athena Soto finished in third place. In field events, freshman Bri Meyer earned silver for the Titans in pole vault and junior Brooklyn Metz placed third in the shot put.

In the men’s competition,

UWO reigned supreme, winning the meet with 165 points. In the sprints, sophomore Christian Thompson placed third in the 60-meter dash, while freshman Peyton Hale clinched silver in the 200-meter dash. The Titans also had two runners make the podium in both the 400 and 800-meter runs. Junior Henry Kennedy placed second and freshman Brandon Marks finished in third during the 400, while junior Jett Breed and freshman Luke Beeksma completed the 800-meter race in silver and bronze standing. Graduate student Xavier Lasee finished the mile run in second. UWO had a first place finish in the 4x400-meter relay, consisting of Beeksma, freshman Noah Callahan, Breed and senior Dwight Hosni finishing with a time of 3:28.68. During field competition, the Ti-

tans swept the podium in high jump, with freshman Jo Hibbler and Thompson finishing in a tie for first with a height of two meters, and sophomore Cameron McAndrews placing third. McAndrews would then go on to win the long jump with a distance of 6.72 meters. A quartet of throwers also reached the podium for UWO. Junior Isaiah Baez-Isom and senior Kieran Maude placed second and third respectively in the shot put, while senior Gavin Fritsch and junior Bryce Hale claimed the top two spots in weight throw.

UWO now heads to UW-Whitewater on Feb. 13 for the Midwest Elite Invitational. The competition kicks off on Friday night with the 5,000-meter run before the rest of the meet gets underway throughout the day on Saturday.

UWO gymnastics falls to UW-La Crosse

By Katie Lechton
lechtonka22@uwosh.edu

In a duel against the top two teams in NCAA Division III gymnastics, the No. 1 UW-Oshkosh Titans fell to the No. 2 UW-La Crosse Eagles 192.450-190.875 at Mitchell Hall in La Crosse on Feb 5.

In the first rotation for UWO, sophomore Averie Evans led the team and won the event with a score of 9.8 on the uneven bars. senior Amaya McConkay scored a 9.75 for the Titans, with senior Lydia Hayden rounding out the top three scorers with a 9.7. All three outsourced each gymnast on the entire UWL vault lineup, allowing UWO to take an early 48.325-48.05 lead.

The Titans grew the lead during the second rotation, as freshman Hannah Hughes stuck the landing for UWO on vault, scoring a 9.625 and placing second in the dual to UWL’s Paige Breckwoldt and her score of 9.675. Evans, freshman Ome Ellis, and senior Reanna McGiboney tied on the event with a



Katie Lechton / Advance-Titan

Averie Evans smiles as she finishes her routine on the uneven bars in the Titans’ home dual against Hamline University (Minnesota) on Jan. 15th.

9.6. At the halfway point of the meet, the Titans had a 96.3-95.95 advantage over the Eagles.

In the floor rotation, the Titans went stumbling instead of soaring. Junior Jay Ratkowski had the highest score for UWO with a 9.675, giving her a second place finish. Breckwoldt won the event with a 9.7 on the score-sheet for the Eagles. Heading

into the final rotation, the Titans trailed UWL 144.45-143.6.

UWO attempted to make up ground and get the victory in the final event of the night. Hughes grabbed up the highest score on the balance beam for the Titans with a 9.6, with freshman Sam Dorrity getting the second highest with a 9.525. However, another strong rotation by UWL

allowed the Eagles to extend the lead and claw their way to victory.

With the loss, the Titans had their undefeated season snapped, and fell to a 3-1 dual record this season. UWO continues its five-meet road trip with a matchup against No. 5 Winona State (Minnesota) on Feb. 13, with first rotation beginning at 6 p.m.