

# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Rochester, Michigan

Volume 46 | Issue 28 | April 14, 2021

## Campus vaccines

Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines offered on campus

*Page 7*



### HOUSING HITCH

Several housing employees let go following planned protest

PAGES 8-9

### LEARNING LOVE

Rebecca Mercado-Jones spreads "radical love" as professor, parent

PAGE 10

### WELCOME 'OVERWATCH'

Esports introduces "Overwatch" for the fall

PAGE 14

PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH

# THIS WEEK

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



**COACH HAS YOUR BACK** Jen Krizka eyes a pitch as Head Coach Lauren Karn watches down the third base line. Softball swept Cleveland State over the weekend and Krizka had three RBIs on the weekend.

NOORA NEIROUKH / PHOTOGRAPHER



### 4 EVOLYOUTION

Life coach focuses on being "your best self."

Photo/Tori Stevens



### 11 DANIEL DODGE

Diving into the mystery of Daniel Dodge's untimely death.

Photo/M.P. Hojnacki



### 14 SQUIRES SLAM

Softball wins again, Squires breaks school record with grand slam.

Photo/Noora Neiroukh

# THE OAKLAND POST

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## POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE OAKLAND POST SECTION?

A) CAMPUS

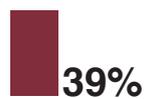
B) FEATURES

C) SPORTS

D) OPINION/SATIRE

## LAST ISSUE'S POLL

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

**CORRECTIONS CORNER:** In our previous issue, we referred to Associate Professor of Human Resource Development Chaunda L. Scott as an assistant professor, which is incorrect.

The Oakland Post corrects all known errors of fact. If you know of an error, please email [editor@oaklandpostonline.com](mailto:editor@oaklandpostonline.com).

# Thank you, Oakland, it was unforgettable



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

This year was hell, no way around it. I don't know if I've ever felt as lonely, scared, sad and defeated as I have since we initially went into lockdown over one year ago. I know a lot of people around this country feel the same way.

We're still going through it, still fighting the misinformation, the selfishness and the hatred fueled by the American response to COVID-19, and

I hope for the sake of the university, vaccinating people and moving toward normalcy is the next step.

This year has shown us the best and worst in all of us, and I'm definitely not immune. I've felt lost, hopeless, down and downright done with doing all of this stuff. It's exhausting to keep going, and sometimes I don't even feel I'm doing well at that.

But, thanks to the incomparable staff I have surrounding me, I was able to reach a goal I didn't even realize was attainable. Together, we were able to

put out a newspaper on a traditional schedule in the least traditional way: almost entirely remote. I've been given so much from my staff, and it's time to pay it back.

It was a different year, but it was a great one. The Post now has a fully functioning library with all our past issues, distribution locations in more buildings than they were before and we upheld a journalistic standard that has stood for 62 years.

I might be the EIC, but the person who really steered this office back to the way it should be is Emily Morris. Her work as managing editor will be felt for years through her incredible work with our archives, and I'm lucky to have spent a whole year working beside her. Shoutout Bridget Janis and Meg Speaks, too, for restoring some normalcy in our office by showing up almost weekly when no one else would. You kept me from imploding in my desk chair.

Our adviser Garry Gilbert has been a breath of fresh air, as well. His steady demeanor and genuine care for the journalism world are an inspiration, and the university is lucky to have not just him, but everyone in our journalism department.

In addition, his and Holly Gilbert's philanthropic efforts with scholarships at this university have helped many, and that shouldn't go unnoticed. It will never be forgotten by me, either, as someone personally affected by that generosity.

I've been able to work with some of the most helpful and passionate people around through sports. Mekye Phelps, Maria Rivera, Jeff Tungate and Steve Waterfield have been some of the most helpful people for me when covering sports. I've gained a ton from working with them and countless other athletics staff.

Additionally, Athletics has given me the chance to meet industry professionals and go places that normal student journalists don't get to go. Getting involved with OU sports has given me a lot, and I thank everyone there for welcoming me and being patient with us student-journalists.

Lastly, I'd be remiss to not mention the one constant in my life, my dad Big Mike. I know you're reading this, so thank you for everything, from day one to day 7,979. I owe everything I've accomplished to the way he raised me.

For the last time at the Oakland Post, I'm Michael Pearce, and thanks for reading my stuff if you have. Through the good and bad stuff I wrote, I just wanted to benefit the campus community and make an impact around me. I hope I made everyone who cared for me proud, and I'm thankful for anyone who's shown me love in any way throughout my time here. I'll never forget Oakland, The Post and everyone I've met.

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# Life coach encourages us to be our authentic selves

JESS ORLANDO

Staff Reporter



PHOTO COURTESY OF TORI STEVENS  
Tori Stevens, founder of EvolYOUtion.

The future is important. Sometimes it drives us crazy trying to figure everything out and have all the answers. It's important to remember you don't have to have all the answers right now, and that it's okay to just explore, according to life coach Tori Stevens.

Oakland University hosted an online presentation encapsulating the idea of exploring, authentication and fulfillment with Stevens on Wednesday, Apr. 8.

Stevens is a life coach that specializes in leadership and speaking. She graduated from Central Michigan University with a bachelor in communication and a masters in educational leadership. Notably, Stevens has conducted over 12,000 candidate interviews, hired over 2,000 individuals and managed over 1,200 people in corporate and higher education throughout her 13 year career.

EvolYOUtion was founded by Stevens in 2018, and the goal of the company is to nourish individual learning styles and natural character traits, while also creating interpersonal business relationships.

Initially, Stevens lived in Michigan, but she grew tired of the winters. She packed

up her stuff and moved to Charlotte, North Carolina without a job lined up or any place to live. Sometimes doing spontaneous things like moving without any plan is what sets you forward in your life. Movement can start your journey no matter how unconventional it may seem, according to Stevens.

"Within 48 hours, I came to Charlotte without ever having been here, got a phone call saying that I applied to a job six months ago that I didn't remember and had a place to live," Stevens said. "The world will show up for you if you choose to show up for the world first."

Stevens explained that she does not care much for repetition and things that do not fill her up as a human being.

"I am totally a job hopper," Stevens said. "I've had 12 different jobs at 10 different companies."

During her time as an undergraduate at Central Michigan University, Stevens initially wanted to major in human resources.

"I was supposed to be a human resource major," Stevens said. "About two and a half years in I realized that this isn't

getting to the center of what I want to do from a human perspective. So my major became communications and my minor is business management."

After Stevens obtained her Bachelors, she worked as an admissions representative for Davenport University. However, the 2008 recession provided an opportunity for her to start understanding why and how she could help others find and express themselves for a job.

"I very much learned how to ask a series of why questions so it's not what you do but why you do what you do," Stevens said. "That's what I work towards when it comes to engaging with individuals."

After she had found her love for working with students and building up transferable skills based off of an individual's authentic self, Stevens went back to obtain her masters in educational leadership.

"I would teach people how to articulate themselves and own their transferable skills regardless what experience it was coming from because [we all] have so much knowledge and information to give," Stevens said.

## THE OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES

Oakland Post archives include most issues of the Oakland Post- the second issue ever printed Nov. 3, 1959 to current publications April 14,

### Archive Guidelines

- Available for anyone to view in the office
- Library is accessible at the front of the office
- Library can be used for design and writing ideas, studying history or looking back at our past staff

- Do not remove any archives from the office.
  - Do take photos of archival materials without a flash.
  - Use the sign-in sheet.
  - Do not have any food or drink around the archives.
  - Return all materials how you found them.
  - Attribute past articles.
- Whether you're using someone's quote or a portion of a past article, you have to attribute the article and person quoted.
- Use past information fairly.
- Do not use past political incorrectness as clickbait.**  
It is fine to have commentary about how the Oakland Post has evolved, but do not disparage someone or their article based on past ignorance without talking to them first. Without talking to them, the article cannot be fair because their language and views may have changed.

# Disability Support Services dives into pandemic provisions

**EMILY MORRIS**

*Managing Editor*

## Gaining the right to education

Education has not been offered equitably — disability inclusion has made historical changes, but the movement is still unfolding.

People with disabilities and their allies advocated “everybody has a right to an education,” and their message started gaining traction only a semi century ago, during the Civil Rights movement, according to Janet Graetz, Ph.D. in special education/instructional technology.

Advocates responded to racial reform in the education system by asking for ability inclusion too. Then in 1973, one of the first ground-breaking changes happened with the Rehabilitation Act, “prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability.”

“Any public university or university that receives state and federal aid follows [the Rehabilitation Act],” Sarah Guadalupe, director of Oakland University disability support services, said. “We have to follow certain laws and guidelines... to protect folks with disabilities.”

This was the “first really major” act and turned the page for disability inclusion with more expansive acts to follow.

“The Education for All Handicapped Children Act was passed in 1975,” Graetz said. “That was probably the foundational act that really — I think — changed society. That guaranteed everybody with a disability... the right to an education.”

Before that, the majority of people with disabilities were overlooked and often didn’t attend school at all. According to Graetz, because education was offered, people with disabilities were also able to “prepare” for a job, introducing a range of new opportunities.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
Dr. Janet Graetz is an education professor, specialized in autism awareness at Oakland University.

With more recognition of the community, early diagnosis has gradually increased since the 1970s. There is still work to be done with early identification though.

“It took the field a long time to catch up with the law,” Graetz said. “I know people that are older that got through school and were never diagnosed.”

Improving diagnosis starts with the teacher, according to Graetz. Teachers shouldn’t assume a diagnosis — instead, if a student is learning differently, they should see a psychologist for official testing.

Those assessments weren’t available 50 years ago. In fact, Graetz said teachers were often “guessing” to diagnose students.

Graetz hopes the next advancement will be having “non-discriminatory assessments” because current assessments often don’t account for cultural differences, which has led to “over representation of children of color in special education.”

“The research is going to change, and there might be a new strategy out there,” Graetz said. “You can’t just rest on what you’ve already learned, you’ve got to be a conscious learner.”



EMILY MORRIS | MANAGING EDITOR  
Oakland University’s Disability Support Services is located in North Foundation Hall. DSS assists any students with disabilities with their studies.

## Oakland University’s DSS

Oakland University’s Disability Support Services has shifted during the pandemic — online learning, interpreting and emotional support — but some of these adjustments have increased accessibility.

Director Sarah Guadalupe heads the program offering a range of support for any students, and the pandemic has not limited the services offered.

## Video class and visual impairment

Visual impairment could stop someone from accessing online class sessions at all.

For example, Justice Richard Bernstein virtually visited OU in November and explained some challenges.

“Zoom is inaccessible for someone who is blind... For me, for the last eight months, having the chance to do simple things has become exceedingly difficult, if not impossible because I can’t set it up myself,” he said.

DSS recognized the support needed, and they’ve ensured all students have access to video calls and have offered readers for written material.

## Note taking twist

“Now that things are online, I think it’s actually gotten more accessible... There’s a lot more written material that’s available,” Guadalupe said.

DSS provides some students with note takers, who record necessary information about lectures. Traditionally, note takers would go to a lecture and record notes for a student to study later.

Despite many online classes, note takers can still operate remotely. Even so, Guadalupe has noticed a drop in this service because many professors are offering their own lecture notes.

“Surprisingly, students aren’t requesting [note takers] because of all the material that is available, and... once the professor puts it in Moodle — even a couple weeks down the road — they can go back and look at that material,” Guadalupe said.

## Aligning sign language interpretation and transcription

Students who require a sign language interpreter have also seen a fairly seamless transition. Normally, a sign language interpreter would attend a class and interpret the lesson alongside the professor. This format has changed for online classes, but only slightly.

Most video call softwares allow students to pin one person in the corner of their screen. Digitally the format will be more geometric, but the service can still remain the same.

Students can also invite an interpreter to office hours or any other meetings aside from scheduled class.

For students who prefer to read subtitles for online class, DSS has introduced more transcription interpreters — similar to a court reporter.

“They’re actually able to type very, very fast, and their accuracy is much better... We’ve done a great job transitioning online,” Guadalupe said. “It seems to be a smooth process for interpreters.”

For context, even in professional-grade, medical, automatic transcriptions the error rate can be as high as 63%. More accurate interpretation is necessary, and then extra interpretation doesn’t fall onto the student.

Students can receive interpretations live or later on any class video, depending on their preference.

## Maintaining virtual mental health

Online learning mixed with COVID-19 stressors can pose an array of mentally taxing situations.

“We’re trying to let [students] know that they’re not alone and to use the resources on campus,” Guadalupe said. “This is difficult for a lot of folks right now, but even though we can see you face to face, we are still here... We still value the relationships that we’ve built with the students.”

Guadalupe wants to “remind students that they have support” at DSS. When students reach out to DSS they could be connected with on or off campus therapy, offered “techniques to help” or just a listening ear.

Normally, DSS attends welcome events on campus, which helps them connect with students, but those opportunities have been limited this year.

“We miss you, and we’re trying to open conversations,” Guadalupe said. “We really focus on relationships... we want students to know [we’re here].”

# Humanocracy over bureaucracy: changing the status-quo

**JESSICA ORLANDO**

*Staff Reporter*

When we think of bureaucracy, we think of places like Wall Street and other fast-paced large corporate entities. In actuality, bureaucracy exists in every single workplace in a capitalist economy, though it doesn't necessarily have to exist.

Oakland University hosted another webinar in their OU Encore series aimed at discussing the liquidation of traditional bureaucratic ideologies and moving toward an humanocratic centered workplace on Wednesday, Apr. 7.

Michele Zanini is the co-author of "Humanocracy" and a co-founder of the Management Lab. His work has been featured in The Economist, Harvard Business Review, The Financial Times and the Wall Street Journal. Zanini also worked previously as a policy analyst at the RAND Corporation, where he conducted pioneering research on terrorist insurgent groups harnessing information-age technologies.

Most interest in changing traditional bureaucratic systems comes from the belief that they're unable to progress the workplace any further in the twenty-first century.

"[Any] industry or sector has some core incompetence," Zanini said. "The root of this incompetence is a problem of running an outdated manager model."

Deep rooted change in a business, especially that of larger corporations, is often hard on both CEOs and employees even to the point of long standing turbulence in the company.

"The real culprit is how the organization is structured and how it is organized," Zanini said. "You can't expect a few people at the top to have everything figured out."

Zanini emphasized introducing new business models is

a challenge for larger corporations, but smaller companies are starting to reach out and find new methods.

"Young companies like start-ups are unencumbered by the machinery of bureaucracy," Zanini said.

Notably, companies seem to be wasting a large amount of their human capital. This is what led to the idea of humanocracy rather than bureaucracy.

"Only 15% of employees around the world are fully engaged in their work, [and] that means that the other 85% are not bringing their ingenuity or passion to work everyday," Zanini said.

This lack of interest and motivation in employees matters not only for the company's ability to capitalize, but also for the individual's ability to perform optimally.

"Initiative, creativity and valor can't be commanded," Zanini said. "Instead they need to be encouraged."

According to Zanini, the bureaucratic system was initially made as a tool to humanize the corporate sector in order to create large-scale financial capital at faster rates with little to no marginal loss.

"Bureaucracy made sense one hundred years ago when you had to employ illiterate workers to churn out products at scale, but we live in a completely different world now," Zanini said.

The dichotomy for bureaucracy is that of humanocracy in the sense that individuals today are skilled and educated in the workplace. Zanini noted that what worked then does not make sense now.

"We wanted to focus on an organization where the goal is to maximize the contribution and not just compliance," Zanini said.

In a humanocracy, the company should be the tool of profitability for the individual or at least shared between the two entities rather than individuals being used as capital and only capital.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TYPEFORM

Michele Zanini virtually visited Oakland University. His discussion focused on considering the human aspect in bureaucracy.

"The people are the agents and the organization is the instrument who we use to better our lives and the lives of those we serve, and this perspective can be pretty profound," Zanini said.

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# CAMPUS

## COVID-19 vaccine offered, safe return expected

*Oakland to mandate vaccinations for on-campus students in hopes of a safe fall 2021 semester*

**GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH & LAUREN KARMO**

*Staff Reporter and Marketing Director*

Students can plan on safely returning to campus in fall 2021. Oakland University has developed a blueprint for the return of students, faculty, staff and visitors amid the COVID-19 pandemic with the goal for student life resembling a pre-pandemic atmosphere on campus.

Preventative health measures following CDC guidelines will be required, vaccinations will be encouraged and undergraduate face-to-face learning opportunities in sanitized classrooms will increase to nearly 80% (while preserving student course choice).

“We are hoping to be very close to where we were prior to the pandemic,” said Dr. Britt Rios-Ellis, executive vice president of Academic Affairs and provost.

The plan titled “Grizzlies Together – Again” also includes making additional mental health services available; increasing the number of students living on campus to 80%; offering in-person and carry-out options in campus dining halls; resuming student-centered educational, social and recreational programs in campus facilities; making in-person, virtual and hybrid support services available; and permitting spectators at athletic events as allowed by preventive health protocols and attendance restrictions.

The plan is flexible, and changes will be made according to the outlook of the virus.

“We will be as careful as we need to be and promoting public health and safety of our student population at all times,” Rios-Ellis said.

In order to make this plan possible, the university is requiring all students living on campus to be vaccinated. It is strongly recommended for not living on campus to get vaccinated as well, but not required.

“What we’re really trying to do is, is just get shots in arms. We are really in a race against the variants and we recognize the only way to mitigate the virus is to stop the replication of the virus itself,” Rios-Ellis said. “And the best way to do that, beyond complete isolation, particularly with these

stronger variants, is to make sure that folks are vaccinated.”

In order to do this, OU has offered vaccines for students and other campus personnel through several channels — a clinic through Rite-Aid and an OU clinic through the Graham Health Center.

The Rite-Aid clinic distributed first doses for the Moderna vaccine April 7-9 and will be back to distribute the second dose in May. There was also an opportunity for students to receive the Pfizer vaccine on Tuesday, April 13 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“Do your part to help keep the campus safer and return us back to normal,” said Nancy Jansen, head nurse at Graham Health Center. “We all have to participate if we want to get some kind of normal, and I think that’s important. And I can’t stress enough that these vaccines are safe and effective.”

According to Jansen, it’s vital to have 70% of the campus vaccinated to establish herd immunity and safely return to “normal.”

While some are concerned about potential side effects, Jansen assures that minor side effects are normal and signs that the vaccine is working.

“That type of vaccine has been in the works for quite a few years, and it was adapted to use in COVID-19,” Jansen said. “And as they were going through the processes they just overlap the different stages of clearance of testing and so forth, so nothing was skipped.

After receiving the vaccine, it’s important for the recipient to continue wearing a mask, wash their hands and socially distance until two weeks after their second dose — this is in order to give the body enough time to build up immunity. It is also key for everyone to wear masks in public and when around those who are not vaccinated until the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) says otherwise.

The CDC allows those who are fully vaccinated to meet privately, indoors in small groups without masks.

The university is hopeful that with these clinics, the OU community will be able to return to campus safely in the fall.

“President Pescovitz is very committed to ensuring that we get as many shots in arms as possible to protect the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff,” Rios-Ellis said.



NOORA NEIROUKH | PHOTOGRAPHER

The pharmacists working the COVID-19 vaccination site. Vaccines were available on campus for all students starting April 7.

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# OUSWC organizers fir

## Dean Vaglia Staff Reporter

On Thursday, March 11, the Oakland United Student Workers Coalition (OUSWC) had its high watermark. Originally geared to protest a set of decisions made by Oakland University Housing over the past year, the coalition's plans changed upon hearing two of their demands would be met. The OUSWC gathered with signs and megaphones around Elliott Tower to celebrate their accomplishments and energize the members for the long road to achieving more.

The next week, five of OUSWC's most prominent organizers — Andrew Romano, Sam Torres, Emily Sines, Jordan Tolbert and Jeremy Johnson — were fired from their University Housing jobs.

Established at an informal March 5 meeting, the OUSWC organized with the goal of reversing six decisions made by Housing: reinstating Sustaining our Planet Earth (SOPE), reinstating Nightwatch positions, ensuring desk attendants are able to work up to 25 hours per week (Housing proposed a reduction to 10 hours a week for the Fall 2021 semester), reinstating the Bear Bus, reinstate free housing for academic peer mentors (APMs) and preventing cuts resident assistant (RA) stipends. In support of this a petition was made and an Instagram account was set up to promote the organization. Plans were also made for a protest at Sunset

Terrace on the afternoon of March 11.

When word got around about the protest, OU wasted no time responding. Housing Director Jim Zentmeyer asked to meet with the main organizers, though not much was accomplished at their first meeting. The parties met the next day, with OUSWC prepared to postpone their protest if SOPE was reinstated.

"We were hopeful that we could get one of our demands," Torres said. "And if we could get SOPE back, we decided we would — as a show of good faith — postpone or cancel our protest. We were not ready to cancel it outright, but we were ready to postpone."

Zentmeyer held firm, did not reinstate SOPE and informed the group that their jobs could be in jeopardy if the protest went through. However, the OUSWC was not too worried about the possibility of being fired. After all, student organizations like the Gay Straight Alliance and OU Feminists would have a presence at the protest, and OU had worked with progressive student groups in the past.

But on the morning of March 11, an email came through from Associate Dean of Students Jesse Hurst and Zentmeyer stating President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz allocated CARES Act funds to reinstate SOPE and Nightwatch for the 2021-2022 school year. With two of their demands met, OUSWC canceled the protest and scheduled an impromptu celebration at Elliott Tower. However, the threat of termination did not go away with the celebratory tone.

"Zentmeyer repeatedly

told us the day before ... that he could not guarantee the continuation of our jobs if we were to attend," Sines said. "He said it would be 'grounds for termination' if we were to attend a protest. Once SOPE and Nightwatch came back it was said quite often by Zentmeyer that he was looking forward to our continued collaboration and that his door was always open. He genuinely did seem to genuinely be looking forward to working with us."

After the celebration, there was little contact between OUSWC and administrators. Johnson reached out to Glenn McIntosh, senior vice president of student affairs, and John Beaghan, vice president for finance and administration, to discuss how to bring back the Bear Bus and other issues. A meeting on March 23 was discussed, but Beaghan was not guaranteed to be present and representatives for McIntosh stated he would only be able to take part in an in-person meeting. In the end, no meeting was confirmed.

"It really felt like they were trying to stall us out by not answering any of our questions and not setting up meetings with us," Johnson said.

Tolbert reached out to Zentmeyer after the celebration about a meeting to discuss disproportionate firing practices by Housing.

"I have seen a lot of people getting fired and particularly women," Tolbert said. "And I have seen a lot of larger issues not getting addressed that involve men, and they do not get terminated ever."

# red from housing jobs

Tolbert saw that her supervisor was directly involved in the issues she wished to speak about, and she found it uncomfortable when Zentmeyer forwarded her concerns to her supervisor, who replied to Tolbert's email. More emails were exchanged between Zentmeyer and Tolbert, who was also in communication with the other four key organizers about the situation. The five decided they would go to Zentmeyer's office to discuss their issues with him.

On Friday, March 19 at 2:30 p.m., four of the five key members, except Torres, entered Zentmeyer's office in Hamlin Hall. Originally leaving after a desk worker told them he was busy, Romano, Tolbert and Johnson returned around 3 p.m. assuming he was in a meeting that would be over by the top of the hour. After conversing with the desk worker — directly asking if it would be considered “annoying” if they stayed in the office — the three waited for another 20 minutes before learning Zentmeyer wanted to meet with them in room 401.

The trio waited another few minutes until Zentmeyer entered the room.

“[Zentmeyer] walked up to the front of the room [and] he had some papers in his hands,” Tolbert said. “He set them down and immediately started ranting at us. He started going through the demands of our petition, going through those points one by one telling us why he could not do them or why [the contents of the petition] were misinformation.”

At one point, Zentmeyer singled out a post from

Tolbert's OUSC campaign account, a post she said was unrelated to OUSWC.

“He specifically said ‘On your social media accounts you have painted me as a dismissive liar’ and he held up the post, which was printed out black-and-white and he had highlighted specific points in the post,” Tolbert said. “He held [the post] up, opened it up and then folded it and slammed it down. I was standing in the front ... I was very confused and I also did not know what was going on at the time.”

Confused about the contents of the post, Tolbert asked if she could see Zentmeyer's copy.

“When I asked to see the post, he looked at me and he pointed at me and screamed ‘Shut it!’” Tolbert said. “I was very shocked and also uncomfortable, especially being the only woman and being the only person of color in the room, that just made me extremely uncomfortable. But I mostly was focused on the fact that [Zentmeyer's actions were] extremely disrespectful.”

“He started talking directly to me saying it was an issue I would not talk to my supervisors,” Tolbert said. “He also told us we were ‘camping’ outside his office ... He said the words ‘You will not hold me hostage any longer.’ We were all very confused.”

At this point Zentmeyer told all five of the key members — including the two who were not at the meeting — were immediately terminated from their positions. Johnson asked for clarification, but Zentmeyer would not provide any information and ended the meeting there.

Sines and Torres were informed of their termination via text message, and the members received short termination notices hours after the fact. The reasons cited were violation of their contracts and insubordination. No information for appealing the decision was included in the notices.

Zentmeyer declined to comment on the events, stating “it would be professionally inappropriate to publicly comment on [the OUSWC organizers'] employment status.”

The most immediate effect of the meeting was the OUSWC canceling their town hall with the OU chapter of the Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) that evening. Following that, each of the five were effectively rendered homeless since their rooms were dependent on having a job in housing. Torres is still homeless with only the kindness of School of Music, Theater and Dance community members allowing her to live with them until the end of the school year.

But despite this, the OUSWC remains undeterred. The town hall with YDSA is rescheduled for April 16 from 4-5 p.m., the key five members feel emboldened by OU's actions and legal action is being taken regarding their firing.

“Although we are not employed anymore, I do not think it was just about us being employed,” Romano said. “Our message was always advocating for things that even had nothing to do with Us. We were an advocate for all jobs. Us being fired has not stopped any of us, it has not slowed us down.”



NOORA NEIROUKH | PHOTOGRAPHER  
Students celebration after the protest was cancelled

## Teaching in and out of the classroom: professor, parent, activist

**EMILY MORRIS**

*Managing Editor*

Activist, professor and mom Dr. Rebecca Mercado-Jones works to spread “radical love,” while answering the tough questions in and out of the classroom.

Mercado-Jones has always been drawn to diversity and inclusion because of the tough questions tied to U.S. history.

Some of her earliest memories include conversations about race and racism. Her mother is a Mexican woman, while her father is white, which spurred racism from some of her family.

“I’ve always been super cognizant of race because I’ve always been super cognizant of racism,” she said.

For instance, her grandmother would praise one of Mercado-Jones’s brothers for being the most white passing, saying, “at least one of them came out right,” according to Mercado-Jones.

“I just remember feeling somehow less than,” she said.

However, her mother and a handful of childhood teachers gave her positive representations of race and cultural diversity. In fact, the diversity she experienced as a student inspired some of her academic career, according to Mercado-Jones.

“I have had Black teachers — men and women — my whole life, and that is a very, very rare situation that I realize now,” she said. “There have been so many educators in my life whose classroom conversations and lessons have just resonated with me.”

Her early awareness soon turned into activism and further appreciation of her culture. When she began studying at Central Michigan University she joined a Latina sorority — Sigma Lambda Gamma — and visited Mexico for the first time.

“That was important in thinking about myself in different terms than I had previously thought about



PHOTO COURTESY OF REBECCA MERCADO-JONES  
This is Rebecca Mercado-Jones’ family (Lucia Jones, Dorian Taliaferro Jones, Rebecca Mercado-Jones and Cruz Jones).

myself,” she said. “I guess I had this feeling of stigma and shame about being Mexican. Then I went to college, and I realized that it’s actually something I should have tremendous pride in.”

Mercado-Jones eventually became president of Sigma Lambda Gamma and expanded her activism with her sorority sisters. She also became involved with issues of sexual violence and advocating “enthusiastic consent.”

After earning a bachelor of arts degree in interpersonal and organizational communication and Spanish, her social justice background inspired her to continue onto graduate school at Ohio University and study communication and women and gender studies.

Now, she’s been an associate professor of communication at Oakland University for almost nine years.

“I’m lucky to be in a field where students get to see direct application between the things we’re teaching in our class and how they experience them in real time,” she said. “My hope is that students take my class and just

have a greater — not just awareness but — appreciation for cultural differences.”

Mercado-Jones says the “greatest reward” she receives is when students reach out to her, and she knows her class impacted them.

She’s also extended her teaching to her two children at home — Cruz and Lucia Jones — which can pose its own set of challenges.

“This is genuinely the kind of thing that keeps me up at night because I want so much to be the progressive voice in my children’s ear — encouraging them to practice radical love at every turn,” she said. “I know that I am also human. I know that even though I hope to practice radical love, there are days that I fall short, and I just hope and pray those are the days they’re paying less attention to me.”

Recently, her 4-year-old daughter Lucia asked, “What is God?” That tough question was her “code to move into the classroom” mindset.

“I try to turn it into a question to challenge them to think about,” she said. “Well, it’s less important what I think what God is and more important for you to think about what you think God is.”

The classroom is a more “comfortable” teaching space because she has more experience, while being a parent is “newer,” according to Mercado-Jones. She usually teaches students for four years at a time, while she’ll be teaching her children for 18 years. While the “stakes are a lot higher,” she has the same message regardless of where she’s teaching.

“I think it’s always important for students and my children to think about what it means to love someone radically.” She said. “What is your responsibility to the other? Don’t just think about who is the other and how to value them, think about putting radical love in everyday practice [with other people].”

## Professor Bridget Kies: road to OU, joys of teaching

**BRIDGET JANIS**

*Staff Reporter*

Everyone loves to watch movies, but film majors hope to eventually make movies. Bridget Kies, Oakland University assistant professor of film studies and production, has developed that passion and strives to inspire the same passion in her students.

Before Kies fell in love with the idea of teaching, she took an uncommon path. After she graduated from college, Kies got a job in France teaching English to high school students from 2002-2003. Kies was originally a French major in college and had experience doing a semester studying abroad in Paris.

“I wasn’t really sure what I wanted to do with myself after I got my Bachelor’s degree,” Kies said. “I knew I wanted to do something with my French degree, this opportunity opened up and I thought it would be really cool — and I got to live in France for a while.”

She realized how much she liked teaching, but decided the high school level wasn’t for her because the level of maturity just wasn’t there.

“I was like ‘okay I really like doing this,’ but I would like to be with slightly more mature students,” Kies said “I would like to be with students that [I could hold] accountable for things more than you can with teenagers.”

When she got into teaching at the collegiate level, she was only teaching first year students. Kies found satisfaction in seeing the growth students had from the beginning of the year to the end.

Kies received her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin and lived in Milwaukee for seven years. She then taught at the College of Wooster in Ohio for one year, which is very small compared to OU. After teaching there for a year, Kies came to OU in the fall of 2019 and was shocked at how different the environment was at OU.

“It was actually the end of the school year when I got the call that I was getting hired at Oakland,” Kies said. “So it was really coincidental both for OU and

me that I could move right in and they wouldn’t lose a faculty member for the next year. It wasn’t necessarily a choice, more like luck of the universe.”

Kies teaches classes such as Film and Formal Analysis, 1985-2021 21st Century Film History and an LGBTQIA+ cinema course. While film wasn’t the original plan for Kies, it ended up being something she became really passionate about teaching.

“The thing about film and media is that first of all it’s a fun subject to study, it’s like pop culture and it’s something we all encounter in our daily lives,” Kies said. “There’s an automatic appeal because students are already interested... so the challenge isn’t making students interested in the topic, the challenge is to make them think differently about it.”

Her class content is focused on what can be seen in TV and movies. Her students learn that instead of just watching, they can think about what is actually being shown on screen and how that affects the film. Kies’ favorite part about teaching film is seeing her students pick up on the critical thinking of watching films.

# Uncovering lost cars of Bear Lake: through the decades

**EMILY MORRIS**

*Managing Editor*

The rumors are true. There have been several fateful voyages into Bear Lake since its creation in 1968, and these are their stories.

## The origins of ‘Beer’ Lake

The murky waters were originally coined Beer Lake, until a ‘e’ letter was eventually swapped to represent Oakland University’s new division one mascot: the Grizz.

While Bear Lake has become a staple of OU, it has remained largely unchanged throughout the decades, aside from its various car contents. Initially, students in ‘68 were expecting a “public bathing beach,” according to The Oakland Post, but that luxury was never given.

Dr. William Forbes explained Bear Lake immediately defaulting to a solely visual lake was “the result of lack of foresight” in 1968. There was too much pollution in that area — stemming from drainage patterns — for Bear Lake to ever be swimmable.

Forbes recommended fencing off the lake to avoid accidents and rogue swimmers, but fencing was never installed.

## The first recorded plunges: 1985

The Oakland Post first acknowledged a precarious pattern of runaway vehicles in 1985, after four vehicles had taken the plunge.

“If you dare to park your car in the OC parking lot and happen to leave it out of gear, expect your car to be taking swimming lessons on the bottom of Beer Lake,” Joellen LaBaere said in the Oakland Post.

The owner of a 1982 silver Oldsmobile watched his car initially inch away and then begin to pick up speed. His car traveled roughly 50 feet — knocking over a live light pole, chipping over a curb and cracking through the ice on Bear Lake.

“[All the cars have gone] in almost the same spot,” Inspector Mel Gilroy said. “It’s unbelievable.”

The following day the county diving team towed the Oldsmobile out of Bear Lake and found another automotive victim in the process.

## Double dip: 1993

A mud-coated station wagon was rescued from its watery demise on Sept. 25, 2002 — almost a decade after its plunge, according to then OU Lt. Richard Tomczak.

The hood of the car was spotted by a groundskeeper because the water was three feet lower to account for lake construction. After contacting the Oakland University Police Department, it was retrieved.

It was never determined how this car found its “watery resting place,” though. Police found saturated clothing, shoes, a blowdryer, curling iron, suitcase and purse in the car, which may hint to the identity of the owner, but nothing was salvageable enough to specifically tell.

In response, Simon Ren, associate director of Facilities Management, posed reconstruction to make Bear Lake safer.

“We’re going to reconstruct the lake to make it more stable,” Ren said. “We’re going to re-landscape it with taller plants that have deeper roots.”

## Pushed plunge: 2014

Then-Senior Shuana Hazime found her red Chrysler Sebring peering into Bear Lake when she was leaving class on Wednesday April, 2.

“I come out finding out I could graduate in April and find my car in a lake,” Hazime said. “There’s nothing I can do.”

According to OU Police Chief Mark Gordon, a vehicle was towing a van, and the van became unhitched and bumped into Hazime’s car, pushing it into Bear Lake.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OAKLAND POST  
Shuana Hazime found her car in Bear Lake after class on Wednesday April, 2. Her vehicle is only the most recent that has taken the plunge though.

The car was pulled out after four hours, and Hazime filed a police report.

Despite Bear Lake never being open to swim, many cars have taken the dive. Even so, no one has even been reported hurt from any incidents.

These are the recorded rescues. But it’s impossible to know — for sure — what still may rest below the murky surface of Bear Lake, and because of that uncertainty, the legends of Bear Lake can live on.

# Finding the truth behind Daniel Dodge’s death over 80 years ago

**SIERRA OKINIEWSKI**

*Staff Reporter*

It’s been 82 years since the unexpected death of 21-year-old aristocrat Daniel Dodge, but much of the case continues to remain a mystery.

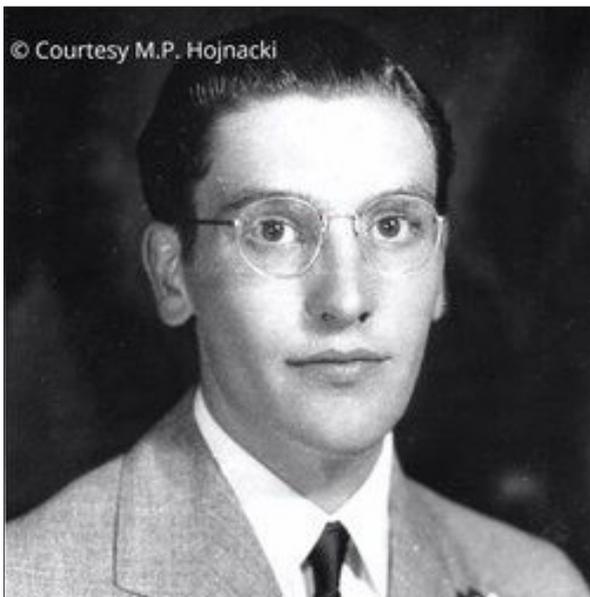


PHOTO COURTESY OF 3 COWS AND A CONE

The young man drowned during his Manitoulin Island honeymoon, after an accidental explosion forced the wedding party to attempt to flee to a hospital by boat. He had been married to island-native Annie Laurine MacDonald for 13 days.

Speculation concerning Dodge’s passing erupted after situational theories were considered, then disregarded, by authorities.

Today, nearly a century later, historians are still trying to piece together facts to determine the truth.

Growing up, Dodge spent much of his life with his family at Meadow Brook Hall, a Tudor-style mansion designed by his mother and Oakland University founder Matilda Dodge Wilson. The matriarch initiated the project after wedding Alfred Wilson, who succeeded her late husband, auto-industry tycoon John Dodge.

The family donated the entire Meadow Brook Estate to Michigan State University in 1957, from which Oakland University became an autonomous entity in 1970. The Hall itself is now a museum devoted to maintaining the history of its previous owners.

Megan White, assistant at Meadow Brook Museum, has taken quite an interest in the story of young Dodge’s tragic honeymoon.

“Danny was an adrenaline junkie,” she said. “He was throwing old dynamite around at the Manitoulin Island Lodge in Ontario, and one went off too soon. Before he could toss it, it exploded.”

The blast severely injured Dodge, his wife and the two friends that were with them, according to White.

It was a stormy day, but the party was forced to set out for a hospital by boat.

“There are two accounts that we know of,” White said. “One says that Danny passed out, and when he woke up, he fell out of the boat. The second account is that a wave crashed into the boat as he was trying to help Laurine drive, and he was washed overboard.”

During the investigation following Dodge’s death, however, rumors were circulated that the drowning was the result of foul play. These stemmed from allegations that Dodge’s mother disapproved of her son’s union to MacDonald.

“Laurine was a telephone operator from Manitoulin Island,” White said. “Some different theories are that Matilda believed her to be below the status of her son. Another belief is that Laurine was a different denomination of faith from the Dodge family, which caused issues.”

Madelyn Rzakowolski, Meadow Brook Director of Curatorial Services, discredits these stories as hearsay.

“There’s a lot said that Matilda didn’t like Laurine, and I think that’s just us looking through the lens of history and making assumptions,” Rzakowolski said. “Matilda was a saloon-keeper’s daughter, so I don’t think she was snooty at all.”

There was, however, significant friction between the mother and daughter-in-law after the tragedy.

“After Dan died, Laurine moved back into Meadow Brook Hall,” Rzakowolski said. “She did end up suing for more money than she was entitled to, then moved out of the house that day. That’s really what I think upset Matilda. She was pretty devastated by that.”

# COVID-19 cases surging, Whitmer supporting restrictions

**JEFF THOMAS**

*Features Editor*

During a press conference last Friday, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced she is supporting new guidelines in hopes of stopping the rapid spread of COVID-19 in Michigan.

In response to the fourth wave of COVID-19 in Michigan, Whitmer is now recommending that schools suspend all in-person sports activities for the next two weeks and encouraging a return to virtual learning. The governor is also urging against indoor dining and other indoor gatherings during this time.

As of Apr. 9, the daily average for new cases in Michigan was 7,614. This marked a 74% increase in new cases over a 14 day span. There's been a 71% increase in new COVID-19 deaths during that same time. Given the grim statistics, further action from Whitmer seems imminent.

Oakland county alone is now averaging 1,005 new daily cases, Macomb county isn't far behind at 954. Oakland University President Ora Pescovitz has responded strongly to these numbers, rolling out an ambitious plan for the return to in-person campus activities in the Fall Semester.

The plan relies heavily upon members of the OU community receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. In the pursuit of a return to normalcy in the fall, the

university acquired doses and made the vaccine available to staff and students in recent weeks.

"We are fortunate that Oakland is receiving these vaccines at a time when Michigan is experiencing a dramatic increase in both the number of COVID-19 cases and COVID-19 variants," Pescovitz said. "The most effective way to prevent infection and transmission of this virus is vaccination. I expect everyone will do their part and get vaccinated."

In a controversial move, Pescovitz announced last week that students will have to provide evidence that they've been vaccinated to live on campus next fall.

"By immunizing our entire community, we can return to pre-pandemic normalcy," said Pescovitz. "Along with wearing a mask and social distancing, vaccinations are key for us to repopulate campus, and re-introduce the many special features that make up the OU experience."

New cases of COVID-19 have been steadily increasing in Michigan ever since the beginning of February. This surge in cases has coincided with the easing of social distancing restrictions, specifically lifting the indoor dining ban and the reopening of public schools for in-person instruction.

Despite the rise in cases and the knowledge of the more contagious B.1.1.7 variant running rampant in Michigan, officials proceeded with plans to allow higher indoor dining capacities,



PHOTO COURTESY OF CBS DETROIT  
Governor Gretchen Whitmer delivering her Apr. 9 press conference.

more school activities and the reopening of sports stadiums.

Whitmer and her administration are facing increased criticism as new COVID-19 cases continue to rise. Pressure from both sides of the political aisle, as well as the reality of business interests and pandemic fatigue among citizens, are creating quite a bit of tension in Lansing.

Unfortunately, Michigan is becoming a cautionary tale for a nation that is restless and chomping at the bit to get back to business as usual. While the vaccines increase immunity to COVID-19, they are not proven to stop transmission of the virus.

Despite an ambitious roll out of

COVID-19 vaccinations, with 2,175,595 people or 21.85% of the population now fully vaccinated, the virus has spread exponentially in Michigan. Worst for Michiganders is President Joe Biden's administration saying that more vaccine doses will not be allocated to the Great Lakes state regardless of rising cases.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been at least 812,489 cases of COVID-19 and 17,471 COVID-19 related deaths in Michigan. Michigan was one of the worst places in the world for COVID-19 in April of 2020. Now we're right back where we started in April of 2021.

# Professional procrastinator: filibuster could be eliminated

**AUTUMN PAGE**

*Staff Reporter*



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTUMN PAGE

After many years of enjoying various government members telling stories on the Senate floor, the rules might change — which makes me very sad.

If you're unaware of the beautiful thing that is a filibuster, it's a political procedure where one or more members of Congress debate over a proposed piece of legislation to delay, or entirely prevent a decision being made on the proposal. Also known as professional procrastination.

Now — I believe that this tactic can be annoying, but oh so funny. I am here to say that this great source of entertainment is up for debate, ironic isn't it?

In the past, because of the involvement of filibusters, Senate leaders have increasingly used cloture motions as a tool to manage the flow of business, even in the absence of a threatened filibuster.

Cloture motions are the only procedure where the Senate can vote to place a time limit on consideration of a bill or other matter and overcome a filibuster.

The presence or absence of cloture attempts is not necessarily a reliable indicator of the presence or absence of a threatened filibuster. Filibustering does not depend on the use of any specific rules, whether a filibuster is present is always a matter of judgment

In 2005, a group of Republican senators,

led by Majority Leader Bill Frist, proposed having the presiding officer, Vice President Dick Cheney, rule that a filibuster on judicial nominees was unconstitutional, as it was inconsistent with the President's power to name judges with the advice and consent of a simple majority of senators. This was the beginning of making the topic very politicized.

From April through June 2010, under Democratic control, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration held a series of monthly public hearings on the history and use of the filibuster in the Senate.

From this, elimination of post-cloture debate on a motion to proceed to a bill once cloture has been invoked on the motion, provided that certain thresholds of bipartisan support are met.

Sixty votes were still required to overcome a filibuster, and the "silent filibuster" — in which a senator can delay a bill even if they leave the floor — remained in place. The time has come for yet another debate regarding this strange time wasting strategy.

The Biden-Harris campaign has

made their position clear within the infrastructure package that was announced. The package also includes higher taxes for the rich and if you're a fan of mine, or know me in the slightest bit, eat the rich.

The Senate Parliamentarian gave an OK to a new strategy that would let Democrats, in a 50-50 split chamber, to rely on a 51-50 threshold to advance bills. This is different from the usual 60 needed.

There has always been talk of trying to change the filibuster rules, but this move would be a powerful political lift in the divided and traditional Senate.

I will continue to preach about how there needs to be younger voices and more untraditional change within the government, and this is it. There is pushback for this, but the general consensus is that the filibuster needs to go.

Which will mean no more funny filibusters. Some of my favorites include Ted Cruz and Rand Paul

## OPINION

# Egyptian Mummies transported across Cairo in lavish parade

**GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH**

*Staff Reporter*

In a dazzling spectacle, Egypt held a monumental ‘Pharaohs’ Golden Parade’ on April 3rd.

The mummies of eighteen kings and four queens were transported in grand splendor across the city from The Museum of Egyptian Antiquities in Cairo’s central Tahrir Square to the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Fustat (NMEC).

Egypt’s President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi marked the historic occasion in a tweet.

“With all pride, I look forward to receiving the kings and queens of Egypt after their journey,” he said. “This majestic scene is new N of the greatness of this people, the guardian of this unique civilization extending into the depths of history.”

For the four-mile journey to their new resting place, the mummies were placed in special nitrogen-filled capsules to protect them from the elements, and roads along the route were repaved to ensure a safe journey.

The mummies were carried in ornate vehicles designed to resemble ancient Nile river boats. Each vehicle had the name of the ruler it was carrying emblazoned on the front and sides. A security motorcade also escorted them.

Traveling across Cairo in chronological order of their reigns, some of the notable royalty included Hatshepsut, one of the few women to rule Egypt, and Ramesses II, the longest-reigning pharaoh.

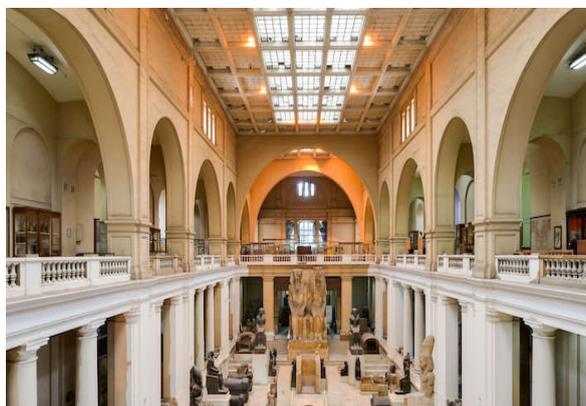


PHOTO COURTESY OF EGYPTTOURPLUS.COM  
The interior of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Fustat.

This was a multi-million dollar celebration. Performers dressed in ancient Egyptian attire and horse-drawn chariots lined the parade route. A symphony, accompanied by dancers and vocals, was performed by the United Philharmonic Orchestra. The event was also televised internationally on more than 400 television channels.

The ‘Pharaohs’ Golden Parade was put together to mark the movement of the ancient Egyptian royalty to the new museum and promote tourism in the country, which has declined since the Egyptian Revolution of 2011, church

bombings and other security crises. The coronavirus pandemic has decimated the industry even more.

Former Minister of State for Antiquities Affairs and famed archaeologist Zahi Hawass told National Geographic, “This parade will make all Egyptians proud of their country. In a time of COVID, they want to be happy, to feel proud of their ancestors. They will be waiting in the streets to say hello to their kings.”

To bolster tourism, Egypt is also constructing the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), next to the pyramids of Giza, set to open in 2021. Once the construction is completed, it will be considered the largest archaeological museum in the world.

This was a made-for-TV nationalistic extravaganza that served as a catalyst to jumpstart a sense of pride in the Egyptian people and to garner support for the pragmatic President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, who although is leading an ambitious economic and infrastructure comeback for the country of Egypt, is also considered by many — both nationally and internationally — as a repressive dictator.

Once the mummies arrived at NMEC, they underwent restoration in a laboratory in order to be prepared for installation inside the museum. The mummies will be showcased in the Royal Mummies Hall, designed to like the “Valley of the Kings,” the region of Egypt where their original tombs are located. The exhibit will be open to the public starting Sunday, April 18.

The recording of the ‘Pharaohs’ Golden Parade’ live stream can be found here.

# Akil Baddoo is exactly what the Tigers needed

**MATTHEW SCHEIDEL**

*Staff Reporter*

Yes, it’s early and yes, it’s an extremely small sample size, but outfielder Akil Baddoo has brought some much needed excitement to the Detroit Tigers. He’s exactly the kind of player they have been looking for — he’s young, he’s exciting and he’s got flair.

It’s been a long time since the Tigers had a player like this, and if this rebuild is finally going to get off the ground, then they’re going to need more like him.

Baddoo was selected by the Tigers in the first round of the 2020 MLB Rule 5 draft from the Minnesota Twins organization. The Rule 5 draft is meant to stop teams from stockpiling too much minor league talent, when other teams would be willing to have them on their major league roster.

Rule 5 picks who end up being solid big-leaguers isn’t all that uncommon. Hall-of-famer Roberto Clemente was a Rule 5 selection, along with former Cy Young Award winner Johan Santana and former All-Stars Jose Bautista and Josh Hamilton.

What makes Baddoo’s early success so out of the ordinary is that up until his major league debut on Apr. 4, he had to see pitching above the High-A level in the minor

leagues. Heck, he hadn’t seen any pitching at all since early 2019.

Now, he has hit his first career home run, first career grand slam, first career walk off hit and his first career triple all in the span of less than a week.

Baddoo only played 29 games at then High-A Fort Myers in 2019 before having to undergo Tommy John (elbow ligament reconstruction) surgery. Then, he missed all of 2020 due to a cancelled minor league season in light of COVID-19.

He didn’t perform particularly well at the plate in the Twins’ system either. Baddoo had a batting average of .243 with 11 home runs in 2018, then hit a paltry .214 in 2019 before the injury. Although, he was always viewed as a pure athlete with plus speed and great defensive abilities in the outfield.

After the injury and canceled season, the Twins seemingly gave up on him by leaving him off their 40-man roster prior to the 2020 Rule 5 draft. Luckily, the Tigers still saw the potential in Baddoo, and scooped him up with the third pick in the draft.

They say one man’s trash is another man’s treasure, and in this case, that certainly applies. The Twins gave up on Baddoo, and the Tigers are reaping the rewards.

Baddoo has received some comparisons



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLICKONDETROIT.COM  
Rule 5 draft selection Akil Baddoo has brought some flair to the Tigers.

to former Tigers’ infielder and Rule 5 pick Chris Shelton. I just don’t see it. Baddoo has multiple tools— he can hit for both contact and power, he’s shown good plate discipline, he has plus speed, and he’s a great defender in the outfield. Shelton had one fluky month where he hit for power, then he fell off the map. The two players are incomparable.

In some ways, the Tigers are quite lucky

— Baddoo just fell into their lap. They didn’t have to give up anything to acquire him, and if they are going to get things back on track, they will need more players like Baddoo: young, exciting and athletic.

Even when Baddoo inevitably falls back down to earth, one thing will always be clear: his name is really fun to say.

## Oakland softball sweeps Cleveland State, extends winning streak

**MATTHEW SCHEIDEL**  
Staff Reporter

The Oakland University softball team extended their winning streak to eight games with a sweep of the Cleveland State Vikings April 9-10 at the Oakland Softball Field.

The Vikings struck first in game one of Friday's doubleheader — but it would be all Golden Grizzlies from there.

A four-run third inning would be all the Golden Grizzlies needed as starting pitcher Sydney Campbell pitched a complete game, allowing one run on 11 hits with no walks and striking out three. Lauren Griffith's three-run home run in the third inning proved to be the difference as Oakland took game one.

Cleveland State struck first in game two as well, with a two-run home run from right fielder Sydney Bajusz. Oakland got a run back in the bottom of the first with a sac fly from Jessie Munson, then Jamie Squires singled in two to give the Grizzlies a 3-2 lead.

The Vikings tied the game up in the top of the second and took the lead in the top of the third with an RBI infield single from Alexa Sieger.

In the bottom of the third, Munson came through with an RBI double, then scored

on a throwing error as Oakland retook the lead, 5-4. Rachel Zerona singled in a run for the Grizzlies in the bottom of the fifth to add to the lead.

Jen Krizka singled in another in the sixth, making it 7-4, and two runs would score on a wild pitch to make it 9-4 — the final score of game two as the Grizzlies swept Friday's doubleheader. Head Coach Lauren Karn was pleased with her team's performance in Friday's doubleheader.

"Overall I thought we did a really nice job on the mound, offensively [and] defensively," Karn said. "Our pitchers are taking an inning or two to settle in with minimal damage done, and then our offense is obviously getting us back in the game. Once our pitching settles in, we're pretty tough to score off of. Our defense is doing a really good job at minimizing any damage that's happening, and coming up with some really clutch plays when we need them."

In game one of Saturday's doubleheader, it was the Grizzlies who got out to an early lead, putting up three runs in the first inning. They never looked back, with the offense clicking the whole way. Munson and Cammie Brummitt had two RBIs apiece.

On the mound, Campbell pitched another complete game, allowing just one run on seven hits with four strikeouts and no walks. Oakland took game three, 8-1.

The series finale was pretty low-scoring until the bottom of the fifth inning — OU had a 2-0 lead when Squires hit a grand slam to break the game open. The four RBIs made her the new school record holder with 98 career RBIs. The Grizzlies would go on to win the game 7-2, sweeping the series and increasing their winning streak to eight games.

Karn said her team isn't focused on the winning streak, but rather the task at hand.

"We're just staying pitch by pitch, inning by inning," Karn said. "We haven't talked about a streak at all — I didn't even realize we were on a streak until I checked Twitter. I think part of that is when you're staying focused in the present, you're not worried about what you just did and you're not worried about what's happening in the future, you end up having more success."

Next week the Grizzlies head to Youngstown State University to visit the Penguins for a four-game series. First pitch is Friday, Apr. 16 at 3 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS  
Jamie Squires squares up on a ball against Cleveland State. Squires set the OU record for RBIs with her grand slam.

## Golden Grizzlies Esports add 'Overwatch' for fall

**DEAN VAGLIA**  
Staff Reporter

Oakland University Athletics has announced "Overwatch" will be added to the stable of games Golden Grizzlies Esports compete in, starting Fall 2021.

This will be the fourth game OU fields esports teams in, which include League of Legends, Rocket League and Super Smash Bros.

"Overwatch" is a first-person team based "hero shooter" released in 2015 by Blizzard Entertainment. Games feature two six-person teams fighting each other. One team is tasked with moving an objective to a destination across a map before time runs out, while the other works to delay the offensive team until the clock runs out.

"Overwatch" is one of the most popular titles for collegiate esports with 79% of programs fielding teams. League of Legends and Rocket League are first and second, respectively. Blizzard has its own collegiate league for "Overwatch," which Leone sees as one of the competitions the team will compete in along with the Michigan Esports Conference.

"There are a lot of leagues and competitions specifically for the

collegiate scene because the game has been around since 2015, right around when collegiate esports started to become an industry," said Carl Leone, coach of the OU esports teams.

The popularity, teen-friendly atmosphere and longevity of the game were all reasons why OU decided to add an "Overwatch" team. Another feature that sets "Overwatch" apart from other shooters is just how teamwork focused the gameplay is.

"One thing that I have really admired about 'Overwatch' is the aspect where it breeds communication and teamwork and leadership skills," Leone said. "That is something that I think is a difference between playing solo in these titles and getting on a competitive squad and playing consistently with the same five teammates over the course of a year. You really see a growth out of the players."

An interesting quirk of "Overwatch's" gameplay is how with so many characters to play with, players' personalities tend to spill over into the competition.

"[For] somebody who tends to be a bit more aggressive or defensive, there are a whole range of characters for that," Leone said. "You have some quieter types who are more introverts tending toward the supportive roles and some

more aggressive, outspoken folks are kind of in the diving, aggressive roles. It is something that each team needs a good mix of."

The esports program is adding eight more players with the inclusion of "Overwatch," along with adding another eight across its existing programs. Closed tryouts for current students and incoming freshman and transfer students for the "Overwatch" team will take place April 23-24. Attributes that Leone will be watching for in the tryouts include communication skill, leadership ability and how well players can work with new teammates.

"You can see a lot on paper and the online statistics and see what rank the players are, but what are some of those non-tangible skills, the soft skills," Leone said. "Team communication, deep game knowledge. That is what I am excited to see at the tryouts."

Players can sign up for the tryouts by filling out this form. More information about the program can be found by contacting Leone at [Esports@oakland.edu](mailto:Esports@oakland.edu) or through Discord at Coach Leone#8401.

Esports players are eligible for scholarships and have access to OU Athletics services.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS  
Carl Leone, coach of the varsity Esports team. Esports now is adding 'Overwatch' to its roster.

## SPORTS

## How Oakland sports will look beyond COVID-19



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM SUMMERS  
Athletic Director Steve Waterfield

## MICHAEL PEARCE

*Editor-in-Chief*

After a year defined by COVID-19 tests, empty seats and sacrifices from student-athletes, there is a light at the end of the tunnel as vaccines become available and implemented.

Those student-athlete sacrifices are what made the COVID-19 era of college sports enjoyable for Athletic Director Steve Waterfield.

“There was a definite energy within the department, even though we weren’t really able to be around,” Waterfield said. “They were looking forward to it and they made a lot of sacrifices in the sense of testing, walking in on a given day and there could be people spaced six feet apart, 50/60 deep to get tested per the NCAA.”

With COVID-19 dropping a bomb on athletics budgets across the country, Oakland was one of many facing the challenge of looking forward while surviving with less incoming revenue.

As a result, many athletics initiatives were derailed while the country figured out one of the 10 deadliest pandemics in human history.

“We fully expect to have fans now,” Waterfield said. “Will there be restrictions on numbers... I don’t know, but hopefully [we] build that out [and] continue to bolster attendance. It’s already great, but [we’re focused on] how can we make it better and give them a better experience.”

More historic landmarks appeared while the pandemic was at its peak. College athletes around the country were in the streets, marching for racial justice and demanding more from their country, the NCAA and their universities.

For Waterfield, the summer of 2020 marked a first step of many toward promoting a more diverse, equitable and inclusive environment. The department had a four part series with Dr. Tommy Shavers, who spoke to student-athletes and faculty about the current state of identity in the U.S.

“We talked through getting to know yourself, understanding we’re all products of our experiences,” Waterfield said. “And, how do we be part of the solution and how to make progress, because we need to make much more progress as a society.”

Athletics has been focused on the Lepley Center Project for years. Adding a practice facility, study spaces and lounge

areas takes time and money, so the Lepley Center Project was delayed in 2020. However, Waterfield looks to “dust that off” in 2021 and move to fundraising, now that it makes more sense.

“That’s one of the biggest challenges we’ve had, is not only can you not really meet with people face-to-face, but it’s tough to ask for gifts when so much is in flux internationally, nationally, with the economy and people’s businesses,” Waterfield said.

He hopes the Lepley Center can be similar to the Oakland Center in providing a sense of community and a central location for student athletes to spend time together.

“They knocked it out of the park with the Oakland Center, it really becomes the centerpoint of the university,” Waterfield said. “I think having that for our athletes, so when they’re between practice and class they can hang out and talk ... that’s just driving that Oakland community.”

This season for Oakland sports was a prosperous one. The men’s and women’s basketball teams hosted league tournament games, the men’s soccer team was a top 25 team in the nation, men’s and women’s swim won the Horizon again and multiple Golden Grizzlies across the

league earned All-League honors.

“I’ve been so proud of what the student-athletes and coaches have done,” Waterfield said. “It’s been a success in a lot of ways, I’m just really proud of everyone that’s part of getting student-athletes to that ability to practice and compete.”

Esports also had a successful first season, and is adding Overwatch to their current roster of esports: Smash Bros., League of Legends and Rocket League.

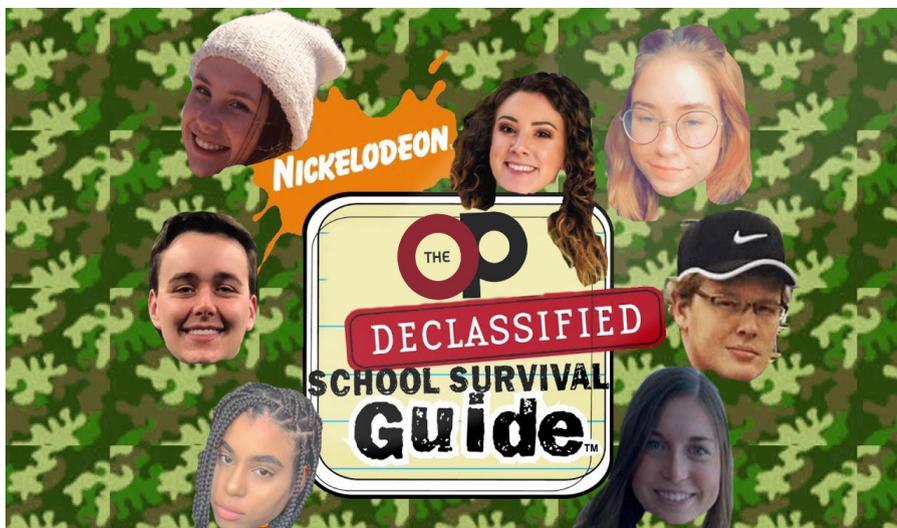
Waterfield always thought esports had a place at OU, but after seeing the team in action for a year, he was impressed with how they hit the ground running.

“I think six of our esports student athletes are in the top half percent in their sport in North America, and that includes professionals,” he said.

Whether it’s esports, track and field, tennis, soccer or basketball, Waterfield is in the business of “celebrating excellence,” and moving forward he hopes to do that as much as possible.

“To me, one of the great parts of what you do in Athletics is you celebrate excellence, and this is a chance for us to celebrate excellence and appreciate people that are at that level of a sport,” he said.

## Oakland Post survival guide



MICHAEL PEARCE | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
Oakland Post Survival Team assembles!

### Oakland Post Staff

Here we are, at the end of yet another academic year. As some of us graduate and some of us remain at The Oakland Post, it is the responsibility of the elite journalists to dish out Mrs. Nancy style advice to the loyal readers of our weekly tabloid.

As a token of appreciation for reading our work this year, we're giving back to our community in the form of some life advice. We all need self-help, so here's the best way to improve your life after COVID-19 has ruined it.

**Michael Pearce, Editor-in-Chief:** The best form of self-help was taught to me by Steve Harvey. Get delusional! Adopt a narcissistic personality and claim nothing is ever your fault. That's the best way to be happy these days.

**Jeff Thomas, Features Editor:** With sunny days on the beach right around the corner what better way to perfect your beach-bod than with Papa John's "40 pizzas in 30 days challenge"? This revolutionary diet and skin care routine will have you shimmering like a Greek God in no time. Papa John's "40 pizzas in 30 day challenge": the only challenge scientifically proven to seep Papa John's all-natural pizza oil from every pore, gland and orifice on the human body.

**Emily Morris, Managing Editor:** Off to a good start — reading the best newspaper on campus. The only next step is listening to our BuzzFeed-style advice: go feel the sunlight, finish your classes strong and only then, we'll tell you which Disney princess you are

**Lauren Reid, Sports Editor:** To improve your mental health as we head into summer, spend 24 hours perusing social media. On TikTok, check out all the cute little relationships you don't have. On Pinterest, spend hours pinning "NYC penthouse inspo" photos for the NYC penthouse you don't have. Saving the best for last — Instagram will allow you to really feel great about yourself. I love seeing 'The Bachelor' stars make millions while I can't afford guacamole at Chipotle.

**Cayla Smith, Campus Editor:** Retail therapy is my favorite form of self-help — especially — when it comes to shopping for the summer. Splurging on tons of clothes and shoes that I'll never wear, but seeing the accumulation of things in my room keeps me going knowing that I'm borderline hoarding.

**Jess Orlando, Staff Reporter:** One of the best ways to improve your mental health over the summer is to soak up that vitamin D. One can achieve this nutritious vitamin through a thirst quenching Sunny-D or better yet go outside and directly absorb the sunlight through photosynthesis. Don't worry about sunblock because melanoma is just a side effect of vitamin D.

**Bridget Janis, Staff Reporter:** Live in the moment and take a minimum two-hour nap whenever you feel like it. Remember, the goal of these naps isn't to actually make you feel well-rested, it's to distract from your responsibilities and make you feel like a real-life Garfield. If I'm being honest, I was forced to write this, and it's given me an existential crisis. The best thing you can really do for your mental health is not join the Post.

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