

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Rochester, Michigan

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“OU Outside the Box” arts festival

Varner Hall introduces new stage for performances April through June *Pages 4*



ALUM ADVANTAGES

Alumni still offered many resources, including discounts

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MORE MINORS

New health communication, Deaf studies minors added in fall

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ACCEPTING STUTTERS

Journalist Sharon Emery embraces stutter, expects more from audience

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THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



WATCH YOUR STEP Oakland Baseball faces the University of Milwaukee Panthers, as Brandon Deans prepares to pitch with a runner on first. The baseball team dropped 3/4 of those games against the Panthers, including a 14-13 loss. **MAGGIE WILLARD / PHOTOGRAPHER**

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SMTD to host outdoor concert

series April through June.

Photo/Noora Neiroukh

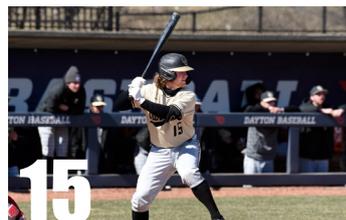


12 PUSHING BUTTONS

'Godzilla vs Kong' scratches the itch

for destruction.

Photo/Indiewire



15 IT'S MILLER TIME

Jared Miller looks to make mental

improvements during the season.

Photo/OU Athletics

VOTE AND CONNECT AT:
oaklandpostonline.com

POLL OF THE WEEK

COVID-19 VACCINATION CHECK! WHO'S VACCINATED?

A) I'M VACCINATED

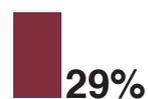
B) NOT YET

C) I DON'T PLAN ON IT

D) MY APPOINTMENTS ARE SCHEDULED

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

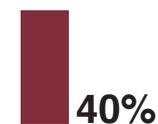
WHAT IS THE NICEST SPOT TO ENJOY SPRING ON CAMPUS?



A) THE CLOCK TOWER



B) THE NATURE PRESERVES



C) BEAR LAKE



D) MEADOW BROOK HALL

The advantages of being OU alumni

CAYLA SMITH
Campus Editor

Graduation is merely a month away for the class of 2021, and students turned alumni will find they still have access to OU services and gain some benefits upon graduation.

Career Services

Alumni will still have full access to career services. This includes one-on-one appointments with career consultants, where you can go over resumes and cover letters, practice interviewing or advice on searching for a job.

Handshake is also available with career related resources and job listings available.

Benefits and Discounts

After graduating, all alumni automatically become members of the OU Alumni Association at no cost — and can take advantage of the benefits and discounts.

Two dollars off the group ticket price on tickets purchased in advance from Meadow Brook Theatre Group Sales Office.

There is a discount on basketball season tickets through the Department of Athletics at Oakland University.

At Meadow Brook Hall, OU alumni and one guest receive \$10 admission for general tours, \$5 off special events (excluding Holiday Walk) and 10% off of museum rental. Visit Meadow Brook

Hall website or call (248) 364-6200 for more details.

Bask in your OU pride by purchasing a license plate, and for every plate purchased, OU receives \$25 and \$10 for plate renewals. Purchase your license plate on the Secretary of State website.

OUCU Affinity Card, cardholders receive no annual fee, worldwide cash access, great online services and a low interest rate. Alumni are also eligible for memberships at the Oakland University Branch of the Federal Credit Union, where they have access to competitive rates on saving accounts, checking services, mortgage and loan services.

There is a 10% discount on a Friends and Family membership at the Oakland University Art Gallery.

Oakland University Alumni Association members can get 10 percent off of non-textbook items at the Barnes and Noble at Oakland University Bookstore in store or online.

Kresge Library borrowing privileges include access to the library website and the online catalog is available to everyone remotely. E-journals, e-books and research databases are available on computers within the library.

University Recreation and Well-Being Center memberships are available to alumni looking to remain active.

Oakland University PACE provides a 10 percent discount to OU alumni, faculty and staff on the Project Management Principles certificate course.

Literature to Film Book Club members read the monthly book before watching the movie as a group, and this is followed by discussions on themes, details and fidelity to the book.

Church Hill Classics Diploma Frames are custom-made to specifically fit OU diplomas.

Golden Grizzlies Getaways is a travel program exclusively for OU alumni. Enjoy the company of alumni with a knack for travelling.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are volunteer opportunities for alumni across campus starting with the Alumni Admissions Ambassador Program, Creating American International, Relationships Program, Commencement, Commencement Fair, English Department Alumni Mentoring Program and Golf Outing.

The Black Alumni Chapter is an unincorporated, non-profit, volunteer-based chapter of the Oakland University Alumni Association. Its purpose is to enrich and engage the lives of African American alumni, students and friends to promote Oakland University and promote a culture that advances diversity, equity and inclusion.

Young Alumni Chapter is an unincorporated, non-profit, volunteer-based chapter of the Oakland University Alumni Association. This chapter inspires young alumni to be lifelong Golden Grizzlies through engagement, community involvement, recognition



EMILY MORRIS | MANAGING EDITOR
A car sits at the fall 2020 graduation. Alumni have benefits after graduating.

activities and OU pride.

Oakland University Alumni Association Board of Directors (OUAA) serves to promote and advance Oakland University, and the board helps shape the future of alumni engagement at OU and strives to represent the entire OU alumni community.

Leadership OU is a program for undergraduate juniors and seniors. The program provides leadership, mentoring and networking opportunities for these students who are placed with successful alumni.

Walking across the stage, or attending a virtual commencement ceremony doesn't have to be the end of your time at Oakland.

THE **OP**

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SMTD to host outdoor events from April-June

AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

The School of Music, Theatre and Dance (SMTD) will host a series of outdoor events from April through June called “OU Outside the Box” performing arts festival.

It will run April 5 through June 27, 2021, and it will feature performances by SMTD students, artists-in-residence and faculty. For students in the SMTD, it’s important for them and their learning experience to perform with others.

“We found that it [COVID-19 shutdown] created a big hole in our students’ education in all areas. While they are training to be performers and in the training to perform, the most important part for them to work on in school is to perform together,” Kerro Knox, associate director of SMTD, said.

Due to the success of the previous outdoor performances held by the SMTD and the looser restrictions outdoors, the festival was approved.

“Our students are eager to perform and our audiences are hungry to see anything alive,” he said.

The performances will take place on an 82-foot stage outside between Varner Hall and Elliot Hall.

“It’s [the stage] almost twice as big as our indoor stages so we can separate people,” Knox, said. “Musicians that can, will perform with masks and stay six feet apart. The percussionists and string players, we’ll try to keep them nine to 10 feet apart.”



NOORA NEIROUKH | PHOTOGRAPHER

The stage where “OU Outside the Box” will be performed.

Performance sizes have been lowered and things on staged will be spaced so the performers stay a safe distance away from each other.

“For instance, the play we’re doing is an upbeat classical slapstick comedy. So somebody slaps somebody, six to nine feet away, and reacts to it – it becomes a part of the audience’s experience of that everyone is staying apart, but still able to relate to each other,” Knox said.

These performances have been in the works for the pre-

vious years. This season’s performances include some that were scheduled for last year, but were cancelled due to COVID-19.

“The musical we’re doing was originally supposed to be in November, and we actually cancelled the April musical and moved the musical from November because it was already cast and we began working on it,” he said.

Knox said that if he had to choose a specific theme to give these performances, it’d be the reaction of students to what they had to do.

“There are definitely some [dance performances] that feel like they are commenting on the pandemic and the shutdowns,” he said.

This festival is unlike any other set of productions held by the school.

“Normally, we wouldn’t have some of these performances and they would’ve been stretched out throughout the whole semester,” Knox said.

The festival features a variety of performances from every area of the school.

It includes several performances from different band ensembles and different dances classes like Choreography II, senior dance concert and the Young Choreographer’s Forum — where OU’s dance majors present their work.

Theatre has several events throughout the duration of the festival. All events require advanced ticket purchase/reservation.

For more information, visit the SMTD website.

Annual SPB drive-in kicks off Friday, April 9

RACHEL YIM

Staff Reporter

As a fun way of entertaining and encouraging student engagement with on-campus activities, the Student Program Board (SPB) at Oakland University’s annual drive-in movie event will take place on April 9th.

Unlike the past drive-in movie nights, this year’s is expected to be different due to COVID-19. In this era of social distancing, SPB has worked to ensure a seamless and safe experience for everyone, and has found a way of indulging in entertainment while also remaining socially distant in their own automobiles.

They are limiting the attendance to 300 people and requiring everyone to remain in their vehicles at all times to adhere with the safety guidelines.

“Drive-in is a perfect Covid friendly event,” Kristyn Franzel, SPB annual events director, said. “Students are able to attend an entertaining retro evening without having the worry of spreading the virus to others. In a typical year, students are allowed to sit outside in front of the screen. This would be unsafe to do this year, so students will have to stay in their vehicles at all times.”

This year, the SPB is presenting “Knives Out,” a murder mystery movie that can keep the audience on their toes the entire time. Starring Daniel Craig, Chris Evans and Ana de Armas, this movie follows a master

detective investigating a wealthy, dysfunctional family, according to IMDb.com.

Kristyn Franzel, annual events director for the SPB, hopes that the movie will provide the students the thrills and excitement. The planning process of the movie night was not easy, however.

With the difficulty COVID-19 has brought to the community, program/events directors have struggled to host on-campus events. From planning, contacting vendors, organizing to executing the event, there have been undoubtedly many challenges along the way. Despite the difficulties, Franzel expressed her enthusiasm toward this event.

“Our goal is to provide entertaining, fun events all year round on campus,” Franzel said. “This year, it has been hard to host any events that were not virtual which is why we are so excited to host the Drive In again. We hope that attendees can leave the evening feeling a little less zoom fatigued and a little more excited about campus life. We’re looking forward to seeing students safely attending an event on campus. We also hope it provides a great break from all of the studying going on at this time.”

Despite strict regulations and guidelines including attendees being required to social distance and limitation of the number of attendees, the movie night will provide students a much-demanded break from school.

Seats are limited due to the guidelines; however, students can register for the event on GrizzOrgs for



SOPHIE HUME | PHOTO EDITOR

SPB’s fall drive-in, where they showed “Hocus Pocus.”

guaranteed attendance. For more information about the event, visit GrizzOrgs or SPB’s official FaceBook page.

Local governments and environmental cleanup

JESSICA ORLANDO
Staff Reporter

Collaboration between local governments and federal agencies is crucial when it comes to dealing with disaster relief and environmental catastrophes. Oakland University's MPA program hosted a webinar on Tuesday, March 30 to talk about the inner workings of city government when it comes to environmental cleanups.

The webinar featured special guest Melissa Marsh who has worked in city government for over 23 years. Many of those years consisted of her working in Madison Heights as Deputy City Manager, Human Resources Director and Finance Director.

Currently, Marsh serves as the City Manager of Madison Heights and has created a successful charter millage proposal stabilizing the city's finances. She serves on the Board of Directors and the Professional Development Committee for the Michigan Municipal Executive Association.

Marsh showcased her work as a City Manager as well as local government as a whole through the management of the environmental disaster known as the "green ooze" on I-696.

"We dealt with this by using collaboration because Madison Heights as a city and most cities in Michigan do not have the expertise or the skills or the finances to deal with something like this," Marsh said.

The toxic waste was coming from a contaminated



PHOTO COURTESY OF C&G NEWSPAPERS
Melissa Marsh, City Manager of Madison Heights.

industrial electroplating site that is not far from I-696 and due to its inactivity as well as improper storage of chemicals, waste made its way to the interstate.

"We immediately had to call upon all of our partners in the Michigan EAGLE and the EPA as well as the state police," Marsh said. "We really banded together to address this public threat."

Notably, Marsh mentioned that the connections she had

made between local government and agencies had allowed a smooth operation that was efficient.

"Because of our relationships with the people at the EPA and EAGLE, they constantly kept us in the loop on what was going on and they talked to us before the news media which is critical," Marsh said.

Marsh was also able to testify in front of the Michigan House Committee on behalf of the City of Madison Heights as a result of her relationship with the Michigan legislature.

"This opportunity paved the way for Madison Heights to get a grant, 600,000 dollars, to pay for the demolition of this site," Marsh said. "These are funds the city would not have otherwise."

Building relationships with other key members of local governments as well as federal agencies is critical when it comes to being prepared for disaster. Marsh explained that being thankful and showing gratitude is also a great way to build relationships that can further collaborative efforts when an emergency comes up unexpectedly.

"If you don't take the media's calls when they are trying to get a story, they are not going to take your calls when you are trying to get information out so it's definitely a two way street," Marsh said. "It didn't take anything for me to send her a thank you note and some flowers. Don't underestimate what it is to just say thank you, especially to these elected officials because they like to know they are helping and making a difference."

Slotkin, Dingell & Upton talk problem solvers caucus

DEAN VAGLIA
Staff Reporter

Civility was the word of the day at the Center for Civic Engagement's April 6 event "Defy the Divide: A Path to Civility."

U.S. House Representatives from Michigan – Elissa Slotkin, Debbie Dingell and Fred Upton – spoke with journalists and Civility Project founders Noah Finley and Stephen Henderson about the widening divide in Congress. Slotkin and Dingell, who are Democrats, and Upton, a Republican, are members of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus (PSC). The PSC aims to find common ground between Democrats and Republicans regarding key issues and has an equal number of members of either party.

"We have an absolute civility pledge that all of us take," Upton said. "With divided government, the only way you are going to get things done is to work together, have trust with each other, have common sense and try to move the ball forward. That is what this caucus is dedicated to."

While the PSC is dedicated to bridging the political gap, Henderson brought up the fact that each of the members are still members of political parties with their own partisan goals.

"I think when people look at something like a PSC the natural question is 'How far can this really go?'" Henderson asked. "How much can you really accomplish, because at some point your own party is going to yank your chain."

To Upton, voters care about more results than

doctrinal purity.

"[Voters] want the job done," he said. "They want you to listen. They want you to work with divided government."

Slotkin agreed with Upton's assessment of voter priorities.

"Of course there is pressure, you feel it every single day, but you just make sure people understand I do not vote because someone tells me to vote a certain way," she said. "You read the bills, you actually learn about what you are voting on and you are accountable to the people who elected you — not to your national leadership."

Finley took a particular curiosity in how the representatives handled pushback from their respective party leadership.

"At what point do [congressional leaders] jerk back and say 'You have got to fall in line with the partisan caucuses?'" Finley asked.

Dingell, who serves on several House committees and is a Senior Whip, made it clear that party leaders have only so much sway over her decisions.

"I have a reputation for saying exactly what I think [Democratic House leadership] need to hear, not what they want to hear," she said. "It does not mean my head is not decapitated at least once a week, but I am who I am. I say what I think and I think there needs to be more people that tell people what they think."

As for the other chamber of congress, Dingell is not optimistic about what removing the Senate's filibuster would do for reigniting civility.

"I have a lot of friends that are in the Senate — Republicans and Democrats — but people who are willing to sit at a table and talk with each other are leaving," she said. "Roy Blunt [Senator from Missouri]

is leaving the Senate because he talks about how toxic it has become."

Dingell and Upton spoke about how working in the Congress has become so dysfunctional, with members of opposing parties calling to adjourn sessions and adding unnecessary votes to extend the working day.

In regards to how the members of the Problem Solvers Caucus can expand their mission beyond legislation, Upton says members need to "go on the road." This means taking part in speaking events and getting the word out through the media.

"This is something the people are yearning for and they need to see us do it," Upton said.

Slotkin believes that members of the caucus need to use their positions as elected officials and bring people with opposing political goals together.

"This, to me, was really brought home frankly after the murder of George Floyd," she said. "I had different groups talking to me but they were not talking to each other. And because Zoom makes it a whole lot easier, we started bringing those communities together. I have actually done training on conflict resolution because there are so many disparate voices in my district."

Despite the best efforts of the caucus, civility is still stretched thin across the political world.

"I am very worried about what is going to happen in the 2022 election," Dingell said. "You need to really be aware of who you are electing in the 2022 election. If you want to see more unity, you want to see respect and civility and empathy for each other, then you need to demand that of the people you elect, no matter their party."

now HIRING: STUDENT STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The photographer is responsible for communicating with staff reporters on what stories need photos, attending events to shoot photos and sending them to the photo editor.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Shooting and uploading photos by the requested due date
- Attending weekly budget meetings
- Covering on-campus events when necessary
- Communicating with the photo editor effectively
- Communicating with staff reporters on their photo needs effectively
- Responding well to criticism

Position effective immediately. Interested applicants must send their resume, cover letter and work samples to:

**Editor-in-Chief Michael Pearce at editor@oaklandpostonline.com
Photo editor Sophie Hume at sophiahume@oakland.edu**

Health communication minor coming in the fall

GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH

Staff Reporter

In the fall of 2021, Oakland University will offer a new minor: health communication. An announcement posted on the OU Communication, Journalism and Public Relations Instagram page described the new minor as “an interdisciplinary minor that includes coursework in communication, public relations, journalism, health sciences and sociology.”

“It is considered a transdisciplinary area of study because it cuts across, not only the liberal arts, like communication or sociology, but it cuts across into the professional schools like health science,” Communication Program Director Dr. Robert Sidelinger said.

The liberal arts minor in health communication requires students complete a minimum of twenty-five credits, including two core courses, one foundational science or theory course, two elective courses in communication as well as other two courses students can select from listed under the minor in the 2021-2022 undergraduate catalog.

“When I created it [the minor], I wanted to include as many options across disciplines that made sense for a student taking the minor,” Sidelinger said. “I thought that would be more attractive to students who are interested in health.”

Sidelinger noted many students studying communication often enter internships or the workforce within the health industry. Students have worked

with hospital systems like Beaumont, as well as with nonprofit organizations like the American Lung Association and the Alzheimer’s Association.

“This minor basically adds value to what students were already doing themselves,” Sidelinger said.

This minor is for students interested in studying advanced communication in the health field. An extensive scientific background is not necessary. Students are prepared to work in professions that involve roles like handling internal and external communications for organizations like health systems and collaborating with medical experts to relay information to the public. This is completed via various communication strategies.

“These are large organizations that require and need a lot of different people with a lot of different types of expertise, besides the medical expertise,” Sidelinger said. “It’s for the people that are interested in health campaigns, health promotion, health awareness and the kind of the message creation behind those things.”

For over a year, COVID-19 has demanded the careful communication of public health information. Sidelinger stressed that while we’re all experiencing a global pandemic, now is the perfect time to begin studying health communication.

“I told my students for better or worse, you might be inundated with COVID-19 information already, but it’s the example that you can see all around us right now — we’re all affected by health issues,” Sidelinger said.

Introducing communication and Deaf studies minor for fall



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU COMJRNPR INSTAGRAM

The Oakland University Communication, Journalism and Public Relations Department announced the new communication and Deaf studies minor for fall 2021. There’s expected to be a lot of interest in the minor and related classes.

EMILY MORRIS

Managing Editor

After a year-long approval process, Oakland University will be introducing a communication and Deaf studies minor in the fall.

American Sign Language courses have been offered at OU for nearly 30 years, according to Dr. Robert Sidelinger, communication program director. However, Deaf culture and ASL courses have only recently become more accessible.

Increased focus on Deaf culture was made possible through the diversity and inclusion initiatives from this year such as the 2021 diversity challenge and President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz’s donation to better diversity.

In fact, ASL courses weren’t categorized as a language in OU’s academic catalog until 2018, according to Sidelinger. Instead, ASL courses only fulfilled general education requirements.

“There were some roadblocks, and after 30 years, the classes were under the language requirement, [instead],” he said.

Elevating Deaf studies to a minor took an entire academic year. The minor went through an extensive approval process by communication faculty, the Communication, Journalism and Public Relations department and finally, university officials.

The long process will be worth it though, because it’s “apparent” the minor will be popular, according to Sidelinger.

Roughly 70 million people use some form of sign language in the world, according to KBiA. ASL is one of the most common sign languages in the U.S., and it’s growing in popularity.

In universities across the U.S., ASL has been ranked as the third most popular language course. Proficiency in ASL can benefit many fields — health, education, linguistics — aside from generally introducing students to Deaf culture as well.

Sidelinger noted OU’s summer ASL classes reached capacity two days after registration opened. Additionally, some students have already expressed interest in adding the minor in the fall.

“Whether it’s with your family, at work or based on what you do, many people are very likely to encounter people who use ASL,” Sidelinger said.

The Deaf studies minor will require four levels of ASL courses, introduction to communication and multicultural communication. Eventually, Sidelinger says a disabilities and communication course will be added and could contribute to the minor as well.

“That would be a perfect course for our minor,” Sidelinger said. “Really, we’re first building the minor and then... seeing what else can be done.”

Some Michigan universities offer a Deaf Studies major, and Sidelinger said advancing OU’s minor to a major may be “far into the future.”

For now, to add communication and Deaf studies as a minor, students — attending in the fall — can reach out to their academic advisors. Sidelinger expects the minor will be popular, based off of the consistent interest in ASL classes.

“It’s definitely adding value... students can add it onto their degrees now — representing what Oakland University students do and are interested in,” he said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU COMJRNPR INSTAGRAM

The Oakland University Communication, Journalism and Public Relations Department announced the new health and communication minor for fall 2021.



**SUSAN LAGRAND
COMPETES AT NCAA LEVEL
FOCUSES ON
HORIZON CHAMPIONSHIP**

EL,

P



LAUREN REID

Sports Editor

Oakland University swimmer Susan LaGrand has had an extremely successful season — winning Horizon League Swimmer of the Week three times, United Wholesale Mortgage Student-Athlete of the Week in March and competing at the NCAA Championships, where she received Honorable Mention All-American Honors, beat a school record in the 200 backstroke and a personal best in the 100 backstroke.

Not only is LaGrand winning award after award, she's doing it with a humble, hardworking and personable attitude.

"It didn't hit me until we arrived at the pool [for the NCAA Championships] that I had even qualified," LaGrand said. "It didn't feel real until I actually stepped in there and looked across and saw these girls who win the national championship. [I couldn't believe I was swimming] in the same pool as [them]."

LaGrand competed in the 200 IM, 100 back and 200 back at the NCAA Championships, getting first in her heat in both the 200 IM (1:58.63) and 100 back (53.65) and second in her heat in the 200 back (1:53.48) — which beat the school record.

"I was standing behind the blocks for my first race and the butterflies were going, the hands were shaking," LaGrand said. "But once I dove in and hit the water, every plan we worked on took effect — it's the same events every time, the same water every time — focus on the things that are the same, and find the normal in your race."

As a junior majoring in clinical and diagnostic science, LaGrand has plans to go to medical school. She started swimming when she was eight, but really started to find her way freshman year of high school.

"I started swimming competitively when I was about eight,

which is kind of late in the game if you ask a lot of other swimmers," LaGrand said. "I wasn't that great — I wasn't bad, but nothing special. It wasn't until freshman year of high school that I won the state meet in the 100 fly as a freshman out of nowhere. Ever since I was little, I wanted to swim in college and bring it a step further. I felt like this was something I was going to stick with."

Gearing up for the Horizon League Championships, which run from April 5 through April 10, LaGrand is ready to focus on what she can control and help out the team.

"I like to make goals that are me-based, not them-based," LaGrand said. "Winning or doing things based on other people are harder goals to achieve because they aren't necessarily things [I] can control. The goals for Horizon's are to do what the team needs me to do — be fast for relays, individually get my hand on the wall first regardless of the time. It's nice to just be able to swim and not worry about the time but rather make sure I get the points for the team."

Writing down goals helps LaGrand stay motivated and makes them concrete.

"I feel [writing goals down] is better than mentally having them there," LaGrand said. "I hesitate to tell people my goals because if I don't hit them then it's not just me being disappointed, but I push myself to. I have to see them in order to achieve them."

At the end of the day, LaGrand's mindset is to just swim.

"[The coaching staff have told me] you just have to swim — that's what you're good at, just swim," LaGrand said. "Having that mindset kept me motivated. Just doing it for fun allowed me to hit the goals I didn't even know I had. If you're enjoying what you're doing, you're going to do a lot better."

Dr. Stephen Sheehi explores Islamophobia, American institutional racism

JESSICA ORLANDO
Staff Reporter

On Thursday April 1, guest speaker Dr. Stephen Sheehi explored Islamophobia in America via a zoom conference presented by Oakland University's Center for Public Humanities.

Sheehi is the Sultan Qaboos Professor of Middle East Studies and Director of the Decolonizing Humanities Project at William & Mary University. He is an active member of the Palestinian solidarity and BDS movement. An activist for racial and economic justice, Sheehi has authored multiple works such as "Arab Imago: A Social History of Portrait Photography, 1860-1910" and "Foundations of Modern Arab Identity".

During the presentation, which was funded by the Hajja Razia Sharif Sheikh Endowment for Islamic Understanding Programs, Sheehi emphasized that fabrication of evidence and targeting of people of color has been a pattern in policing for years.

"The role of official reports which are grossly racist and demonizing are used to profile Black-Americans and Muslims by federal, state and local law enforcement to justify the entrapment and surveillance of them," Sheehi said.

He discussed how the integration of Islamophobia and racism in American is due partly to political policing and institutional methods.

In order to radically think about the relationship between police violence against black people, about the vagaries of Islamophobia within that racist institutional police brutality and the ways in which Islamophobia and anti-Arabness work in service of anti-black structures," Sheehi said.

Sheehi explained that Islamophobia can be seen as being used as a supplement by white institutions as a means of forwarding anti-Black ideology.

"Islamophobia is motivated specifically by the radicalization of Islam within the context of anti-black racism," Sheehi said. "Islamophobia serves as a socially acceptable refuge to cultivate and expand white supremacy."

Another important note made by Sheehi was the security state of America focusing primarily around and creating a legislature that targets middle eastern groups for terrorism, but not large neo-white groups that actively voice messages of violence against minorities.

"I am linking the expanded authority of white supremacy legal, political and ideological systems that has resulted in the murder of Black people by hyper-infrantized in militarized police with the accepted legitimacy of Islamophobia as a mode of organizing political society," Sheehi said.

Racial tropes of Muslim and Black communities, as Sheehi explains, were created as stereotypes in order to target



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONDOWEISS

AnnaMarie Storbeck-Pelc discovered her natural vocal talent and began using performance as emotional expression. If she pursues a music career, she'd like to be a vocal coach.

minority groups. He pointed out some important documents that have led to the targeting of middle eastern and Black communities, especially in urban areas on the east coast like New York.

"The premise of the report [NYPD report: Radicalization in the West] states that any location where muslims live, socialize, learn, pray and organize constitutes a radicalization incubator," Sheehi said. "Within this associative process in connecting the muslim threat to the black threat a powerful political, historical and material link became clear."

Sheehi wanted to enforce the understanding behind the inherent minority class and system in America.

"It is only obvious that the muslims and Black-Americans are collapsed in order to justify surveillance of Muslim-Americans and black-Americans," Sheehi said.

Briefly, both Sheehi and the Department of Humanities wanted to acknowledge the current hate crimes going on against the Asian-American communities and hoped that understanding institutionalized racism would further the fight against it.

Soprano singer echoes emotion with music

SIERRA OKONIEWSKI
Staff Reporter

AnnaMarie Storbeck-Pelc has secretly befriended the artistry of voice. She interacts with it often, especially when no one else is listening.

"I don't sing in front of people unless it's a recital or an audition," she said. "Singing is my way of getting my emotions out. It helps me figure out how to clear my head if I ever need an escape from reality."

The Oakland University student is a state-level Honors Choir soprano.

"Music has always been a part of my life," she said. "It's always been something that I could do. Whether I'm driving and I'm stressed or I'm studying in my room, I can just play music or sing and it calms me."

Storbeck-Pelc discovered her love for song in high school, when she joined the Milford Varsity Show Choir as a freshman. In addition to her performances, she was quickly recruited as an assistant stage

manager, then as a costumer during her senior year. "My parents didn't know I could sing," she said. "When I did my first solo, their jaws dropped. They were like, 'That's not our daughter.'"

Storbeck-Pelc travelled to New York with her choir to sing at multiple national monuments, including the Statue of Liberty. Her most cherished performance was at the renowned St. Paul's Chapel in Manhattan.

"The echo from the front of the church to the back was an 8-second delay," she said. "I sang the notes so freely. It was the most enjoyable experience I've ever had."

But for this young musician, it's not just about the show.

The only person that she individually trusts with her music is her vocal coach, Karen Roberts. Throughout high school, Storbeck-Pelc met with the former Brighton High choir director for lessons on a weekly basis.

"She was one of the people that I was most comfortable with," Storbeck-Pelc said. "It got to the point where I could walk

into her house without even knocking. She was one of my biggest supporters, and it was good to have someone that wasn't my parents come and root for me."

Storbeck-Pelc's parents separated when she was at a young age, which drew her closer to Roberts.

"Karen was like a mother figure, but for singing," she said. "Singing is the way I express my heart, and whenever I was going through a hard time, she could tell something was wrong. She would stop everything and look at me, and I would just cry. I was able to talk to her, and she would let me."

Storbeck-Pelc is now pursuing a bachelor degree in public relations, but she is determined to keep music at the forefront of her life. She aspires to audition for the next season of Oakland Chorale as she continues in her studies.

If she were to eventually choose music as a profession, Storbeck-Pelc would become a vocal coach.

"I'd want to be a Karen for other people," she said. "You can interpret a

song to be about anything that you're going through. Even if someone says that's the wrong way, it's not. It's about connecting to the music."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNAMARIE STORBECK-PELC

AnnaMarie Storbeck-Pelc discovered her natural vocal talent and began using performance as emotional expression. If she pursues a music career, she'd like to be a vocal coach.

FEATURES

Chaunda L. Scott talks award-winning book

BRIDGET JANIS

Staff Reporter

With her new book, Oakland University Assistant Professor of Human Resource Development Chaunda L. Scott has added being a co-editor of an award-winning book to her accomplishments.

Scott was a part of creating “Minnesota’s Black Community in the 21st Century” which was published in 2020. The book has received the 2020 R. Wayne Pace Human Resource Development Book of the Year Award from the Academy of Human Resource Development.

The Academy of Human Resource Development is a professional global organization that focuses on career development in areas.

The book was nominated by the Minnesota Historical Society.

The book was constructed to be focused on both pictures and biographies rather than just historical text. Scott is originally from Minnesota. Her father Walter R. Scott, Sr. back in the 50s and 60s wrote books similar to this one.

“We wanted to highlight black

professions, what African Americans are doing in the state of Minnesota,” Scott said. “It’s really a pictorial book, if you will.”

The goal of her father’s books were to focus on what African Americans were doing for the pre and post civil rights movements. Scott’s book builds off her father’s work and seems to be an extension of his legacy.

“I really see this award being more for my dad, who laid the foundation for our book,” Scott said.

Previously to “Minnesota’s Black Community in the 21st Century” coming out, the Minnesota Historical Society created the “Scott Collection” which was of all three volumes of Walter R. Scott, Sr. book in 2018. Allowing his books to come back into circulation.

“Some family friends of ours, the Crutchfield family and the Scott family 40 years later decided we needed to put similar books back into circulation in Minnesota,” Scott said. “Given the temperature of how race has become a more central element of society.”

These families formed a Minnesota’s Black Community Project (MBCP). This is to create programs, books, documentaries

and build a historical record for Minnesota that is more inclusive.

Seven people have given this group their all; Anthony R. Scott; Dr. Charles E. Crutchfield, III; Dr. Chaunda L. Scott; Christopher Crutchfield; George J. Scott; Dr. Charles E. Crutchfield, II; and Beverly Lampkins since 2015.

“We offer programs that spotlight African American success, we highlight artists and educators,” Scott said. “We also touch on hot topics; policing in Minnesota, racism in Minnesota and so forth.”

This book contains many different generations of people and the stories of success within them. It brings another side and a new, more perspective to life in Minnesota that heightens the history of black successes instead of their sorrows.

“The only time you see anything about African Americans, is when somebody has their knee on your neck,” Scott said. “Or else it’s never positive.”

Scott is the secretary of MBCP and was also the project administrator which held all the scheduling for photos and interviews that are in the book. The project also received two grants to make this happen.

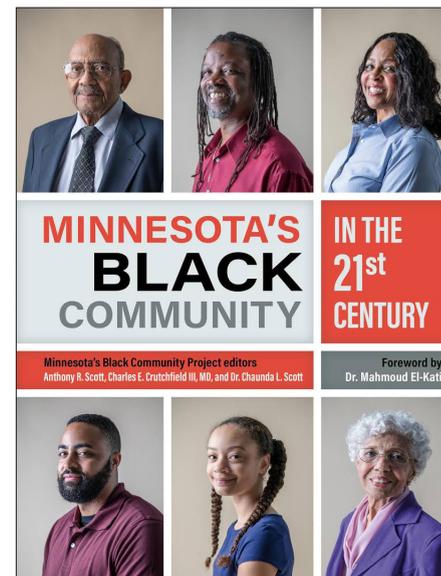


PHOTO CURTOSY OF AMAZON

“It was very gratifying to be acknowledged,” Scott said. “Especially given this was our first book as a non-profit organization.”

Embracing a stutter and making ‘your words count’

SIERRA OKONIEWSKI

Staff Reporter



PHOTO COURTESY OF THEMARMELADEGYPSY
Sharon Emery has embraced her speech impediment and hopes her listeners will too. She’s a journalist and has hosted a Tedx Talk.

Sharon Emery has come to expect awkward reactions when she speaks. But she’s discovered that the fault isn’t hers – the problem is with her listeners.

Emery, a public relations specialist for Truscott Rossman, is a long-time stutterer. Her language is sprinkled with bouts of repeated sounds and syllables, interjected between every few words.

According to The Stuttering Foundation of America, this speech disorder affects 1% of people worldwide. Genetics, child development, neurophysiology and family dynamics are factors that influence the condition.

Though stutterers as adults are rare, Emery isn’t hiding her impediment. She’s embracing it, and she’s asking that her audiences do the same.

“Listeners – I call them disabled listeners – are so caught up in their own discomfort when I stutter that it’s all they’re thinking about,” Emery said during a TEDx conference in Lansing. “My real concern is the point at which you stop reacting to me and actually to listen to me. My deepest fear is that you never do.”

Emery suggested that the stigmas of disfluency come from listeners’ anxiety. The pain felt by the audience of a disabled speaker reflects their inability to receive an unfamiliar form of communication.

“My stutter appears to take up your entire auditory capacity,” she said. “You ask me questions I’ve already answered. Or you anxiously wait for me to stop speaking – totally deaf to the meaning of my words – looking only to fill up the silence with your own big, fluent voice.”

To combat the social norms of speech, Emery challenged her onlookers to refute ignorance at every opportunity.

“My stutter is my accent,” Emery said. “Don’t try to take it away from me by supplying the word I’m working to say. When you do that, you take away my power.”

An international survey by Minnesota State University found that those polled believed individuals with a stutter to be incapable of careers that require consistent verbal communication.

By this standard, Emery is breaking the rules. The award-winning former journalist has over 20 years’ experience in communication fields.

“Can you only be successful and famous without a stutter?” she asked. “What kind of inspiration is that?”

In fact, the list of well-known stutterers is a long one. The Stuttering Foundation of America catalogues dozens of influential people who struggled with the disability, including Winston Churchill, Marilyn Monroe, and Shaquille O’Neal.

True to the success of these legacies, Emery argued that accomplishment does not rely on the absence of impairment. Rather, she insisted, it is indicative of a person’s ability to make every word matter.

“If you’re going to add your voice to the communication deluge, don’t abuse language by rendering it meaningless,” she said.

Emery expressed her amazement at the needless verbiage often used to illustrate subjects of little-to-no importance.

“Stutterers don’t waste their time on empty banter because it’s not worth the effort required to produce it,” she said. “They have to be ready for when their voices are truly needed. Fluent speakers should be just as judicious – so that’s your final challenge. Make darn sure your

Godzilla vs. Kong delivers magnificent monster mashup

JEFF THOMAS

Features Editor

Like the Grinch on Christmas day, my heart grew three sizes watching *Godzilla* and *Kong* fighting to the death this Easter weekend. So, my dear friends, indulge the wide-eyed child in your soul, don't ask too many questions about storylines or plot points and buckle in for one hell of a thrill-ride.

The fourth installment in this new iteration of the *Godzilla* cinematic "Monsterverse," following "*Godzilla*" (2014), "*Kong: Skull Island*" (2017) and "*Godzilla: King of the Monsters*" (2019), "*Godzilla vs. Kong*" finally gives fans the epic showdown they've been waiting for between the two "alpha titans" of the series.

A much anticipated release, the film is on track to do huge business for both HBO Max and as a theatrical release. In all likelihood the movie will claim the title of highest grosses box-office performance since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic grinded Hollywood to a standstill.

The cast of the film features familiar protagonists of the series Madison Russell (Millie Bobby Brown) and Mark Russell (Kyle Chandler), alongside an endearing ensemble of characters like Dr. Ilene Andrews (Rebecca Hall), Nathan Lind (Alexander Skarsgard), Bernie Hayes (Brian Tyree Henry) and Josh Valentine (Julian Dennison). For the most part the characters are charming and successful in fulfilling their role of existing and progressing the story while *Godzilla* and *Kong* steal the show.

Mankind, which has been reeling since *Godzilla* and the other titans of the earth awoke in recent years, faces two chief-calamities in the beginning of this film.

First — *Kong* has grown too large and powerful for monster-wrangling agency MONARCH to keep him hidden from *Godzilla* in containment on Skull Island. The fear that *Kong* will leave the island and *Godzilla* will engage him in a potentially world-ending clash of the titans has become reality and must be dealt with.

Second — *Godzilla* has become agitated, lashing out for the first time since King Gidorah was defeated three years ago, destroying a coastal city in a seemingly random attack. As the film unfolds, we learn that the attack wasn't random and a new enemy emerges that pushes *Godzilla* and *Kong* to the brink.

The first major engagement between *Godzilla* and *Kong* occurs in a fantastically absurd scene at sea. *Godzilla* intercepts a naval convoy led by Andrews and Lind that is transporting *Kong* to the front door of his new home in Antarctica and the madness begins.

The two titans slug it out among battleships and aircraft carriers, until *Kong* is nearly slain and the humans in charge of the ships decide to kill the engines and play dead. Licking its own wounds, *Godzilla* then triumphantly swims away and the crew in charge of moving *Kong* decide to take a new approach to their transport.

The next monster-centric scene shows *Kong* being airlifted into the frozen tundra and dropped down in front of a giant hole that apparently leads to the ancient home of the titans, the "Hollow Earth". *Kong* is urged inside this hole on the promise that there could be more giant apes. While we never see more *Kong*-like creatures in the film, the prehistoric wonderland *Kong* and the rest of the human crew explore yields plenty of secrets about the origins of the titans.

Elsewhere, as all this is going on, an unlikely trio of heroes emerges when nosey-teens Russell and Valentine team up with paranoid monster-truther Hayes to get to



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMPIRE

Godzilla and Kong battling it out in a big way while causing huge destruction to a city.

the bottom of *Godzilla*'s random attack on Pensacola, Florida. They soon unravel the dark intentions of Apex Cybernetics, a corporation building technology to eradicate the titans and put humanity back on top of the food chain.

In the end, the discoveries made in the Hollow Earth and at Apex's compound come to a head near the MONARCH and Apex facilities in China. *Godzilla* arrives and, sensing *Kong*, uses its thermonuclear breath to blow a hole 1,000 miles deep into the Hollow-Earth. *Kong* climbs up the hole, and immediately it is on like Donkey Kong between the two monsters.

During this CGI master class of a closing sequence — the city is leveled, countless fictional human lives are presumably lost, Apex Cybernetics' man-made monstrosity is defeated and *Godzilla* and *Kong* ride off into the sunset with a new respect for each other. In the end the two titans apparently decide that the town (earth) is big enough for the two of them, and what more could we all want than that

Now the main drawing point of this film, the enormous fictional monsters *Godzilla* and *Kong* duking it out on a massive scale as mankind helplessly looks on, delivered and there's no doubt about it. Still, the film was far from a masterpiece of modern cinema.

The story of the film is busy to say the least. Even with a runtime of 113 minutes, the movie is scrambling to jam in all necessary plot points around the grand scale monster battle scenes. If you're someone who wants anything other than a surface-level understanding of what's going on, this one could be frustrating for you.

The acting in the film is similarly wanting. By design or otherwise, the character with the most humanity in this movie ends up being the giant CGI ape *Kong*, as he continually endures abuse and overcomes all odds. Going in, I never anticipated the skyscraper-sized primate playing the role of plucky-underdog, but hey — somehow it works.

The tension-breaking humor scenes are definitely hit and miss as well. It's going to be a matter of taste for viewers, but for me personally the ratio of eye-rolling

MOVIES LEADING UP TO THIS FILM

- Godzilla* (1954)
- King Kong vs. Godzilla* (1962)
- King Kong Escapes* (1967)
- Godzilla* (1998)
- King Kong* (2005)
- Godzilla* (2014)
- *Kong: Skull Island* (2017)
- Godzilla: King of the Monsters* (2019)

comedy to genuine moments of levity is about 3-1. This is balanced out a bit by unintentional comedy moments that occur during the ridiculous monster battles, but still humor is not a strength of the film.

Despite all the periphery issues that could sink a lot of movies, "*Godzilla vs. Kong*" succeeds on the strength of its monsters. For whatever reason these massive city-flattening titans going to war with each other scratches an itch for millions of people across the globe. And yes, I am one of those people.

Rating: 3.75/5 stars

OPINION

Days 1-3 of Derek Chauvin's trial take place

AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

The trial for Derek Chauvin, the former Minneapolis police officer who is accused of killing George Floyd, began on March 29 with vivid pictures, opening statements and testimonies.

Chauvin is charged with second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter in the death of Floyd. It began with opening statements from Special Assistant Attorney General Jerry Blackwell and Chauvin's defense attorney, Eric Nelson.

The main underlying theme for Blackwell's statement is restraint and the lack thereof on May 25. Blackwell started off talking about the excessive use of force used on Floyd.

He also corrected the misconception that Floyd was held face down under Chauvin's knee for eight minutes and 46 seconds. Blackwell said it was actually 43 seconds longer than that, coming to nine minutes and 29 seconds.

"Citizens who are under arrest should never be put in the prone position except only momentarily to get them under police custody or control," he said.

Nelson began his opening statement stating, "The use of force is not attractive, but it is a necessary component of policing."

He continued saying that Chauvin "did what he was trained to do," and then warned the jury that this trial will bring several significant battles over how some facts are interpreted, which include Floyd's cause of death.

"The evidence will show that Mr. Floyd died of a cardiac arrhythmia that occurred because of hypertension, his coronary disease, the ingestion of methamphetamine and fentanyl, and the adrenaline flowing through his body — all of which acted to further compromise an already compromised heart," Nelson said.

If you deprive the body and brain of oxygen long enough, there's going to be permanent damage and/or death.

Nelson described the medical findings and said that the reason the officers let Floyd die was because they were distracted by a chaotic crowd that "diverted their attention" from the man below the weight of their bodies.

He suggested that if the bystanders who were pleading with the officers to release Floyd had not been there, they would have acted differently.

So if the bystanders who were "pleading with the officers to release Floyd" weren't there, he would have

been released? Doesn't the whole "peer pressure" idea we learn in school that if people are suggesting or even "pleading" you to do something, you do it?

Three witnesses testified during day one: Minneapolis 911 dispatcher Jena Scurry who directed police to Cup Foods after getting a call about a man with a counterfeit bill, Alisha Oyler, who recorded seven separate videos of the incident as she was working as a cashier across the street from where Floyd was killed, was next to take the stand.

The final witness of the day was Donald Williams, a martial arts trained fighter who was standing a few feet away as Chauvin forced his knee onto Floyd's neck.

The day ended with a "major technical glitch" interrupted by the video feed being carried by news networks and watched by Floyd's family members in a neighboring courtroom.

Day two included more testimonies from witnesses, some of which were younger than 18 last May. The witnesses' testimonies were all consistent with each other, and each of them were emotional.

One witness, Darnella Frazier, who took a video of the arrest that helped ignite protests across the country, expressed regret for not physically confronting Mr. Chauvin, but said she ultimately believed the former officer was at fault for Mr. Floyd's death.

"It's been nights I stayed up apologizing and apologizing to George Floyd for not doing more and not physically interacting and not saving his life," she said.

Nelson also had a testy exchange with a mixed martial arts fighter who was at the scene of the arrest and testified on days one and two. Prosecutors continued to focus on how long Mr. Chauvin kept his knee on Mr. Floyd, pinning him to the street.

Day two ended with Judge Peter Cahill delivering a warning about not arguing with court or counsel to witness Genevieve Hansen, the off-duty firefighter who called 911 to report Chauvin.

Day three consisted of additional emotional witness testimonies, which included a member of Floyd's family.

It's expected that Chauvin's trial will continue for at least a month.

This trial has been long awaited, and I hope Floyd's family can get some peace now that the trial has begun.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES
Derek Chauvin at the George Floyd Murder Trial. It is expected the trial will last more than a month.

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Baseball snaps nine-game losing streak, drops series to Milwaukee

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL
Staff Reporter

The Oakland University baseball team lost their series to the Milwaukee Panthers 3-1 last weekend at the Oakland Baseball Field.

Game one, according to Head Coach Jordon Banfield, “wasn’t a game.”

The Panthers put up 10 runs in the second inning and the game was pretty much over from that point. OU dropped the first game 15-2, where freshman utilityman Reagan Paulina hit his second home run of the season in the lopsided loss.

Banfield was disappointed in his team’s performance. “We gave it to them right off the bat,” Banfield said. “It was over in the second inning — really disappointing. [It was] never competitive.”

Game two was much more competitive. Oakland was leading 4-3 in the sixth inning when Milwaukee came back with four runs. Despite 12 hits by the Golden Grizzlies, including five players with multi-hit games, the Panthers swept Friday’s doubleheader.

The Golden Grizzlies left 11 men on base — Banfield was proud of the way his team competed, despite the loss.

“We were in it the whole way,” he said. “We didn’t throw enough strikes, we walked a bunch of people. We let them back in it, and eventually gave it to them.”

In the first game of Saturday’s doubleheader, the Golden Grizzlies once again faced a big deficit early. Bryce Konitzer allowed four runs in the first inning. He settled in after that, only allowing a single run and striking out 10 over 5.2 innings of work.

Offensively, the Golden Grizzlies got it going early. Cam Post had a big game with an RBI single and a two-run home run. The Grizzlies would score eight unanswered runs and snap a nine-game losing skid with an 8-5 victory.

Banfield was pleased with his team’s pitching performance in game three.

“We gave up four in the first, which has been a problem, turning a one or a two into a crooked number,” Banfield said. “Then [Konitzer] just competed his tail off. He kept us in it, kept giving us chances — we got some big hits. Then when we put Hayden [Nierman] in for a short stint, nobody can hit him. He is as unhittable as there is anywhere, and he shut the door.”

The series finale was a slugfest right from the start. OU fell behind once again, this time only by one. Although they answered right back, with Post hitting a double into the left-center gap. Then Michael Stygles nearly homered, hitting a ball off the center field wall for a double of his own. Post scored on the play to make it 2-1 Golden Grizzlies. They had an opportunity for more, but left the bases loaded.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS

Jared Miller eyes up a pitch. Miller has a .432 on-base percentage this season.

The game was back and forth from there. It was 14-12 Milwaukee when Jared Miller got OU back within a run with a solo home run in the bottom of the eighth.

The game was called due to darkness after the eighth inning. Banfield was understandably upset after the game.

“[It is] definitely still lighter than when we finished the game yesterday,” Banfield said. “Our guy hit a home run 30 seconds before, so obviously you could see. I don’t really know, I obviously made my thoughts known,

[and] I stand by those thoughts.”

Despite the controversial ending to the game, Banfield said his team had chances to make a statement throughout.

“We gave them runs early in the game,” he said. “We should have won that game by [about] five but we didn’t. But our guys kept competing, and I’m proud of them.”

The Golden Grizzlies’ [9-18, 3-13 HL] next series will be against the Valparaiso Crusaders. Game one will take place Friday, Apr. 9 at 2 p.m. at the Oakland Baseball Field.

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Infielder Jared Miller strives to improve during junior season

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL

Staff Reporter

Oakland Baseball infielder Jared Miller is always trying to get better at every aspect of his game.

“I think the minute you think you’re the best at something is probably the minute you’re never going to progress to the next level,” Miller said. “So I think [if] there’s one thing I can improve on, it would be everything — just keep doing the small things, and continue to up my game in the field or at the plate or base running, wherever. I can always get better.”

Miller believes his approach at the plate has stayed the same this year, despite the numbers not necessarily reflecting that (although he does have a .432 on-base percentage).

“[I’m] just trying to see the ball and hit the ball. [I’m] not trying to do too much, [but rather] what’s going to be best for the team, and trying to make situations work how they need to go — [listening] to the coach and [getting] it done,” Miller said.

Miller, an integrated studies major who plans on entering an accelerated nursing program, grew up idolizing Derek Jeter.

“I think [Jeter] has always done a great job of being a leader with everything he’s done — he’s a great influence,” Miller said. “[I want] to follow and represent the game like he did.”

Baseball Head Coach Jordon Banfield said Miller has yet to hit his stride offensively.

“[Miller] really gives you quality at-bat about every time,” Banfield said. “I think he’s got [16] walks, a couple triples, hits leadoff every day, and will play absolutely anywhere we [ask]. Our shortstop (Lorenzo Elion) has been down the last couple weeks, and he’s played short and handled himself really well.”

Miller said it “feels great” that his coach sees him as one of the team’s best offensive players

“I wish my numbers would match what he’s saying,” Miller said. “It’s very nice for him to say [that and] it’s always great to hear, but I think I need to start locking it in at the plate and getting it done — hopefully the ball will start finding some holes and getting a few more base hits will lead to more wins.”

In his free time, Miller enjoys being outdoors — preferably hitting up the beach.

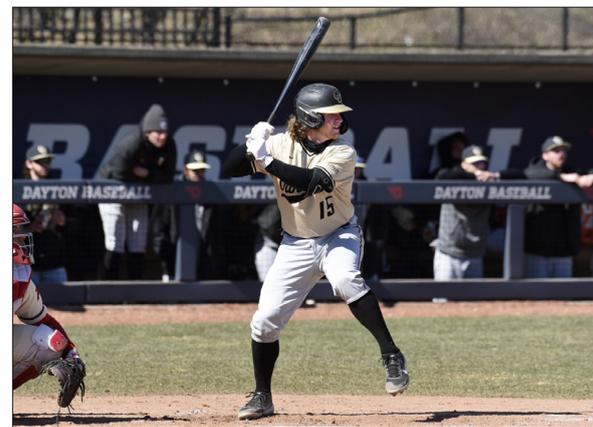
“I love going to the beach whenever it’s possible,” he said. “I love getting to the warm weather. But also I’m from Colorado, so being up in the mountains, going on hikes and finding beautiful lakes up there is definitely something I enjoy doing as well.”

Miller said the team will have to stay focused and “locked in” in order to get back on track.

“I think the last game we played, although it was a loss, showed a lot of life,” he said.

In said game, the Grizzlies took a 2-1 lead into the ninth inning before the University of Illinois - Chicago (UIC) put up four runs in the ninth to take the victory.

“[Not just] our dugout focus, but also the focus we had on the field, [which was] way better than it had been for the last couple of games,” Miller said. “So



NOORA NEIROUKH | PHOTOGRAPHER
Jared Miller does his best to improve for Oakland University's Baseball team.

I think it’s [going to] take all of us coming together, locked into every pitch and I think that’s going to lead to some more wins”

Miller believes if the team can continue making strides, they could make an impact moving forward.

“We played a way better game and [were] way more competitive — it’s way more fun to be in those games than the other ones. I think as long as we can keep making strides in that direction, we will definitely be on the right track to make a little statement here in the upcoming games.”

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No dogs = no joy, study says



MICHAEL PEARCE | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Everywhere I go, I see their faces.

MICHAEL PEARCE *Editor-in-Chief*

Not only did COVID-19 rob young people's prime years, it also robbed them of their emotional stability.

A recent Oakland Post study revealed that students far and wide across OU's campus are suffering from depression at extremely higher rates than normal, and our scientists have discovered the crux of it all – doggos.

Otherwise known as Pupperus Flufficus, the animal we know today as “dog” was once revered in the ancient Norse civilizations for their healing powers. The Jarls of old would worship the four-legged sunshine-bringer for its unique quality to erase negativity with a single tail wag.

Over the years, people gradually began learning more about the species known for slobber and snuggles, and they adopted them as pets, bringing them into their family in hopes of good fortunes.

Each semester, Kresge library is covered in canines as exam season approaches. A therapy dog session is almost mandatory every year – but when students needed them the most, they disappeared.

Oakland Post scientists have revealed the truth through intense observational studies. From our data, approximately 100% of students are feeling more depressed than in previous years, and 99.8% of students wish they could just pet one friendly dog in their favorite library. The other .2% were cat people.

Now, the students are the ones suffering, missing out on their bi-annual revival from their four-legged therapists.

“I really miss those therapy dogs,” Tock Sikmasculinity said. “They were the only thing keeping me sane, since society has taught me not to show any emotion.”

Grades from 2020 are reportedly all Ds, for doggos. The Office of the Registrar is scrambling to discover some way to replicate therapy dog sessions in a safe way.

But, for some, it may be too late. Recent information from Dr. Anthony Fauci has stated that humans need 1-2 interactions with dogs per week to maintain sanity, especially during traumatic times.

Not only is Oakland starved of therapy dog sessions, the need for social distancing has also eliminated drive-by dogging.

Drive-by dogging, also known as DBD, is when a dog and their human are on a walk and encounter a stranger who wishes to pet the dog. DBD encounters are at an all-time low, the only other DBD drought occurred in 2000, when The Baha Men released “Who Let The Dogs Out.”

“Ever since 2000, society has been working back to the mean as it pertains to DBD encounters,” scientist Nathan Dogg said. “We haven’t seen something on this scale since that wretched song came out, and everybody was sick of dogs.”

Ironically, now, everybody is sick of a life without dogs. The bi-annual therapy dogs and roaming pillars of joy are less accessible, and the students are the ones feeling the pain. However, professors are not immune to the negative effects of no pets, either.

“This has been especially hard on us as educators,” biology professor Kay Nyne said. “We’re people too. We love petting dogs as much as the next person.”

Students are reminded that in addition to DBD Therapy, The OU Counseling Center is a viable option for mental health resources. Give them a bark at (248) 370-3465 if you need a paws from everyday life. It’s ruff out there.

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