

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

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PHOTO OF THE WEEK



SYMBOL OF STRENGTH Though campus remains closed, the statue of university founder Matilda Dodge Wilson outside the Oakland Center stands tall as a beacon of hope for the Oakland University community. PHOTO / TREVOR TYLE

THE OAKLAND POST

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Student veterans address concerns amid global COVID-19 outbreak
Photo/The Oakland Post Archives



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Netflix's "Tiger King" falls flat despite Twitter trends and rave reviews
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After five years, basketball star Xavier Hill-Mais says goodbye to OU
Photo/The Detroit News

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



"YOU MAY NOT ALWAYS HAVE A COMFORTABLE LIFE AND YOU WILL NOT ALWAYS BE ABLE TO SOLVE ALL OF THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS AT ONCE, BUT DON'T EVER UNDERESTIMATE THE IMPORTANCE YOU CAN HAVE BECAUSE HISTORY HAS SHOWN US THAT COURAGE CAN BE CONTAGIOUS AND HOPE CAN TAKE ON A LIFE OF ITS OWN."
— MICHELLE OBAMA, FORMER FIRST LADY

TIPS FOR STAYING HEALTHY

- WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER FOR AT LEAST 20 SECONDS.
- USE HAND SANITIZER THAT CONTAINS AT LEAST 60% ALCOHOL.
- AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE, ESPECIALLY WITH UNWASHED HANDS.
- STAY HOME WHEN YOU'RE SICK AND AVOID CONTACT WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE SICK.
- REGULARLY DISINFECT OBJECTS AND SURFACES SUCH AS DESKS, CHAIRS AND COMPUTERS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OAKLAND.EDU/CORONAVIRUS

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Saying goodbye to the good old days

Editor-in-chief bids farewell to The Oakland Post after three years**TREVOR TYLE***Editor-in-Chief*

Dear readers,

If you told me a year ago I'd be finishing my term as editor-in-chief quarantined in my bedroom against the outbreak of a global pandemic, I never would've believed you.

But that's just how life works. It's unpredictable, and maybe that's not always a bad thing.

Three years ago, I entered The Oakland Post looking for a job. But I was pleasantly surprised to find something so much better — a family and a place to call home.

Being welcomed into this office was one of the happiest moments of my life, but I never thought leaving would be one of the saddest.

The sense of belonging I felt here made even the worst days of my job some of the best days of my life.

I'd be lying to you if I said this job was all sunshine and rainbows. It's not. Being editor-in-chief is really fucking hard. It's constant tears you have to suppress to protect staff morale. It's months of sleepless nights you endure to make sure the content you're producing is top-tier. It's forcing yourself to get out of bed every day knowing you might have to make yet another personal sacrifice for the well-being of your staff and readers.

But it's also the most rewarding experience I've ever had. In spite of the challenges that have come with this position, this past year has undoubtedly been the best year of my life, and I wouldn't trade a

second of it for anything in the world.

The truth is, I'll miss everything about this job — from my stress-induced anxiety attacks at 3 a.m. to my late-night McDonald's runs after production with my managing editor and content editor. I'll miss coming into the office every day to complain about the fluctuating temperatures in the building or the fact that it took me a half-hour to find a parking spot in P1. I'll miss the feeling of writing a good story, knowing I'll have to shorten it to make it fit in the newspaper.

Most importantly, though, I'll miss the camaraderie that has come with this job. The indescribable joy that comes from working with people you love as much as the people at The Post is a once-in-a-lifetime feeling, and I'm so lucky to have felt that for three years.

One of my favorite TV series is "The Office," a show that, at its core, is about the relationships you build with the people you work with. The significance of those relationships is one I never understood until I worked with people I cared about, and it's something I've carried with me ever since.

For the past year, the show's eccentric boss, Michael Scott, sat on my desk in bobblehead form, holding a plastic mug that reads, "World's Best Boss." But that bobblehead wasn't there to remind me of how good I was. It was to remind me of how good I had it.

There's a quote from "The Office" that I think sums up how I feel about leaving this place: "I wish there was a way to know you're in the good old days before you've actually left them." The fact of the matter is, these were my good old days. And if I'm lucky enough to still be around 50 years from now, I'll likely still be reminiscing on my time at The Post.

As my journey at The Post comes to an end, I couldn't be prouder to be passing the torch on to our sports editor, Michael Pearce, someone I know shares my passion for this newspaper and will lead it to continued success. Michael, take it all in and enjoy it while it lasts because if there's one thing I've learned as editor-in-chief, it's to never take anything for granted — everything good always ends just as quickly as it begins.

Before I depart, though, I want to acknowledge a few important people in my life who have made my time as editor-in-chief possible.

To my parents, sister and extended family, thank you for believing in me in moments when I didn't believe in myself, and pushing me to be the best editor-in-chief I could possibly be. Your love and support are the only reason I've been able to do this.

To my advisers and former editors, thank you for your wisdom and guidance. Following in the footsteps of people like former editor-in-chief Shelby Tankersley and former managing editor Laurel Kraus is no easy feat, and I'm humbled by the fact that I've been given the opportunity to take the lessons they've imparted onto me and continue what they've started. Because of them, I can leave The Post knowing I've grown into a better leader, editor and friend.

To my best friend Reed, thank you for being there

for me and encouraging me to persevere on the days when I just wanted to give up. I know I've been difficult to deal with this past year, but I appreciate your loyalty and continued support more than you will ever know. I can only hope I'm even half as good a friend to you as you've been to me. I never could've done any of this without you, and I'm beyond grateful to you for being my therapist, best friend and, truthfully, my brother.

To my incredible right-hand women, the Katies, it's hard to say thank you to two people who deserve so much more than that, but thank you. Everything I've been able to accomplish at The Post this year is because of the two of you, and I'm forever indebted to you for that. You two exemplify some of the best work The Post has ever seen, and I'm not sure this newspaper will ever be lucky enough to have two people as talented as you on its staff again. You're my heroes, and I love you both so much. No matter where life takes us, never change and keep being the amazing people you are, because you both truly make the world a better place.

To my staff, thank you for allowing me to lead you for the past year. It's been one of the greatest honors of my life to work alongside such talented and dedicated individuals. When I came into this position, it was one of my goals to progress The Post's role as an advocate for the student body, and because of you guys, I'd say we were beyond successful in accomplishing that. If there's one thing I've taught you, I hope it's that the work you do matters — no matter what anyone tells you. You're all going to go so far in whatever your future career endeavors might be, and I can't wait to witness it.

And lastly, to the Oakland University community, thank you for welcoming me with open arms and continuing to read The Post. You are the only reason we do what we do, and it's been a privilege to serve you all for the past year.

I've waited a long time for this moment, and in my mind, I always knew what I would say when it was time to say goodbye to The Post. But for the first time in my life, I'm completely at a loss for words. I truly feel like the luckiest man in the world to have had this experience.

Thank you to The Oakland Post for helping me write the most important chapter in my life. I'm proud to call myself a Postie, now and forever.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trevor Tyle".

Trevor Tyle, Editor-in-Chief

2003 men's basketball player named AP All-American

LAUREN KARMO

Campus Editor

The men's basketball team had its first Associated Press All-American player recognized in April 2003.

Junior Mike Helms was selected by the AP as an honorable mention All-American after ending his season with the third highest points per game in the country and shattering Oakland University records.

Helms averaged 26.9 points per game by the end of his season and held the nation's highest scoring average for a three-week time period mid-season. He ended the year with a total of 752 points, easily becoming OU's highest point scorer in the program's history.

Head Coach Greg Kampe was filled with pride after hearing the news.

"I couldn't believe it," Kampe said. "It's great for Mike because it'll be something he'll have all his life. You don't just become an AP All-American."

New to Division I, the Golden Grizzlies had worked to improve their basketball program since moving up from Division

II in 1998.

"Teams like North Carolina, Duke and Michigan State — they get All-Americans. For OU to have one in just our fifth year in Division I, it's an amazing feat," Kampe said. "This is one of the reasons we joined Division I, to gain not only regional — but also national notoriety and respectability."

Helms was a star stand-out from the 2002-2003 season with four Mid-Con Player of the Week awards, and was also recognized as the Mid-Con Player of the Year. He fell five points shy from becoming the all-time conference points leader in one season.

Already preparing for his senior season, Helms' All-American status set him up to be a contender for the Naismith Award, which was given to college basketball's best player under 6 feet tall.

Kampe believed the team's winning record aided the AP's pick, seeing as Helms' conference rival, Michael Watson of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, was passed over despite being another top scorer in the nation.

The award was a source of achievement for

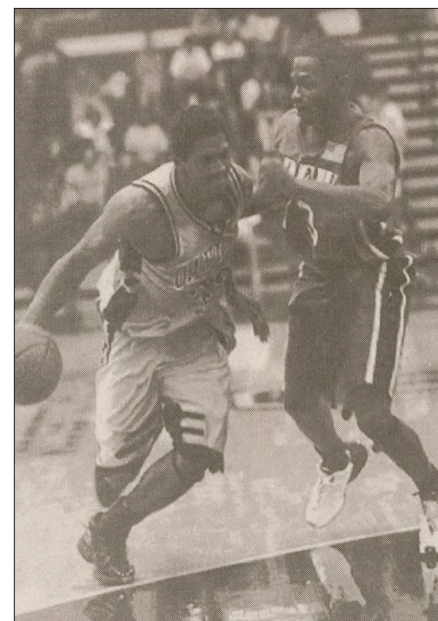
not only Helms, but for the team as a whole.

"At our stage of development, it is as much an award for OU as it is for Mike," Kampe said. "For the school, it's great, because it's the AP, not some magazine writer nobody's heard of or cares about. The AP awards are the most prestigious."

The Golden Grizzlies were still a young team in a smaller conference at the time, so Kampe was proud of Helms for bringing OU into the spotlight.

"Some schools go 80 years without having an All-American, and very few players at the mid-major level are recognized [with the honor]," Kampe said. "Being so new to Division I, it's easy to fall under the radar. There are no words to describe what this does for the university's national profile."

Currently, Helms still ranks fourth in points scored in a single season, with Reggie Hamilton (2011-2012) leading with 942, followed by Kay Felder (2015-2016) and Kendrick Nunn (2017-2018). He ranks third overall for career points, finishing his career with a total of 2,314 by 2004.



THE OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES
Junior guard Mike Helms finished the season third nationally in scoring average, with 26.9 points per game.

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CAMPUS

Effects of COVID-19 pandemic weigh heavily on student veteran population

SERGIO MONTANEZ

Staff Photographer

"[It's been] busy ... trying to get all this online stuff going," Mason Turrell said with a calm tone as he aims to continue his semester through online learning. "Trying to figure it all out and make sure I got everything that I need in order to be successful, and just taking it one day at a time."

Turrell is one of thousands of Oakland University students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has forced OU to switch to an all-online learning format after canceling in-person classes.

Last week, an email from the Office of the Registrar stated that summer 1 classes have been moved online and will be held remotely "potentially through August." Although the suspension of in-person classes took effect Wednesday, March 11, it wasn't until the stay-at-home order issued by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Monday, March 23 that the school was forced to close down many of its buildings and facilities, leaving many student organizations closed for the semester.

For Turrell, the effects of the ongoing pandemic on his education and life are only beginning.

Turrell graduated from OU with a criminal justice degree a few years ago, but he has since reenrolled and is working on his graphic design degree.

After enrolling at OU again, he began working with Veterans Support Services, and his passion for the student veteran population led him to become the new president of Student Veterans of Oakland University (SVOU). Since taking over the position, Turrell has made helping student veterans a priority, as well as serving the larger OU community.

However, with the recent closing of campus buildings, Turrell has had to close the SVOU office as well. Like other student organizations, SVOU has had to cancel all of



THE OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES

Oakland's student veterans will continue education through the benefits of the GI Bill.

its programs and activities.

"We knew it was coming, it was just a matter of time," Turrell said.

Since closing the SVOU offices, Turrell had to cancel many events SVOU had planned for months ahead, such as its April 1 Top-Golf event, in which some employers were invited out to the facility to interact with student veterans one-on-one.

"I've even had to cancel with one company that I was exclusively having them come out to the Veterans Support Services offices and giving them exclusivity to just have one-on-one interaction with students," Turrell said.

With summer coming up and the uncertainty of campus reopening for any student activities, SVOU has had to reevaluate its future events. Turrell has already begun planning SVOU's annual 9/11 Road March, but has questioned whether it will even happen.

"I'm still going to move forward with

our board as if we are actually going to do the event, that way we're prepared," Turrell said, "but I'm also going to have that plan B in place in case we're not doing it or need to postpone it."

But the cancellation of student org activities and events is one of the least concerning matters for the student veteran population.

"For myself and other students that work there, we're out of a job for the time being, unfortunately," Turrell said. "My big worry, as I told my wife last night, is the people that don't have a disability income — how are they going to be affected by this, because they could potentially lose their houses, their apartments, vehicles, they could lose their livelihoods."

Close to 10 million people have filed for unemployment nationwide in the last three weeks, with more than 300,000 Michigan residents filing for the claims, according to Bridge Magazine. That's roughly one in 10

workers in the state, a total of 439,092 in the last two weeks.

"That means that if we don't have a disability rating and that disability income from the VA [Department of Veterans Affairs], that means that we no longer have an income," Turrell said. "This is affecting people because if you don't have that disability income and you worked on campus, you're [shit outta luck]. You're out of a job, you've got no income, how are you going to pay your bills?"

However, the national chapter of Student Veterans of America has been working with Congress to find solutions to make sure that there is as much minimal impact as possible for all the student veterans in the country. On Saturday, March 21, President Donald Trump signed bill "S.3503," which essentially allows student veterans to continue their education through the benefits of the GI Bill without any penalty or changes that could disrupt it.

"If you're taking in-person classes, you get a higher amount," Turrell said. "But if you're strictly taking online classes, all online classes, you get half the national average for that housing stipend."

For Turrell and other members of SVOU, this means that every student veteran will still get paid the appropriate housing stipend regardless of OU switching to all online classes. Many student veterans rely on that housing stipend to pay their mortgage, rent, and other needs and necessities.

"We are actually expecting, at OU, enrollment to go up in our veteran population now that people are out of a job, so that's something else we're preparing for," Turrell said.

In the meantime, during the lockdown, Turrell will keep his student veteran members updated on all school-related matters regarding the university's handling of the pandemic and working on his online classes.

University officials confirm first case of COVID-19 on campus

TREVOR TYLE

Editor-in-Chief

The Oakland University Police Department (OUPD) has reported the first confirmed case of COVID-19 on campus.

The infected individual is a university staff member and has not visited campus since Wednesday, March 25. According to a statement from OUPD, faculty, staff and students who have been in direct contact with the staff member have been notified and given proper medical attention.

Although an official statement did not come from OUPD until Saturday, April 4, a video message from University President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz released the previous day acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic had already affect-

ed members of the campus community.

"It really should come as no surprise that our OU family has also already been impacted," Pescovitz said. "I have learned already that our family, the Oakland University family, has already been impacted. And what I mean by that is, that we know that we have members of our community who have already become ill with the COVID-19 virus, and members of their families have already died."

Pescovitz further acknowledged the importance of showing support to the members of the campus community who have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. "I want to now extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to those members of our extended OU community who have had losses," she said. "Our hearts ache for you, and we are so sorry. And if there is anything

at all that we can do, we want to reach out to you and let you know that we are together as one community, and we want to embrace you, and we're there to comfort you as a general community."

The statement from OUPD encourages members of the campus community to continue practicing social distancing and other recommended preventative measures to stop the spread of the virus.

"We care about the health of our people, both the physical health and the emotional health, and the health of our economy," Pescovitz said, before hailing frontline workers, volunteers and members of the OU community as heroes.

For more information on the university's COVID-19 response measures, visit oakland.edu/coronavirus or email oupdem@oakland.edu.

Pescovitz offers campus to Beaumont for COVID-19 relief

KATIE VALLEY

Content Editor

Following the rising number of COVID-19 cases, Oakland University President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz offered assistance in the form of campus resources.

According to John T. Fox, CEO and president of Beaumont Health, the eight-hospital system is talking with OU to potentially use campus dorm rooms to house COVID-19 patients if hospitals run out of room. This comes after OU ordered a mandatory closure of on-campus housing Monday, March 23.

The Detroit News said Pescovitz offered the campus dorms to possibly serve as a quarantine location for patients. The large, open-air parts of campus could also be used for make-shift hospitals, and parking lots could make drive-thru COVID-19 testing sites.

Pescovitz, who is a medical doctor and served as the CEO of the University of Michigan's health system, made the offer to Beaumont on Thursday, March 19 because she anticipates southeast Michigan's healthcare systems will be stressed to the point there's no longer enough space for additional COVID-19 patients.

In an update on Friday, March 27, Pescovitz confirmed campus space and resources may likely be used by the health system, but there's an addition: the campus community can also help.

"You've probably heard that we have offered our campus to those that might need us, our health systems that



COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
Facilities may be used for testing and patient care.

are currently under stress — crippling stress — and we've offered our Oakland University campus to those health systems should they need us, and it looks as though they will be calling on us to do exactly that," she said, "but in addition, we've offered our people, and I'm so very, very proud of our people. You can visit our website to see whether you, too, can volunteer, whether you can volun-

teer your resources philanthropically, or your time."

The university recently established The Engagement and Mobilization team (TEAM), which works in conjunction with state, county and local agencies to support delivering services to those in need of healthcare, food and housing, along with social support and other immediate needs during the coronavirus pandemic.

According to QuoteWizard, Michigan has an average of 2.5 hospital beds and 3.89 certified physicians per 1,000 people, ranking it the 9th-best in the nation for hospital capacity. Nationwide, the average is 2.96 physicians and 2.4 hospital beds per 1,000 people.

To address the rising number of cases, Beaumont is shuffling resources to treat more COVID-19 patients and attempting to balance the number of patients at each hospital as they get closer to capacity.

"We can't have people drive by a hospital that may have 10% capacity more for ventilators or other things COVID patients need, and then pull up into the [emergency room] of a hospital that's super saturated," Fox said in a WXYZ story.

Concerning OU, Pescovitz continues to speak up about her faith in the university community. She recommends everyone responds to the current unprecedented circumstances with courage and compassion.

"We're so proud of what our Oakland University community is doing," she said. "It's just beyond remarkable."

As of right now, Beaumont's hospital systems are not yet at capacity. The Oakland Post will continue publishing further developments to this story.

POLICE FILES

COVID-19 and a campus connection

Dispatch took a call from Oakland University Police Chief Gordon about a subject that may have been in contact with the COVID-19 virus on the night of Friday, March 13. Dispatch was told that the subject had a grandparent recently diagnosed with the virus. According to Gordon, the subject was homeless and had been staying in a variety of places on campus before being removed by OU Housing. Dispatch was also told that he had a girlfriend who lived on campus and was a possible contact.

Dispatch then looked through databases with the phone number provided and made contact with the girlfriend. They asked if she knew the subject and she handed over the phone to said subject. He said he was waiting for a couple of friends to show up and then he would be leaving campus. He told dispatch where they currently were and they drove over to him to speak with him in the parking lot.

When they met, dispatch made sure to keep 6 feet of space between themselves and the subject. When asked, the subject said he recently found out his grandfather was diagnosed with COVID-19. He also noted that the last time he had any face-to-face contact with his grandfather was Christmas of 2019. Dispatchers collected his information and then cleared the scene without further incident.

*Compiled by Ben Hume,
Web Editor*



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CETL Learning Tips: On mistakes — growth mindset is everything

CHRISTINA MOORE

CETL Virtual Faculty Developer

We all need to cut ourselves some slack as we end this crazy semester. It has either been hard, really hard or nearly impossible. But it is also a crucial time to reflect on how we view our ability to grow, especially as there are always more opportunities to learn and challenge ourselves.

Growth vs. fixed mindset:

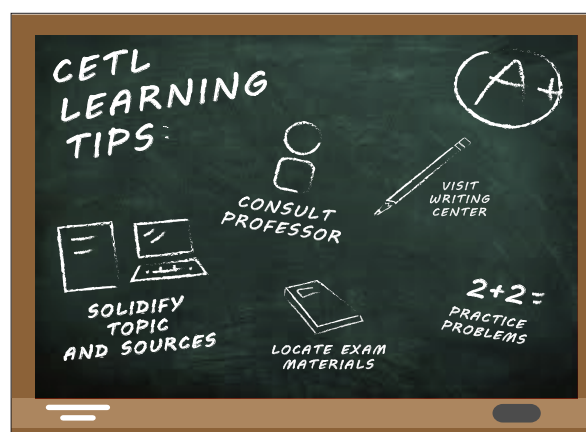
The distinction between growth and fixed mindset was established by psychology scholar Carol Dweck and studied mostly in the context of learning. When you have a fixed mindset, you view yourself as having permanent capabilities from birth that cannot be changed. When you hear someone saying they are “just bad at math,” they are expressing a fixed mindset that says they are wired not to be good at math, period. Someone with a growth mindset believes their abilities can grow with practice, regardless of one’s natural strengths and tendencies.

Dweck, among other researchers, found that when students approached difficult learning with a growth mindset, they significantly outperformed those with a fixed mindset. (Dweck also discusses growth mindset in a 10-minute TED Talk.)

Here’s an example that might be more relevant these days:

- *Fixed mindset:* “I’m just not cut out for online learning.”
- *Growth mindset:* “Online learning is not my forte, but I can get better at it. How can I get more out of this?”

If you are struck with the realization that you have strong fixed mindset tendencies, this isn’t your fault. Our environment often reinforces fixed mindsets even in ways that seem positive. When we are praised for being “so smart” or “so



JIMMY WILLIAMS | GRAPHIC DESIGNER

We all make mistakes, we just have to be able to grow from them.

creative,” this unintentionally communicates that we achieve because of what we are instead of what we do (study hard, take care of ourselves, practice).

Fixed mindsets are also encouraged in cultures that discourage mistakes. When one exam comprises most of our course grade, this measures an outcome, which leans toward fixed traits. When we have many grades with a lot of feedback and chances to improve, we are measuring growth. Regardless of how your courses are set up, you can adapt your learning behaviors to encourage a growth mindset by making mistakes visible, often and safe.

Make mistakes visible

We often miss out on learning opportunities by making mistakes invisible through something called the illusion of

competence. For example, when a teacher asks a question and we mentally note an answer, if the teacher reveals information that is contrary to our answer, we justify this saying that, yeah, technically, we knew that answer. This reaction is even more prevalent while reading. This is why I make a habit of writing down guesses and writing down spontaneous questions. Then, when the professor gives information that counters my answer, I see the evidence of my error, which normalizes mistakes. Plus, I’m more engaged in my learning activities and the right answers are more likely to stick.

Make mistakes often

Unfortunately, mistakes are not lauded as often as they should be. Of course, we don’t want to praise mistakes in high stakes, costly situations, but we absolutely want to encourage mistakes when the stakes are low. By frequently making guesses during reading or a lecture, you’ll make more mistakes. If you’re not making mistakes, you’ve learned the material (hur- ray!), but you’re not currently learning as much (boo!).

Make mistakes safe

This one is crucial to the other two points — in the examples I’ve given, these are safe conditions for making mistakes. It’s no harm to your grade to answer questions wrong in your own notes or in practice problems in your book. You would rather make those mistakes in those situations rather than on final exams. Asking questions and making mistakes early decreases more painful mistakes later.

We may never get to the point where we enjoy mistakes, but normalizing mistakes can help us do and learn so much more.

Find more Learning Tips at oakland.edu/teachingtips.

Christina Moore

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

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MOMENTS MISSED AND MEMORIES MOURNED: *the Senior send-off we never got*

by Trevor Tyle, Katie LaDuke, Katie Valley | illustration and design by Erin O'Neill



last day
in the office ☺
←



I guess it's true what they say — time really does fly when you're having fun.

Unfortunately, the past four years have flown a little faster than anyone ever could've anticipated, thanks to the COVID-19 outbreak. It would be wrong to ignore the devastation this pandemic has caused on a medical or economic level. But I also think it's important to acknowledge what it's done on an academic and social level.

It's not that I thought the best days of my life would last forever, or that they should. But I had all of that taken away from me without notice, and I don't even have anyone to blame for it. It just ... happened.

I keep being reminded that "I could have it worse," and I'm not saying my situation compares to someone who is in a hospital dying at the hands of COVID-19 without anyone by their side, or someone who's losing their loved ones to this unprecedented plague.

But all of the seniors expecting to graduate at the end of the semester have earned the right to feel cheated, dejected and, quite frankly, pissed off. Call it a sense of entitlement, but to a 22-year-old who's devoted his entire life to education and was preparing to walk across the

stage as the first person in his family to earn a bachelor's degree, losing out on the last bit of my college experience was heartbreaking.

At the end of the day, I'm grateful that, unlike some of my peers, I still get a commencement. I'm grateful that I have the resources to finish my education, even if it is digitally. I'm grateful that I have four years' worth of incredible memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

But I had months of memories yet to be made that were cut short. I thought I'd get one last chance to have lunch with my best friend in the Oakland Center or one last day in my offices at The Oakland Post and Pawley Hall. Instead, I'm left here without any closure or feeling of a proper send-off, and I have nothing but the disappointment the world is trying to tell me I'm not even entitled to.

College came and went, and now I have to grow up a little faster than I was supposed to. I'm expected to just move on, go out into the real world and find a job. I realize life is full of disappointments, but this is one I just wasn't prepared to face. It's a harsh welcome to adulthood, and one that none of us asked for or deserve.

— Trevor Tyle, Editor-in-Chief

Nat'l College Media Convention
↙



We're sad. We're hurt. We're angry. Yet we feel guilty.

Over the last few weeks, I have cycled through every single emotion possible daily, taking out my frustrations on the people around me (sorry, Mom and Dad). I wasn't prepared to mourn my last semester of college, and my brain can't comprehend how to mentally deal with all the changes during a time that is already filled to the brim with transitions.

I knew the day would come where I would attend my last class of undergrad, sit at the desk I've worked at since freshman year for the last time, and officially move off the campus I called home for four years. All of those days came, and I didn't even know they were my lasts.

We have been robbed of our last "lasts." Those "lasts" we started fantasizing of the day we began our college career. We were supposed to cherish and take in every second of those "lasts," not rush through them.

Since the day classes moved online, I have constantly been in a state of anxiety about what will close today or what will be canceled with this email. I don't get that closure graduates before me have had, and it sucks.

To those that say this will make a great story to tell to the grandkids, it won't. I'm absolutely heart-broken and will look back on this semester as one of the darkest times I have gone through, not only with my own well-being and emotional state, but also with what those around me have had to endure. I can honestly say I feel numb.

I know times have been hard for everyone, and sacrifices need to be made, but I have worked my ass off for the last four years to be where I am today. No one else put in the work, the tears, the late nights. I deserve my Toast to the Tassel. I deserve my sorority senior send off. I deserve a proper graduation. Those would make better stories to tell.

You can call me selfish and bitter and dramatic, but I have the right to be. This was supposed to be my time.

— Katie LaDuke, Managing Editor



Katie Valley, Trevor Tyle, Katie LaDuke

Postie Holiday Party



Freshman year, I walked through the doors of the Human Health Building for my very first college class: modern literature. I thought to myself, "I need to remember this moment so I can compare it to the moment senior year when I leave my very last class."

I didn't get a last college class.

My very last class would have been Tuesday, March 10, but I skipped it. I didn't even know it was the last time I would sit at one of the three lefty desks I got to myself in my third-floor South Foundation Shakespeare class.

So much of college seniors' lives have been uprooted by this virus. Others may say we're selfish for thinking it, but why did this have to happen? There were no proper goodbyes, no end-of-the-year parties at on-campus jobs, no scootering into the sunset with your best friends. Nothing.

Life threw itself at us too early. We knew we would have to prepare for it eventually, but what now? A "real job" outside of OU? Many of us are more worried about our at-risk family members and friends being seriously affected by this virus.

At the end of this semester, I'll be the first one in my immediate family to get a bachelor's degree, and I was planning to walk the stage, yearning to do what I love. I dreamed of commencement, where my family could see my progress pay off, and my younger sibling, who's

going to be a freshman at OU this fall, could get a taste of what it's like to make it. I realize we get the opportunity to have a ceremony in August, but it won't be the same, as we'll already have progressed to the next step of our lives before officially ending this one.

Now, everything feels so empty that I often wish I wasn't graduating. If we could only have one more day — one more first day of classes, one more late night study session in the library, hell, even one more all-nighter finishing a paper you know you'll do OK on.

As we sit at home in front of our laptops completing online coursework, continuing our now off-campus jobs or watching more Netflix than usual because we're laid off work until who knows when, we can't help but feel devastated. We made it, but who cares if we can't truly get closure?

Stephen Chbosky, in one of my all-time favorite books "The Perks of Being A Wallflower," writes: "Maybe it's sad that these are now memories. And maybe it's not sad."

Maybe we'll look back one day and remember how difficult everything became and realize that we are so strong for going through all of this.

Seniors, we are with you. You're doing so well. You made it, and you should absolutely be proud of yourself.

— Katie Valley, Content Editor

At SMTD, remote learning means the show goes on

DEAN VAGLIA

Staff Reporter

A final exam can be easily done over the internet. A musical, not so much.

As COVID-19 swept into Michigan, Oakland University made the decision to suspend all in-person learning and shift classes to online instruction only. This was not a problem for much of the university since Moodle has all the tools a general education professor could want to run a class remotely. But not every subject lends itself well to online instruction.

The School of Music, Theatre and Dance (SMTD) is one case of online learning getting in the way of best teaching practices. As the virus forced OU to close its doors, the challenge presented to SMTD Director Amy Hardison Tully was figuring out how to safely put on performances and one-on-one classes.

For the performances, cancellation was the safest way to go.

"We ... had four-and-a-half to five weeks of performances that had to be canceled," Tully said. "We canceled over 50 public events and another 20 or more private, smaller events that were ... capstone projects that were not necessarily on the public calendar."

With performances canceled, the next step was to move all instruction online.

"Of course, there were some classes that were easier to put online like our music history or theater history or dance history classes," Tully said. "But yes, our choreography classes are being taught online. Our piano classes are being taught online. Students who are working with their teachers in a one-on-one fashion like music applied



THE OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES
SMTD is forced to hold classes, shows and choirs virtually.

lessons or vocal coaching, all of that is online."

The switch to online instruction has had varied results for its students.

"Transitioning has been pretty funky to say the least," junior Sam Torres said about her dance classes. "Now we are having to set up our cameras and our laptops or any device we are using on the floor and dance in our living room or small room in our parents' house while our professors try to correct us from looking at a screen."

For the moment, this at-home setup seems to work for Torres. While there are some hurdles like electronic audio distortion to sort out, classes have run somewhat smoothly.

"I think being actors and dancers and singers and musicians, we are always looking for creative ways to present our material," Torres said. "This is honestly just an opportunity for us to get a little more creative."

For senior Gillian Tackett, the switch online means the loss of the SMTD community.

"So many of the arts are collaborative, so not being able to have that [community] — not even in our own schoolwork but just to have that socially I think is a big support for us," Tackett said. "The omission of that has been hard."

Without this community, sophomore Angela Bonello is having a hard time keeping up her usual quality of work.

"The challenge has shifted from finding the time to do all my schoolwork between classes to finding the motivation to achieve the same quality of work that I would normally have created in my school environment," Bonello said. "It is ... the change in environment, and I know from a lot of people that I talk to that we are in this environment where we are not used to working as hard. It is difficult to find the motivation to get out of bed at an early time and achieve the same quality of work."

While many of Bonello's performances have been canceled, several choirs she is a part of have switched to doing virtual choirs.

"We record ourselves singing our vocal parts and someone else is going to arrange it so that we are all singing it together," Bonello said.

Adapting to the challenges created by COVID-19 has not been easy, but Torres said adapting is what the SMTD's people can do best.

"That is what we do as artists," she said. "We find ways to tell stories that would not necessarily be told, and hopefully this right now for us will be a means to create new art and art that has not been created before in this new medium that we have to follow. I think even though the show can not physically go on right now, it is going on with virtual shows [and] virtual choirs."

Great Lakes Poll shows bipartisan support against COVID-19, approval for governors

DEAN VAGLIA

Staff Reporter

In what was shaping up to be a divisive 2020 electoral campaign season, the Baldwin Wallace University Great Lakes Poll shows a surge in bipartisan support for mid-western governors and actions taken to "flatten the curve" through social distancing.

State governors see a massive amount of support in regards to their response to COVID-19. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has a 78.8% approval rating plurality ("strongly approve" and "somewhat approve" responses combined) and Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer has a 68.6% approval plurality.

"Their [governors'] approval has really surpassed President Trump's handling of the coronavirus," Oakland University political science professor Terri Towner said. "We see that Governor Whitmer, her approval of handling COVID is 18 percentage points higher than Trump's handling approval [51.1% among Michigan respondents]."

Focusing on Michigan respondents' attitudes toward Whitmer and Trump, 80.2% of Democrats and 60.8% of Republicans support Whitmer; 26.9% of Michigan Democrats and 84.5% of Michigan Republicans approve of Trump's handling, showing that partisanship still colors people's attitudes toward the federal response.

The trend of partisanship affecting Trump-based questions and bipartisanship on questions not about him can be noticed throughout the poll's COVID-19 related questions. When asked if they support the NBA, NHL, MLB and NCAA Bas-

ketball suspending their seasons, respectively, 84.9%, 84.5%, 82.3% and 81.6% of Michiganders said they agreed. When asked if they supported closing schools, daycare centers, restaurants and bars, and limiting public gatherings, respectively, 87.4%, 82.2%, 77.5% and 85.1% of Michiganders said they agreed. Democrats tended to support the closings more than Republicans, though the largest gap between their support was by about nine points.

The least popular curve-flattening measure the poll suggested was postponing primary election dates, with 64% Michigander support divided between 69.7% of Democrats, 62.8% of Republicans and 56% of independents.

As for partisanship-influenced responses, 27.7% of Democrats and 83.7% of Republicans in Michigan said they trusted information about COVID-19 that came from Trump. Overall, 51.1% of Michiganders said they trusted Trump's information. Republicans were also more likely than Democrats to believe that the threat of COVID-19 is overblown, while Democrats were more likely to say the US healthcare system is ill-equipped to handle COVID-19.

Towner said this is similar to the "rally around the flag" effect.

"We would see [in a time of crisis] a rally — a high approval — for the president in the White House at the time and the party in power, but then we would see a division along party lines about how they are handling the crisis or the war," Towner said.

Many Michigan Democrats and Republicans are similarly worried about COVID-19. 96.6% of all Michiganders follow COVID-19 news, 89.6% are concerned about COVID-19's impact

on the economy and 65.8% say the worst is yet to come.

Ohio Northern University professor Robert Alexander said the responses should be looked at as a snapshot of the time the poll was sent out (March 17-25) rather than as the final opinion of the crisis.

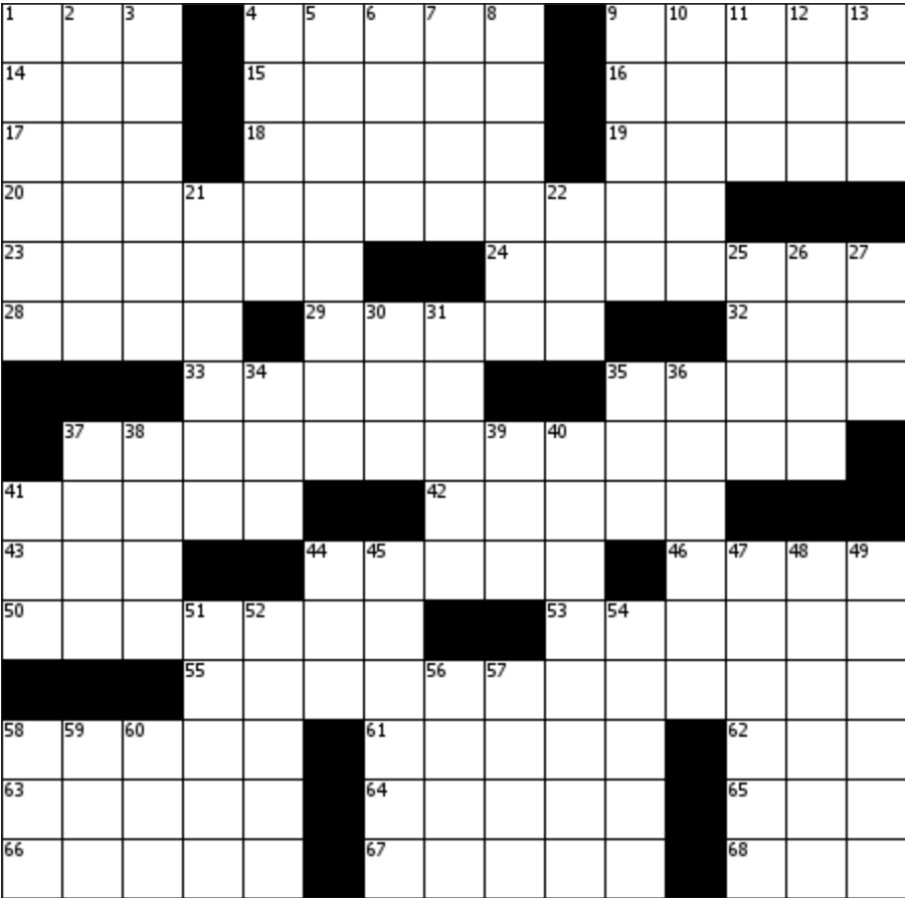
"It is such an unprecedented time, that it is really too much to make certain going forward into November as to what this is going to tell us in outcomes relative to Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders or Donald Trump," Alexander said. "It really is a snapshot, but ... also a very important addition to the historical record."

The Great Lakes Poll is run by Baldwin Wallace University with help from Oakland University and Ohio Northern University.



COURTESY OF BALDWIN WALLACE UNIVERSITY
The Great Lakes Poll was created to study voter sentiment in Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

PUZZLES



ACROSS

- 1. Platters, for short
- 4. He's statuesque?
- 9. Type of position
- 14. It's past displeasure
- 15. Stuff in the attic?
- 16. Word with zinc or nitrous
- 17. Former U.S. capital
- 18. Cockney's challenge
- 19. Jewish calendar month
- 20. Bumbling ones
- 23. Imaginary
- 24. Gray's area?
- 28. Get naked
- 29. Downright unpleasant
- 32. Start for term or wife
- 33. He has famous thumbs
- 35. Flower holders
- 37. Pasta choice
- 41. Offset or rotary
- 42. Metric measures
- 43. "I love" to Latin lovers
- 44. She wanted to be left alone
- 46. Freelancer's enc.
- 50. Endangered Florida creature
- 53. Motion of the ocean result
- 55. Hilarious
- 58. Like polyester leisure suits

- 61. Stringed Renaissance instruments
- 62. Group of atoms, briefly
- 63. "The Hollow Men" poet
- 64. Escape detection
- 65. Miner's discovery
- 66. "Holy Sonnets" writer
- 67. They may be kept behind bars
- 68. Chocolate factory need

DOWN

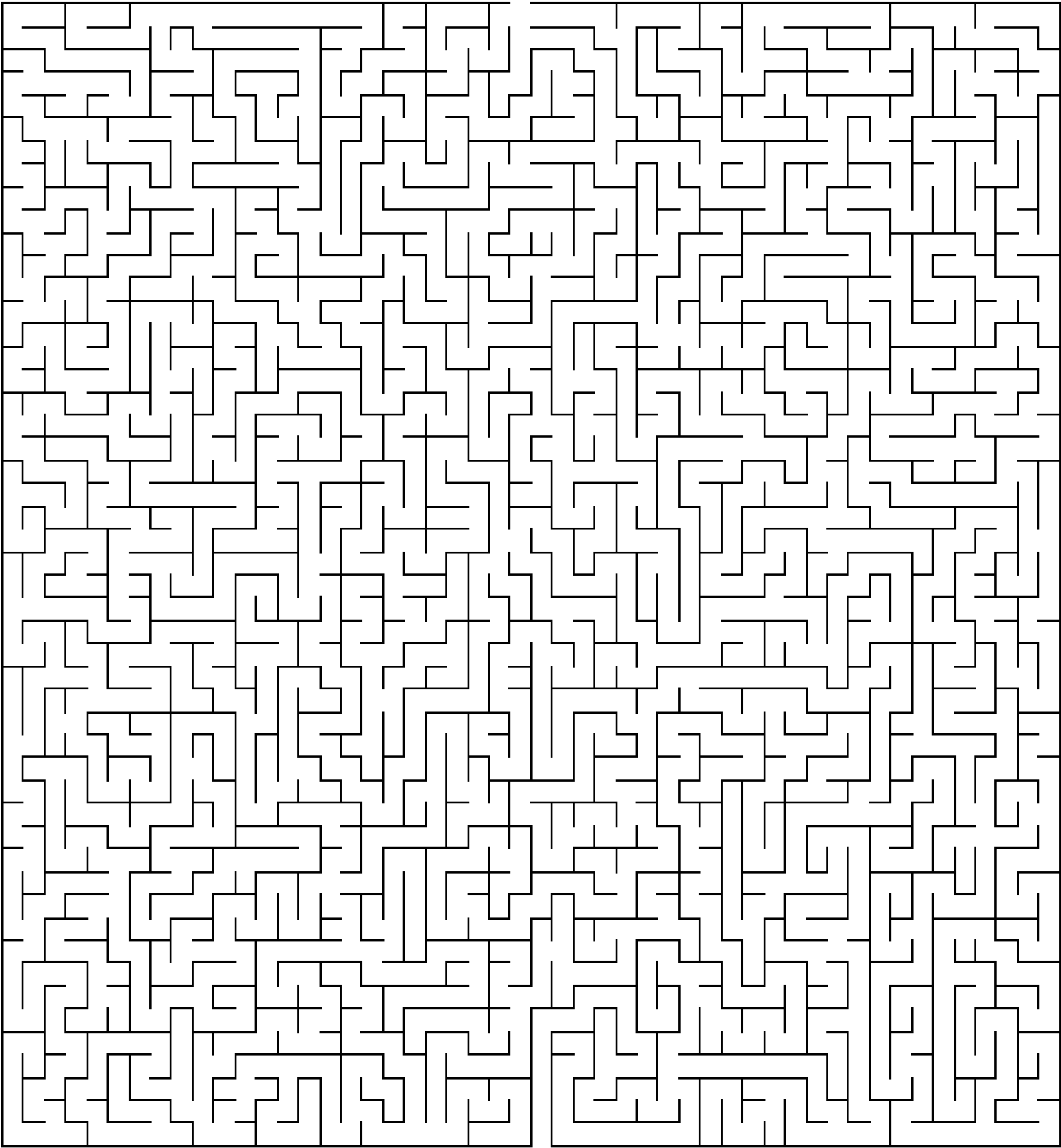
- 1. Connect (with)
- 2. Hester of "The Scarlet Letter"
- 3. Protected from danger
- 4. Bay of Japan
- 5. Not yet used
- 6. ___ d'Azur
- 7. Gothic doorway shape
- 8. Prepare leftovers
- 9. "The Grapes of Wrath" actor
- 10. Occupy time and space
- 11. Frank McCourt sequel
- 12. This org. has a lot of pull
- 13. Pro Football Hall of Famer Dawson
- 21. People people, for short
- 22. "___ other questions?"

- 25. Writing on the wall, e.g.
- 26. "The Drew Carey Show" character
- 27. PGA measurements
- 30. Extension
- 31. Garden support
- 34. Derek and Jackson
- 35. BO sign
- 36. 50-50 chance
- 37. First name in anecdotes
- 38. Former heavyweight champion Spinks
- 39. Op. ___ (footnote abbr.)
- 40. Star of a classic sitcom
- 41. Grier or Shriver
- 44. "Wow!" to Beaver Cleaver
- 45. Passes a rope through
- 47. "The Gods Themselves" author Isaac
- 48. Lady in Spain
- 49. Aerie newborn
- 51. Rubber hub
- 52. Gov't security
- 54. Cathedral parts
- 56. Minuteman's home?
- 57. Fortissimo
- 58. Roulette play
- 59. "Turn to Stone" rockers
- 60. 10th anniversary material

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- BEAR
- FISH
- STUDY
- DINOSAUR
- ZEBRA
- AARDVARK
- ANT
- BADGER
- BAT
- CHEETAH
- CROCODILE
- CROW
- DOLPHIN
- EEL
- HEDGEHOG
- HAMSTER
- MOLE
- PONY
- RAVEN





OPINION

Trump's handling of COVID-19 insults reporters

AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

It's an unusual time in the world with a pandemic raging and a president who only takes it seriously after hundreds of thousands have died globally. How President Donald Trump has been handling this worldwide crisis is less than respectable. Given that he's the nation's leader, and he continues to belittle reporters for doing their jobs is downright upsetting — and I want to say unbelievable, but come on, we all know who we're talking about here.

Trump held a COVID-19 press conference in the Rose Garden on Sunday, March 29, where many reporters began to ask questions. One reporter named Yamiche Alcindor, with PBS NewsHour, bluntly told Trump she had two questions, one of which was regarding a statement he said involving governors requesting an exaggerated amount of ventilators.

She only got to ask half of her question, saying, "The first is you've said repeatedly that you think that some of the



equipment that governors are requesting they don't actually need. You said New York might not need 30,000—"

Trump, being his disrespectful and immature self, felt the need to not let her finish her question before responding. He cut in saying that he didn't say that, then got defensive when Alcindor brought up that he said it on Sean Han-

nity's Fox News segment.

Is Trump really trying to claim he didn't say something when it was broadcasted on television? Yes, and that's all I have to say about that. Where's CNN's fact-checker when you need 'em?

If you thought he'd stop there, unfortunately, you're wrong. He continued on, saying Alcindor needed to be "a little more positive," and no one trusts the media anymore because it's always "get ya, get ya, get ya."

I didn't know answering a reporter's questions involved the entire media community. Being part of the media

community myself, I am confused.

Alcindor, as an experienced reporter, tried to finish her question to no avail. She was cut off again by Trump.

"Excuse me," he said. "You didn't hear me. That's why you used to work for the Times and now you work for somebody else. Look, let me tell you something — be nice. Don't be threatening."

This isn't the first time he's attacked black, female reporters, or reporters in general. Moreover, this isn't the first time he's gone after Alcindor WITHIN A SINGLE MONTH. Earlier in March, Trump called a question Alcindor asked a "nasty question." Her question was simply, "Has the suspension of the White House pandemic office slowed the country's response to the coronavirus?"

Alcindor isn't the only reporter to receive this treatment from Trump since this pandemic exploded into the crisis it is now.

On Friday, March 20, Peter Alexander, White House correspondent for NBC News, simply asked, "What do you say to Americans who are watching you right now who are scared?"

To which Trump responded, "I say that you're a terrible reporter. That's what I say." Nice.

During the same press conference, Jon Karl, ABC News chief White House correspondent, asked Trump if everyone

who needs a ventilator will get one.

Trump responded like a middle school child.

"Look, don't be a cutie pie," he said. "OK? ... We had a bad testing system. We had a bad stockpile system. We had nothing in the stockpile system. So I wouldn't tell me what you're telling — you know, like being a wise guy."

There are many more instances like these, where Trump acts like a Karen to people doing their jobs, and — being that he's supposed to be a respected national figure — it's sad.

I'm not a mainstream, popular reporter where I get hundreds of comments telling me to kill myself. I'm a college reporter writing about the crazy world of politics, but when I see the aforementioned reporters getting treated with so little respect by a powerful leader — it makes me go, "Wow seriously? These people are doing their jobs, and people like Trump have the audacity to disrespect them AND their work?"

I get it, being a powerful human who has to make hard decisions causes a lot of stress, but if that stress can't be handled in a decent way or even by talking to people reasonably — is it really worth it?

Having a national leader who continues to disrespect reporters and women, we all know what I'm talking about, is disgusting and #notmypresident.

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‘Tiger King’ is not worth all the hype

BRIDGET JANIS

Contributor

Netflix released a new documentary just in time for the nationwide stay-at-home order: “Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness.”

The show, which has seven episodes that are all about 45 minutes long, was a quick watch. I was able to binge-watch it all in one day — because what else was I going to do?

“Tiger King” follows the story of Joseph Maldonado-Passage, also known as Joe Exotic. He is the owner of G.W. Zoo, a privately-owned zoo in Oklahoma with over 200 tigers and other big cats.

Throughout the documentary, we learn about Exotic running his zoo, raising his tigers, and the woman who continuously tries to shut down his zoo, Carole Baskin.

Baskin is an animal rights activist and owns Big Cat Rescue, a nonprofit animal sanctuary based near Tampa, Florida. Viewers of the show become very invested in her past marriage. It comes out in episode two that her late husband, Don Lewis, had gone missing in August 1997 and was pronounced dead in 2002.

Many people have suspicions that Baskin killed her husband and fed him to



COURTESY OF IMDb

Netflix’s newest true crime series is trending like crazy, but it’s nothing to roar about.

her tigers. This is something that Exotic, his employees and other big cat zoo owners say during the series.

Before watching this series, Baskin’s name was all over my Twitter and Facebook feeds. Everyone was debating on social media about the theory that she killed her husband.

After watching the show, it was shocking that the conversation about Baskin’s

late husband disappearing was a little less than an episode of the series. While, yes, I do follow all the theories of the murder because it is interesting, it doesn’t make sense why it is so hyped up if it was such a small portion of the show.

The reason this show did so well on Netflix is because people are sitting at home practicing social distancing. I don’t think people would have been as inter-

ested if this series came out a couple of months earlier.

It was an interesting documentary, but it does not deserve all the praise it is getting.

The timing for the release was convenient. Closer to the end of the show, Exotic was accused of trying to hire someone to kill Baskin, because she was always trying to shut down his zoo. He ends up in jail and the audience gets to see the whole process of how everything went down.

All the facts that lead up to his arrest were crammed into about the last two episodes, so it becomes more fast-paced at the end.

Netflix has released some great documentaries in the past with some interesting stories to tell. “Tiger King” was original, since Exotic did actually own over 200 big cats — the eye-catcher for the whole story.

The audience got to see all the tiger cubs and playful times along with Exotic’s crazy personal life with the rivalry and Baskin’s multiple husbands. But really, the tigers and Baskin’s husband’s disappearance were the only interesting parts.

While this documentary was unique, it definitely isn’t worth all the hype it got. There are better documentaries out there.

Rating: 2.5/5 stars

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SPORTS

Fifth-year senior says goodbye to Oakland basketball

MICHAEL PEARCE

Sports Editor

For the past five years, Xavier Hill-Mais has been a constant on an Oakland University men's basketball team that has seen many come and go.

Hill-Mais — known as “X” to Golden Grizzlies fans — was behind Oakland legends like Jalen Hayes and Sherron Dorsey-Walker for the first two years of his career.

When his junior year rolled around, he had a decision to make — either stay at OU and redshirt or look for opportunities elsewhere.

Hill-Mais decided to redshirt his third year on campus in order to gain more playing time and find his role once Hayes and Martez Walker graduated.

In his redshirt junior year, Hill-Mais took control of the OU offense, scoring 18.3 points per game and grabbing 7.2 rebounds per game. He earned Horizon League first team honors at the end of the year, solidifying himself as a top-five player in the league.

After the breakout year, he had another difficult decision to make. He saw teammates transferring to different places, putting OU in a position where in his final year, he would be sharing the floor with mostly younger players.

The thought of transferring did enter Hill-Mais' mind, but ultimately he decided to stay where he was and finish out his collegiate career as a Golden Grizzly.

“At the end of the day, I thought about it and realized it was something I didn't really want to do,” he said. “I don't like bouncing around and I don't like the idea of just picking up and leaving something, especially at the collegiate level.”

A year later, Hill-Mais doesn't regret the decision to ride it out in the black and gold.

“I feel good, I felt good minutes after I decided that I was going to stay,” he said. “These were things I didn't even think about for more than one day. Every decision I made at Oakland — I stand by it. I don't live with any resentment or anything.”

In his senior year, Hill-Mais scored 16.9 points per game and improved his rebounding, pulling down 8.1 rebounds per game. He also led the team in blocks, sending back 45 shots in total.

Hill-Mais came into the program with fellow big man Brad Brechting, and the two followed a similar arc. Both red-shirted their third year and broke out the



On media day in the O'rena, Xavier Hill-Mais and teammate Dan Oladapo mess around while wrapping up a shootaround.

next season. Brechting redshirted due to a foot injury, but both took their leap in 2018-2019.

The two also graduated together, were the only two seniors on their senior night and were the centerpieces of the team from 2018-2020.

“We matured as men together,” Hill-Mais said. “We dealt with the same situations, we kind of developed a respect for each other that helped us understand one another. In the end, that's all you can really ask for is mutual understanding and respect.”

With his collegiate career behind him, Hill-Mais is looking to play professionally overseas. After spending five years in Michigan, he is looking for somewhere with some better weather, but is open to any location.

“It honestly doesn't matter to me where I go, it's just about building yourself up,” he said. “I would like to play somewhere definitely nice, somewhere warm like in

Greece or Italy. I'd definitely want to play somewhere warm, for real.”

Hill-Mais is graduating with a degree in graphic design, something that he hopes to combine with his professional playing career.

“The main thing for me right now is to make sure I have a job playing basketball and then after that I can try to incorporate my graphic design, and get some of my stuff out there,” he said. “That's something I definitely want to do — keep designing and finding things available for me.”

Over five years of his life, Hill-Mais has performed in front of thousands of fans. He has been one of the most outspoken players about the student section and fans, consistently thanking them and complimenting them in post-game interviews.

He believed the fans and atmosphere in the O'rena is something he will miss in the next chapter of his life.

COURTESY OF THE DETROIT NEWS

“I think playing at Oakland is a different experience than any other gym, it's a whole immersive experience,” he said. “If you take five steps out of bounds, the fans are right there. Oakland does a great job with having that immersive experience. It's a place where basketball is meant to be played.”

Fans saw Hill-Mais on the court, but after the final buzzer sounded, Hill-Mais and his teammates created bonds off the court as well.

From making friends in class to grabbing food with his teammates, those bonds are what Hill-Mais said he will miss the most.

“I will always treasure those memories,” he said. “They are good memories, but I also keep in touch with the guys that played here, so we just keep talking. That's what I will cherish the most — those relationships that still haven't ended — and I think I'll always be grateful for that.”



COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Carl Leone will coach Oakland University's newly founded varsity esports team.

Esports team announces Carl Leone as head coach

MICHAEL PEARCE
Sports Editor

Four months after announcing esports as a varsity sport, Oakland University Athletics has found the coach who will lead the new team.

On Monday, March 30, it was announced that Carl Leone would serve as the coach of the varsity esports team at OU.

"I am thrilled to be a part of Oakland University's inaugural esports program," Leone said in the official announcement from University Athletics. "I am honored to be able to apply my knowledge of esports to support future student-athletes."

Leone was the League of Legends coach at Aquinas College for one year before accepting the head coach job at OU. League of Legends is one of the three games that the esports team will compete in, along with Rocket League and Super Smash Brothers.

When the institution of the esports team was first announced, Athletic Director Steve Waterfield talked about what he saw in his kids, which illuminated him to the rise of esports as a part of everyday life.

"They watch YouTube videos of other people playing video games," Waterfield said. "Once I realized that their population and other generations are interested in that, it confirmed my initial thoughts because I saw it every day in our house ... sometimes too much."

Before coaching at Aquinas, Leone

worked at Robert Morris University as an assistant esports coach. At Robert Morris, he worked closely with students, creating personal improvement plans as well as doing analytic work and social media posting.

Leone is a Michigan native and earned his business administration degree from Robert Morris in 2018. While at Robert Morris, Leone was also a League of Legends competitor.

"I am very happy to welcome Carl to the Golden Grizzlies Athletics Department family and to have him serve as the first head coach in Oakland University varsity esports history," Waterfield said in the announcement. "Carl brings experiences as a collegiate gamer and coach, which will prove valuable as he leads the esports team."

On Friday, Dec. 6, 2019, OU held an announcement regarding its partnership with the Detroit Renegades to bring esports to OU as a varsity sport.

The Renegades, a professional esports team based in Detroit, will be providing the infrastructure and expertise to assist the university in growing the varsity and club teams.

The partnership with The Renegades is something unique to OU esports. The team will use the facilities based at GameTime in Auburn Hills.

No announcement has been made regarding the members of the esports team, but in December, Waterfield indicated that the makeup of the team would be determined after finding a head coach.

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