

# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 44 | Issue 28 | June 26, 2019

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PHOTO BY NICOLE MORSFIELD

# THIS MONTH

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



**DEER ON CAMPUS** As Oakland University's campus is largely made up of woodland areas, deer sightings are not rare occurrences. Last month, OUPD rescued a baby deer who was stuck in a fence on campus. Three officers worked to reunite the baby with its mother. Maybe "Bambi" is real after all! PHOTO / RYAN PINI

# THE OAKLAND POST

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Shane Lewis is named the new admissions director.  
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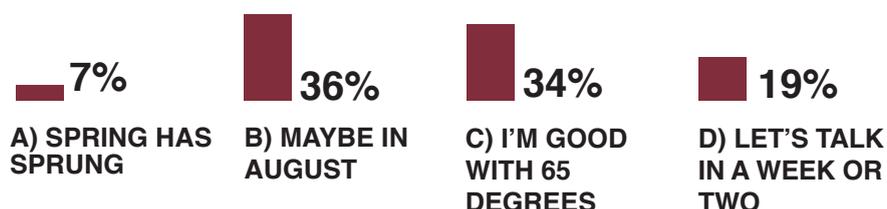
## POLL OF THE MONTH

WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE?

- A) MAID
- B) PERSONAL SHOPPER
- C) ASSISTANT
- D) PERSONAL CHEF

## LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WILL WE EVER HAVE WARM WEATHER?



## LOOKING BACK



NICOLE MORSFIELD | PHOTO EDITOR

With 248 out of 394 votes, the student program was approved for funding.

## Student Congress grants forensics team additional financial support

**BRIDGET JANIS**  
*Staff Reporter*

After the Oakland University Forensics Team had a long anticipated need for extra money in 1992, Oakland University Student Congress (OUSC) was able to come and save the day, with a referendum passing to give the team a percentage of money from student activity fees.

As the referendum vote passed, with 248 out of 394 of the votes in favor, the forensics team received 4% of the student activities fees.

The measure at the time was chosen by the OU Board of Trustees. The \$3,000-\$4,000 given was said to come out of OUSC's 40% chunk of student fees. This equaled about 60 cents out of every \$15 collected in student activities fees.

"We're very excited," Shaye Dillion Cocco, forensics coach at the time, said. "This would allow us to increase the amount of invitationals we attend to start sending people to debates."

Before getting this referendum approved, the team was dependent on any last-second grants from the university and the president's office to pay for transportation needed to get to competitions. The team's plan was to focus the money on things it needed to prepare for competitions.

In exchange for the additional help from OUSC, the forensics team had to become more present in everyday life on campus. From showcases and advertising to starting a debate team, the ongoing activity was anticipated to shape the university's academic image in a positive way.

The student fees the team received

came from the third year of a three-tier increase, which, according to then-OUSC President Derek Wilczynski, meant the congress would not be losing money from its budget.

The budget for the team started in the spring semester of 1993. At that point, the forensics team had started planning for and already had a team built up of 20 members in preparation for the season.

While the forensics team felt it took a long time for them to receive any money and it was long overdue, other teams such as the Association of Black Students (ABS) did not agree. ABS President Chaunci Wyche claimed that, for five years, the ABS had been trying to get recognized from the Office of African American Affairs to receive more funding. She was upset the forensics team was able to get approved so fast.

"[OU] won't be satisfied until we tear it up and get what we want," Wyche said. "Right now I'm very displeased with the referendum that was passed. They count as a student organization and they have to pick and choose [their spending]."

The forensics team was still happy with the outcome of the voting. Two members of the forensics team represented the team at the next OUSC meeting and presented a thank you letter from the team, which was also signed by Cocco.

"Thank you for believing in us. We sincerely appreciate your support, time and effort during the referendum vote," Cocco said then. "Most importantly, thank you for giving the student body the opportunity to express their belief in us."

THE OAKLAND POST IS LOOKING FOR

# SPORTS REPORTERS

## RESPONSIBILITIES

- HAVING A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF AP STYLE
- WRITING AT LEAST TWO STORIES PER WEEK
- ATTENDING WEEKLY BUDGET MEETINGS TO PITCH STORY IDEAS
- COMMUNICATING WITH THEIR ASSIGNED SECTION EDITOR EFFECTIVELY

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MUST SEND A RESUME, COVER LETTER AND AT LEAST THREE WRITING SAMPLES TO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF TREVOR TYLE AT EDITOR@OAKLANDPOSTONLINE.COM, OR APPLY ON HANDSHAKE.

## Catching up with OUSC: Welcome to our new board!



**DESTINEE RULE**  
*OUSC President*

Hi friends,

On March 29, over 500 current Oakland University students voted for me and Julia Alexander to be president and vice presi-

dent of Oakland University Student Congress. After long months of campaigning, making connections and building relationships, Julia and I were finally awarded the ultimate prize: to support students with the resources OUSC has to offer.

I find myself reminiscing about my time as an executive board member for the Fox-Kleinschmidt administration. As diversity and inclusion director, I hosted Tie-Dye in the Moonlight, the Hair Expo and an awareness event on anti-semitism in our communities. I worked closely with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council to compose and structure the fourth strategic goal that President Ora Hirsch-Pescovitz proposed upon her arrival. I had the ultimate goal of educating and supporting our student body on all issues surrounding diversity and inclusion. As president, I have goals that include affordable course materials, the safety of students and transparency from upper administration.

Julia previously had the position of associate chairwoman for the Student Activities Funding Board. She worked closely with Hunter Willis, the chair, to ensure all student organizations were receiving adequate

funding. She was also a legislator under the Fox-Kleinschmidt administration. She participated in writing legislation for free summer recreation access and also ensured proper locks were placed on all of the classrooms on campus. As vice president, Julia has the goal of supporting international and ESL students. She wants to highlight the impact of being a first-generation American and college student. She can't do this work alone, and that begins with the best executive board, which Julia and I have meticulously handpicked.

Our executive board is comprised of involved and dedicated OU students. Many of our executive board members have worked for University Housing, the Recreation and Well-Being center, Admissions, orientations and student programs, and many other offices on campus. These are students who have worked directly to impact and serve our student body. Our executive board has the goal of making OUSC more known on campus, increasing accessibility to health-care and understanding of underrepresented minorities on campus, and more. Julia and I are pleased to know we have selected — and our legislature approved — such a di-

verse and well-rounded board.

As for our legislature, we are thrilled to have 11 legislators who have supported Julia and me so far. That includes approving our executive board and our budget, and helping us plan events and initiatives that will better the OU campus. These legislators are resident assistants, members of Greek life, scholars, but most importantly, student representatives to further student life.

Julia and I would like to thank you, the students, for electing us into these positions. We think of you in every meeting we attend, every event we plan, and as we interact with our University's upper administration and officials. As OUSC progresses as an organization to better life here at OU, always remember the words of Shirley Chisholm: "You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas."

Feel free to visit any of the OUSC members during the week. We are the voice for the students, make your voice heard.

Stay true to yOurself,

Destinee

## Oakland to take in Marygrove College students after closure

*The private institution had previously eliminated undergraduate courses and cut graduate programs*

**DEAN VAGLIA**  
*Staff Reporter*

As Marygrove College closes its doors, Oakland University's doors open up.

After 92 years in Detroit, the Catholic graduate college announced that the fall 2019 semester would be its last.

The closure is linked to a decline in student enrollment and the financial implications of hosting fewer students. Historically reliant on student tuition, Marygrove cut all undergraduate courses in 2017 and retained only its graduate degree and professional development programs in education, human resource management and social justice. The decision was made by Marygrove's Corporate Board.

"Marygrove's grand experiment to transition to graduate-only studies was a brave and bold attempt to continue to serve students," Marygrove President Dr. Elizabeth Burns said in the initial press release. "However, intensive marketing and recruitment efforts have failed to attract enough students. Coupled with a heavy debt burden, the low enrollment numbers provide insufficient revenue to continue operations into the future."

With 305 graduate students facing an uncertain future, a teach-out agreement — an agreement between two programs when one closes and another one accepts the affected students — was forged between Marygrove and OU.

"In this case with Marygrove, we have a lot of programs

that align well with the master's programs that [Marygrove] were offering in education, so we are entering into an agreement with them that says any student within a year of graduating, we will accept their credits," said OU Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Dr. James Lentini. "They do not have to go through an admissions process and all that — we will teach out the remainder of their credits and courses that they would need to complete their degree."



**OU considers our mission as a public university to serve the community. Our community in metropolitan Detroit certainly includes Marygrove, and [teaching-out affected students] fits our mission.**

**DR. JAMES LENTINI**  
**PROVOST**



According to Lentini, the move to take in Marygrove students began a few months ago, and the universities have been working to create a plan that is up to Higher Learning Commission (HLC) standards.

"The idea is to make the [OU] courses as close as possible [to Marygrove's courses]," Lentini said. "There are these codes that HLC matches, so the programs should have very similar — almost identical — content. We would expect that they would be very, very similar without a whole lot of differences between the types of courses they were getting to the ones we have here."

The agreement between OU and Marygrove has not been finalized yet and will need to be cleared by the HLC. Marygrove students will receive financial aid counseling and academic advising, according to Burns, though the extent of financial aid is dependent on the final agreement's details. Students will be paying Marygrove tuition rates and graduate as OU students.

Most students affected by the agreement are taking online classes, so while how many of the 305 Marygrove students will be joining OU in 2020 is unknown, they are not expected to have a major effect on the campus community.

Community outreach programs by Marygrove will continue for 2019, and plans are being made for 2020 programs.

"OU considers our mission as a public university to serve the community," Lentini said. "Our community in metropolitan Detroit certainly includes Marygrove, and [teaching-out affected students] fits our mission."

## LIFE&amp;ARTS

# Shane Lewis hired as director of Undergraduate Admissions

*Former student has unique perspective to recruit new students*

## TREVOR TYLE

*Editor-in-Chief*

Four years ago, Shane Lewis was one of many college students hoping to make a difference in the world. Now, he has the opportunity to do that, right here on Oakland University's campus.

After almost nine years at OU, Lewis has been announced as the new director of undergraduate admissions.

As a 2015 graduate of the master's program in higher education leadership on campus, Lewis has a long history with OU. After receiving his bachelor's degree in journalism from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, he worked in their admissions office for two years before making the transition to Michigan. Since then, he has moved to Clawson and worked in OU's Undergraduate Admissions office as an admissions adviser, communications coordinator, associate director and most recently, interim director.

"I now bleed black and gold, I'm a Golden Grizzly at heart," Lewis said. "Just being a student, I think, helps inform my everyday work, helping to encourage more students to join Oakland."

Lewis is a first-generation college student and found his time as an undergraduate student to be "transformative," which influenced him to pursue a career in higher education.

"I really am passionate about the work, about what we are doing to really change lives," he said. "And it's not necessarily about where you go — it's about getting there."

The search for a new director began in March after previous Director Dawn Aubry was promoted to associate vice president for enrollment management. Lewis temporarily assumed the role before becoming Aubry's permanent successor, which officially began on June 3, 2019.

According to Lewis, working with Aubry in her time as director made it an easier transition for him.

"One of the things that she did really well was help to keep her team involved in decision-making and helping to shape the function of the department," he said. "Because of that, I've been able to be as involved as she has been with helping to shape the trajectory of the admissions office."



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN BIERLEY  
Shane Lewis, the new director of Undergraduate Admissions at Oakland University.

One of the projects they will continue to work on together is the recently announced Golden Grizzlies Graduate program, a debt relief initiative to help students who haven't completed — or are at risk of not completing — their degree for financial reasons.

"I think the opportunity that students are offered at Oakland is unparalleled," Lew-

is said. "If they're choosing now to come back to complete their degree, we want to make sure that we're supporting them in doing that by any means possible."

The decision to implement such a program at OU stemmed, in part, from the declining number of high school graduates in Michigan — which, in turn, is affecting enrollment numbers at the uni-

versity level. According to MLive, the size of graduating high school classes in Michigan peaked during the 2007-2008 academic year with 123,576 students. That number is expected to fall below 99,000 this year.

Because the majority of OU students are from Michigan, Lewis said he is dedicated to maintaining and increasing enrollment on campus to combat the "demographic precipice" of declining high school graduation rates across the state, which he said will be the biggest challenge for admissions in the coming years.

“

I think the opportunities that students are offered at Oakland is unparalleled... We're at a pivotal moment in Oakland's history.

SHANE LEWIS  
DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

”

"We're realizing and we're recognizing the importance of not only recruitment, but also retention and student success, and making sure that all of our goals for all areas are aligned so that we can be the university of choice," he said.

Lewis is currently part of the recruitment council for a new Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) process on campus, which is intended to help him and his team develop a strategy to overcome these statistics, as outlined during the Board of Trustees meeting earlier this month.

"We're at a pivotal moment in Oakland's history," Lewis said. "I am very excited that I am going to be in a position to influence our future."

# FYAC receives outstanding advising award

**KATELYN HILL**  
Staff Intern

The First Year Advising Center (FYAC) is giving new students an award-winning head start to college.

Recently, the FYAC was selected as the winner of the 2019 Outstanding Institutional Advising Program Award from NACADA, the global community for academic advising.

Since opening in 2012, the FYAC has been assisting new students at Oakland University with everything they need to start off a strong college career, including academic advising, help with scheduling classes and general advice for life on campus.

The FYAC will be presented with the award in Louisville, Ky. during the NACADA Annual Conference this fall.

Sara Webb is the senior director of the FYAC and said this award has allowed the staff to celebrate their success and reflect on the accomplishments they've had in such a short time.

The FYAC was one of only two programs to be recognized

with the award, which Webb said makes it even more meaningful.

"When the FYAC opened seven years ago, we had big goals about how we would impact the first year experience," Webb said via email. "We're very proud of the work we do to support OU students, so to be awarded one of the best advising units globally this year is thrilling."

Rachel Stagman, an adviser for the FYAC, agrees.

Stagman said they work hard to help incoming students transition before going on to do fantastic things, not just at OU, but after graduation as well.

"It really means a lot to have that work recognized by such a big organization," she said.

Catt McHale, who recently completed her freshman year at OU, said that, though she was only in the center a couple of times over the past year, the FYAC was helpful when she had to change her major.

"Every time that I've been in there, they're very friendly and helpful," McHale said. "They get

everything done very quickly, but don't rush you through it. They just want to make sure that everything is thorough and get you in and out of there within a reasonable time."

Lindsey Anderson, an incoming sophomore, also had a positive experience with the FYAC.

Anderson said she really liked the adviser to whom she was assigned, and, though she didn't agree with everything her adviser suggested, he was accommodating to her needs and helped with scheduling.

"They understand where you're coming from and that you're human and have a life," she said.

For the staff at the FYAC, students are at the center of everything.

Stagman said putting students at the center allows the staff to really advise and support in ways that help each individual student based on what they need.

Webb said students are the most important people on a college campus, and new students need to quickly feel like they belong at OU and are part of the community.

She added that, by keeping the focus on the student experi-



THE OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES

The FYAC will be presented the award at the NACADA conference.

ence, they ensure their programs and services help students build a strong foundation of success in their first year.

"Centralizing first-year services in one department is a very different model from that of other universities," Webb said via email. "Assigning every new student an academic adviser and creating a personalized experience for each student are two additional unique

features of our center."

She hopes incoming freshmen feel welcomed, included and supported as they begin their college experience at OU.

"We always try to emphasize that we are here for them," Stagman said. "We might not be the person who gives you the answer, but we're also the person who connects you to that answer."

# Michigan transfer website helps students connect to schools

**KATIE VALLEY**  
Content Editor

Prospective transfer students now have an updated resource to connect them to any Michigan school they wish to transfer to.

The Michigan Transfer Network launched a new transfer student website, [mitransfer.org](http://mitransfer.org), this spring. The site aims to be a single place where students can search for schools and see transfer requirements.

Mittransfer.org compiles transfer guides, listed accepted credits, AP and IB resources, and Michigan Transfer Agreement information to create a hub of resources for each school in the state. The Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) recommended the state create the website, and it was then funded through the FY 2018 state budget.

The previous website, [michigantransfernet.org](http://michigantransfernet.org), has existed since 2007 and offered students course equivalencies. The new update follows nearly two years of development completed by the state's community colleges, public universities, and independent colleges and universities, according to MCAN.

Matt Zeig, Oakland University transfer articulation coordinator, will help OU maintain its page on the website. He said transfer students need the website because it offers user-friendly access to valuable reports that previously were not available.

"This is a really crucial page because students want to see how their courses transfer," Zeig said. "While they can find



NICOLE MORSFIELD | PHOTO EDITOR

This website will be one hub for all transfer information.

it on the actual [mitransfer.org](http://mitransfer.org) website, this will be very specific to OU, and I think the big thing is those transfer guides, so students can see exactly how it applies."

The OU Enrollment Report for fall 2018 said 1,466 new transfer students entered OU in summer and fall 2018, and transfer students made up 38% of all undergraduates. With new features such as links to a school's admissions, records and registration, financial aid and academic advis-

ing information, the website offers a comprehensive set of resources.

"Mittransfer.org represents a new transparency in information and an improved system to better support students," said Ryan Fewins-Bliss, interim executive director of MCAN. "Access to all of our colleges and universities are increased because of this statewide tool. We are thrilled to showcase this site as a 'best-in-class,' one-stop-shop for students."

In addition to the website's resources, OU plans to bring back its own online transfer student tool where prospective students can more easily identify which credits will transfer directly to OU degrees. Shane Lewis, director of Undergraduate Admissions, said Undergraduate Admissions, the Office of the Registrar, and University Communication and Marketing aim to launch the tool later this year.

According to Zeig, future transfer students should plan early by staying in constant contact with academic advisers at both institutions — not just their current school — to make sure any changes to requirements or course credits are communicated as soon as possible.

Lewis said he is eager to make the transfer process easier for prospective students.

"We're not only excited for the Michigan Transfer Network to have gotten this update, we're also excited to be moving forward in the creation and implementation of our new transfer tool on the website, which I'm very excited for," he said. "And I'm looking forward to supporting transfer students in developing that transfer path so they can eventually begin here at Oakland and become Golden Grizzlies."

# Board of Trustees approves tuition increase, new health sciences degree

**KATIE LADUKE**  
Managing Editor

The Oakland University Board of Trustees (BOT) met on Monday, June 10 in Banquet Room A to discuss updates and approve a new bachelor's degree and a 4.4% student tuition increase for the forthcoming year.

### President's Report

President Pescovitz began by presenting what the campus community has been involved with following the end of the school year. This included briefs about the 2019 Nightingale Awards for Nursing Excellence, the OU-Pontiac Initiative Town Hall and the 2019 Mackinac Policy Conference.

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost James Lentini also introduced Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) to combat the decreasing national percentage of college enrollment as high schools see fewer graduates. By the 2030-2031 school year, it is projected that a combined total of graduates for public and private high schools will be under 84,000.

In support of SEM and to reengage students who left school without finishing their degree, Dawn Aubry, associate vice president for enrollment management, announced the Golden Grizzlies Graduate program. The micro-grant program will be working toward the goal of reenrolling 250 students and preventing 125 from stopping out by fall 2020.

"We believe that our data will support us moving forward with this program," Aubry said.



NICOLE MORSFIELD | PHOTO EDITOR

The main focus of the meeting was a tuition increase.

### Tuition increase

The BOT unanimously approved a 4.4% undergraduate tuition increase for the 2019-2020 school year, matching the highest limit proposed by the Michigan Senate. Each credit hour will have an average increase of \$20.

This tuition increase is based on the yet-to-be-approved state funding. The decision for the 4.4% increase comes as part of the university's transparent pricing strategy so students are not surprised with added costs once a tuition restraint level is agreed upon after a conference committee considers the governor, Senate and House's proposed budgets. Any tuition restraint level in the approved final budget will not be exceeded by OU.

"If we bill at a 4.4% increase, then the tuition restraint comes in less, we will recalculate and give a refund to students," said John Beaghan, vice president for finance and administration and treasurer to the Board of Trustees.

If a lower tuition restraint appears in the approved final budget after students pay their tuition balance, a credit will be applied to the student's account. The average overall tuition rate for a full-time resident freshman is now \$13,462.50.

### Approved nutrition major

From the School of Health Sciences, Dr. Amanda Lynch, associate professor, proposed the Bachelor of Science in Nutrition to meet new educational and accreditation standards set by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). This new program also meets needed entry requirements for a master's degree in dietetics.

"I think this is a very timely program," said Chair W. David Tull.

With a unanimous vote, the BOT approved the Bachelor of Science in Nutrition degree program to replace the current nutrition concentration in the School of Health Sciences. Ten new courses will be added to the curriculum, and there has been interest in finding kitchen space at local schools for experimental learning.

### Additional agenda items

The Board approved nine items under the consent agenda. This included fiscal year budgets for Meadow Brook Estate, athletics and the Oakland Center.

Thomas LeMarbe, assistant vice president for finance and administration, also presented a resolution for the issuance of bonds for renovation projects such as South Foundation Hall and Varner Hall, which was approved.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be Monday, Aug. 12 at 2 p.m. in Banquet Room A.

## POLICE FILES

### Sexual assault report

A female student texted a classmate inquiring about how sexual assault cases were handled on campus on Feb. 26, 2019. When Oakland University police dispatch was called by the student's classmate, it was discovered that she was the victim of an assault on campus. The dispatch officer advised the victim to come to the station to make a report. She came into the station with a friend to make a report of a sexual assault that took place the previous month.

Two officers met with her and brought her back into a private squad room to speak with her. The victim said she was okay speaking with the officers without her friend present. One officer got her paperwork while the other got her story.

The victim said she was out at a frat party the previous month with a male student, whom she was dating at the time, and his friend, whom she had met that night. While the three were at the party, the victim said she became intoxicated and needed to be taken care of. At that point, her boyfriend and the other friend brought her back to his dorm.

She said the three laid in bed that night fully clothed. While the three laid down, the unrelated friend draped his arm around her shoulder, then moved his hand to a place with which she was uncomfortable. At this point, she pushed his arm off of her and moved away from him. He did not touch her for the rest of the night and was gone before she woke up the next day. When she saw this friend later in the lounge, both of the men who were with her that night passed her and said "hi" to her. She awkwardly responded, causing both the males to laugh and walk away. At this point, the victim contacted one of the officers over text and filled out a witness statement.

After interviews with both the males in the case, the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office denied the warrant in the case, which was closed.

Compiled by Ben Hume  
Web Editor



# RECEIVE \$100



Open your account, make 10 debit card purchases, and we'll deposit \$100 into your account!



Offer valid 5/23/19 to 9/28/19 for incoming fall 2019 OU freshmen only. OU Credit Union Visa Debit Card must be activated by 9/28/19. Ten debit card purchases must post within 30 days of activation to qualify. The \$100 will be deposited into your checking account within 30 days of the 10<sup>th</sup> purchase. Not valid for existing members. May not be combined with any other deposit offers.



# Christian groups show support at Michigan Pride parades

story by Ben Nicol // design by Erin O'Neill // graphics by Jimmy Williams





Christian groups have tried to change the narrative of the relationship between the church and LGBTQIA+ community by showing up to Pride parades across the state this month to show their support with love and lots of hugs.

This June, people are coming together across the country to celebrate Pride Month. While many groups jump at the chance to show their support, one group has always seemed to be at odds with the LGBTQIA+ community. The news you hear regarding Christians and the LGBTQIA+ community often focuses on the negative — stories of small business owners denying service to customers on the basis of religious beliefs dominate the news' attention, placing a negative filter over the relationship between Christians and the LGBTQIA+ community.

In spite of this, many Christians have made it their mission to let members of the LGBTQIA+ community know the horror stories that so often dominate the headlines do not reflect the Christian community as a whole. Christian communities have taken to Pride parades to show their support. Many even offer “pastor hugs” and “mom hugs.” They hope to show people support from roles where they may not have always felt supported.

Kyle Phillips, a student assistant in the Gender and Sexuality Center at Oakland University, shared their thoughts on the efforts of Christian organizations at Pride parades and how they believe it should be done properly.

“As a person who grew up in a very religious household, I find it endearing that some local pastors have open minds and are willing to give words of affirmation to those who would find comfort in it,” Phillips said via email.

While showing appreciation for the positive intentions of these organizations, Phillips was quick to point out one of the most important responsibilities of Christians who set out to show support.

“Having boundaries is key in a delicate situation like this,” they added.

Phillips believes it is important these organizations allow people to approach them on their own if they would appreciate the encouragement. They think Christians can support and encourage Pride parade participants if they approach it with an open mind and understand boundaries.

Sandi Waltman King was able to see how people reacted to this support firsthand when she went with members of her church to show

support and offer “mom hugs” at the Ferndale and Motor City Pride parades.

“People are surprised and then delighted,” she said. “They hug hard. Lots of stories about how their parents don’t support them, which is horrifying.”

Although many people may expect the church to disagree with her actions, King’s situation is an example of why this is not always the case. She was delighted to have the full support and encouragement from her pastor and church community to do what she did and hopes her actions can help change people’s views and preconceived notions of her faith.

“It’s important as a human to support each other,” she said. “It’s more important when people know you also love Jesus, because churches have historically been terrible on this. They have been hurtful and hateful. It’s important that folks remember that it’s people who can be awful, not Jesus.”

King is not the only one who feels this way. In fact, the majority of religious Americans support laws that protect the LGBTQIA+ community from “discrimination in housing, public accommodations and the workplace,” according to the Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI).

The PRRI study found that over 75% of Americans who identify with New Age religions, Jews, Hindus, religiously unaffiliated Americans and Buddhists support these anti-discrimination laws. Additionally, over 65% of Mormons, Catholics, white mainline Protestants and Americans who identify with other religions also favor these laws.

Statistics point to the idea that the majority of members in religious communities favor non-discrimination in contrast to the stories of discrimination, such as the small business owner mentioned above.

King does not believe her actions rectify the church’s historical record on the issue. However, she does believe what she’s doing helps bridge together two communities that are often seen at odds in the media and shows people that it is not an entire faith, but rather, individuals who can be hateful. Most importantly, she sees the importance of supporting her fellow humans and doing anything she can to help them feel pride in who they are.

For more information on supporting the LGBTQIA+ community on campus, visit the Gender and Sexuality Center website.

## Tony-nominated actor Josh Young joins School of Music, Theatre and Dance faculty

DEAN VAGLIA

Staff Reporter

The faculty lineup at the Oakland University School of Music, Theatre and Dance (SMTD) has just received an industry-lauded boost.

Broadway actor Josh Young joins the SMTD in the Fall 2019 semester. In 2012 Young was nominated for the Tony Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical for the role of Judas Iscariot in “Jesus Christ Superstar.”

Young’s love for theater began at an early age with an elementary school production of “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.” After an informal career in community and youth theaters, Young realized the career potential of his passion in high school. He went to Syracuse University and graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theater.

“When I was in university, I made sure to work in the theater every summer and spent one of my summers in New York taking meetings with agents and managers because I did not want to have to depend on the showcase,” Young said. “Every college does a showcase where they bring their students to New York and they do a showcase for agents and try to get an agent that way.”

Not wanting to rely too much on the college-arranged showcase, Young made DVDs of himself as a sophomore and sent them to agents. An agent took Young on and set him up with an ensemble role in a stage production of “Les Misérables,” which turned into the role

of Marius. The self-made approach to landing the “Les Misérables” role echoes in Young’s stated goal as a faculty member: getting OU students hired.

“There’s about a 99% unemployment rate for musical theater actors, and I think it is a university’s job to make sure that their students are hired when they get out,” Young said. “I think a lot of universities spend a lot of their focus on making sure that [students’] craft is excellent, which we want to do for sure, but we also need them to be businesspeople because they are their own business as an actor.”

Following “Les Misérables,” he traveled the world in 2005 as a member of the “West Side Story” 50th anniversary tour. While he enjoyed traveling, Young admits the international tour bug is out of his system. He knew he wanted to eventually start a family, so getting the big tours done early played well into that goal.

Family played a key role in Young joining the OU faculty. The Broadway lifestyle of long commutes, late nights and the congested city environment were not ideal for Young and fellow Broadway alum wife Emily Padgett.

“I have always found that I enjoy the art form so much when I am outside of Manhattan...and thank goodness my wife feels the same way,” Young said.

After looking over the details, the environment of OU and Oakland County proved to be the exact opposite of life in the Big Apple.

“I narrowed [the search for universities] down based on communities I wanted to live in,” Young said. “Even-

tually, it just came down to OU and another university, and I just really felt at home with the faculty that I met here. And then, having spent a couple days driving around the area and researching the public school system and all the other great things Oakland County has to offer, I thought that this was the place where I wanted to raise my family.”

Young will be teaching classes on auditioning, acting as a business, the one-man show/cabernet and musical theater workshop, and will also do vocal coaching with some students.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
Star of Broadway’s “Jesus Christ Superstar” Josh Young heads to OU.

## FALL 2019 PAYMENT DUE DATE

OAKLAND  
UNIVERSITY™

The fall semester is right around the corner — start it off right and avoid any last-minute financial surprises by being proactive with all your financial business.

### IMPORTANT DATE

- **August 15** — payment due date

You can avoid class cancellation (drop) by paying your student account in full. Consider all your financial options. An OU payment plan helps spread tuition and costs into smaller, more manageable installments and be sure to pay your installments on time. Obtaining financial aid, utilizing external sources, and/or using your own funds are other options for you. Know which charges can be paid with your financial aid (an authorization may be needed) and which charges you must pay out-of-pocket.

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# Number of low-income and non-white students is rising

KATIE VALLEY  
Content Editor

College has universally been a source of opportunity, but now that opportunity may be becoming more accessible to struggling students.

A 2019 Pew Research analysis of National Center for Education Statistics data found the rising number of poor and non-white undergraduates “has been most pronounced in public two-year colleges and the least selective four-year colleges and universities.” Students are coming to college from low-income families and changing the demographic of college and university student economic statuses across the nation.

With 42% of full-time Oakland University undergraduate students receiving need-based financial aid in the 2016-2017 academic year, according to OU’s Fast Facts, incoming students are coming from different economic backgrounds.

Different factors make up why the number of low-income students is increasing at universities. Shane Lewis, director of Undergraduate Admissions, listed four reasons why: financial aid literacy programs showing students college is obtainable, college readiness initiatives such as the Advise Michigan College Core Adviser Group, increased influence toward obtaining degrees and colleges moving to make education more affordable.

“I think [students seeing college as obtainable] leads to overall higher enrollment,” Lewis said. “More students are going to be attending institutions and earning those degrees. I think what it means for institutions is we are then more likely to have more first-generation students, so we need to make sure as an institution that we have additional support services — that we are properly resourced to help these students be successful in college.”

Pew Research found that, of the about 20 million undergraduate students enrolled during the 2015-2016 academic year, 47% were non-white and 31% were in poverty.

From the data, Pew said 20% of dependent undergraduates in 2016 were from families in poverty, a number at only 12% in 1996.

According to Pew, more low-income students are enrolling in post-secondary education than 20 years ago.

The OU Enrollment Report for fall 2018 said incoming freshmen classes are becoming more diverse, with minority students making up 26% of the 2018-2019 academic year incoming class. Of first-year students, 14% were African American, 6.1% Asian American, 5.2% Hispanic, 1% Native American and 0.2% were Native Hawaiian.

Lewis said he’s proud of the institutional need-based programs offered to struggling students at OU. With aid coming in the form of financial assistance to OU’s free application, Lewis emphasized OU being accessible to families in need is essential.

OU follows the Pew finding, with a 3% increase in students who qualify for Pell Grants in the past two years, though the number of low-income students is staying steady, Cindy Hermsen, Student Financial Services director, said. This increase in Pell Grant qualification may hint at OU’s efforts to give students a better initiative to enroll in college.

Hermsen said OU’s push for student success regardless of background is important in attracting more low-income and non-white students. The office has been increasing outreach programs and talking to students earlier about financial options.

“We are being proactive,” she said. “And we’re not waiting for the students to come to us — we’re going out there to them ... We are out there outreaching to them, contacting them, telling them this is not a difficult process. This is very easy to do. We will help them all along the way. Our message is: ‘We are happy to help in any way we possibly can.’”

Hermsen encourages all students to fill out the FAFSA each year to ensure they are receiving the maximum aid for which they qualify.

# Professor chosen for Crain’s 2019 Notable Women in STEM award

BRIDGET JANIS  
Staff Reporter

The recipients of the Crain’s 2019 Notable Women in STEM award were all chosen by the group of Crain’s Detroit Business editors. One of Oakland University’s very own professors, Dr. Kristin Landis-Piwowar, received this award.

To be considered for this award, recipients are judged on their career accomplishments, track record of success, mentorship of others and contributions to their community.

“The recognition is an honor,” Landis-Piwowar said. “Five years ago, I was deeply involved in my career as an academic. My career has evolved, and I plan to focus on my current position and use each of my experiences in this position to help redefine and evolve my future.”

Landis-Piwowar is the associate dean and a professor in the School of Health Sciences at Oakland, where she works with clinical and diagnostic sciences within the campus community.

“Another notable woman in STEM, J. Lynne Williams, had confidence in me and paved the way for my faculty position at Oakland University, and I’m so grateful to her and to Oakland University for giving me the opportunity to develop my career,” Landis-Piwowar said.

With Landis-Piwowar’s past experiences volunteering her time and resources to the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science organization, the organization decided to choose her as the recipient for the 2016 to 2018 Omicron Sigma national award.

“I’m also grateful for the support I’ve received from my professional organization, the American Society of Clinical Laboratory Sciences,” Landis-Piwowar said. “I’ve developed an incredible network of colleagues through involvement in the organization.”

Landis-Piwowar’s educational background includes earning her bachelor’s degree in medical technology, a master’s degree in clinical laboratory science and a doctorate in cancer biology.

She said more women are being represented in STEM, and the award signifies the progress made toward equal representation.

“This kind of award is important for recognizing women since women traditionally have greater time demands related to family and other women should know that it’s possible to balance a successful career with other societal expectations,” Landis-Piwowar said. “That balance is largely achieved with supportive spouses and family members for which I’m grateful to have in my life.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAIN’S Health sciences is her specialty.

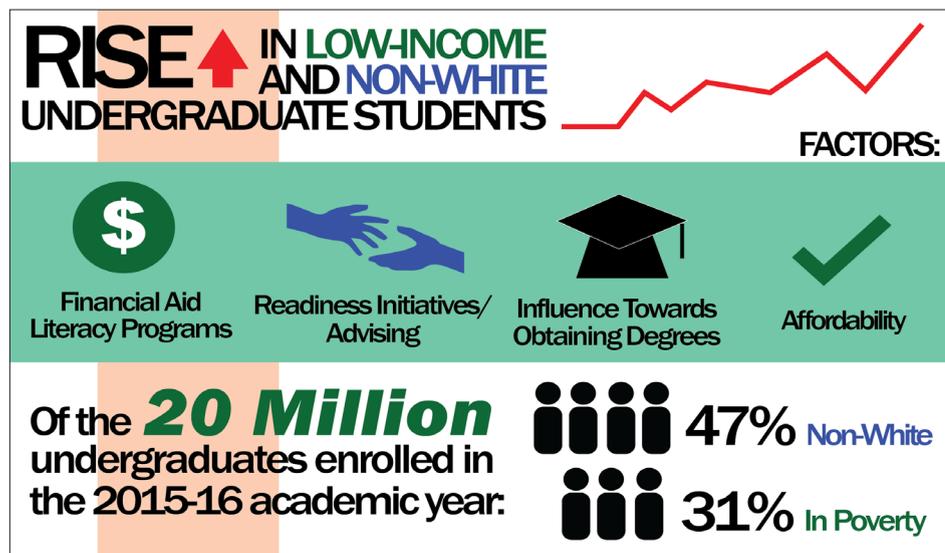
Being a part of the STEM community in multiple ways, from conducting research and presenting ideas to judging events, Landis-Piwowar dedicates a lot of her spare time and energy. Starting at the university, she is part of the STEM community outreach as a board member for Oakland Schools Technical Campus.

She has also attended STEM-themed events such as national, regional and state meetings of the American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science. At these events Landis-Piwowar was invited to professionally continue her education and give presentations and peer-reviews. She has also attended American Society of Hematology to further her work and the American Association of Cancer Research to present her findings.

“Additionally, I’ve led numerous ‘health professions’ camps and half-day experiences for high school students,” Landis-Piwowar said. “They don’t always think of ‘health’ as ‘science’ or that there are many health professionals besides the most commonly recognized professions such as doctor or nurse.”

Landis-Piwowar is currently working on research focused on deciphering a familial and genetic link that connects both chronic lymphocytic and hairy cell leukemia.

As well as adding on to her more than 30 published journal articles, Landis-Piwowar is working as the editor-in-chief of the fourth edition of the Clinical Laboratory Hematology textbook that is soon to be published. She plans to take the textbook to the next level by making it more into a digital learning experience and guide the book through future editions.



JIMMY WILLIAMS | GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Pew Research reported there are now more poor and non-white undergraduates.

# 'Rocketman' is raw, uncensored and imaginative

**RACHEL BASELA**

*Staff Intern*

Through the years, musical artists of various genres have presented moviegoers and music fanatics alike with countless documentaries surrounding their experiences in the industry and their rise to fame. However, "Rocketman," a film based on the life of Elton John, was a dramatic interpretation of the star's upbringing and his time in the limelight. This movie followed the lead of "Bohemian Rhapsody," a film about Queen, and "A Star Is Born," a film starring Lady Gaga, this year with the newest wave of musicals setting the tone for both the music and film industry moving forward.

This biopic stars Taron Egerton as Elton John, with Richard Madden, Jamie Bell and Max Croes in supporting roles. These actors have the energy of a wildfire throughout the film. Egerton's spunk encompasses Elton John to a point of confusion. I found myself wondering if Egerton was the voice of the movie, or if the track was pulled from old Elton records. Egerton was able to capture the innocence of the early days in London, to the uncensored time in the limelight in America, and he did this all while putting on a performance comparable to those of the man he portrayed, with a voice just as bold.

"Rocketman," in simple terms, was unsurprisingly shocking. The storyline is based on the lifestyle of Elton John and features prominent flashback scenes comparable to those of "Forrest Gump", which truly have viewers in awe of both the



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB  
Taron Egerton plays Elton John, in the new hit film "Rocketman."

performances and the plot. The greatest hits of the singer are strategically placed throughout every plot point and highlight the lyrical values of each song in comparison to each prominent experience in his journey as a musician. Unsurprisingly, "Rocketman" is on the Elton John level of over-the-top, and shockingly, Elton displays raw and upfront moments of his gilded life that many fans may not have predicted.

The focal point of the film is set in a substance-abuse reha-

bilitation group where the star shares his story. It starts with his first time playing a piano as a child, to his teen years where his discovery of records molded his idea of music, to his debut with a recording label, to his life as one of the most well known stars in the world. Not only does the story follow his upbringing, it provides the audience with overlaying renditions of Elton's greatest hits at focal points in his life.

Overall, "Rocketman" could've gone one of two ways: a wholesome rendition of the "Tiny Dancer" singer's life, or the gritty, uncensored, flamboyant journey of Elton John and his supposed companions. Of course, Elton would pick the latter. As someone who grew up with the voice of Elton John flowing through my house on Sunday afternoons, I was almost expecting the first option. If listeners like myself never took the time to delve into the meaning of the quirky lyrics within "Benny and the Jets," "Crocodile Rock" or, of course, "Rocket Man," one might assume that the tale would be told in a much lighter fashion. "Rocketman" truly changed my perspective of the singer, as I felt I was watching the unfolding of a personal diary on screen.

Go into the theater with as many expectations as you please, because the raw plot, the extravagant cinematic elements, and the emotive music will exceed even the highest of hopes. Elton John's journey through rock and roll is as compelling as it gets, and it'll be hard to be disappointed with a film such as this, as it's a true representation of Elton's uncensored life.

**Rating: 5/5 stars**

## Despite dynamic leading duo, 'The Dead Don't Die' ultimately disappoints

**TREVOR TYLE**

*Editor-in-Chief*

Who would've thought a zombie-killing spree led by a Ghostbuster and a fallen Jedi could go so wrong?

Unfortunately, that's the case for the Bill Murray and Adam Driver-led zombie comedy "The Dead Don't Die." Despite its all-star cast and refreshingly dry humor, the film falls a little flat.

The story's relatively simple — civilian life in the quiet, uneventful town of Centerville becomes uprooted by a zombie apocalypse, triggered by polar fracking and climate change (because why not?).

Centerville's ghoulish guests can (conveniently) only be defeated by means of decapitation — a fact of which only Driver's character, Officer Ronnie Peterson, seems to be aware. (He's also pretty much the only character intelligent enough to realize that "this is going to end badly.")

In spite of this, Centerville's police force, which apparently only consists of three officers — Ronnie, Cliff Robertson (Murray) and Mindy Morrison (Chloë Sevigny) — is tasked with eliminating their unwanted visitors.

I'd be lying if I said "The Dead Don't Die" was a flawless movie. In fact, it's not even close. Directed by Jim Jarmusch, the film is



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB  
Despite the star-studded cast and the film's name, "The Dead Don't Die" ultimately killed viewers hopes.

consistent with his previous works, which are largely considered to be an acquired taste. But its all-star cast forces it to deviate from the indie genre with which Jarmusch is most associated. ("The Dead Don't Die" also features appearances from Tilda Swinton, Selena Gomez, Steve Buscemi, Tom Waits and Iggy Pop, among others.)

It's a shame the actors didn't have a better film to work with, but their talents all somehow remain intact despite the substantially disconnected script. Murray and Driver's chemistry is particularly noteworthy, though it shouldn't be surprising considering their collectively consistent acting chops.

Swinton, however, just might be the un-

sung hero of this film. Her character, the oh-so-creatively-named Zelda Winston, is the strange new undertaker of the local funeral home. From her irresistible Scottish accent to her incomparable sword-wielding skills, Zelda is a badass in the weirdest way. Though there's absolutely nothing explicable about her character, she's thoroughly amusing from beginning to end and manages to steal the spotlight in every one of her scenes.

But as much as this works to Jarmusch's advantage, his inability to justify many of his directorial decisions throughout the film is perhaps the biggest reason why it fails to live up to my expectations. Though countless film classes have taught me otherwise, Jar-

musch approached "The Dead Don't Die" as if absolutely none of his choices needed to be deliberate whatsoever, creating a directionless — and slightly incoherent — narrative with more plot holes than there are zombies.

Apparently, there's supposed to be some sort of heavy — and completely irrelevant — political subtext buried in that mess of a story, but the only lesson I took away was "karma's a bitch" after Buscemi's overtly racist character is mutilated by a swarm of zombies. (He was wearing a "Make America White Again" hat, OK?)

I wanted to enjoy "The Dead Don't Die," but in many ways, it felt like Jarmusch wanted to jump on the bandwagon after seeing the success of projects like "Zombieland," but realized his ties to indie films didn't leave him enough money to fund a decent ending. And while "The Dead Don't Die" should've been a fun, explosive zombie comedy in the vein of "Zombieland," its buildup is slow and aimless, providing half the fun its ensemble cast and punchline-permeated trailers promised.

While I appreciated the biting one-liners and plethora of pop culture references sprinkled throughout the film, "The Dead Don't Die" is probably too self-aware for its own good.

**Rating: 3/5 stars**

# Taking a closer look at the power unions could have

*With over half a million employees being represented by unions, it is important to ensure everyone is protected*

**BEN HUME**  
*Web Editor*

I had a revealing conversation with a relative of mine recently about how his work was going. I had recalled that he was a part of a union, and he was working as a duct insulator. Less than a month ago, he said he was preparing to go on strike after his employer slashed his benefits and eliminated his pension. Just a week ago the strike was on its third week, with no end in sight.

I have a hard time understanding those who dislike unions, besides corporate CEOs who care about profits over workers, of course. On paper, there's not a lot to dislike about them.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics notes that, in 2018, workers that were not a member of a union made 82% of earn-

ings to union members. It would seem that the ability to strike for better benefits in addition to better wages would be a huge draw to any worker with access to a union.

Unfortunately, a number of other factors have caused the number of union members to decline over the past few years. Many of those factors are institutional, with union busters and pro-corporate politicians making union membership harder.

I will most likely collect my thoughts about those aspects of this problem at a later time and write about them, but for now I want to talk about how hard it was on an anecdotal level for the people I know to live with their unions and how they've failed them.

My father is a high school educator and a member of a worker's union.

He constantly voices a similar opinion to my duct-insulating relative — his union leaders do not do enough to protect their members, and frequently make concessions that weaken their position and give power to their employers. When their union goes to the bargaining table twice, then three times, then four times without getting any real response, it becomes frustrating to those union members who need a real paycheck to keep paying the bills.

Even more frustrating is waiting three weeks on strike only to see your union declare willing to halve its initial demands.

So, labor unions seem to be the easy choice when it comes to protecting worker wages and benefits, but simultaneously they generate frus-

trated members that lead to declining labor membership, at least on an anecdotal level. What does this mean for the future of labor rights in the United States?

Only time will tell, but we've known for a long time that big corporations have treated their employees terribly. If there isn't a story about Amazon, Walmart or Google circulating about workers not being allowed bathroom breaks, it can only be a matter of time before another one comes around.

The topic is sure to be a regular point of discussion in Michigan especially, with approximately 600,000 Michiganders being represented by unions. One can only hope that a surge in anti-corporate leverage will lead to fewer picket lines and more happy, paid and protected citizens.

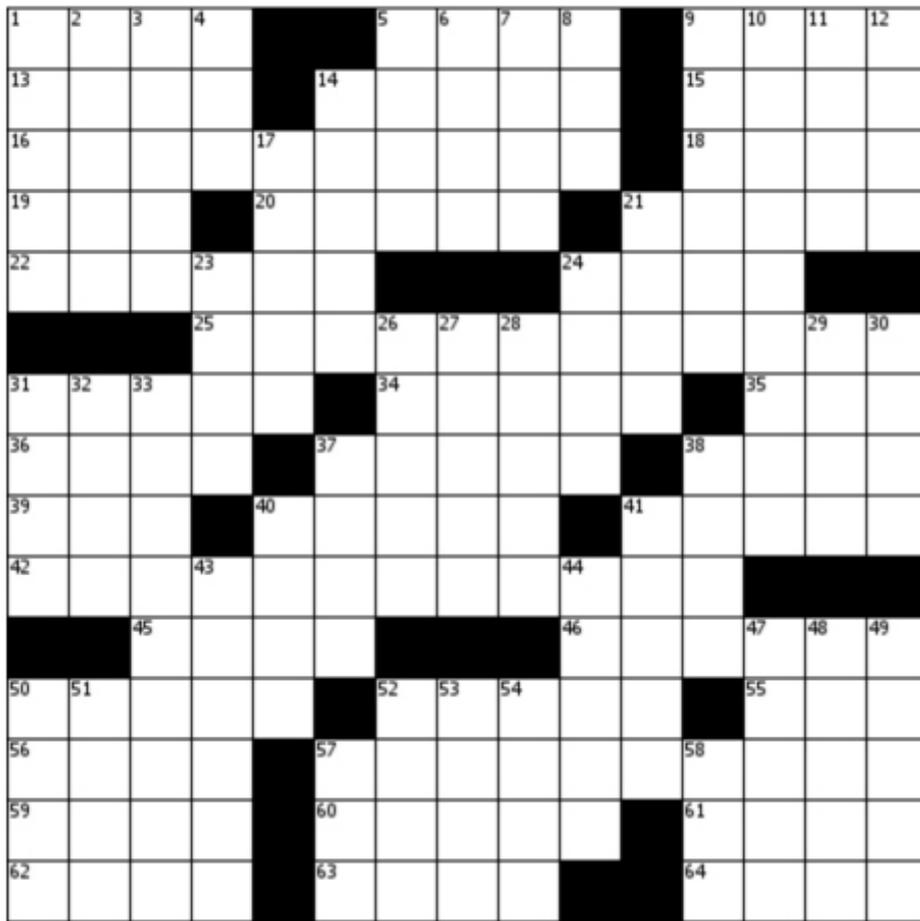
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**CAMPUS  
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**Across**

- 1. Folklore beasts
- 5. Out to lunch
- 9. Environmental hazards, briefly
- 13. Virtuous skipper
- 14. Red Sea peninsula
- 15. Coloratura piece
- 16. Start of a quip
- 18. MIT course
- 19. Gas for life
- 20. Start
- 21. Jazz improv components
- 22. Sports group
- 24. Plummet
- 25. Part 2 of the quip
- 31. Admonish
- 34. "Training Day" actor Hawke
- 35. Bath enhancement
- 36. Bus route
- 37. 1924 Olympics locale
- 38. Web site language
- 39. Fertility clinic specimens
- 40. Co-Nobelists of 1903
- 41. Court matters
- 42. Part 3 of the quip
- 45. "Shine" Oscar winner
- 46. Natty

50. Long-necked swimmers

- 52. They may buckle
- 55. Keanu Reeves role
- 56. String together
- 57. End of the quip
- 59. At some earlier time
- 60. Went up or advanced
- 61. "In the Line of Fire" actress Russo
- 62. Sugar source, sometimes
- 63. Cookout crashers
- 64. Skater's maneuver

**Down**

- 1. First NBA lottery pick of 1992
- 2. "Chicago" murderess
- 3. "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" director
- 4. "Ain't \_\_\_ Sweet"
- 5. Fizzles out
- 6. Britain's Princess Royal
- 7. It's fancy-free?
- 8. Inconclusive result
- 9. Best Actor for "Scent of a Woman"
- 10. Screwballs
- 11. Swindle
- 12. Plant pouches

- 14. Connective tissue
- 17. Awaken
- 21. Creditor's claim
- 23. French novelist Andre
- 24. Rejuvenating spots
- 26. Essence
- 27. Sections of 26-Down
- 28. Kleptomaniac
- 29. Tangy flavoring
- 30. Under-the-sink joints
- 31. Backup cause
- 32. Honey of a home
- 33. Dazed
- 37. Nudge
- 38. "Listen!"
- 40. Use some four-letter words
- 41. Halt
- 43. Trip from the Capitol
- 44. Fashion direction
- 47. Reference list
- 48. Fishing net
- 49. Camper's aversion
- 50. Clutter creator
- 51. Passover staple
- 52. Kublai, for one
- 53. Coming up
- 54. Some are private
- 57. Former U.S. carrier
- 58. MLB figure

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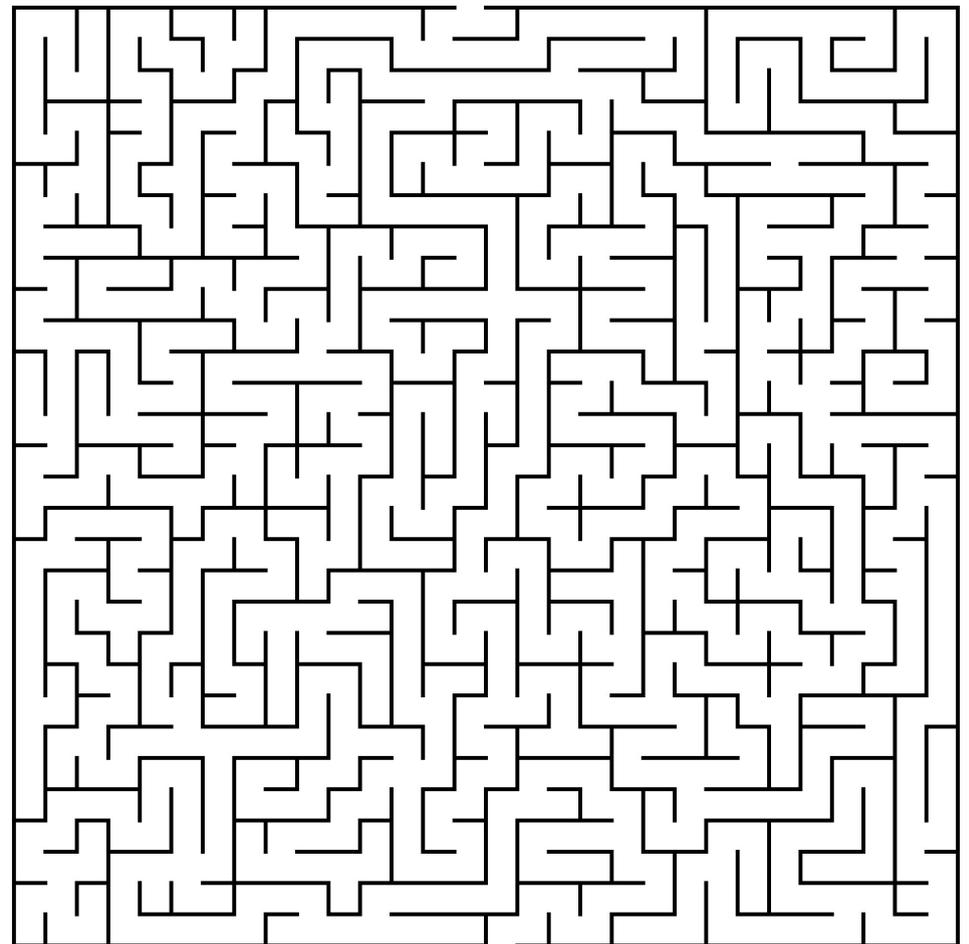
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## SPORTS

# Oakland basketball adapts after transfer-filled summer

**MICHAEL PEARCE**  
*Sports Editor*

After watching their season end on a last-second shot, Oakland fans had one collective thought regarding the future — “Everyone is coming back.” That thought was reinforced when graduate seniors Brad Brechting, Xavier Hill-Mais and Jaevin Cumberland took to the official website of the Golden Grizzlies to announce their intent to return.

“Jaevin, Xavier and I came in with each other and started something that will never split us apart,” Brechting said on golden-grizzlies.com. “We love Oakland and it is our family. We have unfinished business next season and are determined to complete our mission.”

It came as a shock to most when a month later, it was announced that Cumberland and first-year standout Braden Norris were both transferring. Both have since landed at different programs. Cumberland will be teaming up with his cousin Jarron at Cincinnati, while Norris is headed to Loyola University in Chicago, home of the Ramblers.

When Karmari Newman announced his intent to transfer as well on June 10, the total Oakland players to transfer in the last 9

months ballooned to six. Stan Scott, James Beck and Brailen Neely all transferred as well, with Neely moving to Wayne State in October of 2018.

The transfers of Beck and Scott were expected by many, but for Head Coach Greg Kampe, the most shocking one was the departure of the fifth-year senior, Cumberland.

“I knew that all three of those guys [Brechting, Cumberland, Hill-Mais] were being recruited behind the scenes by places — it’s not legal but it happens,” Kampe said. “I called them in and said, ‘If you’re going to leave, I need to know now so I can replace you’ and all three said they weren’t leaving.”

The press release was then put out in an attempt to discourage other schools from looking at the three cornerstones of the team.

Norris leaving was a shock to most as well, and Kampe still has no real idea why Norris decided to transfer. The reasoning Kampe received was that the freshman was “searching for a better opportunity,” which Kampe felt “made no sense at all.”

Oakland has been one of many mid-major schools over the past few years to get hit with the transfer bug. The recent implementation of the new “transfer portal” has created a sort of free agency for a college prospect, where they can enter the portal and explore any and all options available to them.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS

After six transfers within Oakland University’s basketball program, the Golden Grizzlies begin to rebuild.

In the past, Kampe has never tried to take a team’s best player off of their roster. Instead, he has tried to make Oakland a landing spot for players who had issues at their first school or weren’t getting consistent playing time at the high levels. Now, Kampe is adopting an “if you can’t beat them, join them” mentality.

“We’re going to stick our nose in it [the transfer portal], and if there are good play-

ers there who want to come to Oakland, we’re going to take them,” Kampe said. “You can fight it or you can adapt, and I think that part of being successful in life is adapting. Oakland is going to have to adapt to be successful.”

Recruitment is still ongoing, and the roster will be finalized come early July, as the team will prepare to compete in a tournament in Greece in August.

# Former soccer star enlists in Peace Corps

**MICHAEL PEARCE**  
*Sports Editor*

Former Oakland men’s soccer star Travis Harrington will be spending the next two years in Togo, Africa, working for the Peace Corps. While in Togo, he will be teaching children English through speaking French in a middle school, while also implementing gender equality practices.

While in Togo, Harrington has no cell phone and has to adapt to a completely different lifestyle. Despite being 5,500 miles from home, Harrington is already seeing similarities in his new surroundings.

“The culture is different — but it also reminds me that different isn’t always bad,” he said. “We are all humans and we may do things differently, but we are all working toward the same goal: trying to make it another 24 hours with whichever resources that are at our disposal. I already feel humbled but excited for the work that I will be doing with the community.”

As a player under Head Coach Eric Pogue, Harrington and his team participated in regular community service. Pogue, who has been a coach at Oakland for 18 years, tries to instill more than just soccer knowledge into his athletes.

“As a college coach ... we are obviously judged on wins and losses and championships,” Pogue said. “It is seeing young men, like Travis, that I’ve had the honor of coaching and mentoring, go out and impact the world by



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS

Alumnus Travis Harrington is heading to Africa to work for Peace Corps.

becoming amazing husbands, fathers, leaders, mentors, coaches and world changers, that really is what fills my heart. We, as coaches, are privileged to teach life through sports, which is really a blessing.”

Pogue is a coach who keeps in contact with his players well past their time at Oakland, and Harrington is no differ-

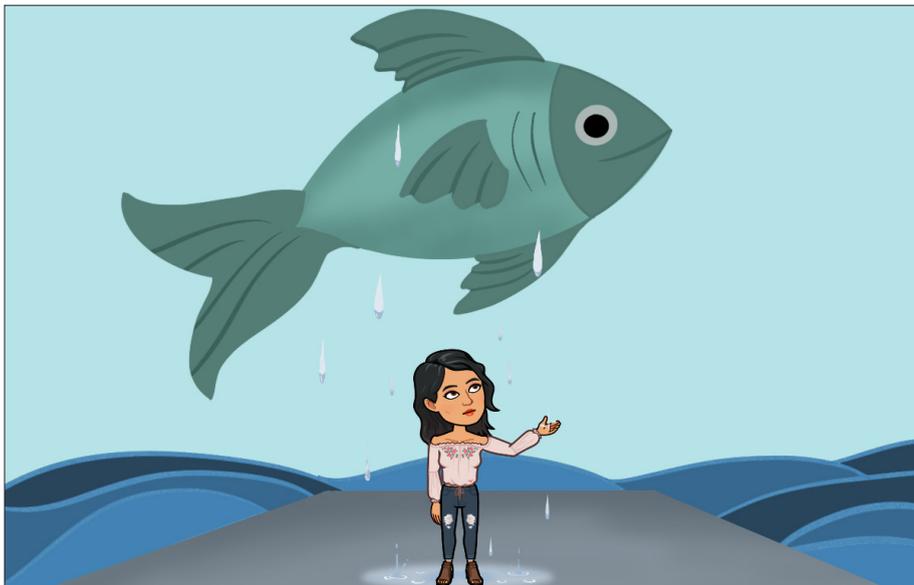
ent. The two keep in touch weekly via text messages and emails, and Pogue has encouraged Harrington to journal his time in Togo to show people in Rochester and beyond what the people of Togo go through.

“Eric Pogue has had a great impact on me as an athlete, but also as a young man,” Harrington said. “He instilled in me the idea of being more than an athlete, but what it truly means to be a student other than an athlete. He put me in positions to better my attitude and my integrity, and he most importantly allowed me to do what I love at the highest level in college at the Division I level on a daily basis for the last four years, which was playing soccer.”

For the first three months, Harrington will be having language and technical training sessions in a training village. He will find out his permanent village in the middle of July and do a site visit, where each volunteer stays at their permanent village for a week to meet the community. In August, Harrington will officially swear in as a Peace Corps volunteer.

“While I’m in the Peace Corps, I hope to simply implement some form of change, no matter how big or small,” he said. “Even at the lowest degree, I know that change will definitely take part in my life over these next two years. The relationships that I build will be crucial in how impactful my service will be, and I am looking forward to the grassroots approach that I will take during my service.”

## SATIRE



PRAKHYA CHILUKURI | GRAPHIC DESIGNER

These fishy smelling creatures even leave behind their skeleton after 24 hours.

## Fishfly season is upon us

**KATIE LADUKE**  
Managing Editor

Greetings from Michigan's favorite boat town, St. Clair Shores. I'm here to report that the worst time of the year has officially begun — fishfly season.

If you've ever encountered one of these nightmares with wings, you'll understand my detest for them.

Not only do they smell like the thing they're named after, but they come in drones to attack any light source they can get their slimy little bodies on. Legend has it, if you're on the lake at the right time, you can see packs of them fly out of the water.

Now, not every Michigander has to deal with these pesky insects. Fishflies stay close to the water, specifically the Great Lakes. Our waterfront neighbors — I'm looking at you, Grosse Pointe and New Baltimore — can agree that the cycle hits every year at the same time in the mid-June to about the middle of July.

For those lucky enough to have never seen or heard about fishflies, they only live for about 24 hours and don't have mouths. Apparently, other parts of the country call them mayflies, but they smell like fish, so we'll call them what they are. They tend to stay around an inch long, but every so often you'll see a meaty one that'll knock your socks off.

The most productive thing they do is cover ATMs to the point where you can't even see the screen. They are somewhat strong since they can stay stuck to your windshield the entire ride home.

In my opinion, they're useless. But, according to specialists, they're a sign of a "healthy marine ecosystem." I guess

they're a tasty snack for birds, too.

Swarms of fishflies can get so bad in the summer, it'll look like it's snowing whenever too many lamps or lights are on close together. The best is when your tires crunch all the way home when they cover the streets.

You'd think living near the water your whole life would make you used to cohabiting with these insects every summer. But, you'd be sadly mistaken.

My mom has been terrified of these bugs for as long as she's lived in St. Clair Shores and has so generously passed on that fear to me. You might ask, "But if they don't bite, why are you scared of them?"

The simple answer to that question is I have no frickin' idea, they're just gross and get everywhere. If you're like us, stores and restaurants around town might hose down their windows and walls to get rid of the piles if you call before going down.

In my 21 years of living, I've encountered three different types of people when fishfly season hits. Those like my mom and me, those who are indifferent to the bugs' existence and those who celebrate their arrival.

Yeah, you read that right. There's literally a Fishfly Festival in New Baltimore with a parade and its own newsletter, Fishfly Fever. Obviously, I've never been to it, but I've heard you can buy chocolate covered fishflies there to eat.

Thankfully, fishfly season is only a month long, and they disappear as mysteriously as they appear. But, to all my friends living on the lakes, I'll see you in August.

## Millennials outdate doorbell technology through texting

**RACHEL BASELA**  
Staff Intern

### Ding-dong ditch

Millennials are outdating yet another commonplace device: the modern doorbell. With the new normality of the "I'm here" text, many young people are choosing to disregard walking up to the porch and ringing.

We've seen this before. We millennials have been blamed for killing restaurant chains, starter homes and beer, according to Business Insider, so why does a rinky-dink doorbell matter to preceding generations? Are they grasping onto the last shreds of the lives they knew before 1981, or are they really that passionate about the nuisance that rings through the house, presenting itself like an in-law on Christmas Eve?

And why do we choose to avoid the doorbell? Maybe it's because our pocket screens are making us more and more socially inept. Maybe it's because we lack the respect our elders had before us. Or, maybe, we like the convenience of not having to take the extra steps. Whatever the cause, doorbells are collecting dust.

### How can I help?

*Step 1: Throw away your phone.*

Whether you have an iPhone or an Android, you can still send a text. The best thing you can do to stop impulsively texting "I'm here" is to throw the whole thing away. Why bother holding onto your technology when

it's killing the absolutely necessary invention of the doorbell?

*Step 2: Get your steps in.*

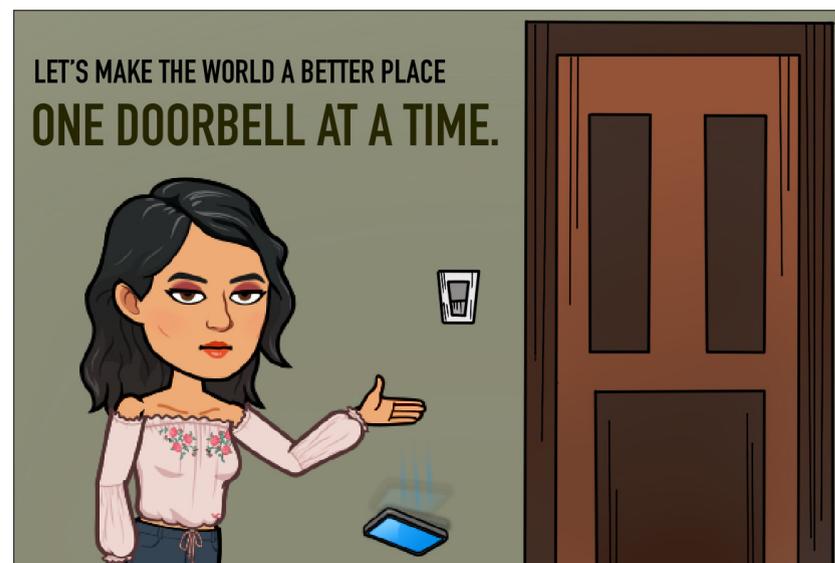
Turn off your car, get out of your seat, and walk up the path to the porch. (Yes, I know. I'm telling you to participate in physical activity. Sorry.) Once you get there, push the button. It might alert the whole house and not just the person you're picking up, but we can't let these dang smartphones ruin such an important industry!

*Step 3: Use your social skills.*

Now here's the scary part — you might be forced to have an unnecessary face-to-face interaction. Your girlfriend's dad could answer the door, or your friend's mom could invite you in for dinner. What now? Use everything you know from watching Netflix and playing video games. It's best to study how others react in your virtual life so you can properly interact with those in your real life. Everything should be fine, just model the behavior of a YouTuber.

### Only use the doorbell

Whatever you do, do not knock. The only thing worse than sending a text is taking all of these steps without using the doorbell. If the house doesn't have a doorbell, just leave. Your friend will take the hint to purchase and install the device so the next time you step on their porch, you will be able to alert them of your presence properly.



PRAKHYA CHILUKURI | GRAPHIC DESIGNER

It is now our responsibility to ensure the use of the traditional doorbell does not die.