

# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 46 | Issue 19 | January 27, 2021

## Basketball teams win the weekend

*Men's team splits series vs UDM, women sweep IPFW*

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Kahlajah Dean leads team to fourth consecutive win

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PHOTO BY: SOPHIE HUME

# THIS WEEK

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



**TRUST THE PROCESS** Women's basketball celebrates on the bench during their Friday, Jan. 22 game against Purdue Fort Wayne. The team improved to 8-4 in the Horizon League after beating IPFW twice, topping their win total from all of last season.  
PHOTO / GOLDEN GRIZZLIES

# THE OAKLAND POST

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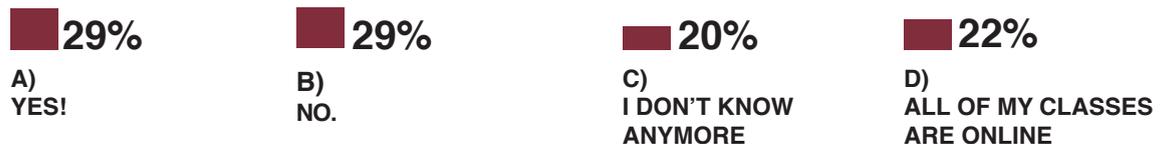
## POLL OF THE WEEK

DO YOU THINK HAVING YOUR CAMERA ON DURING ONLINE CLASSES SHOULD BE REQUIRED?

- A) YES
- B) NO
- C) IT DEPENDS ON THE CLASS TYPE
- D) IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME

## LAST ISSUE'S POLL

ARE YOU EXCITED FOR CLASSES RETURNING IN PERSON?



# CAMPUS

## OU hosts virtual COVID-19 vaccination panel

**LAUREN REID**  
Sports Editor

Oakland University's Centers of Civic Engagement, Public Humanities and Religious Understanding hosted a virtual panel via Zoom — COVID-19 Vaccination: Access, Awareness, Acceptance — on Monday, Jan. 25, to discuss the science behind the COVID-19 vaccine, various concerns and distribution, among other topics.

Moderated by professor and Chair of the OU philosophy department, Mark Navin PhD the panel included: Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, senior public health physician at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. Russell Faust, medical director for Oakland County, Dr. Nicholas Gilpin, chief medical officer at Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe and Rev. Derrick McDonald, Pastor of Prospect Missionary Baptist Church.

To begin the panel, Bagdasarian dove into the scientific makeup behind both the Moderna and the Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccines — messenger RNA (mRNA).

"[Both COVID-19 vaccines] utilize the same technology — they're both mRNA vaccines," Bagdasarian said. "It is a spectacular technology where we are not injecting whole particles of the [COVID-19] virus, whether dead or inactivated into people. These are just little pieces of genomic material that allow [one's] own body to produce proteins, and then have an immune response to those proteins."

According to Faust, the COVID-19 vaccines and trials were developed and run "under a microscope."

"[Experts and researchers] have been unusually transparent in reporting and publishing their data throughout this entire process," Faust said.

Bagdasarian said [the COVID-19 vaccine] was not developed solely for COVID-19, but has been in the making for years.

"I don't want people to think this was a rushed process [and was] made just within the last 12 months," Bagdasarian said. "The technology was already being created and the intended purpose was to use it for other viruses [but] here we are in a beautiful situation where we can use [the technology] for this particular pandemic."

Faust agreed with Bagdasarian, mentioning several companies had already been working on an mRNA vaccine for SARS and MERS, before the pandemic began.



LAUREN REID

The panel was hosted over Zoom on Jan. 25 and discussed the topic of the COVID-19 vaccines.

"They had already worked out the other technical aspects, so that allowed them to just swap in the sequence for this spike protein and move forward into clinical trials," Faust said. "We saved three or four years right there."

In regard to potential side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine, Gilpin said "that is your body ramping up to fight the fight, that's a good thing."

"The fact that [you're] having some soreness in your arm, or some discomfort, you're turning on that immune system, building those antibodies and getting ready to fight the fight — so that if you are one day face-down with the real [thing], you will have an immune system that's ready for action," Gilpin said.

Rev. McDonald mentioned the best way to mitigate concerns is to ensure accurate information.

"There is so much misinformation floating out there relative to these [COVID-19] vaccines," McDonald said. "We have to let people understand the development of the vaccine — they have to have a better understanding and trust."

In regard to potential new COVID-19 strains, the panel mentioned as the virus mutates, modifications can be made to the mRNA vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccines will provide protection against the various strains, as mentioned by Gilpin.

"A high priority remains on ensuring that we educate people on the value, need and urgency of vaccinations," Oakland University President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz said.

For more information, or to "save your spot" in line for the vaccine (still in Phase 1A of distribution), check out the Oakland County Vaccine website.

*Who can get  
the vaccine?*

**Phase 1 a. Healthcare workers and residence in long-term care facilities (Started Dec. 3, 2020)**

**Phase 1 b. Frontline essential workers and people over the age of 75. (Started Dec. 20, 2020)**

**Phase 1 c. All essential workers, people within the age of 65-74 and people ages 16- 64 with underlying health issues. (Started Dec. 20, 2020)**

## Barry Klein Center to be established by donation in 2022



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DETROIT JEWISH NEWS

In Fall 2022, the Barry Klein center will open. The center will be dedicated to culture and globalization

### DEAN VAGLIA

Staff Reporter

Funded by the estate of Oakland University graduate Barry M. Klein, a new center dedicated to culture and globalization will be established in fall 2022.

The Barry M. Klein Center for Culture and Globalization is one of several new programs funded by the late Klein's estate. The center is intended to bring in distinguished professors from other institutions and allow them to teach and research at OU for an academic year. A new professor will come each year and spend the year teaching and researching around a single topic within culture and globalization.

"It will be a year long in-residence experience here where the person will study deeply, engage in conversations and presentations," Kevin Corcoran, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences said. "There will be our own students — both undergrad and grad — working with them."

Students will be given the opportunity to be paid for the work they do, and faculty researching and teaching similar topics as the chair professor will have the opportunity to work with the professor.

While the center is intended to be housed in the College of Arts and Sciences, Corcoran says the center will interact with multiple schools and colleges across the University. To demonstrate this, he imagined how a professor focusing on climate change would run the center.

"We could have people — whether they are outside scholars, whether they are faculty, whether they are students — engaging in thoughts about climate change from multiple perspectives,"

Corcoran said. "You could have the scientific perspective, you could have the human perspective, you could have the economic perspective [or] you could have the cultural perspective. How is this going to affect how we work and live in Michigan — not just what our economy would look like, but how would we live differently if the Great Lakes rose substantially? You have got all of those possibilities and all of those conversations deeply happening over the course of a full year."

The overall vision for the Klein Center is determined, but much regarding the center has yet to be figured out. A planning committee is working on how the center will operate and how students can be involved in it. The outstanding questions are expected to be answered by the estimated fall 2022 opening date.

The full list of programs Klein's donation supports includes the center, funding initiatives to support the center and a scholarship endowed fund to support students in the Honors College who need extra funding but do not qualify for other forms of financial aid.

The Center for Culture and Globalization is not the only contribution Klein has given to OU. He helped establish the George R. and Helen Klein Memorial Scholarship fund — which is being expanded by this donation — for the School of Education and Human Services.

Klein graduated from OU in 1964 with a sociology degree and was a lifelong supporter of the university and of the importance of a liberal arts degree. He moved to Naples, Florida in 2010 and was the CEO of a realty company there. He died on Jan. 18, 2020.

## Oakland professor leads groundbreaking genetic research

### BRIDGET JANIS

Staff Reporter

When it comes to genetic diversity, Ukraine is an understudied region, so researchers at Oakland University decided to start a study. The largest study conducted in Ukraine to date, this process was able to help chart the map of global genetic diversity.

"It helps broaden Oakland University's research enterprise," Vice President for Research David Stone said. "It helps with engaging students with Ukraine, which is great."

The study focused on comparing the genomes and genetic variations in different parts of the world. This will allow more of an understanding of why there are differences and what are the differences in their bodies.

"[Questions like:] How does it grow, what diseases can they get, how do they function and what makes them more dissectible and less dissectible to diseases," Taras Oleksyk, assistant professor of biological sciences at Oakland University said. "That is very important information because understanding the genetic global diversity allows you to understand more deeply the meaning of our genetic information."

Oleksyk has studied genetic diversity within people all around the world for ten years. He started with the 1,000 Genome project in the Caribbean region in Puerto Rico.

He felt a personal connection to the genetic study in Ukraine because of his Ukrainian ancestry, and he wanted to add them to the map of genetic diversity.

To do the study, Oleksyk had to find people who were willing to donate their

information and blood from all over Ukraine. Then they would extract the DNA from these samples. Then, all DNA gets tested and compared to one another.

"We're all humans, so 99.9% of our genetic code is the same," Oleksyk said. "But, there are certain small differences that are important."

By finding genetic diversities, it can help show who could be at higher risk of getting cancer or who has protective genetics that can prevent it. Oleksyk talked about how this could easily be applied to COVID-19. The slightly different genetic codes can show who is more likely to get COVID-19 and who isn't.

"The information that gets out of these studies are used to discover the variation that is important for evaluating how different variance of genes respond to disease," Oleksyk said. "The more we know about what kind of variations exist in the world, the better we can understand how to address these problems."

Oleksyk and his team are currently in the process of trying to develop a study about the correlation of genetic diversity to human diseases in Central Europe. Oleksyk hopes to receive an industry grant alongside their grant from the European Union.

There was a collaboration between OU, the University of Michigan, Uzhhorod National University in Ukraine, National Cancer Institute in the USA and BGI Shenzhen in China for this study. Six of the co-authors were from OU.

"It is valuable to our students to see our faculty engaged in high level international research that gets published in prestigious journals and becomes available to the scientific community," Stone said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND.EDU

Administration and Taras Oleksyk meet with Volodymyr Smolanka, rector at Uzhhorod National University in Ukraine, in 2019.

# CAMPUS

## EHS professionals talk safety in the age of COVID-19

**DEAN VAGLIA**  
Staff Reporter

The Oakland University chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) held a question-and-answer session with environmental health and safety (EHS) professionals over Zoom on January 21.

Conducted by OU Chapter President Karly St. Aubin, the four professionals answered some questions from students in attendance and from pre-submitted questions by St. Aubin.

Of the questions asked at the event, notable discussion came from questions regarding how COVID-19 has affected the role EHS professionals play in the companies they work for. The professionals were in agreement that their roles have been critical.

Darryl Hill, an EHS lecturer for the School of Health Sciences and the senior vice president of safety at FirstGroup America, referenced a conversation he had with a colleague where the question of which department in a company is responsible for communicating information about COVID-19 vaccines.

“Regardless of who is going to be

responsible, we have got to be prepared to step up to the plate,” Hill said. “To say this succinctly, the COVID[-19] impact on EHS: it has raised our visibility and demonstrated our importance.”

Aaron Munoz Sr., the safety director for Motor City Electric, reiterated that safety professionals will have a key role in helping operations, legal and human resources departments make decisions for the duration of the pandemic.

Jessica Jannaman, an EHS lecturer and executive director of EHS & quality at Global Automotive Systems, told the students about how she had to take on more responsibilities when the pandemic hit.

“We had three core people: the vice president of operations, myself and one person from purchasing . . . to make sure we had the proper [personal protective equipment] for the sites that were still operating,” Jannaman said. “As an EHS professional, the organization is looking to you and they are panicking.”

To help get her company the supplies it needed, Jannaman figured out how to acquire supplies like hand sanitizer internationally to make sure people could work safely.

“You become better at your job when you



SOPHIE HUME

Al Morales, safety supervisor at Marathon, speaking on EHS careers during the pandemic.

understand what another person has to go through,” Jannaman said. “[Taking on new responsibilities] gave me a different paradigm and perspective so I could work closer with some of those functions I never thought to work with.”

Students were also curious about how to break into the EHS profession, and the most common answer was to do as many internships as one possibly can.

“If you are allowed the opportunity to have more than one, I would take advantage

of that,” Al Morales, a safety supervisor for Marathon Petroleum, said. “I look at the internships as almost a working interview for both sides. I can look at a piece of paper and see that your grades are good, but it does not tell me a whole lot about your personality.”

The ASSP is an international organization of EHS professionals. Students who are interested in joining the OU chapter can go to their GrizzOrgs page.

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# Michigan's distribution plans for the COVID-19 vaccine

**JESSICA ORLANDO**

*Contributor*

With the beginning of a new year, residents in Michigan remain anxious for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Among those residents are the students and faculty at Oakland University who remain hopeful in receiving the vaccine in the upcoming 2021 year. However, students wonder when exactly they can expect a vaccine.

The COVID-19 vaccine is supported by a number of pharmaceutical companies such as AstraZeneca, Janssen and Novavax. Three types were available to the public: RNA, protein subunit or vector-based vaccines. All types of the vaccine require more than one shot in order for it to be the most effective against COVID-19.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services followed strict Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines when a plan to administer the vaccine to the residents of Michigan was created.

The plan aimed to achieve efficiency, effectiveness and equity. The COVID-19 vaccine implementation schedule aimed to distribute in two phases.

Phase 1A targeted all health care workers and long-term care residents and staff. Phase 1B was centered around age groups 75 and above, frontline state and federal responders, school and childcare faculty, corrections staff and other essential frontline workers.

Group 1C targeted age groups from 65-74, age groups from 16-64 with pre-existing conditions and all remaining essential workers. Lastly, phase two consisted of age groups 16-64 not yet covered in phase one.

Oakland County received a total of 7,800 doses of the vaccine, and 5,600 of those doses have been administered. Availability for the vaccine is limited to appointment in every county in Michigan.

The Graham Health Center (GHC) at Oakland University is the central hub for all coronavirus monitoring and campus health safety.

"The distribution of the vaccine would be followed according to the CDC guidelines to our campus community," said Nancy Jansen, ANP-BC Director of the Graham Health Center.

Following those CDC guidelines would mean that priority healthcare staff, faculty 75 and older at OU and health compromised people would receive the vaccine first.

Some of Jansen's staff at the Graham Health Center have already been vaccinated by appointment at the local Health Department.

"Some of my staff was vaccinated by luck because we called at the right time," Jansen said. The rest of the groups considered to be in phase two would receive the vaccine on a first come first serve basis.

The GHC had to be approved by the state in order to potentially receive vaccines.

"The application was ten pages long and we had to give a lot of detailed answers about what type of health center we are, how many flu vaccines we usually provide, the model number of the freezers in which the vaccine would be stored in, who does our facility service, and the names as well as titles of our staff," Jansen said.

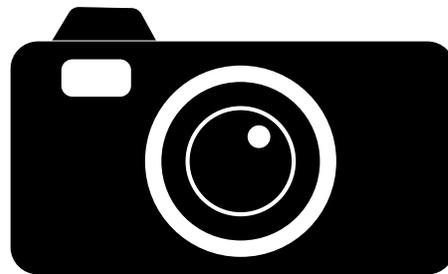
The guidelines are very similar to a lot of other vaccines available at OU, and logs are kept in order to monitor the quality and state of the vaccines.

Jansen approximated sometime in March, OU could receive doses of the vaccine for distribution.

"I am ready for the vaccine," Jansen said. "We were approved and we have all the necessary equipment, so we could start vaccinating within 48 hours of receiving it."

To learn more about the Michigan and CDC guidelines, students can visit the Michigan COVID-19 page. To learn more about the vaccine itself, students can visit the CDC page.

Also, if students wish to be informed about COVID-19 updates at OU, students can visit the Graham Health Center's tab on the OU webpage.



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# German artist gives insight about her work and technique in photography



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA SCHAEFER

Christine Feser is a German artist who works with photography and abstract art.

## CAYLA SMITH

*Campus Editor*

On Wednesday, Jan. 18, Oakland University's Art and Art History department hosted a virtual art lecture featuring German artist Christiane Feser.

Christiane Feser presented her lecture live from her studio in Frankfurt, Germany. Displaying a presentation titled "Streets, Folds, Objects, and more." The presentation walks us through her creative projects dating back to 2003 and ending in the present day.

Feser was born in Würzburg, Germany, in 1977. She studied photography at the Offenbach University of Art and Design in Germany. Feser recently had a retrospective of her career to date at the Opelvillen, Rüsselheim, Germany and was included in the 2018 exhibition "Cut! Paper Play in Contemporary Photography" at The J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, CA.

"It's very different to see a scene through a mechanical apparatus with one lens, then two eyes with human protection and experience," Feser said.

### Strassen/Streets 2003

Feser says that this project helped her form an artistic approach in a profound

way and took these photos while studying at Offenbach University. She'd get her dog and they would drive outside the town and explore nature.

"A photographic approach — not to look for the special, but to concentrate on ordinary houses or streets and enable a new seeing of those typical houses," Feser said.

When looking at these houses, she viewed them with the eye of a photographer, looking for something interesting within them. She realized that the simplicity of the houses was the beauty that she was looking for. Once she found her muse, she had to figure out a way to capture it in the same way she viewed it.

"A pure form of an object is best received when there is a clear and clean surface," Feser said. "If the surface is full of ornaments or other visual elements, it distracts the gaze from the form, so to emphasize the surface I did three things."

She photographed them when the sky was grey, so there wouldn't be any shadows, she shot from a higher perspective, so that the road would take up more space and composition and she manipulated the houses by removing the windows.

Feser had her first exhibition with these works, and visitors talked to her about the strangeness of the atmosphere that they felt while looking at them. They discussed with her that the photos express the oppressive feelings they experienced while walking through those areas with the post-war architecture.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARCADEMIA

### Falten/Folds 2007- 2009

Feser began this project four years later as a recent graduate from university, which meant that there was more time on her hands. Feser wanted to start from scratch and look at the basic elements of a photographic image, so she asked herself what the main ingredients were and found that light, shadow and material were all she needed.

She was in search of a material to use and found the most simple material of a photograph is paper. Feser needed a shadow for this piece, so she folded the paper, turning it into an object. She would fold it, but not like origami and not as if she was going to toss it in the trash. To keep the elements, the same Feser used the same paper and controlled light every time she shot.

She then attached photos together in search of a connection between them and combined them in a way that looked real and natural. She would refer to this piece as a digital collage, but says that the process has something in common with drawing and painting, because at the end there were multiple layers to her piece.

The result was exposed on photographic paper and so it was perceived by the audience as photography. By the end, the image depicted that no real material could ever be folded in one piece and create such a complex landscape of connected things.

### Latente Konstrukte/Latent Constructs 2011- Present

Feser found this project to be artistic liberation. She wanted to make photos that would show an abstract minimalistic composition that wasn't connected to one thing or situation in the outer world, just like photographs. She says that photographs can't be read or understood.

Feser began by taking a photo of the paper composition, printed it out and used the print as a background for the next composition, which would get photographed again. The process continued several more times.

She used different elements in each step, causing the use of materials and techniques to connect inside of the composition. Feser realized how much more reactive these were to the human gaze.

"I had so much fun experimenting with these possibilities, and the work that came out looked very different from each other," Feser said.

### Partitionen/Partitions 2013- Present

This series is the largest body of work that Feser has completed so far. With this project, she wanted to explore the possibilities of the open surface and how this impacts the image and the observer.

A simple paper form was used for composition, and it got photographed.

"It isn't the paper form that is interest-

ing to me — It is the camera's perspective in combination with the light that causes the interesting and often surprising transformation," Feser said.

The print of the picture is the starting point of the project. While it's hanging on her wall, she decides what she can do with it. Sometimes she'll cut the paper open, attach paper to it, or mix prints of the same photograph.

"It's the controlled light that transforms these pieces," Feser said.

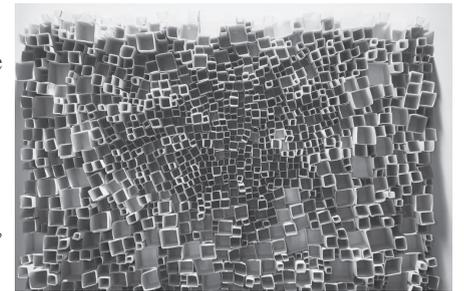


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WOMENS STUDIO

### Nullpunkte/Zero Points 2016 - Present

Feser takes us through her latest series and came to the idea by looking at the Greek origin of photography. The Greek meaning is drawn by light. She feels as though this is a good description for her pieces of work, because they're all about linear shadows that get captured by the pins she used for the project.

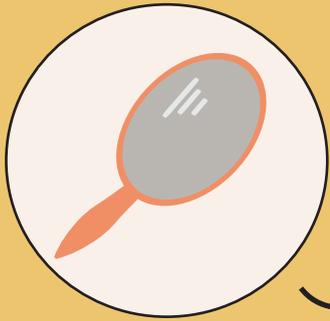
"My focus is on the shadows and how they relate to each other, while I attach one thing after the other," Feser said.

Feser explains she likes to work organically, meaning that there isn't a predetermined end goal for her projects.

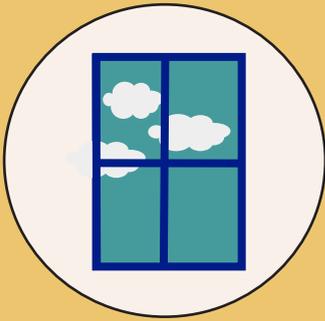
"It's all about the experience," Feser said.

After the presentation, Feser took viewers on a walkthrough of her studio, giving a look into her most recent and unseen work. She also took the time to answer questions about the materials used in her process.

COVID-19 restrictions gave Feser the chance to experiment with different things, and all the pieces are unfinished. If it weren't for COVID, the stress would have been high, so she has enjoyed this time. She also mentions the disappointment that COVID brings, not being able to show her work in real life, and instead being in a virtual setting.



Appearance

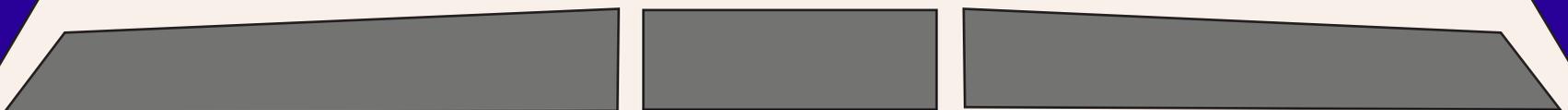
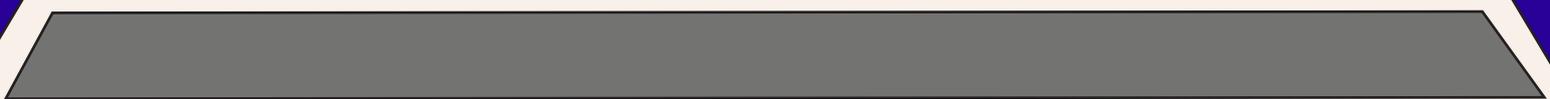
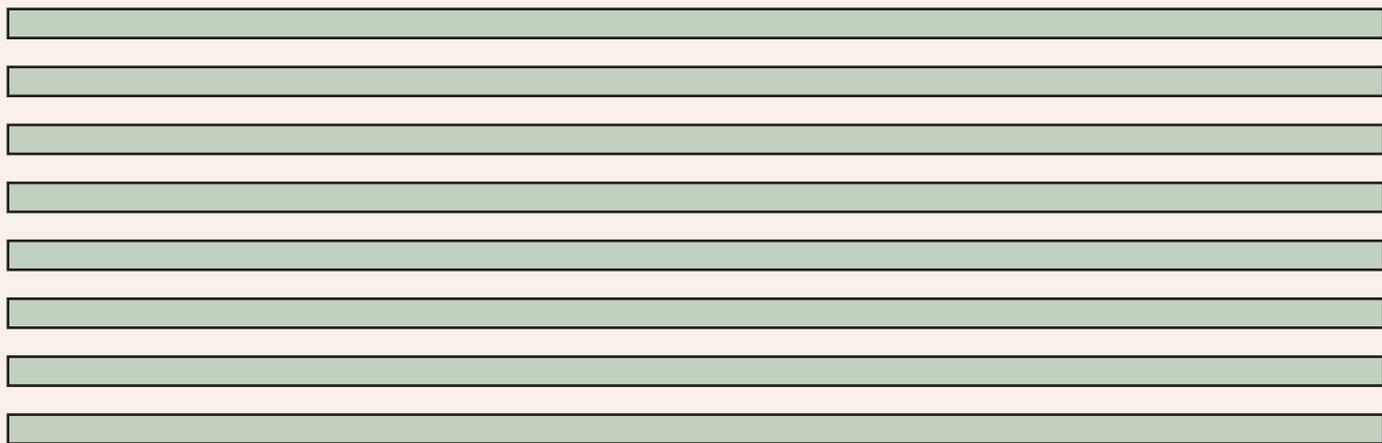
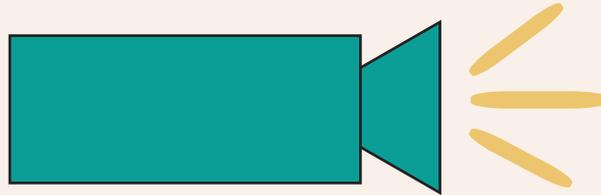


Background



Roommates

Teaching into the void  
 vs.  
 Requiring student cameras



# Professor chooses to 'teach into the void' for his students

Story and Design by Emily Morris

Choosing the “camera on” function in virtual classroom communication is becoming an “ethical problem,” according to Virgil Zeigler-Hill Ph.D.

To inch closer to in-person class, many professors are encouraging or requiring students to turn their cameras on during class. Additionally, some classes factor camera’s into its participation grades.

Cameras help professors elude “teaching into the void,” and Zeigler-Hill “sympathizes” with other professors facing blank screens. Even so, he doesn’t require students to turn their cameras on in his class.

“Personally, I side with letting students make the decision that best for their particular set of circumstances,” he said.

Although he usually doesn’t see his students, engagement is still possible. Forming a connection beyond just lecturing at a screen is difficult, but if the students are “invested” then they will still form connections with the material, according to Zeigler-Hill, who earned his Ph.D. in psychology.

“The lectures tend to be much richer and dynamic when students are really invested and asking good questions,” Zeigler-Hill said.

Ultimately, many students are not choosing to take online courses, this is just what’s available right now. Despite shifting some courses in person, roughly 65% of class at OU is still conducted online.

“I think the current situation is certainly not a perfect one ... If students don’t feel comfortable turning their cameras on for whatever reason, I think we should respect that,” he said.

In the future if students choose online class, a camera requirement seems reasonable to Zeigler-Hill, but online class is the only option for many OU courses right now.

Learning at home can pose an array of distractions: roommates, family, household chores, chat rooms, social media, etc. Turning a camera on is another distraction for many classes that require cameras.

Depending on the video platform, many calls show your own camera view when it’s on.

Many people naturally don’t like seeing visuals of themselves, and the camera feature can turn into another distraction. People will often critique their appearance to perform for the camera.

“We don’t really want students overly focused on looking at their own image: thinking about their hairstyles, weight loss or whatever else may be going through people’s heads,” Zeigler-Hill said.

Aside from distractions, some students may not be comfortable showing their background on a classroom call.

Considering a background before starting class or using a virtual background could be a solution though, according to Fortune. Now, appearance and surroundings affect perception of classmates and instructors.

What makes students and instructors feel most at home in their make-shift classrooms at home is individualized. Zeigler-Hill understands “both sides of the [camera] argument,” but because camera preferences are individualized, he’s decided to put the control in his students’ hands.

“For the moment, in the current situation we all find ourselves in, we should be as flexible as possible for students,” Zeigler-Hill said. “The environment that they find themselves in is already particularly unpleasant for learning.”

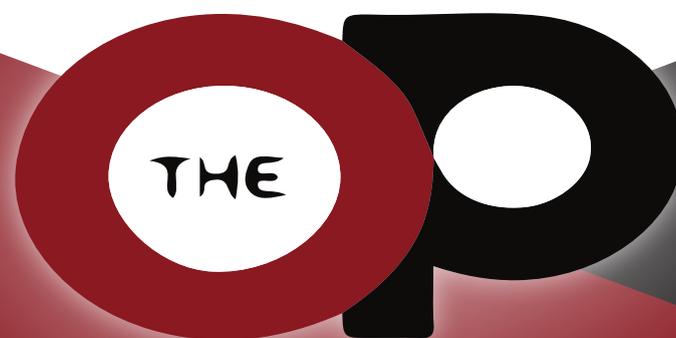
# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

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CONTACT: [EMORRIS@OAKLAND.EDU](mailto:EMORRIS@OAKLAND.EDU)

OPINION

GRIZZLIES  
PROTECT  
GRIZZLIES

Cumulative on-campus positive cases since January 2nd:

45

Faculty or staff:

4

Students not living in OU Housing:

20

Students living in OU Housing:

21

On-campus isolation rooms occupied

2/110

All information is from OU COVID Public Dashboard

‘Locked Down’ should have been locked away

BRIDGET JANIS  
Staff Reporter

COVID-19 themed movies are coming, and they are coming quick. “Locked Down,” an HBO Max original film, was so focused on stereotypical pandemic activities that it forgot to have a good plot.

The movie came out Jan. 14, and it would have been fine if it hadn’t come out at all.

The film begins just as the main couple, Linda (Anne Hathaway) and Paxton (Chiwetel Ejiofor) decide to break up. Unfortunately for them, a lock down in London has started and they end up stuck at home together.

The movie contains all the classic stereotypical pandemic lockdown behavior we all know — the zoom calls, working in your pajamas, sitting on the couch and getting cozy while drinking a little too much wine.

In the film, Linda was known for being a heartless person. She was always the one appointed to firing employees because she had no emotions behind doing so. Paxton was passionate and hardworking, giving motivational speeches outside for their neighbors to hear and always doing his best to make ends meet.

Tight for cash, Paxton was going to sell his prized motorcycle — which held sentimental value — for the couple. Linda ended up secretly buying the motorcycle to give it back to Paxton in what was probably the most romantic interaction the couple had throughout the whole film.

The couple soon turn to crime, deciding to team up one last time to steal a diamond from Harrod’s jewelry store. This section of the film is the only part of

the movie outside of the house. During this section we see the mask wearing and social distancing that we’ve all become accustomed to.

The film was advertised as a heist film, but didn’t exactly live up to that potential. The stealing of the diamond was such a small part of the plot, it didn’t produce the big climax I was expecting.

They could have focused less on various aspects of the pandemic and more on the heist. The details of stealing the diamond were lacking — to say the least. Making the planning of the heist a bigger part of the dialogue would have helped the film a lot.

The characters in “Locked Down” were also bland. Conversations between the two lead actors were boring. The script needed more gripping material, I almost fell asleep with how lackluster the whole film was.

Honestly this movie gave me “Marriage Story” vibes, it was like the pandemic version of that Netflix original Noah Baumbach film. This was especially evident in one scene early on in the film where the couple is fighting. That moment felt heavily influenced by the highly-memeable Adam Driver punching drywall scene in “Marriage Story.”

Going into it, I thought it would be an interesting watch that would at least hold my interest, sadly that was not the case. With the film having a run time of about two hours, it was just too much of not enough. That same boring plot definitely could have come across in a shorter amount of time.

Rating: 1/5 Stars



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCREEN RANT

“Locked Down,” starring Anne Hathaway and Chiwetel Ejiofor, came out on Jan. 14 and is only available on HBO Max.

## Patience is a virtue, Lions fans

**MATTHEW SCHEIDEL**  
Staff Reporter

After the failed “Patriot Way” experiment, the Detroit Lions have brought in a new regime to try to right the ship.

On Jan. 14, the team announced they had hired Brad Holmes to be their next general manager. Holmes was previously the director of college scouting for the Los Angeles Rams.

The team announced on Jan. 20 that Dan Campbell would be their next head coach. Campbell was previously the tight ends coach and assistant head coach for the New Orleans Saints.

Holmes and Campbell replace Bob Quinn and Matt Patricia, respectively. Holmes has played a big role in the turnaround that the Rams have seen in the last four seasons. Most people think it was all the work of head coach Sean McVay and GM Les Snead, but Holmes played a much bigger role than everyone realizes.

The Rams haven’t had a first-round pick in the NFL Draft since 2016, when they selected quarterback Jared Goff first overall. Since then, most of their first-round picks have been traded for star players — like when they traded for defensive back Jalen Ramsey in 2018.

Most people saw that move in particular as an all-in move for the franchise. That was indeed the case, but wasn’t the only reason they made that move.

They had that much faith in their college scouting department — led by Holmes.

The Rams believed that Holmes and his guys would draft premiere talent in the middle rounds of the draft and for the most part, they were right. Listening to this podcast from Pride of Detroit provides more in-depth information on Holmes.

As for Campbell, there isn’t much to discuss about him. He actually played tight end for the Lions from 2006-2008, so he has a history with the team.

He was also the interim head coach for the Miami Dolphins in 2015. The Dolphins

fired head coach Joe Philbin after a 1-3 start, then Campbell took over and led the team to a 5-7 record in their final 12 games.

Campbell has been praised for his leadership abilities, something the Lions organization stressed when looking for their next head coach. Matt Patricia was ... whatever the opposite of a leader is.

It’s hard to tell how good of a head coach Campbell will be due to his lack of experience. His success will depend greatly on who he hires as his coordinators.

It has been reported as of Jan. 21 that he will bring in Saints’ secondary coach Aaron Glenn as his defensive coordinator — that would be a good start.

Campbell — a very fiery individual — said during his introductory press conference that his team is going to “bite a kneecap off.” Who wouldn’t want to run through a wall for this guy?

The more that comes out about Holmes, the harder it becomes to not like this hire. He showcased so much personality during his introductory press conference — it was a welcomed sight. There was also a report that stated Holmes had “bold plans” for the roster. What exactly those plans entail, only time will tell.

That’s the thing with both of these hires — they are both first-timers at their positions. It’s hard to have any expectations for them due to how little is known about them.

So a word of advice, Lions’ fans: keep your expectations low.

I realize neither of these guys were at the top of any fans’ list — most fans wanted now New York Jets’ head coach Robert Saleh for the same position. There was a lot of love for Indianapolis Colts’ assistant GM Ed Dodds for the GM position.

It’s easy to be frustrated about both of these hires. But it’s time to ask for something that is difficult to ask of Lions’ fans: patience.

Will this new regime work out for the Lions? We’ll have to wait and see.

## Macomb County gets \$4.1M for businesses from the state



**AUTUMN PAGE**  
Staff Reporter

Macomb County has received \$4.1 million for businesses from the state and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation through the Michigan Small Business Survival Grant Program.

I previously spoke to Carey Denha, the owner of The Magic Bag and CEO of Tangerine Moon Productions, where we discussed how businesses were struggling financially because of COVID-19.

Artists were spreading awareness about the National Independent Venue Association (NIVA) initiative, a group that is lobbying congress on behalf of all the independent music venues throughout the nation, and two bills that were in the works that could help these venues.

The #SaveMIstages relief was trending, and going online to savemistages.com and emailing local elected officials or texting “Go SaveMIstages” to 50409 to send a letter to Governor Whitmer were recommended. The Save Our Stages bill and The Restart Act — which go in hand with The Heroes Act — provided relief to independent and small companies. You can read the full story here.

It was announced that the \$4.1 million would be given to business as grants. It prioritizes brick and mortar businesses like restaurants, bars, banquet centers, gyms, entertainment venues and recreational buildings.

While it’s not a perfect solution, I’m glad that there’s finally something to help businesses like Denha’s.

Businesses that suffered after COVID-19 virus emergency orders were informed in November and December by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services that they can apply for grants from 9 a.m. Tuesday through noon Friday.

The requirements for the businesses who qualify are:

- The business is a for-profit business or nonprofit business. The business had 1-100 employees (including full-time, part-time and owner-employees) worldwide on November 17, 2020.

- The business is in an industry that can demonstrate being affected by the emergency orders and the business needs working capital to support payroll expenses, rent, mortgage payments, utility expenses or other similar expenses.

- The business has showed an income loss because of the emergency orders as determined by the EDO in which an eligible business is located and the business is not a live music and entertainment venue that is eligible for funds under PA 257 of 2020 Section 401.

These requirements worry me a bit. We’ve been in this pandemic for almost a year now, some businesses might struggle to meet these requirements.

I’m not saying to lessen the requirements, because then these grants might be given to businesses that don’t need it as much as another one, but it might be hurtful to some businesses that need it.

The grants can be used for payroll, rent, mortgage payments, utilities and other expenses, according to Vicky Rowinski, director of Macomb County Planning and Economic Development.

Macomb Executive Mark Hackel said the county will do what it takes to get businesses “back on their feet.”

“Our goal with this new grant is to target industries that have been hit the hardest by shutdowns and orders,” he said.

I’m hoping that this is the first step towards a new normal that doesn’t involve a hurting economy, hurting the job market and wearing masks in public.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AP  
Lions new head coach Dan Campbell at his introductory press conference.

## SPORTS

# Men's soccer looks forward to February return

**ANDREW BERNSDORF**

*Staff Reporter*

Head Coach Eric Pogue and the Oakland University men's soccer team are looking forward to getting back into competition after a long break.

"We are super excited to get back on the field," Pogue said. "After a 15-month layoff, the guys are excited to play someone other than ourselves."

In the 2019 season, the team finished with a 7-9-3 overall record and advanced to the Horizon League Tournament with a 4-2-2 conference mark.

The spring 2021 season will be a season unlike any other — the men's team will not play any non-conference games, sticking strictly to Horizon League teams. The team will also only be playing one game a week compared to two to three in previous seasons.

"We only have one game a week because we have to take five days in between games," Pogue said. "Usually, we play every two to four days. The good thing is that we get to practice a lot more (on those days off)."

The location of the games will be a lot different this season compared to past seasons, as Pogue mentioned.

Most of the games will be played in an indoor bubble due to unpredictable weather — six out of OU's 10 games will be played in an indoor bubble. Fortunately, OU has an indoor bubble on campus where the team can host games.

Although the season will look a lot different than past



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS  
Head Coach Eric Pogue said he is proud of his team for persevering through an unprecedented time.

seasons, Pogue expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to play.

"There's no precedent for this," Pogue said. "It's new for the players, coaches, administrators and referees — but we are going to be thankful to just get some games in."

During these unprecedented times, Pogue reminds his team of the core values they share: positivity and optimism.

Pogue said everyone is dealing with the same situation and someone is going to win with it. He believes his team

has the capability to persevere through these challenges.

Throughout this season's obstacles, Pogue is relying on his seniors and team leaders to keep the team moving forward.

"The seniors are going to be the ones that make this season go," Pogue said.

The men's team has four seniors this year: Noah Jensen, Dylan Borczak, Charlie Braithwaite, and transfer Remco Gielen. Pogue expects these seniors to step up and lead the team into the unprecedented season.

A bright spot for the men's team is their newcomers. In 2020, OU had the 22nd best recruiting class in the country. Pogue explains that with the senior leadership and talented recruiting class, the team is set up for success.

Despite challenges, Pogue is looking forward to just being able to compete and play.

"I am looking forward to competing to win championships," Pogue said. "We are two weeks away from seeing the fruits of their labor. I am also looking forward to just getting back on the field, putting the uniforms back on and having the referee blow the whistle."

Pogue also expresses his gratitude for how the team persevered through these challenging times.

"I am also really proud of our guys as a group, and how they have rallied behind this tough hand that got dealt to them — they have been able to persevere through these past 15 months," Pogue said.

Oakland's 15-month break ends on Feb. 4, 2021 when they take on Robert Morris University.

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## SPORTS

# Women's basketball wins fourth straight vs. IPFW

**MICHAEL PEARCE**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

On a three game win streak, the women's basketball team looked to improve upon their 7-4 conference record against the Purdue University Fort Wayne Mastodons on Saturday, Jan. 23.

On the second day of the back-to-back format, the Golden Grizzlies once again pulled away in the fourth quarter, defeating the Mastodons 73-61 on the strength of Kahlajah Dean's near triple-double.

In the first game of the series against the Horizon League newcomers, the Golden Grizzlies pulled away late to win a low-scoring game, 58-49. Dean led the way for Oakland with 14 points, 12 rebounds and six assists.

"She willed us to win this weekend," Head Coach Jeff Tungate said. "A lot of times you see players take over and they only do it from a scoring aspect, but she does it not just with scoring — she gets her teammates involved as well."

That win was their seventh in the Horizon League, exceeding their conference win total from the entire 2019-2020 season.

Turnovers and second chance buckets plagued the Golden Grizzlies' first quarter on Saturday. Despite being 0-11 in the conference, the Mastodons came out of the gate strong, grabbing seemingly every rebound.

After the first quarter the Mastodons had a 19-12 lead and a 10-4 rebound advantage, with four offensive rebounds. Autumn Kissman and Breanne Beatty led the way for Oakland in the first with four points each.

An arena clock error with four minutes remaining forced an almost 20-minute timeout for both sides. Purdue Fort Wayne led by nine, but in the following four minutes after the lengthy break, Oakland hit four of their last six shots.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS  
Head Coach Jeff Tungate said Dean "willed the team" to win in the weekend series vs. the Mastodons.

"Unfortunately with technology, those things can happen at any time," Tungate said. "I do think there was a chance for us to kind of just regroup, calm ourselves down and realize that we had to get back to playing the way we're capable of. Our players did a really good job of regrouping and coming back out."

The difference in the first half was the 3-pointer. Oakland missed all five of their threes in the first half, while the Mastodons hit 6-11 of their 3-pointers. The Golden Grizzlies cut the deficit to six before the halftime buzzer sounded, trailing 34-28.

"In the first half we didn't do a good job of matching Fort Wayne's intensity," Tungate said. "But it's a great sign that our team can win those games and find a way to win."

Both teams battled back-and-forth throughout the third quarter, with Purdue Fort Wayne steadily maintaining their lead. After a media timeout with about four minutes remaining, Oakland started pressing more and getting transition looks, clawing their way back. The bench was energized after halftime, and the rest of the team turned up the intensity to match it.

Over a 49-second span, Oakland turned an eight-point deficit into just two. Dean led the way with six points and three assists in the third, including a game-tying layup as the third quarter ended. She would finish the game with 21 points, seven rebounds and 12 assists.

With the score tied, the fourth quarter brought 10 non-stop minutes of intense basketball. The energy the Golden Grizzlies came out of halftime with carried over, outsourcing the Mastodons 27-15 in the fourth.

From the start of the fourth, Oakland controlled the pace and never gave the lead back. A 17-3 run over a six minute span proved to be the difference in Oakland's eighth win of the season.

Dean and Chloe Guingrich put the team on their backs offensively to complement the team's defensive effort in the final ten minutes. The duo scored 18 points combined in the fourth.

The Golden Grizzlies next game will be in Cleveland on Friday, Jan. 29 against the Cleveland State University Vikings, who currently sit at 3-9 in Horizon League play.

The next home series for the Golden Grizzlies will begin Feb. 5 against another newcomer to the Horizon, Robert Morris University.

"We've got a key four weeks left in the season to hopefully position ourselves to host a quarterfinal game," Tungate said.

## OU athletic training staff adapt to COVID-19 protocol

*Trainers make changes to protect student-athletes*

**ANDREW BERNSDORF**  
*Staff Reporter*

As the pandemic continues through the country, the Oakland University athletic training staff is preparing the athletic department to start up seasons again with extra steps, ensuring athletes are safe.

Athletic trainers play an important role in making sure teams stay healthy and fit. Trainers at OU attend almost every team's practice and ensure student athletes stay safe and get the help they need.

Since March 2020, the U.S. has had a total of 24.5 million COVID-19 cases. Oakland county has a total of 68,244 cases.

Considering these numbers, the OU athletic training staff has made a number of changes to keep athletes safe. Alex Dailey, a member of the athletic training

staff at OU, said the staff has made serious changes to their normal routine.

"The biggest changes each athletic trainer has had to adjust to is the number of individuals in the athletic training room (ATR) at once and the amount of time each student athlete is allowed in the ATR: [no more than 15 minutes]," Dailey said.

Other changes that disrupt the normal routine of the training room include no communal water bottles or coolers, protection required to treat patients (gloves, goggles, masks, etc.) and the extra cleaning to ensure the ATR operates at peak efficiency.

With all the changes come challenges, the athletic training staff has also faced challenges keeping their operations running smoothly.

"One of the biggest challenges involves

rehabilitation and the precautions needed to treat each patient safely and effectively," Dailey said. "Precautions for rehabilitation and treatment include wearing gloves, wearing masks [N-95 and cloth mask overtop], wearing safety goggles, ensuring adequate space for the type and time for rehabilitation and the limited amount of time for hands-on treatment."

Despite these challenges, the athletic training staff has found positives..

Dailey says the limited amount of patients flowing in and out of the ATR allow the training staff to share more one-on-one time with their patients. Developing a schedule and routine helps the athletic training staff continue to deal with these challenges and move forward.

"Moving forward, having an organized schedule for treatments and rehabilitation

is helpful so that the ATR does not have too many patients at once," Dailey said. "That way, rehabilitation and care can remain focused on the patient rather than having the distraction of multiple patients requiring attention from the same athletic trainer."

Now, as the COVID-19 vaccine rolls out, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Despite recent surges, the state and university have implemented changes to control the spread of COVID-19 — there are definitely changes to anticipate.

"The biggest area to look forward to would include competing and striving for championships again," Dailey said. "Athletic trainers strive to make an impact on their student athletes so they can provide a safe environment to compete in."

## Men's basketball splits series with Detroit, ending four-year streak



SOPHIE HUME

The men's basketball team lost their first game to Detroit in four years on Saturday.

### MICHAEL PEARCE Editor-in-Chief

After four years without a loss to their cross-town rival, the men's basketball team finally had their over 1000-day streak broken.

The last time Detroit Mercy (UDM) beat OU — Jan. 17, 2017 — no current player was on the roster. Any senior on the team would either have been a senior in high school or a redshirt freshman in their college career.

Finally, Head Coach Greg Kampe's recent dominance over UDM came to an end, as Oakland split their home series against the Titans this past weekend.

"They've got two elite players, and they've got pieces," Kampe told GrizzVision. "To sit there and think you're going to beat someone four times in a season — it's not going to be easy. I think we were the ones that had the pressure on us, and we were the ones with our backs against the wall."

The first game of the series on Friday, Jan. 22 was another win for OU. Multiple records were broken in a high-scoring, close game.

Zion Young set the record for the most consecutive 3-pointers made in Golden Grizzlies history, hitting 9-9 of his shots from deep, for a total of 28 points.

Jalen Moore also recorded a triple-double, the first player to do so since Kay Felder in 2016. Moore grew up idolizing Felder, and now joins him in the OU record books.

On Friday, the Golden Grizzlies were hitting most of their shots. The team shot 53% from three and 51% of their total shots.

They also got to the foul line more than

the Titans, despite only hitting 65% of their free throws.

A lot of this production came early, as Oakland took a 48-23 halftime lead. In the second half, the Titans fought back and made it a close game, but the first half lead proved to be insurmountable, and OU held on.

The 86-81 victory was the 10th in a row for Oakland over UDM. The next day, the Titans would come out stronger than they had in the first game.

In Saturday's game, the Golden Grizzlies had the same second half struggles, but didn't have the cushion of a 25-point halftime lead. The Titans came out hotter than they had the day before, and the first half wrapped up with Detroit on top, 37-34.

Rashad Williams scored 24, and Moore scored 23 and added 11 assists. Young and Micah Parrish also chipped in on the boards, grabbing a team-high eight rebounds each.

After scoring 30 points in Friday's game, Antoine Davis of Detroit dropped another 27 en route to the first win against OU in his career. Davis and his father, Head Coach Mike Davis, are now 1-7 against OU.

The 82-72 loss put the Golden Grizzlies at 6-6 in the Horizon League. Despite losing for the first time since 2017, Kampe was proud of his team.

"I'm really proud of my kids, I'm proud of the way we battled," Kampe told GrizzVision. "It didn't go our way tonight."

Next up for Kampe and the team is a road series against the Purdue Fort Wayne Mastodons on Friday, Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 30 at 5 p.m.

## Alex Underwood utilizes love of sports in new role

### MATTHEW SCHEIDEL Staff Reporter

Alex Underwood has been a sports fan his entire life. Ask anyone who knows him, and they'll say sports are his biggest obsession.

"I'm a big Cleveland sports fan," Underwood said. "I grew up in Northeast Ohio — this Browns' season was one for the ages, especially for me. People who know me, they pretty much know that I'm obsessed with sports."

Underwood was recently hired by Oakland University Athletics as the coordinator of athletic communications. Senior Assistant Athletic Director for Communications, Maria Rivera, said in a press release she was "very excited" to welcome Underwood to the OU Athletics family.

"During the interview process, I knew Alex would be a great fit to our team," Rivera said. "He will be instrumental in our continued efforts in pushing innovation on the department's digital platforms and providing outstanding sport coverage to the department and the student-athletes."

According to the press release, Underwood spent the last two years as a graduate assistant in the athletic communications department at Southern Illinois University (SIU), assisting with coverage for all 15 Division I programs at SIU. He said he gained many skills at SIU that will help him be successful in his new position.

"It was a great opportunity to learn the ins-and-outs of pretty much everything from graphic design, to videography, photography and website management," Underwood said. "That's where you learn every single aspect of sports information that prepares you for the next level."

While he was at SIU, Underwood

served as the primary contact for men's and women's swimming and diving and men's golf, while also providing secondary support for baseball, football and softball.

Additionally, he helped build content and social media campaigns for all social platforms and was responsible for creating and posting content to the Southern Illinois University Athletics site, including press releases, game previews and recaps, game notes, videos, photo galleries and statistics.

"The thing about schools like Oakland and Southern Illinois is that even though they're a mid major, they treat [the job] like they're a power five school," Underwood said. "They treat it just like how Michigan would, or Michigan State or Ohio State. So even though you don't have as many resources at times, or as much of a budget with things, you still try and achieve the same level that a power five [school] would."

Underwood said while his favorite sport to play was football, his favorite sport to follow is baseball.

"[I loved] the competitive aspect of [football]," Underwood said. "My uncle was the head baseball coach at Mount Union, which is where I went to college as well. So, I was constantly going to his games and helping out on pro games or anything like that so it was always important when I was growing up. I interned with a few baseball teams which I really enjoyed. I know some people think baseball is boring, but I could watch it every day of the year."

Prior to his time at SIU, Underwood earned a bachelor's degree in sport business from the University of Mount Union in 2018, where he also spent three years as a sports information assistant. In May 2020, Underwood graduated with a master's degree in sports studies from SIU.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS

Underwood is a self-described "obsessed" sports fan. For the past two years, he worked as a graduate assistant at Southern Illinois University, assisting with sports coverage.

## Eat the rich — “respectfully”



PHOTO COURTESY OF FINE ART AMERICA

### AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

Many Americans struggle with making ends meet because of layoffs because of COVID-19, but fear not, dear reader, the top 20% have only gained from it.

Bloomberg recently released an article called “Americans Are Getting Richer, Helped By Federal Reserve Policies in Pandemic,” and it just made me respect the entire top 20%.

I know I’m a notorious pessimist and often asked, “why don’t you write about anything positive?”

Well, here you go, here’s a positive why I respect the top 20%.

#### They’re up-to-date on the current stock market

Not to sound like Chad, the business major who’s only personality trait is talking about stocks, but if you’re able to understand and learn the stock market — praise to you. Risk-taking with money sounds like the 9th circle of hell to me, but go you, Chad.

#### They are able to cheat the system and refinance their mortgages

I know I’m not the only one who only has a vague idea of what a mortgage is, even though it’s been explained to me more times than I can count — so immediate respect to them.

What me and my pea brain have been able to gather, a mortgage is an agreement between the buyer and a lender that gives the lender the right to take your property if you, as the buyer cannot repay the money you’ve borrowed plus interest. I hate capitalism.

With COVID-19, the rates of mortgages have gone down and the top 20% would take advantage of this. Essentially, they’re paying less for their \$500,000 house, which calls me poor in seven different languages.

#### They have the privilege of good credit scores

I know people my age and younger know nothing about credit scores or mortgages because the school system fails each and every one of us, but the top 20% have better education and have the knowledge that we don’t have. Of course they have the privilege to have a good or great credit score, since they’re rich.

I want to be rich.

#### They make over \$60,000 a year

I will never relate to this because I’m going into a “dying and underpaid field.” Thanks mom.

The top 20% are probably in either the engineering, medical or law fields. This number is probably a modest number to, like right out of college with no college debt.

I’m crying in student loan debt and minimum wage.

#### They have the ability to move around funds

The top 20% probably has a financial advisor to do this for them. But having enough money to freely move money from different saving accounts, checking accounts, and investment apps is a different type of privilege.

So is knowing how to invest, but that’s America’s school system failing us.

I will leave you, my lovely reader, with two notes.

Peter Atwater, an adjunct professor at William & Mary who popularized the notion of a ‘K-shaped’ recovery to describe the stark split in economic fortunes, says in the Bloomberg article, “There has probably not been a better time to be wealthy in America than today, so much of what policy makers did was to enable those that were wealthiest to rebound fastest from the pandemic.”

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