

The Advance-Titan

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@theadvancetitan
atitan@uwosh.edu



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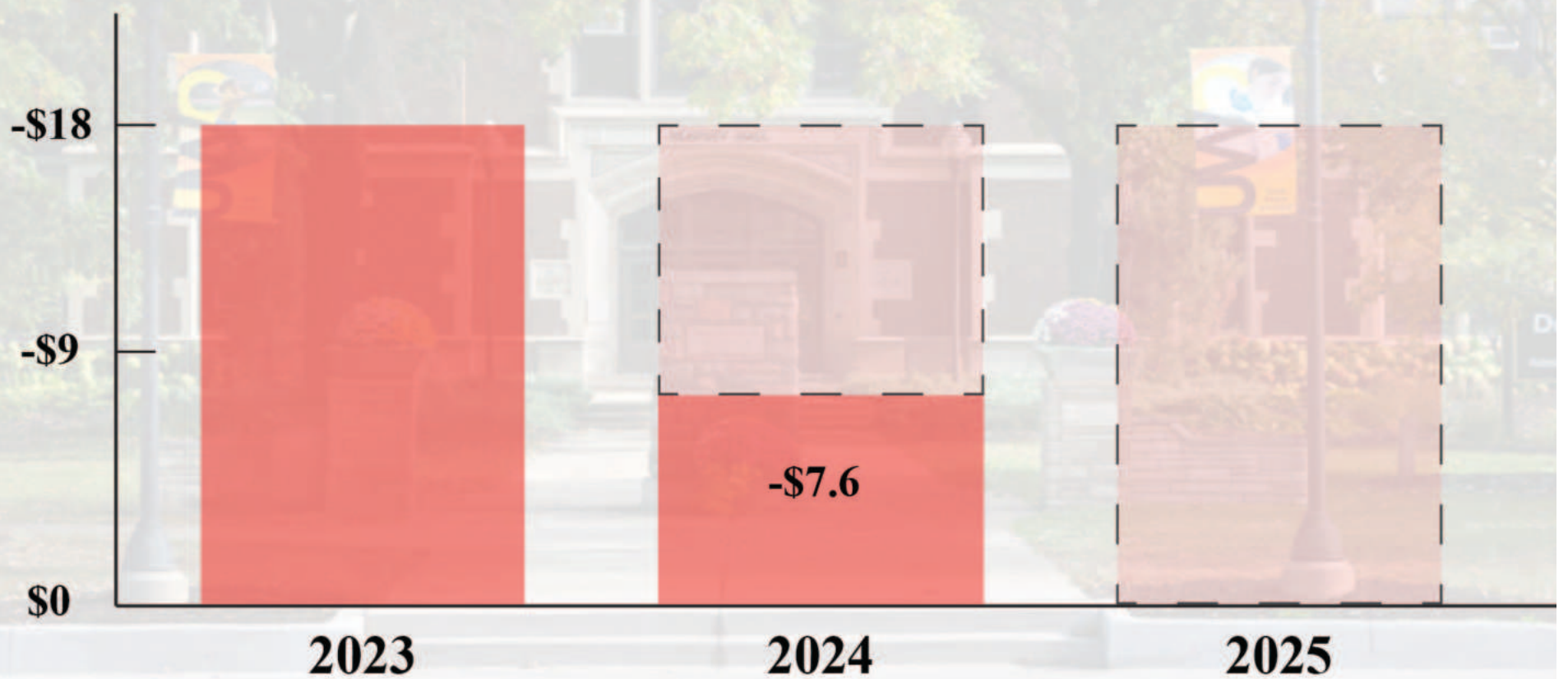
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Graphic by Vladyslav Plyaka / Advance-Titan

'A lot of positive signs to point to'

UWO no longer in structural deficit according to university officials

By Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

UW-Oshkosh announced at its State of UWO forum Feb. 10 that the university has climbed out of an \$18 million budget deficit and Chief Operating Officer Corey Finkelmeyer said that the school ended the 2025 fiscal year with a positive balance of \$5.3 million.

"The reasons for this improvement have been well discussed over the last couple of years," Finkelmeyer said. "Institutional Realignment Plan (IRP)1 and IRP2 yielded significant savings for our campus and put us on much more stable ground. Importantly, the (Universities of Wisconsin) just notified us of its budget to actuals report, showing our position as of December 2025. We are pleased to say we are tracking lower on our expense side and are aligning with where we should be as of December."

Former UWO Chancellor An-

drew Leavitt introduced the first IRP in 2023 to combat an \$18 million structural deficit induced by dropping enrollment rates and COVID-19. Leavitt utilized 200 non-faculty layoffs, voluntary retirement, hiring freezes, a 2% budget cut and introduced furlough periods to cut expenses for the 2023-24 academic year.

UWO Provost Ed Martini rolled out plans for "UWO 2.0" in the same year, restructuring the academic colleges and departments while combining other areas such as the Department of Residence Life and University Dining. By splitting the university into the College of Business, Arts and Communication, the College of Public Affairs and Education and the College of Nursing, Health Professions and STEM, UWO reported a savings of \$1.75 million.

Leavitt, who officially stepped down as chancellor on June 30, 2025, announced last March that the university would outsource University Books and More,

which operated in a \$1.5 million deficit, to the Follett Corporation in order to save costs for UWO.

Current Chancellor Manohar Singh, who took over for Leavitt on July 1, 2025, said that given where the university was a few years ago, he sees a path to resurgence.

"I see that path being carved by you all," Singh said at the State of UWO forum inside Reeve Memorial Union. "Building the bridges, breaking the silos, being innovative, looking at what your job that you day after day do, and how does that relate to student success, student enrollment, fiscal stability of the university, our reputation, our brand, our care that we are known for and success of our alumni."

UWO Faculty Senate President Nathan Stuart said that the faculty appreciate the renewed energy and optimism that Singh has brought to the university community.

"We hope he continues to in-

crease the inclusion of faculty voices and expertise and the transparency of administrative decisions as he builds new programs for our learners and new relationships with alumni, employers and community leaders," Stuart said.

At the forum, Finkelmeyer reported that the university's 2023 fiscal year balance was \$5.1 million before dropping to -\$1.3 million in 2024 and increasing to over \$5 million last year.

According to former University of North Carolina – Greensboro Provost Jim Coleman, a university can have a structural deficit while also reporting a positive balance at the end of a fiscal year.

Coleman said in a blog post on his website that this occurs when the university has a long-term, underlying mismatch where recurring spending commitments exceed expected ongoing revenue yet still possesses a "positive balance" due to temporary, one-time cash inflows.

"So, in the sense of having actual budget deficits, structural budget deficits are not necessarily a problem, especially if universities make sure to make good predictions of every revenue source at the beginning of the year," Coleman said in January 2024. "A big flaw that I found when I was provost was that many latched on to the idea that only tuition and state appropriations are predictable enough to be permanent revenue. I don't think that is true."

Finkelmeyer said that the university is taking a multi-pronged approach to remaining stable financially.

"First, and most importantly, we are being disciplined in our position control," he said. "Every open position or proposed new position is put through a rigorous review before approval. Maintaining restraint and being strategic in what positions we fill is the cornerstone of sustaining fiscal discipline."

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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
andlern063@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

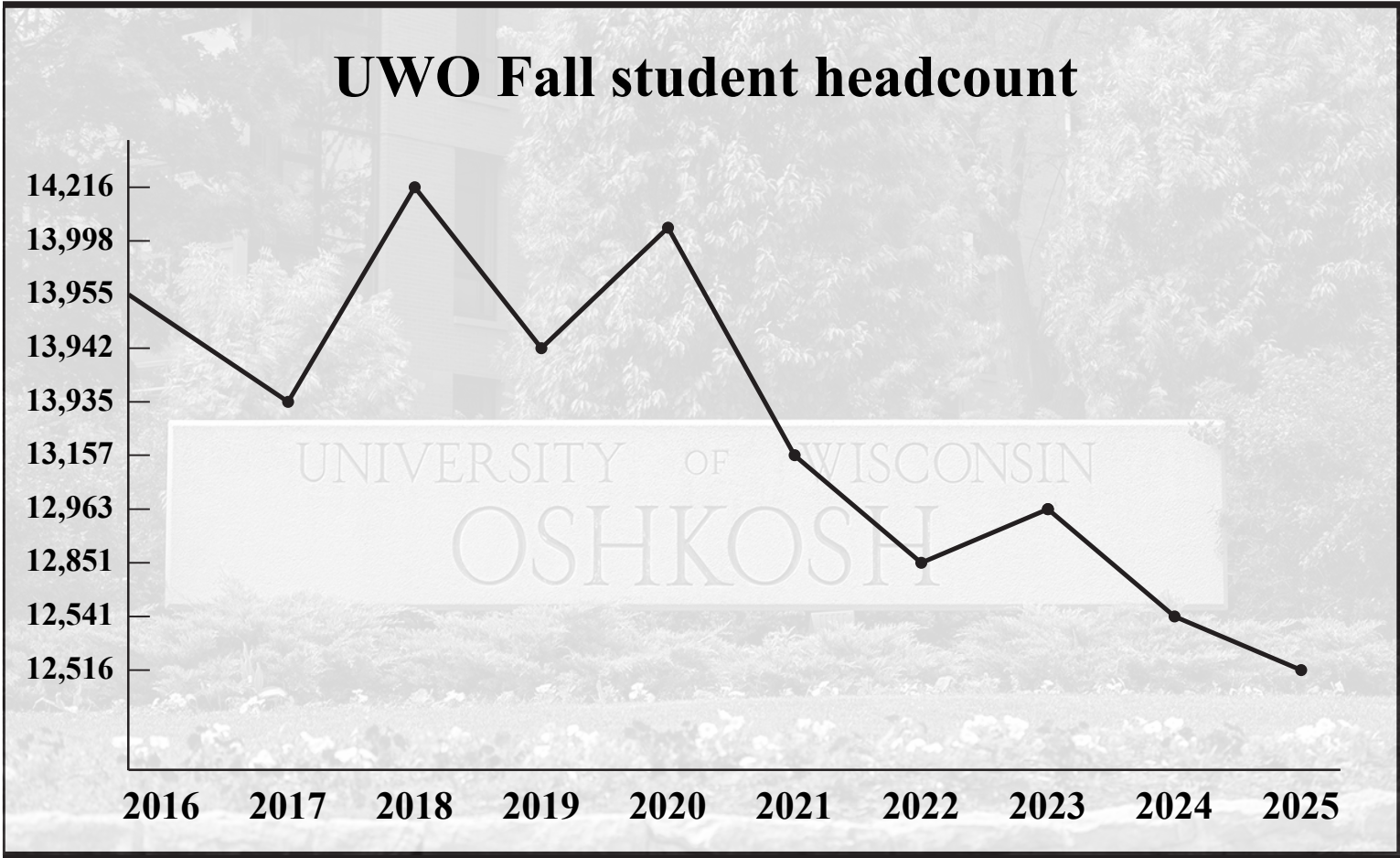
Reporters
Justice Cyr, Joey Egan, Lela Meinke, Brayden Junkers, Alex Marzu, Elijah Plonsky

Faculty Adviser
Ben Birkinbine
birkinbineb@uwosh.edu

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Graphic by Vladyslav Plyaka / Advance-Titan

Deficit: UWO fighting enrollment drop

From Page 1
Finkelmeyer said that UWO is looking to increase revenue wherever possible, such as maintaining enrollment levels, and cutting non-personal expenses. “All vendor contracts and travel are under review as part of our plan to maintain a stable budget,” he said. “Moreover, we continue to work together on strategies to achieve real-time utilities savings.”
UWO’s undergraduate enrollment has dropped for the last nine years and last fall, the university totaled under 9,500 stu-

dents. In the fall of 2016, UWO recorded 11,012 undergraduate students.
In September 2025, the Advance-Titan reported that UWO was one of five Universities of Wisconsin to see a decline in total enrollment but still sits third among the state schools with 12,457 total students.
Martini said that the university has been working to flatten the rate of decline, which sat between 4-7% for the last seven years but is projected to be between 1-2% in the spring.
“A little look at spring, as we

were in fall, there are a lot of positive signs to point to,” Martini said. “We have more first year students starting with us in the spring. We have more new transfer students starting in the spring. We have more new graduate students starting with us in the spring. So even though the overall enrollment is still dipping a little bit because we are still losing more continuing students than we are adding new students, we are on our path, as you’ll see in a moment, to full stabilization and being poised for enrollment growth.”

Singh said that he realizes that there are challenges to current enrollment numbers, but his team is working to create a positive trajectory.
“I don’t see in these numbers of strategic planning and enrollments and revenue generation numbers, despite my being a finance Ph.D. and all that,” Singh said. “I see these faces and I can identify and I can tell you that the work that you do is so meaningful, so impactful that you and I cannot even fathom the impact, and the ripples that will go for generations to come.”

City Council awards water filtration replacement

By Zach Bellin
belliz88@uwosh.edu

The Oshkosh City Council awarded the bid for The Water Filtration Plant Clearwells Replacement Project to C.D. Smith Construction for \$47,629,600 at the Feb. 10 city council meeting.
Construction will include two brand new 1-million gallon reservoirs for storage of drinking water as well as two new 16-million gallon per-day pumping stations at the Water Filtration Plant.
According to the project’s website, the new clearwell will have an increased water supply, improve water quality monitoring and incorporate modern security measures that will ensure the safety and quality of the city’s water supply.
A presentation from the City of Oshkosh Plan Commission Workshop states that the current clearwells at the water filtration plant off Lake Winnebago do not fit into those standards because they are located below the groundwater table and 100-year flood plain.
Instead of renovating like Oshkosh previously has, they have decided to fully replace the tanks as they continue to grow older and conditions worsen. Two



Jacob Link / Advance-Titan

Construction workers prepare to replace the ozone system at Oshkosh’s Water Filtration Plant last April.

tanks are over 100 years old and one is over 65, which are now considered to be in poor to fair condition.
Studying for the project began in 2012 when the council became aware that the city needed to replace its current underground

treated drinking water storage clearwells to comply with Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter NR 811 and has since been the topic of discussion at over 15 public and City entity meetings.
C.D. Smith Construction was

the cheapest of four bids for the project, competing with Staab Construction Corporation who submitted a bid of \$49,257,000, Miron Construction Co., Inc. and Mid City Corporation both of which submitted bids of over \$50 million.

Polk Library reconstruction inches closer

By Zach Bellin
belliz88@uwosh.edu

UW-Oshkosh’s Polk Library was approved for a \$137.5 million renovation project by the State Building Commission as part of approximately \$205.7 million worth of construction projects across Wisconsin Feb. 4.

“I’m proud the state continues to prioritize projects that ensure fundamental institutions have the foundation to support both current and future needs,” Gov. Tony Evers said in a press release. “Wisconsinites know the value these institutions bring to everyday quality of life, and supporting their success is essential to planning for the kind of future we want to see for our state.”

The Polk Library Redefined project is set to demolish and rebuild part of the facility constructed in 1962 and fully renovate the wing of the building established in 1969. It also aims to improve Polk’s footprint by 30% with a downsizing of the complex from 232,000 square feet to 163,000, beginning in May of 2027. Substantial completion is expected by November 2029.

The downsizing is a step towards modernizing the campus and moving away from the traditional idea of a library.

“The goal of this particular renovation is a complete re-imagination of a library space,” UWO Chancellor Manohar Singh said. “From being a space where there’s books, to a space where you gather together, use technology to share information that is already created and then find each other as human beings in that space.”

According to uwosh.edu/polkredefined, the library will



Courtesy of Alex Hummel

The new Polk Library will be completed in 2029. UWO provided rendering photos of the expected north porch at the new Polk Library.

become a “modern haven” for student study, creativity, tutoring and writing center support, multimedia technology and wi-fi that’s lightyears ahead of what’s currently available in the space.

Polk is also projected to become a centralized hub on campus for student support services and organizations.

“The philosophy we have at UWO is that academic institutions aren’t just about education and academic learning, they’re about learning beyond the books, beyond the boundaries of a uni-

versity and discovering oneself,” Singh said. “... So if you’re just studying accounting, that is okay you will get that degree, but what we are trying to say is that we want you to experience college life much bigger than being an accountant.”

State Senator Kristin Dassler-Alfheim announced in a press release on Feb. 4, she had been fighting for the project’s approval before she officially took office Jan. 6, 2025.

“I’ve toured Polk Library, and I can tell you that this project is

absolutely necessary to support the research and the work that professors, staff and students are engaging in,” Dassler-Alfheim said. “Libraries are the beating heart of any university campus, but the new Polk Learning Commons is going to be so much more than that – not to mention that the improvements and overall reduction in square footage are going to lower utility costs and save money in the long-run.”

Polk is now 63 years old and according to uwosh.edu/polkredefined, over 50% of the building’s

components were reported as in poor condition in a May 2024 report. Its pipes are disintegrating and entire sections of the building are at risk, making them unusable.

It will be a construction-filled next few years across campus as Polk Library joins the list of many projects happening, like the overground pipes set to be placed underground in the coming months, along with the demolition of Donner Hall, Radford Hall and Webster Hall. Students should expect a modernized, technologically-rich campus as a result.

UWO hosts leadership event at Culver Welcome Center

By Vladyslav Plyaka
plyakavl38@uwosh.edu

A “VIP leadership event” called “Titans Lead, Leaders for Our Community” was hosted at UW-Oshkosh Feb. 12, bringing three speakers who shared their leadership experiences with students at the Culver Family Welcome Center.

“It’s very important to understand that leadership doesn’t mean having it all figured out,” Holly Brenner, senior vice president of strategic development and marketing at C.D. Smith Construction and on board chair of the UW-Oshkosh Foundation, said.

The event served as a networking space for attendees and featured a panel discussion about leadership with Brenner, Dr. Ashok Rai, a member of Universities of Wisconsin Board of Regents, the president and CEO at Prevea Health and John Matz, Winnebago County sheriff.

Rai said that students should get out of their comfort zone to build the “diversity of opinions” and “diversity of experience.”

“My biggest recommendation for all of you is to find something completely outside of your comfort zone and go experience

it,” he said. “This is your chance to get exposed to so many things and so many different types of people. This is the time to really get to know people that are different than you (and) get to experience things that you would never have.”

John Matz said it is important to practice the “art of leadership” in anything a student might be participating in.

“Leadership is a lot about manipulation as well, in a good way, not in a bad way,” he said. “It’s getting them (people) toward that common goal ... if it’s a study group, practice being a leader of that study group and they won’t even recognize you are doing it, but you are able to influence everybody within that group.”

Brenner said she would tell her younger self to learn from every person and to enjoy the journey.

“I would tell myself that careers aren’t ladders, they are Jungle Jim’s and that progress isn’t linear,” she said. “You can learn at every stop and you should and from every person regardless of their station and your station. I would say that relationships matter maybe more than results, at least as much as results.”

To attend the event, students had to be nominated by a faculty or staff member at the university.

Mike Lueder, the director of the Center for Civic and Community Engagement, said the event was ultimately open to everyone, but the purpose of the VIP invitations was to bring students who are in leadership positions.

“There is a very intentional idea behind that ... to draw in those folks who are in leadership positions whether they think they are or not,” Lueder said. “So, I wanted the other faculty and staff at the university to identify the leaders for me, so I could message them.”

Arianna Jensen, a UWO sophomore who double majors in criminal justice and psychology and also pursues a minor in social justice, said the knowledge she learned from the speakers, she will use in coaching at a volleyball club “Valley Velocity.”

“I learned a lot about the best way to work with colleagues and how to create a good, like, teamwork space,” she said.

Jensen said that she recommends students to attend such events because they are free and provide knowledge from professionals.



Vladyslav Plyaka / Advance-Titan

Ed Martini (Left), Dr. Ashok Rai (Middle left), John Matz (Middle right) and Holly Brenner (Right) discuss their leadership experiences at the Culver Family Welcome Center.

“Definitely go to these things that campus offers,” she said. “They are free. You don’t have to pay. You can get free insight from professionals, and it’s just a good resource.”

UWO Chancellor Manohar Singh said that for students who attended the event, it is only the first step in their dedication to change the world.

“Know that this is a beginning

of your commitment to changing the world ... once you graduate, you commit yourself to being the leader, so that the next generations are inspired by you,” he said.

“Titans Lead, Leaders for Our Community” was sponsored by the Center for Civic and Community Engagement and the Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership.

Men's soccer to return in 2027

By Katie Lechton
lechtonka22@uwosh.edu

After an 11-year hiatus, the UW-Oshkosh men's soccer will be returning to the pitch in 2027 as the university's 22nd varsity sport.

"I'm proud to share that effective immediately, men's soccer is returning to UW-Oshkosh," Assistant Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics Darryl Sims said on Feb. 16. "Men's soccer is woven into the fabric of UW-Oshkosh Athletics history, and its return is more than just the relaunch of a sport, it is the revival of a proud championship tradition, a renewed promise to past and future student-athletes, and a moment of great excitement for our campus and community."

UW-Oshkosh Chancellor Manohar Singh said bringing men's soccer back was the day he was hoping for.

"Especially when you're a Titan, you know you're going to pull together the community and share your victories off and on the field with your community," Singh said. "We stand together as Titans, as (the) UW-Oshkosh, with everyone who has been through these doors as alums and students, and those who aspire to be our students and athletes, and those in the community who support us."

The program initially ran from 1984-2015, and was suspended following the 2015 season.

According to an Advance-Titan article from April 8, 2015, the men's soccer and tennis teams were cut due to the state budget cuts, the lack of both a conference championship status and in addition to Title XI guidelines on gender balances within the university's sports roster.

During the cuts in 2015, both men's and women's cross country and track and field programs combined under a restructured coaching lineup.

"This is the hardest decision I've had to make as the athletic director," Sims said of the changes in a 2015 press release. "It affects the lives (of) our student-athletes, the impacted coaches and the whole athletics department. We owe it to our students to provide a high-quality and positive competitive ex-



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

UWO Assistant Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics Darryl Sims speaks at a press conference on Feb. 16, where he announced that the men's soccer program would be returning to the university's list of academic offerings.

perience. As costs rise and budgets shrink, that becomes more difficult. Therefore we need to look at what we offer with a critical eye."

Sims said Monday that the university made the commitment to adding men's soccer back once the WIAC got to a place where they would have enough teams to host a conference championship.

Since the team was suspended, UW-Eau Claire, UW-River Falls, UW-Stevens Point and UW-Stout have launched their own men's programs. In addition, UW-Platteville and UW-Whitewater, which kept their programs active even when the WIAC did not sponsor the sport.

The Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) restarted their NCAA automatic qualifying tournament in 2024, which grants the winner a spot in the NCAA Division III tournament.

The UWO men's soccer team has been one of the most successful programs in both the WIAC and NCAA, posting a 423-122-55 all-time record, along with two WIAC conference titles and 14 NCAA tournament appearances, with eight

of those being second round appearances.

The Titans are still the only program in the WIAC to reach a national semifinal match four times, and hold a 19-12-3 record in tournament play. UWO is sixth in Division III history in consecutive winning seasons with 31, ninth in consecutive wins, 11th in both shutouts during a single season and consecutive home victories, and 18th in consecutive matches without a loss.

Seven former players have been inducted into the UW-Oshkosh Athletic Hall of Fame, with Jack Borski set to become the eighth member, as he will be inducted this fall as part of the 2026 class.

Prior to the announcement, there was a push to have men's soccer return to the athletic lineup, highlighted by the "Bring Back UW-Oshkosh Men's Soccer" Facebook page, which posted about discussions surrounding the team.

"UW-Oshkosh is exploring the exciting possibility of bringing back Men's Soccer — one of the most accomplished and tradition-rich programs in the universi-

ty's history," the group's Facebook post in November said. "While the program was previously disbanded and the past decade has held its challenges, our new chancellor has shown strong interest in reviving the team with fresh energy, improved structure, and meaningful updates."

Following the announcement, the page has since been renamed "UW-Oshkosh Men's Soccer is BACK."

Peter Dillett, an alumnus of UWO who played soccer for the Titans during the 1996-99 seasons, is also excited to see the return of the program, along with former head coach Toby Bares, who will be returning to help assist the program ahead of their first match.

"(The men's soccer alumni are) extremely excited to see our storied program return to UW-Oshkosh," Dillett said. "We want to thank Toby Bares for all the hard work he put into us and into building our program and Chancellor Singh and Darryl Sims for their enthusiasm and vision to enable men's soccer's return."

Dillett also went on to thank

other UWO administrators for their support and said "we look forward to working with them in the future to ensure stability and success for men's soccer."

"UW-Oshkosh is such a wonderful place to be, and I can't wait to welcome a new generation of soccer players as they pursue nothing less than a nationally recognized-caliber program," Bares said. "I know that the men's soccer alumni will be super excited and anxious to provide their support, because I know that they really value the experiences and the memories they have and they want nothing more than to see a new generation of players get what they got."

A national search has started to find the program's third coach in its history. When competition starts in 2027, UWO will hold its home matches at J.J. Kellar Field at Titan Stadium, with the team rejoining the WIAC, bringing the conference to seven members.

Any students who wish to compete for the black and gold can fill out the prospective athlete form on the athletic department's website, uwoshkoshtitans.com.

Women's basketball wins WIAC regular season title

By Justice Cyr
cyrju94@uwosh.edu

The UW-Oshkosh women's basketball team clinched a share of the WIAC regular season championship against the UW-Stout Blue Devils with a 73-48 win Feb. 14.

The win comes after a stunning loss in Eau Claire 65-54, where the Titans shot 30.6% from the field, and 4-of-16 from deep, against a (at the time), 12-9 Blugolds team.

Only two players could get into double digits, Paige Seckar and Sammi Beyer. For Seckar it was a 24-point performance on 9-of-16 shooting, along with eight rebounds. Beyer struggled shooting, 4-of-15, and missed all four of her 3-point attempts, but ended up with 10 points to

join Seckar. For the Blugolds it was not top scorer in the WIAC Kyla Overskei that led the team in scoring, it was actually the senior, Reanna Hutchinson, who led them in points with 15.

But the Titans shrugged off the loss to Eau Claire and used it as motivation to throttle a Stout team by 25 points. Flipping the script, they shot 54.2% from the field and 11-of-23 from 3-point range. Beyer poured in 22 points and much better splits, such as 8-of-14 from the field, but Sarah Hardwick, Seckar and Bridget Froehlke also put up double figures.

The latter stole the show with a season high 16 points and 4-of-5 shooting from beyond the arc. The Titans also forced 20 turnovers, but also turned it over an

uncharacteristic 16 times.

In the game, Stout took a 4-2 lead two minutes in, but it would be their only lead, with the advantage ballooning to 30-8 four minutes into the second quarter, holding the Blue Devils to 19 in the first half and scoring 44 themselves.

The Titans look ahead to this week's matchups, taking on the 15-8 UW-La Crosse Eagles this Wednesday at Kolf and at Berg Gymnasium in Stevens Point versus the 14-9 Pointers to end the season on Saturday.

After the regular season concludes, Feb. 25 will feature the first matchup for the Titans in the WIAC tournament at Kolf Sports Center, where they will face the winner of the No. 4 vs No. 5 matchup.



Courtesy of Steve Frommel / UWO Athletics

Bridget Froehlke launches a 3-pointer in UWO's win against UW-Stout on Feb. 14. Froehlke finished the game with 16 points.

UWO remains alive in WIAC race

By Matthew Hoyman
hoymanmatt88@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh men's basketball team swept UW-Eau Claire and UW-Stout this week in two contested games at home and away.

The Titans (17-6, 8-4 WIAC) earned an 84-75 win over the Blugolds (14-8, 3-8 WIAC) on Feb. 11 at the Kolf Sports Center.

After Andre Renta knocked down a 3-pointer for the Blugolds, Eau Claire took a 13-8 lead and later built it to a game-high 18-11 advantage over the Titans with 10:04 remaining in the first half. Oshkosh slowly chipped away at the deficit, taking a 22-20 lead on a 3-pointer by Aiden Hawkinson. UWO carried a 42-36 lead into halftime.

Eau Claire kept the game close in the second half, and Oshkosh held a slim 64-62 lead with 6:02 remaining. Oshkosh then went on a decisive 14-0 run to help secure the victory.

Hawkinson led the way for Oshkosh, shooting 7-for-13 from the field, including five 3-pointers and finishing with a career-high 21 points. Joey LaChapell added 17 points, going 5-for-8 from the field and 5-for-6 from the free-throw line. UWO Michael Metcalf-Grassman scored 11 points on 4-for-6 shooting and grabbed three rebounds. Carter Thomas went 6-for-6 from the line, recorded one block and finished with 8 points. Matt Imig and Vittorio Dante each contributed 7 points and five rebounds, while Oskar Kangas pulled down eight rebounds.

The Titans stepped up in the absence of Brandon Beck, who is averaging 15.9 points per game this season.

Thomas said the performance highlighted the team's resilience.

"It shows a lot about what kind of players we have," Thomas said. "For teams to be able to push through tough stretches and figure

out a way to win games is important as you progress through a season. All of our guys definitely illustrated this during that game."

A major part of the success has been the development of young contributors.

"Being able to see confidence in younger guys to go out there and make plays is fun to watch," Thomas said. "Guys have been doing it all year, and Aiden is a prime example of it recently."

Oshkosh held advantages in bench points (45-29), steals (7-4), fast-break points (11-2) and rebounds (38-31).

The Titans shot 26-for-56 from the field and 10-for-31 from 3-point range.

Oshkosh won a dramatic comeback thriller against Stout 68-67 on Saturday to complete a mini home sweep this past week to improve to 8-4 in WIAC play and remained tied for first place in the conference standings.

UWO had to claw back from multiple deficits throughout the night. Oshkosh trailed 39-29 at halftime and fell behind 41-29 with under 19 minutes remaining in the second half. The Blue Devils later extended their lead to 57-46 with less than 10 minutes to play before the Titans began chipping away.

The game featured 10 lead changes down the stretch. In the final minute, Stout's Collin Vick hit two free throws to put the Blue Devils up by three. LaChapell answered with a layup, and after UWS' Doma Schwarzenberger scored twice inside to give Stout a 67-64 advantage, LaChapell knocked down a clutch jumper to keep Oshkosh within one possession. Missed free throws by Stout in the closing seconds opened the door for the Titans' final opportunity.

Down 67-66 with one second remaining and the Titans trailing by one, Metcalf-Grassman drove to the basket and converted a buzz-



Courtesy of Steve Frommell / UWO Athletics

Carter Thomas drives to the hoop for a contested layup against UW-Eau Claire on Feb. 11.

er-beating layup off an assist from Thomas to seal the win.

Thomas said the offensive strategy was always going to be to attack the rim.

"I was just worried about putting it in a spot where Michael would be in a position to go get it and score right away," Thomas said. "I was thankful that he got open the way he did, so I just had to make sure it got on target, and thankfully it did."

The play capped a frantic final sequence in which Jonah Rindfleisch came up with a steal after missing two free throws with four seconds left, giving Oshkosh one last chance to draw up the game-winning play out of a timeout.

Thomas led Oshkosh with 16 points, shooting 4-for-6 from the field, hitting three 3-pointers, and going 5-for-6 from the free-throw line. Metcalf-Grassman finished with 11 points on 4-for-10 shooting

and grabbed six rebounds to go along with his game-winner. Hawkinson added 11 points and four rebounds, while Kangas totaled 7 points and five rebounds. Rindfleisch contributed eight rebounds, 5 points and three assists.

Despite shooting 23-for-68 from the field and 7-for-26 from 3-point range, the Titans controlled key areas. Oshkosh held advantages in points in the paint (34-20), second-chance points (17-11) and rebounds (43-38); however, they had fewer bench points (30-37) and steals (5-13). The Titans committed 16 turnovers compared to eight for UW-Stout, but overcame the miscues with timely stops and late-game execution to secure the comeback win.

Oshkosh travels to UW-La Crosse on Wednesday, you can find the score of that game at uwosh-koshtitans.com/.



Favorite Winter Olympic sports

Sports Column

By Dylan Przybylski
przybylsdy63@uwosh.edu

The 2026 Winter Olympics happening in Milan-Cortina, Italy, are ending this week and there are many events happening that most people only watch once every four years.

I have been tuning into certain events and want to highlight some of my favorite events to watch during the Winter Olympics. Some of these events are still going on, while others have finished up.

1. Bobsleigh, skeleton and luge

These events are first off crazy because in luge and skeleton, there is minimal protection and people are going speeds up to 70 mph. If you tune into bobsleigh for the first time, you may not think much of it, but the amount of teamwork involved is mind-blowing. If you are unaware, the team needs to be in sync at all times and must trust one another.

2. Short track speed skating

Short track speed skating might be one of the craziest things to watch. Seeing these athletes skate around the 30 mph mark is beyond me. Skating on ice hitting speeds that are meant for when you are driving a vehicle sounds ridiculous.

3. Ski jumping

If you have ever wanted to fly or feel like flying, watch this event because these athletes are actually experiencing the feeling of flight. It's split into a normal hill and a large hill. The goal is to stay in the air and go further from your jump than the other athletes.

4. Snowboard half-pipe

I saved a popular one for last, the snowboarding half-pipe. Think of skateboarding and the concept of their halfpipe and just move it on snow with a snowboard. The tricks and flips are amazing to watch, but if you think about it most of these athletes are choreographing their performance beforehand. That doesn't mean that when they get to the Olympics it won't change either, but each snowboarder definitely has moves that they are known for, like Shaun White and his Double McTwist 1260.

The 2026 Winter Olympics will continue until Feb. 22. The next winter Olympics will be in 2030 in the French Alps.

Gymnastics sweeps Winona State

By Katie Lechton
lechtonka22@uwosh.edu

After a tough loss to No. 1 UW-La Crosse last week, the No. 2 UW-Oshkosh gymnastics team bounced back, defeating No. 5 Winona State (Minnesota) by a final of 192.65-191.075 on Feb. 13 in the Warriors' McGown Gymnasium.

On the opening rotation for UWO, senior Lydia Hayden paved the way for the Titans on the uneven bars with a score of 9.75, the highest number on the event between the two teams. Sophomore Hadley Bretschneider also placed on the podium in the event, adding a 9.7 onto the scorecard for UWO. The third highest score for the Titans came from senior Reanna McGibboney, who scored 9.625. However, it did not match up to the vault rotation that the Warriors brought to the meet. After the first rotation, the Titans trailed Winona State 48.275-47.5.

In the vault portion, UWO was able to gain ground towards the lead. McGibboney soared against the competition, winning the event with a score of 9.825. Junior Kasha Muraski and senior Amaya McConkay also had big scores for the

Titans, receiving 9.725 and 9.7 respectively, giving both of them top-five finishes for the black and gold. At the halfway mark of the meet, UWO surpassed the host Warriors with an ever-so-narrow 95.9-95.4 lead.

The Titans saw another event title be crowned to them in the third rotation, as junior Jay Ratkowski finished in first place with the score of 9.85. Sophomore Jurnee Warkentien was the second highest scorer for UWO, as her routine resulted in a 9.575, with freshman Ome Ellis rounding out the top three for the Titans with her routine score being a 9.55. Although both teams put low numbers on the scorecards in the third, the Titan gymnasts were able to outscore the Warriors by 0.525. Heading into the fourth and final rotation of the evening, UWO continued to hold the line, leading Winona State 143.9-142.875.

Oshkosh sealed the victory in the balance beam portion of the meet, with Ellis and Hayden leading the way in scoring and individual placements.

Ellis won the title with a score of 9.85, while Hayden snatched second with a 9.775 for UWO.



Katie Lechton / Advance-Titan

UWO salutes the crowd following a home dual win against Hamline University (Minnesota) on Jan. 15.

Freshman Sam Dorrity rounded out the top three finishers for the black and gold, as she added a score of 9.75 onto the scorecard.

The Warriors attempted to make one last push for both the lead and victory, but UWO stood their ground and managed to cross back into Wisconsin with the meet win.

The Titans improved to 4-1 in duels this season following the victory.

They conclude their five meet road trip around the midwest on Feb 19 against in-state foe No. 6 UW-Eau Claire. First rotation in the McPhee Physical Education Center is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m.



Scoreboard

Wednesday, Feb. 11

Men’s Basketball

UWO - 84

UWEC - 75

Women’s Basketball

UWEC - 65

UWO - 54

Friday, Feb. 13

Men’s Track and Field

Non-scoring

Women’s Track and Field

Non-scoring

Women’s Gymnastics

UWO - 192.640

UWL - 191.075

Saturday, Feb. 14

Men’s Track and Field

Non-scoring

Women’s Track and Field

Non-scoring

Women’s Track and Field

Individual only

Men’s Wrestling

6th of 6 teams, 28.5 points

Women’s Basketball

UWO - 73

UWS - 48

Men’s Basketball

UWO - 68

UWS - 67

Wednesday, Feb. 18

Men’s Swim and Dive

WIAC Championship at Brown Deer, Wisc.

Women’s Swim and Dive

WIAC Championship at Brown Deer, Wisc.

Men’s Basketball

UWO - past publication date

UWL -

Women’s Basketball

UWO - past publication date

UWL -

Thursday, Feb. 19

Men’s Swim and Dive

WIAC Championship at Brown Deer, Wisc.

Women’s Swim and Dive

WIAC Championship at Brown Deer, Wisc.

Women’s Gymnastics

at UW-Eau Claire at 6 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 20

Men’s Swim and Dive

WIAC Championship at Brown Deer, Wisc.

Women’s Swim and Dive

WIAC Championship at Brown Deer, Wisc.

Women’s Wrestling

NCAA region championship at Indianola, Iowa. at 11 a.m.

A-Trivia

The UWO women’s basketball team won its third straight WIAC regular season championship against UW-Stout. When was the last time the Titans won the WIAC Tournament?

Answer: UWO’s last WIAC Tournament Championship came in the 2020-21 season.

Brad Fischer breaks WIAC record

By Nolan Andler and
Brayden Junkers
andlern063@uwosh.edu
junkersbr12@uwosh.edu

The UW-Oshkosh women’s basketball team clinched its 13th consecutive 20-win season under head coach Brad Fischer with a 69-47 victory over UW-River Falls at the Kolf Sports Center on Feb. 7.

Fischer’s win broke a WIAC record that was previously set by Bo Ryan and the UW-Platteville men’s basketball team with 12 consecutive 20-win seasons from 1987-88 through 1998-99.

Fischer said in a postgame interview after beating the Falcons that it is a streak that he is super proud of.

“I’m so proud not just now because of Bo but because of where it’s at,” he said. “It’s just so hard to win in our league ... and no matter who graduates and who we lose or who’s here that (our players) keep moving forward.”

That run by the Pioneers helped Ryan, a Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame inductee in 2024, get hired to be the head coach with the University of Wisconsin-Madison men’s basketball team from 2001-2015 after two seasons at the helm of UW-Milwaukee.

Fischer, who began his tenure as the UWO head coach in 2012 currently has a record of 308-78 (up to Feb. 17). Under Fischer, the Titans have made the NCAA tournament 10 of his 13 previous seasons as head coach (2021 Tournament canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic). Fischer has also led the Titans to the WIAC regular season championship six times including this season along with six WIAC tournament championships. In every season under Fischer, including this season, the Titans have hoisted a winning record.

Being able to play under



Courtesy of Steve Frommell / UWO Athletics
Brad Fischer poses with the net after the Titans clinched a share of the WIAC championship on Feb. 14.

Fischer is an honor that the players are glad to experience.

“I’ve never had a more knowledgeable and dedicated coach,” forward Paige Seckar said. “He puts so much time into making sure we get the most out of each practice and game. He holds us to a high standard everyday which is how we have been able to be as successful as we have been.”

Guard Avery Poole said that nobody sees all the behind the scenes work Fischer does to make sure his athletes are prepared and successful.

“His dedication and determination to help us get better has been such an honor to be a part of as well as the winning culture he has created here at UWO,” Poole said.

If you have watched the women’s team in action ever since Fischer has been at the helm, you might see no matter the score he is making sure to get the best out of his players on the court every second. As the players say, it is because he wants his team to be at their best and mentally prepared for whatever comes their way.

The players also know that mentality is why they’re able to play at a high level.

“(Fischer) demands our 100% effort and focus at all times,” Seckar said. “Whether we are up three or up 30, he expects us to be at our best. Playing in March is a privilege you earn throughout the course of the season by consistently showing up. By demanding our best at all times, we have been able to play in March.”

With the success that UWO has had under Fischer, he has earned the WIAC Coach of the Year five times and the Central Region Coach of the Year from d3hoops.com three times. His most recent acquisitions in both the WIAC and d3hoops.com awards came this past season when Fischer led the Titans to not only a second-straight WIAC regular season title, but also the team’s first appearance in the NCAA D-III Final Four since 1996.

The culture under Fischer is also why UWO has been successful in his tenure. Poole mentioned that the connection among the players she saw was

why she wanted to play for the Titans.

“It was clear that connection on the team was important since the day I toured,” Poole said. “In my opinion, the more connected the team is, the more successful you will be. Coach Fischer is a huge advocate for this and another reason I came to UWO.”

It is also a sentiment that is shared with her teammates. “The winning culture and family aspect of UWO women’s basketball was what I wanted in a college basketball career,” guard Kate Huml said. “I knew it was a place where I could come and be myself on and off the floor and also make connections with people with the same goals.”

UWO clinched a share of its third-straight WIAC regular season title with a 73-48 win over UW-Stout last Saturday (Feb. 14). Fischer and the Titans will look to clinch the outright WIAC regular season championship as UWO will host the UW-La Crosse Eagles at Kolf Sports Center on Wednesday, Feb. 18. The game will start at 7 p.m.

Kewaskum man competes in Olympics

By Alex Marzu
marzual86@uwosh.edu

Even though the Olympics are a time for some of the greatest athletes the world has to offer to represent their nations, it is also a time for states, cities, and in some cases, villages to get recognition as well.

In the case of two-time Olympic record holding speed skater Jordan Stolz, the village of Kewaskum has had its champion represent them.

You may recognize the name from an exit sign when traveling south on Interstate-41.

Kewaskum is a small village in Washington County with a population of less than 5,000.

Just about all 5,000 have a sign similar to the one above on their property.

Whether it be on their lawn or in the front window of their small business, you can see the support everywhere you go.

“I covered sports for nearly 30 years, and Jordan is the first Olympian from our community,” local



Courtesy of Suzane Gooden

A sign from a small business in Kewaskum shows the towns support for Stolz.

resident and retired West Bend Daily News sportswriter Judy Harlow said.

At the time of publication, Stolz has gold medaled and set Olympic records in both of his two events thus far, and has been the talk of the event regarding the perfor-

mance of Team USA.

While whenever you think of him, you will typically think of his electrifying speed and various achievements, I urge you to also remember where he’s from.

The small town that housed the tiny ice rink he got his skating

start on. The small town that hails him as their hero. Remember Kewaskum. The small village where hard work can lead to achieving even the biggest dreams.

Stolz’s next event is set for Thursday Feb. 18 at 9:30 p.m. on NBC and Peacock.



Cassidy Johnson / Advance-Titan

The dinning room at the Truffle Pig sits lined with tables. The Truffle Pig is an Italian restaurant, with Chef Cristiano Bassani providing dishes from Bergamo, Italy.

Truffle Pig provides elevated dining

By Suzanne Dawood
dawoodsu14@uwosh.edu

As summer came to an end, a beautiful restaurant opened to make the winter feel warmer. Opening at the end of August 2025, the Truffle Pig restaurant took over the former Oshkosh Northwestern building to create an authentic fine-dining experience that allows individuals to feel like they’re sitting in the center of Italy. When entering the building,

the architecture allows for the feeling of warmth, and the aromas of red-wine and fresh made pasta. UW-Oshkosh sophomore Liam Murphy said he loved the Truffle Pig. “My favorite part is the experience,” Murphy said. “It really feels like fine dining.” With everything in the restaurant being made fresh from scratch, an elevated flavor is brought to each dish. “The food was delicious,”

Murphy said. “(I got) the spaghetti cacio e pepe, they put the noodles in a parmesan wheel and mixed it around. It was quite the show.” Paired with the elevated food is the elevated service. Murphy said that the servers always made sure their tables were cleared and their waters were full. With dim lighting, and smooth music, it can also really add a romantic feel. “The ambience was excellent,” Murphy said. “Workers

dressed up, nice lighting, (and) nice jazz playing in the background.” With a subtle dress code, the Truffle Pig can give a beautiful and fun date night that can elevate your week. This restaurant requires reservations that can be made through their website, but smaller party walk-in’s are also often welcome. At the end of the dinner, dessert can help cleanse your pallet. Looking at their famous flourless chocolate cake,

it’s the perfect conclusion to a great meal. “The chocolate cake was delicious,” Murphy said. “It has the perfect amount of sweetness, and the texture was great for being flourless.” With a perfect way to end a meal, The Truffle Pig gives a great experience for anyone to enjoy. With simple flavors that enhance your taste buds, a trip to Italy is experienced on your plate. The restaurant is located at 224 State St., Oshkosh.

Joey Bragg to bring laughs to campus

By Cassidy Johnson
johnsonca51@uwosh.edu

Get ready for some laughs and nostalgia Monday, Feb. 23 7-8 p.m. in the Reeve Memorial Union ballroom for a stand-up performance from comedian and actor Joey Bragg, part of Reeve Union Board’s 2026 Winter Carnival. Most remember Bragg as Joey Rooney on Disney Channel’s “Liv and Maddie,” the comedic family show following a set of twins and their family in Stevens Point. The older brother of the twins, his character was often the comic relief. Monday, he will be

providing the same comic relief to the UW-Oshkosh campus as schedules get busier and stress rises. Bragg has also appeared in films such as “Father of the Year,” “The Outfield” and “Mark & Russell’s Wild Ride.” He continues to act, but has begun focusing more on his career as a stand-up comedian since 2024. He has performed at venues like New York Comedy Club, the Laugh Factory and more, and has also performed at some other college campuses such as Minnesota State University, Winona State University (Minnesota) and Point Park University (Pennsylvania).

According to Minnesota State, his stand-up feels “like a conversation with lots of laughter.” Bragg’s show includes personal stories and anecdotes, stories from his time acting, and conversations with students; all with his own hilarious twist. Doors will open prior to the show, so make sure to come early, as seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Heckling is highly discouraged, and make sure to silence your phone in order to provide the best experience for everyone. For a night of laughs, nostalgia and much-needed stress relief, don’t miss out on this fun opportunity.



Courtesy of Joey Bragg
Bragg will perform at the Reeve Memorial Union on Feb. 23.

Best ways to flirt

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. I feel like it's always cuffing season. But with cuffing season comes flirting, and you'd be surprised how many people don't know how to flirt. When you want to get back in the game, you have to remember how to do it. It's difficult to get in a relationship in today's age. With dating apps, and everything being digital, I couldn't help but wonder, when did we stop asking people out the old-fashioned way? I've gathered some of my greatest techniques that I've not only learned from other people, but also just from myself. Remember, everyone has their own way of flirting and you may grasp flirting as something else! Read someone's body language, tone in voice and actions. Actions always speak louder than words.

1. The 'Juicy Red Lip'

The "Juicy Red Lip" accentuates your talking and mouth. Having chapped lips is unattractive. No one wants to be kissing sandpaper. Keeping your lips constantly moisturized can confirm that someone will look at them and want them.

You can also do more than just communicate with your lips. Looking at someone's lips when they talk also can be very flirty and make them nervous in a good way. Keeping a constant rhythm of eye contact and looking at their lips will guarantee a future conversation.

2. Eye contact

I believe the most powerful element of a face is the eyes. Eye contact can intimidate someone, make them smile or even want to flirt back. There's a way to make your eyes more flirty. For me, I have big eyes, so I make them look bigger, and somehow flutter my eyelashes. But if you have, what is called



S*X
IN-THE-920

Your College Sex Guru.

siren eyes, there's a way where you can squint them a bit to make them look darker and edgier. The way you use your eyes can really help you flirt. Talk with your eyes, because as they say, the eyes never lie.

3. Voice

This is the way you talk can indicate that you're flirting, obviously. Talking slower and low can add more levels to your voice and can really excite your partner, or future partner. Also, finding what you guys can easily talk about is so important. Me and my partner always make jokes and laugh, but also are able to be serious. Sometimes we flirt with jokes and it makes it cuter!

Each relationship is different, and it depends what you're willing to say and do. Voice also ties in with what you say. Compliment your partner and tell them they look good, ask someone for their number and not their social media, and tell them you like them, or are attracted to them. Actions do speak louder than words, but words can get you a long way.

When finding ways to flirt, it's fun to play around. Remember each relationship is different, and what works for someone may not work for you. Everyone has different ways to flirt, and you just have to find your way. But, the triangle look can help. Looking at their eyes, lips and continuing that process can guarantee some flirtatious action.

Maintaining hobbies

By Genevieve Haartman
haartmange52@uwosh.edu

Having a hobby in my opinion is crucial to having some balance in your life, it is a way to fill your cup in a way that is curated to you. It's simply an activity that allows you to be creative and gives you breathing room from your other daily responsibilities. But it can be difficult to sustain any hobby, especially if you are often a very busy person or if you prefer to rest while watching TV. I fall into these pits frequently so I thought I'd share some of the ways that I try to sustain my hobbies, especially when I need it the most.

1. Designate time

I know it is easier said than done but actually creating a designated amount of time helps. Especially if you have been wanting to just read a chapter of your book or finish that craft you started a month ago, it makes certain that you actually have the time you need to work on your hobby. Even if it is just 20 minutes before bed to read or maybe 30 minutes right after you eat dinner, that is still enough to keep a project in progress. These short spurts of time may not seem like much, but it's still more than doing nothing at all.

2. Make it routine

Similar to making time for your hobbies, they can be integrated into your routine. Like having a routine for going to the gym, having consis-

tently available time to dedicate to your project is important. Even if it's once a week, and there's an hour of time that's often spent on your phone, try converting it into dedicated hobby time. This can also turn into something to look forward to every week, which makes it even more enjoyable and rewarding!

3. Choose something fun

Some people have hobbies that they have pursued for years and maybe it's become boring. So, if it's not as fun anymore, try something new! It can be something that sounds super intriguing, or it can be something you're nervous to try but want to know more about. The best part about hobbies is that they don't have to be the same ones for your entire life. They are meant to be fun and enriching. Even if it's something small or free on the internet, give it a try. It doesn't have to be perfect, it only matters that you're learning and enjoying the process along the way.

4. Get your friends involved

Oftentimes I find I struggle most with just getting motivated. No matter if it's homework or a hobby, starting can just be difficult. If you struggle with this too, try inviting a friend over and just spend time together making whatever you want. You can work on separate projects or try a new one together, but having at least one other person makes it easier and oftentimes more enjoyable than starting and working on a project alone.



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