

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 46 | Issue 23 | March 3, 2021



No Days Off

Golden Grizzlies take to the courts, fields and diamonds over mid-winter break

Pages 14- 15

HAMILTON STAR

Javier Muñoz to virtually visit
OU and discuss career

PAGE 3

POETRY CENSORING

Dunya Mikhail describes
writing in Iraq and the U.S.

PAGE 6

OUSC ELECTIONS

Campaigning for 2021-2022
student leaders begins

PAGE 8-9

PHOTO BY SOPHIE HUME

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



ALL OF THE LIGHTS The Habitat in the Oakland Center unveiled its new sign across the eastern wall this February. The Habitat sign features many different shades of wood and LED lining around the letters.

MICHAEL PEARCE / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



3 THE SEXY 'HAMILTON'

Javier Muñoz to speak in Q&A put on by Student Life Lecture Board. Photo/Student Life Lecture Board



12 I (DON'T) CARE A LOT

Netflix's new release is simply too long to be good. Photo/Decider



15 SENIOR SLUGGER

Blake Griffith looks to make the most of his senior season. Photo/Golden Grizzlies

THE OAKLAND POST

EDITORIAL BOARD

Michael Pearce
Editor-in-Chief
mpearce@oakland.edu

Emily Morris
Managing Editor
emorris@oakland.edu

EDITORS

Ben Hume Web Editor
bhume@oakland.edu

Sophie Hume Photo Editor
sophiahume@oakland.edu

Lauren Reid Sports Editor
lrreid@oakland.edu

Cayla Smith Campus Editor
caylasmith@oakland.edu

Jeff Thomas Features Editor
jdthomas2@oakland.edu

COPY&VISUAL

Jodi Mitchell Design Editor

Meg Speaks Design Editor

Sam Summers Design Editor

Noora Neiroukh Photographer

Maggie Willard Photographer

REPORTERS

Gabrielle Abdelmessih Staff Reporter

Andrew Bernsdorf Staff Reporter

Bridget Janis Staff Reporter

Jess Orlando Staff Reporter

Autumn Page Staff Reporter

Matthew Scheidel Staff Reporter

Dean Vaglia Staff Reporter

Rachel Yim Staff Reporter

DISTRIBUTION

Jaylon Johnson Distribution Director
jaylonjohnson@oakland.edu

Kimmy Guy Distribution Assistant
Erika Beechie Distributor

ADVISING

Garry Gilbert Editorial Adviser
ggilber@oakland.edu
248.370.2105

Don Ritenburgh Business Adviser
ritenbur@oakland.edu
248.370.2533

ADVERTISING

Lauren Karmo Marketing Director
laurenkarmo@oakland.edu

Madeline Parker Ads Director
mparker@oakland.edu
248.370.4269

VOTE AND CONNECT AT:
oaklandpostonline.com

POLL OF THE WEEK

WHERE IS THE BEST SPOT ON CAMPUS TO HAVE A MENTAL BREAKDOWN?

A) KRESGE'S QUIET FLOOR

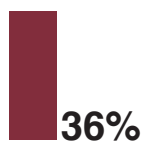
B) THE OAKLAND CENTER FOOD COURT

C) MY CAR IN ANY OF THE 400 PARKING LOTS

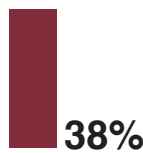
D) THE REC CENTER TRACK

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

HOW DID YOU SPEND YOUR VALENTINE'S DAY?



A)
WITH MY
PARTNER



B)
DOING MY OWN THING



C)
ASLEEP



D)
WITH MY FRIENDS

SLLB to present live Q&A with ‘Hamilton’ star Javier Muñoz

MICHAEL PEARCE

Editor-in-Chief

The man who was dubbed “The Sexy Hamilton” by Stephen Colbert, Javier Muñoz, will be doing an hour-long Q&A with the Student Life Lecture Board (SLLB).

Muñoz has worked in television, movies and theater, and most famously took over for Lin-Manuel Miranda as the lead in Broadway’s “Hamilton” in 2016.

Outside of his work on stages, sets and shoots, Muñoz is an activist for LGBTQIA+ rights. Muñoz uses his platform to fight to end HIV/AIDS and was honored with the OUT100 Breakout of the Year award in 2016, as well as the Howard Ashman Award by the Gay Men’s Health Crisis (GMHC).

Muñoz has a personal connection to the HIV/AIDS fight, as well as fighting cancer. He has overcome diagnoses of cancer in 2015 and HIV in 2002.

“[Javier] is a survivor of HIV and cancer, and has overcome it with resilience,” said Jean Ann Miller, SLLB advisor and senior director at the Office for Student Involvement. “And he’s been so successful.”

The event takes place on Wednesday, March 10, which coincides with Pride Month. The Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC) will kick off Pride Month with the 2nd Annual Tim Larrabee Memorial Lecture feat. Peppermint and Sasha Velour the day before on March 9.

SLLB has worked with the GSC and the Center for Multicultural Initiatives (CMI) to procure a wide-ranging



PHOTO COURTESY OF SLLB

Javier Muñoz is virtually visiting OU for a Q&A. Students are welcome to submit questions for the discussion too.

list of questions. After running the Keke Palmer lecture, SLLB Student Chair Drake Lambright and Miller learned a valuable lesson — too many questions is much better than not enough.

“Even though I felt really confident going into it ... we ran out of pre-approved questions about halfway through,” Lambright said. “Going into this lecture, it’s about being a lot more prepared.”

Lambright, who moderated the Palmer event, will also be moderating the Muñoz lecture, working off a list of questions and her own research.

“The really cool thing about celebrities is they have done millions of interviews,” Lambright said. “I’ve been going through a lot of interviews and seeing the different things he gets asked and he shares — I’m looking for patterns and building questions off of that.”

SLLB has worked for approximately 30 years at bringing interesting speakers to campus. Part of the challenge of choosing a speaker is the balance between an interesting speaker and someone people want to see. Part of that is choosing diverse people from lecture to lecture.

“We want to make sure that the representation of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is there throughout the choices of Student Life Lecture Board,” Miller said. “We look at who we’ve had in past years and going forward we represent a very diverse selection of speakers.”

Lambright and Miller both believe that Muñoz is a great fit for the live Q&A format.

“If you hear him speak, he’s super personable and a very kind person,” Lambright said. “I think when people watch it, they’re going to see a lot of those qualities that we saw in him — he’s very down to Earth and will talk about anything. He’s funny, he’s open-minded and he has a lot of depth and insight on some topics.”

OU ranked third safest college in nation

RACHEL YIM

Staff Reporter

According to a recent study by CollegeMagazine.com, Oakland University is again ranked third-safest college campus in the country, continuing its reputation of being one of the top three colleges for safety since 2017.

The ranking is based on the number of students to violent crime ratio, reported on-campus violent crimes and total disciplinary incidents, on-campus housing availability, campus safety resources and community’s annual violent crime rate.

The study points out that OU had only four annual violent crimes reported by students, 209 total incidents defined as actions that need disciplinary action taken by the school and 12 violent crime incidents in the city of Rochester in 2020.

To maintain the safe environment for students, faculty and staff at OU, the roles of the OU Police Department (OUPD) are crucial. OUPD is the lead law enforcement department with respect to campus safety and security, its jurisdiction covers all of OU’s main campus.

Mark Gordon, chief of Police, and his staff of 22 sworn, state-certified police officers perform a plethora of jobs including responding to calls in the community, 24/7 patrolling, administering and maintaining the OU safety initiatives — CCTV cameras, alarms and Emergency Blue Light phones — as well as complying with the Federal Clery mandate.



NOORA NEIROUKH | PHOTOGRAPHER

This is OU’s police station, located on the south-west side of campus. OU was ranked the third safest college in the nation.

The Emergency Blue Light phones are strategically placed across campus to further assist the campus community in reporting emergencies as soon as possible. They serve as an additional means of communication with the OUPD, support a safer campus environment and communicate to potential offenders that their presence or action is not welcome.

“The efforts of the OUPD are having a positive impact on campus safety,” Gordon said. “Whether it’s proactive patrol approaches or responding to calls or

providing community education, each member of the police department contributes to overall safety and it is rewarding to see positive results.”

As the study additionally highlights, the OUPD also has the First Aid Support Team (FAST) to respond to on-campus health crises and provides various training and educational presentations on campus to prevent further campus violence. These training and presentations include the following topics:

1. Personal safety awareness
2. Sexual assault prevention
3. Rape aggression defense
4. Crime prevention
5. Surviving an active shooting incident
6. Domestic violence & stalking bystander intervention
7. Drug and alcohol awareness

“I do feel that the OU campus is safe,” Ashlyn Foreman, a sophomore at OU, said. “I think that the blue light phones provide a peace of mind and that knowing we have a police department so close reminds us that if we ever need anything, they are never too far away.”

While maintaining a safe and secure college campus environment for its students, faculty and staff members is challenging, OU continues to provide its students with a variety of resources. And the OUPD is committed to providing the best support and guidance toward safety possible.

OU's diverse voices conference goes virtual for first time in 19 years

CAYLA SMITH

Campus Editor

For the first time in 19 years, Oakland University's Diverse Voices Conference goes virtual via Zoom on Saturday, Mar. 13 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Every year the conference poses a different theme, and this year's is "Defining the Role of Social Justice

in Practice." The keynote speaker is Professor Dr. Marilyn Y. Byrd from the University of Oklahoma. She also serves on the Board of Directors as the co-chairperson of the Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Special Interest Group.

Other speakers include Ph.D. student Chelesea Lewellen from the University of Southern Illinois who is studying higher education and graduate and undergraduate students from Oakland University's department of Counseling and Human Resource Development. These students are Kayla Jones, Maryam Nissan and Dana Cogshell.

This year's theme came about when there was a unanimous agreement between the members of the Diverse Voices Conference Advisory Board made up of OU faculty, administrators and students.

"We wanted to give a voice to the need for social justice in society and provide a voice for George Floyd - a Black man killed unjustly in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in May 2020 and all the Black men and women who have been killed unjustly by the criminal justice system as our way to support the Black Lives Matter movement," Dr. Chaunda L. Scott said.

Minneapolis, Minnesota is the hometown of founder and president of the

conference — Dr. Scott, who is from the School of Education and Human Services.

Dr. Scott founded the conference 23 years ago when she began her academic career and teaching at the university level.

"I launched the first Diverse Voices Conference [DVC] to provide university students with an opportunity and platform to speak out publicly on topics that support human diversity equality, diversity inclusion and social justice for all alongside faculty, business professionals and their peers," Scott said.

She says that the goal of the Diverse Voices conference at Oakland University is to provide a supportive forum for not only students who attend Oakland University, but other Michigan higher education students, faculty and staff members, community members, local and national speakers and business leaders to learn more about and speak out in support valuing all aspects of human diversity.

This conference also provides the opportunity to develop critical thinking skills, leadership skills, public speaking skills, social skills, networking skills, human diversity knowledge and encourage social justice advocacy.

Dr. Scott adds that the uniqueness of Diverse Voices Program is that it serves

as an innovative model for effective change that uses cultural influences such as diverse speakers, music, dance, and art to empower students to become leaders of valuing all aspects of human diversity.

The Diverse Voices Conference also provides an opportunity for OU students to interact with students, faculty, staff, business professionals, academic scholars and community members from the in and outside of the Michigan tri-county areas, Wayne, Oakland and Macomb. To date, the following universities have been actively involved with the Diverse Voice Conference at Oakland University: Marygrove College, Wayne State University, Ferris State University, University of Michigan, Ashland Seminary, Baker College, Central Michigan, the University of Detroit Mercy, Davenport University and Cape Peninsula University of Technology in Cape Town South, Africa.

Future plans for the Diverse Voices Program include expanding the program to a one-day program format with one or two break out sessions and a luncheon.

For more information, contact Dr. Scott at cscott@oakland.edu.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OKLAHOMA UNIVERSITY

Dr. Marilyn Y. Byrd from the University of Oklahoma will be the keynote speaker.

NOW HIRING: SPORTS REPORTER



- **MUST** have a basic understanding of AP Style
- **MUST** write two stories per week
- **ATTEND** weekly budget meetings to pitch story ideas
- **COMMUNICATE** with sports editor effectively

Send resume, cover letter, and three writing samples to
EDITOR@OAKLANDPOSTONLINE.COM.

CRRSAA distributes emergency funds to students

BRIDGET JANIS

Staff Reporter

Back in October, Oakland University distributed the CARES Act grant, which was \$500 for eligible students. Through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSAA), students were able to receive an additional \$500 or \$1,200 this winter semester.

On Dec. 27, 2020 the CRRSAA allowed for about \$22.9 billion in COVID-19 relief funding for higher education. This was known as the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds II (HEERF II). The funding was distributed directly to students and some in tuition costs.

OU gave out about \$6.8 million during the first relief fund, they gave out a similar amount at about \$6.9 million this time around.

"It's really important because it's showing both the federal government and institutions of higher education are committed to supporting college students," Dawn Aubry, vice president for enrollment management said. "And making sure college remains affordable, especially during this pandemic."

The funds were determined based on the financial need of students based on their FAFSA applications. In order to be eligible, student's FAFSA must have been on file as of Feb. 2, 2021, they must be seeking a graduate or undergraduate degree and must be taking at least one credit hour for the winter 2021 semester as of Feb. 9, 2021.

The awards were split up into two different categories. Students that received \$1,200 were full time and taking a minimum of 12 credit hours for undergraduate students, or eight credit hours for graduate students or nine credit hours for OUWB medical students.

Students that are eligible for the \$500 are part-time students, that were taking less than the credit hours listed above and still met the general criteria.

"The grant alleviates some of the hardship students are facing in the midst of the pandemic," Aubry said. "These challenges families are facing have been ongoing, so it's important to show our commitment to ensuring that they have access to additional resources and support. It's also important [students] recognize that we want them to be able to complete their degree,

and we know that these funds will help."

The funds were automatically distributed to students' bank accounts by the non-payroll direct deposit. If a student was unable to set up direct deposit, the university sent out checks in the mail.

The grants given do not need to be repaid and were sent out around Feb. 12, 2021.

"It was important to us to get them the funds as soon as possible," Aubry said. "Obviously, direct deposit can be awarded to students within a few days and mailing a check can take a little longer."

Students who can not get the CRRSAA funding and do have financial struggles can apply for assistance from the donor-funded Student Emergency Relief Fund. This fund is more of a case-by-case scenario, still the award can be up to \$500.

To seek out this service, contact the Student Financial Services at financeservices@oakland.edu or (248) 370-2550. Alternatively, students can reach out to the Dean of Students at deanofstudents@oakland.edu.

OU unveils center for evolutionary psychological science

AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

Oakland University recently unveiled their new Center for Evolutionary Psychological Science (CEPS), making the campus one of three in the nation.

The Evolutionary Psychological Science focuses on identifying how our evolutionary past shaped our modern psychology and behavior.

Evolutionary psychology applies Darwinism to human psychology and behavior. Evolutionary psychologists propose that the evolutionary processes that shaped the human body also influenced the development of the human mind.

"The Center's founding sends a powerful message that OU is a place for those who are interested in research and dialogue on evolutionary psychology," Todd K. Shackelford, distinguished professor and chair of the Department of Psychology said.

The mission of CEPS is to promote and support evolutionary psychological research and education, to recruit and retain outstanding evolutionary psychological scientists, to facilitate collaborative evolutionary psychological research projects and to develop gift, grant and contract support for evolutionary psychological science research programs, graduate and undergraduate training and core facilities and equipment.

The CEPS will provide a plethora of knowledge about our evolutionary past to improve lives in the present and future.

The Center will also have collaborative research within and across colleges and schools at OU. Faculty and students at other universities, both nationally and abroad,



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
Todd Shackelford, distinguished professor and chair of the Department of Psychology

will also contribute.

"It's [evolutionary psychology] a perspective that's focused on information processing of the mind but it draws clearly from biology, medicine, law and all these different fields, there's a home for everyone in this discipline," he said.

He continued saying that having people from different fields and areas can provide unique perspectives and bring the communities together.

It is similar to the conference that has been held yearly for the past six years, pre-COVID-19, by the psychology

department at OU.

It's an interdisciplinary international conference held at Meadow Brook Hall where panelists present on whatever research they chose from the overall topic of the conference.

CEPS has two advisory boards, internal and external.

The internal advisory board is composed of OU professors from several departments — including psychology, philosophy, biological science and linguistics.

The external advisory board has members from all over the world.

There are members from different parts of the U.S., the U.K., Denmark, Portugal, Singapore and many other countries.

"Part of the reason we have such a broad range of people involved with the center is because of how broad evolutionary psychology is," Shackelford said.

CEPS wants to be involved within the community and will establish educational and financial partnerships with local and regional businesses, and publishers of academic journals and books.

"We wanted to make it a formal commitment that we're not just an academic group, we want to reach out and want to share what we've learned about the human mind with the rest of the community," he said.

CEPS will also develop educational opportunities such as weekend seminars, summer camps, an academic minor and a certificate program.

While CEPS is still in the process of building and getting their feet on the ground, anyone interested in being a part of this can email Shackelford at shackelf@oakland.edu.

Shackelford also recommends anyone interested in being a part or wanting more information go to the

OU professor, poet describes art and censorship

JESSICA ORLANDO
Staff Reporter

Oakland University’s Center for Public Humanities invited world-renowned poet Dunya Mikhail to chat about her life and read poetry on Tuesday, Feb 16.

Mikhail was born in Baghdad, Iraq and moved to the United States 30 years later in 1995. She graduated from the University of Baghdad and went on to work as journalist and translator for the Baghdad Observer.

She faced censorship in Iraq, which led her to move to Jordan and then to America. She settled in Detroit and is currently teaching Arabic at Oakland University.

Mikhail is considered one of the foremost poets of our time. She has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Knights Foundation grant, a Kresge Fellowship as well as the United Nations Human Rights Award for Freedom of Writing.

Mikhail’s writing has been popular among The PBS News Hour, The New Yorker, The New York Times, The Guardian and Poetry.

Mikhail reminisced about her first literary experiences as a child in Iraq and how her grandmother would tell her Arabic folk stories. She would go on to write all of her stories in a little notebook and even earned the title “The Poet” in grade school by her peers.

“I had a notebook when I was a child and I rewrote all those stories I heard from my grandmother in my own way, and I remember illustrating them, Mikhail said.

Mikhail explained that she writes all of her poetry in Arabic first and then in English. The difference in languages have created new meanings and emotions when translated, and it can take several times to get the translation right.

“Translating poetry is like turning a Persian carpet to the other side,” Mikhail said.

She talked about the process of writing prose in a dictatorship where there was a lot of censorship writers and artists had to face. Mikhail disguised political critiques as metaphors in order to keep writing prose during her time in Iraq.

“In Iraq we poets use metaphors not always for the sake of art, but as shields from censorship,” Mikhail said.

After Mikhail came to the United States, she discovered that she only had to use metaphors when she wanted to instead of in every line in her prose to cover up the real meanings of her poems.

“I didn’t want my censors to understand me,” Mikhail said. “I only wanted my people to understand me.”

Mikhail illustrated that her poetry is a representation of herself and those with similar experiences. She felt that being able to openly express her emotions and experiences not only helped herself but heal others as well.

“We are sensitive to the feelings of others, but I don’t have something that I need to hide from others and I feel good that I am myself,” Mikhail said.

She explained that poetry to her was something that inspired others and defined emotions such as loss and war but also care and love. Words and stories have connected humanity for years and will continue to do so for many years to come.

“Do you think we would waste our time on such a useless thing, like poetry, if we didn’t have genuine care for wonder or art, in general,” Mikhail said.

Mikhail discussed that the quarantine has both helped poets and hindered them because they could not travel and tell their poetry to others. It has allowed Mikhail to learn more about herself because of the solitude she faced during



PHOTO COURTESY OF NDBOOKS.COM
Dunya Mikhail is a professor at OU as well as a world-renowned poet.

the pandemic.
“Solitude is the business of poets,” Mikhail said. “We poets are also the modern nomads because we like to wander from place to place reading our poems and making connections with strangers.”

THE

OP

YOU CAN FIND US ON



VISIT US ONLINE

WWW.OAKLANDPOSTONLINE.COM

CAMPUS

Medical students host first OUWB talent show

DEAN VAGLIA

Staff Reporter

Students and faculty from the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) held the first OUWB talent show on Friday, Feb. 5. The event was open to members of the OUWB community and held over Zoom.

Approximately 70 OUWB community members and prospective students tuned in to watch seven performers show off their creative abilities. Acts included singing, opera, guitar playing, beatboxing, painting and magic tricks. Both students and faculty performed.

The talent show was planned by five members of the Learning Community for Integration of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences in Health Profession Education, one of three Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) learning communities.

The five students are Donna Kayal, Jenny Nguyen, Maidah Raja, Luu Pham and Adam Wahl. OUWB professor Misa Mi came up with the idea for the talent show.

"[Mi] sent out a survey of students who were

interested in doing the talent show," Nguyen said.

"It was all of us meeting a couple of times before the talent show in order to plan all the little details of how we would send the surveys links for who would be interested in performing."

Advertising the event was a one of the main focuses of the planning team. Word of the event was spread through OUWB online spaces such as GroupMe and Facebook, along with emails.

"We just tried to get as many participants as we could," Kayal said. "Eventually we were able to get some and that was exciting once we started seeing the numbers go up."

Another focus was figuring out how the show would be formatted. Would it be a competition or would the OUWB community be free to show off their skills in an open environment?

"We were initially wanting to do a competition," Kayal said. "But then we thought, 'Maybe if we do set it up as a competition it might discourage some people' ... but we also thought maybe it could motivate some people to perform. We ended up just deciding on having it open as a talent show just for fun."

When the day finally came, seven entrants took to the virtual stage and performed for their OUWB peers. Kayal's favorite performance was student Collin Trainer's magic show, and Nguyen's was assistant professor Abram Brummett's video of him painting a picture.

"You could see everyone was either in awe, they were laughing or they were basically dancing in their seats," Nguyen said, regarding the audience's reactions to the performers. "It was a success of bringing the community together and just making people feel good."

Since the planners see the show as a success, plans are being made to host a second event sometime during the next school year.

"We are hoping things may be able to get to in person by next year ... but we definitely want to continue," Kayal said.

The next talent show will either take place around late January and early February or sometime in the fall semester. Student workloads are a primary concern, as upper level medical students have exams to study for in the winter semesters.

ADVERTISE WITH US!

Contact: ads@oaklandpostonline.com

\$100 FOR STUDENTS

Open your OU Credit Union account, use your Grizzly Visa Debit Card 10 times, and receive \$100. It's that easy!

Open your account today.

oucreditunion.org/students



Offer of \$100 valid 1/1/2021 to 3/31/2021 for new members who qualify under the OU student SEG. OU Credit Union Visa Debit Card must be activated by 3/31/2021 and 10 debit card purchases must post within 30 days of card activation to qualify. The \$100 will be deposited into member's checking account within 4 to 6 weeks of the 10th purchase. Not valid for existing members. May not be combined with any other deposit offers. If new member is referred to the Credit Union, member referral offer will not apply.

**OAKLAND
UNIVERSITY**
Credit Union



OUSC announces 2021-2022 candidates

A new student body president and vice president will be named soon, as Oakland University Student Congress (OUSC) elections are open and debates are in the near future.

Last year, students elected Ethan Bradley as president and Annabella Jankowski as vice president. The two ran unopposed and have served as president and vice president throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced them to adapt right away.

“I wish I had known how long this pandemic was going to be — I think that would have made a big difference for how we started out the year,” Bradley said.

Students will notice Jankowski’s name on the ballot for a second time — this time with a new presidential candidate, Adeline Perhogan. Perhogan served as Student Activities Funding Board (SAFB) chair for the 2020-2021 school year.

Perhogan and Jankowski’s main four platforms are: health and wellness; emergency support services, like relief and textbook funding; increasing campus involvement and transparency.

The other set of candidates for president and vice president are Jordan Tolbert and Brennan Smith. Both candidates have experience within OUSC as legislators and committee chairs.

Tolbert and Smith have many goals listed within their platform, but the biggest include: increasing minority graduation rate, increasing representation within OUSC, further measures to promote inclusion, measures to improve campus safety and increased access for people with disabilities.

Aside from the big-ticket positions, OUSC has openings for legislators, who will also be on the ballot alongside president/vice president candidates.

There are eight candidates for legislator spots. Student

Congress legislators work with the OUSC president and vice president to pass new laws, as well as working on the OUSC constitution and bylaws, which are constantly amended.

Abbie Austin, Murryum Farooqi, Bailee Gierman, Isabella Mahuad, Noora Neiroukh, Dylan Pescorolo, Stephanie Recknagel and Tyliah Weathersby are the candidates for OUSC legislators. All eight will have their platforms and goals listed on the ballot.

Election advice from Bradley

As outgoing president, Bradley feels candidates should have an open mind when it comes to plans changing — something he had to endure from day one.

“The big thing they need to know is to be prepared for all of their plans to be ruined,” he said, while laughing. “Not doing the things you initially planned doesn’t mean that you failed, as long as you ended up doing something else that was useful, even if that thing wasn’t something you planned.

To the voters, Bradley’s advice was to take a look at the candidates and determine which set represents their individual concerns with campus.

OUSC regularly meets with university officials to raise issues their constituents have, which can benefit students if they pick the candidates which align with their views.

“Student congress has a lot of connections with administration,” Bradley said. “If you think that one candidate is going to do a better job than the other of voicing your concerns with administrative officials, then you will have an easier time [in college], even if you don’t directly notice it.”

Ballots will be on OUSC’s GrizzOrgs page starting Friday, March 12. Only Oakland University students can vote. Debate times and links will be announced by OUSC at a later date.

Story by Michael Pearce // Design by Meg Speaks // Photos Courtesy of OUSC

The Candidates



Presidential candidate
Adeline Perhogan



Presidential candidate
Jordan Tolbert



Vice Presidential candidate
Annabella Jankowski



Vice Presidential
candidate Brennan Smith



Legislator candidate
Abbie Austin



Legislator candidate
Murryum Farooqi



Legislator candidate
Bailee Gierman



Legislator candidate
Isabella Mahuad



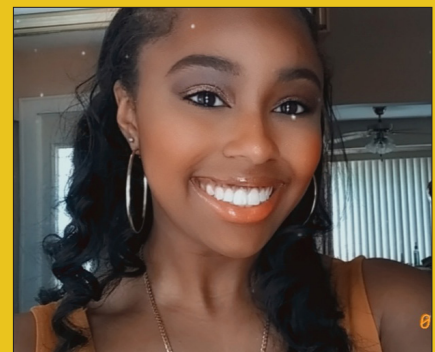
Legislator candidate
Noora Neiroukh



Legislator candidate
Dylan Pescarolo



Legislator candidate
Stephanie Recknagel



Legislator candidate
Tyliah Weathersby

Housing responds to spring break return

EMILY MORRIS

Managing Editor

University Housing skips testing and quarantine period after spring break, after campus COVID-19 cases lower.

Housing Director Jim Zentmeyer accredits lessening campus COVID-19 cases to university policies: wearing masks, social distancing and the biobutton.

"That's probably why we are not mandating testing upon immediate return from spring break or the quarantine, because — so far — the behavior has been successfully producing low positivity rates," Zentmeyer said.

Prior to OU's December break, classes shifted online, due to rising cases. When students returned to campus in January classes continued online and students were expected to quarantine for two weeks.

Following spring break, students have been given less restrictions, despite previous protocol.

"As far as... students on campus, the positivity rate is [.1%]," Zentmeyer said. "So Oakland University is probably the safest place to be in the county right now, which is great news."

There were four positive COVID-19 cases — two off-campus students or faculty and two on-campus students. After the December break, there were six positive cases — two were off campus, and four were on campus.

Because it's common to travel during spring break, Zentmeyer assures OU will welcome students back "carefully."

"I'm very hopeful for the future... but we will have a quick response should we

come across any infections," he said.

Zentmeyer recommends students who did travel "seriously consider" getting a COVID-19 test before returning to campus. Even if students didn't travel, he wanted to remind all students to fill out health reports — available on MySail — because it helps Graham Health Center monitor campus safety.

Cases at OU continue to lessen, but cases have risen slightly state and county wide. These increases are only a fraction of cases from December though.

To accommodate for any concerns, Housing is also already planning for the fall semester.

"We are seeing a drop off with regard to students signing up for fall housing... I think this is certainly going to be a happy place to be in the fall so I don't want students to rule that out," he said.

In past years, Housing has issued fines for anyone who cancels their contract too late — usually May 1 — according to Zentmeyer. Now, the cancellation deadline has been extended to July 15.

"[We are] giving people more flexibility, more opportunities to reserve a space plan for the fall, and if in the beginning of July, they [students] believe they need to make a change, they can do so at no penalty," he said.

While OU Housing is skipping a post-spring-break quarantine and extending deadlines, Zentmeyer says "we're in very good shape." and encourages students to return to campus.

COVID-19 cases on the rise in Michigan

February 27, 2021

Data updated at 3:00 p.m.

COVID-19 Cases Reported 1,156

COVID-19 Deaths Reported 68*

Total COVID-19 Cases to Date 587,581

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHIGAN.GOV

CONTAIN COVID
TEST. TRACE. PROTECT.
MICHIGAN.GOV/CONTAINCOVID

JEFF THOMAS

Features Editor

Over the last two weeks, Michigan has seen a 12% increase in new COVID-19 cases. The increase has coincided with the Feb. 1 lift of dine-in bans on restaurants and the reopening of in-person learning and contact sports in public schools.

From Feb. 14 to Feb. 27, Michigan was one of only five states in the U.S. to see a rise in new COVID-19 cases. Michigan's 12% increase in cases was favorable only to North Dakota's 25% increase and Wyoming's 31% increase.

Despite this data, Michigan's soon-to-be, new Health Director Elizabeth Hertel is optimistic about the position the state is in. During an interview last week with the Detroit News, she pointed to the overall decline in infection numbers (a 51% decrease in new daily cases since the beginning of February) and an increase in vaccination rates as indicators of the solid position the state is in going forward.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is similarly optimistic, though cautious about further lifting restrictions. During a press conference last week, Whitmer discussed the possibility of expanding dine-in capacity in restaurants, lifting restrictions on nursing home visits and allowing for private indoor gatherings of more than 10 people.

"I am hopeful that eventually we get to that point, Whitmer said. "But at this juncture... we've got to keep watching the data."

As most decisions on COVID-19 restrictions have been on a three week cycle, Michiganders should expect an update on the state's COVID-19 policies relatively soon.

Since the beginning of the pandemic Michigan has reported 645,375 cases of COVID-19 and 16,498 deaths from the virus. One of the worst places in the world for COVID-19 infections last spring, Michigan's turn around in

infection rates is generally accepted as one of the success stories of what pandemic restrictions can accomplish.

While facing opposition from Republicans in Lansing and Washington D.C., Whitmer stuck to her guns on COVID-19 restrictions. As a result of her commitment to restrictions, Michigan saw fewer cases of COVID-19 per capita than neighboring states Ohio, Wisconsin and Indiana.

Moving into this new stage of the pandemic political tumult continues to be an issue in Lansing, as Republican leaders in the state congress continue to reject Whitmer's appointees and hold up COVID-19 relief legislation.

This move from the GOP senate is in retaliation to what they claim has been a unilateral pandemic response from Whitmer. GOP leaders say they want bipartisanship and a seat at the table in governing the state. Ultimately, the GOP is trying to leverage votes in order to get Whitmer to further lift restrictions.

Michigan Democrats have responded to these efforts by saying that Republicans are not presenting legislation or even clearly articulating their ideas on how to respond to the pandemic. Democrats further assert that these Republican actions are politically motivated and counterproductive to improving the lives of Michigan's citizens.

The Michigan Department of Health continues to encourage social distancing and mask wearing guidelines to reduce viral transmission.

Michigan continues to increase the availability of testing and sites for receiving the vaccine. With the recent emergency approval of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the hope is that the state can reach the 70% vaccination threshold necessary for immunity sooner with these additional doses available.

7 Day Average of Daily Cases Per Week

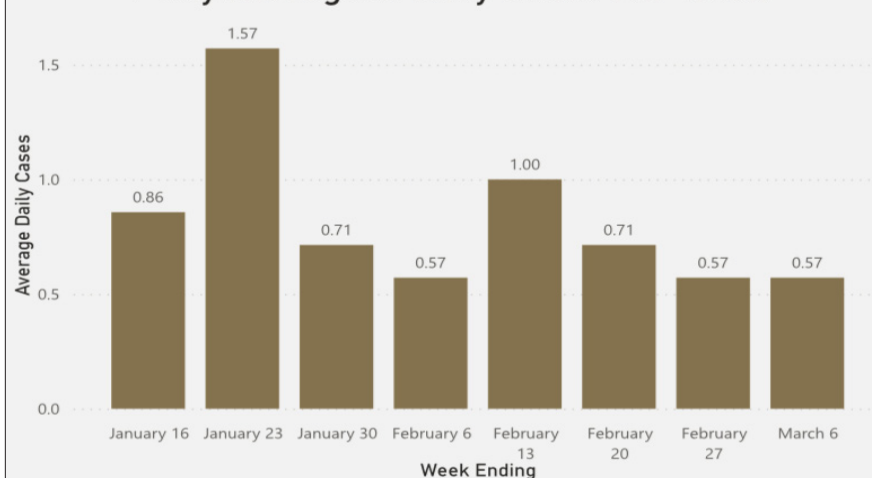


PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Encore series discusses biases in the workplace

JESSICA ORLANDO

Staff Reporter

Oakland University hosted a webinar in their OU Encore series on Thursday, Feb. 18. The webinar invited Stacey Gordon to talk about inclusion and diversity in the workplace.

Gordon is the author, CEO and chief diversity strategist of Rework Work. She is also the creator of the number one resume course at LinkedIn Learning which has gained almost 1 million views.

Gordon has also written career and diversity-related articles and has provided content for large companies such as Forbes and NPR Radio.

Gordon explained that the beginning of making a change starts with awareness. Doing these webinars allows viewers to become aware of biases in the workplace and take action toward advocacy.

"It's important to know why you are doing the thing that you are doing, who you are doing it for, and what impact it's going to have because if you don't have answers to those questions, the action you are going to take will be inauthentic," Gordon said. "Today we are going to be talking about how we can create a culture

where everyone belongs."

Gordon illustrated in her presentation that reaching authenticity can be done by establishing awareness and then reaching alignment with the employers and employees. Action can then be authentic because of the connection between employees and employers, making advocacy more sustainable.

Gordon talked about the three cases for diversity which included business, moral and legal. If employers focused on the three cases of diversity equally, then inclusion would be profitable, sustainable and lawful for companies.

She mentioned that understanding the long process of diversity and inclusion in the workplace helps hold corporations accountable and require employers to do the bare minimum.

"It took fifty-six years for the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to also protect LGBTQ workers," Gordon said.

Gordon explained that the dimensions of diversity can be represented as a bullseye in which the middle is what others can openly see about an individual such as gender and race. Closer to the edge of the bullseye are dimensions such as income level and family, which cannot be perceived as easily.

"What we want is to change the behavior so that we no longer have to focus in on the individual dimensions of diversity," Gordon said. "We are wanting everyone to be included regardless of their dimensions of diversity. We have got to remember and bring that empathy out when it's time to think through this process and realize, yeah that didn't feel good so we don't want to perpetuate that onto other people either."

She explained that when a person experiences discrimination, they can consciously make an effort to never allow their experiences to be others. The practice of empathy can create a culture of inclusion that is authentic.

Gordon emphasized that webinars and education now has allowed listeners to start conversations that are uncomfortable but meaningful in farthing relationships with people of different communities.

"It makes no sense that we are socialized and conditioned to avoid talking about sex, religion and politics because it is all up in our face at this point and we have to be able to talk about it," said Gordon.

Gordon explained that the conversation around race and other inequalities can be difficult and uncomfortable, but important in pointing out unconscious



PHOTO COURTESY OF ESPEAKERS
Stacey Gordon is the author, CEO and chief diversity strategist of Rework Work. She spoke about bias on Feb. 18

biases. Understanding your own biases can help you to stop contributing to discriminatory workplaces.

"Do not say I don't see color because color exists," said Gordon. "We don't live in a black and white world and we know that the way we look changes how people treat us."

THE OAKLAND POST IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2021-2022 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The EIC is responsible for the management and production of The Oakland Post and reports to a board of directors.

Responsibilities include:

- Updating the website daily and overseeing the production of the weekly newspaper
- Recruiting editorial staff members and determining job responsibilities
- Deciding what is fit to print in the weekly newspaper
- Creating and maintaining relationships with university and department officials
- Working with the advertising and distribution directors to oversee those departments
- Organizing and submitting staff payroll every week
- Mentoring, guiding and teaching the staff to create quality journalism
- Overseeing The Post's administrative functions and assisting in creating a yearly budget
- Representing The Post on the SAFAC board
- Being available to readers with complaints, corrections and suggestions
- Working closely with The Post's editorial and financial advisers
- Being a collected and professional leader for the staff

Applicants do not have to be journalism majors, but should be:

- Excellent writers and communicators with great command of AP Style and news media standards
- Excellent with people and have the patience and heart to manage a group of peers

Compensation includes weekly pay.

Position effective late April 2021.

Applications will be accepted through **March 15, 2021.**

Applicants can send resume, cover letter and work samples to editorial adviser **Garry Gilbert** at **gjgilber@oakland.edu**

Netflix's 'I Care A Lot': Too long to be good

BRIDGET JANIS

Staff Reporter

Netflix always seems to come in handy with its top ten watches of the week. This week in the number one spot is "I Care a Lot", this Netflix Original was a great, simple and easy watch — at least it was at the start.

Marla Grayson (Rosamund Pike) is a court-appointed guardian for a lot of old people who were deemed "not able to take care of themselves anymore." She comes off as a caring and thoughtful person, though soon viewers find out that she might not be all that she appears to be.

Along with her partner and girlfriend Fran (Eiza González), they take over the lives of these senior citizens, putting them in a nursing home and gaining access to all their items and bank accounts.

The pair think they just found the perfect women to control and be their guardian for — seniors with no family, lots of money and expensive furniture. But soon they run into a little trouble, and not everyone or anything seems to be what they thought.

The film does a great job of making the audience sympathize with someone who is in the wrong, Marla. She definitely was marketed as the protagonist until

you truly think about what she's doing, then you begin to question your own morals and why you're rooting for her.

Films that offer these complex characters are always a great watch because they offer something new to the screen. The moral ambiguity here is almost enough to make you forget that what Marla's doing is illegal.

The roles and characters just felt very natural. In the lead up to this movie being released, González has been all over the internet, and honestly no one is mad about it. Her and Pike play their roles super well and it's always impressive how well Pike's American accent is, even though she's British.

There was some questionable cinematography in scenes where people were sitting across from each other talking, but other than that camera work was well done.

The movie also could have further developed the characters. There is no explanation as to why Marla and Fran are doing what they do. Making their motivation clearer would have gone a long way.

The major issue with the film is that the feeling in the first half was extremely different than the second half of the film. The first was more lighthearted and the



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

second seemed more gloomy.

The lighter vibe in the beginning seemed more fitting and the dramatic shift during the movie felt unnecessary. They tried too hard to create a comedy into a thriller.

The beginning had interesting elements to work with. A scam a lot of people didn't know could be happening, plot twists that came out of nowhere and generally an interesting plot. It was all nicely set up, a real successful start.

The end on the other hand was not

the best. It would have been better having Marla die rather than going with the ending that they chose to go with, a strange conclusion that ultimately contradicted a lot of the film.

In short — the film was good, until it was bad. Two hours was just way too long for this film, it could have been wrapped sooner and been a better film.

Rating: 2.5/5 stars

CNN's 'Stanley Tucci: Searching for Italy': veni, vidi, Tucci

GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH

Staff Reporter

The first episode of CNN's newest travel series, "Stanley Tucci: Searching for Italy," aired on Valentine's Day. The show, consisting of six episodes, features Italy's different regions and highlights the breadth of Italian cuisine, the nuances of Italian identity, and the country's ancient history.

In the first episode, Tucci visits Naples to try the original pizza, freshest mozzarella, and genuine San Marzano tomatoes. He also travels to the Amalfi Coast and dines in restaurants overlooking the coastline and its famous cerulean waters. I mean, I had to include a "The Devil Wears Prada" reference somewhere. The second episode offers a tour of Rome, and a historical analysis of pasta you never knew you needed.

The food and picturesque scenery will give viewers serious FOMO, but during a time in which traveling to far-off places isn't even an option, watching someone else eat delicious pasta from your living room couch is the next best thing. If only smellivision existed.

This is not the typical touristy show.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CNN

Stanley Tucci trying original pizza in Naples in CNN's "Stanley Tucci: Searching for Italy"

In fact, Italy's most famous landmarks serve as a backdrop. The people of Italy and the food they make are the focus. Each episode features interviews with historians, culinary experts, and small business owners. A modern and necessary perspective is provided.

It should also be noted that Stanley Tucci is the perfect gastronomic guide for this series. The well-known

actor went viral on social media at the beginning of the pandemic for sharing videos demonstrating his mixology skills — I can see why. He is charming, gracious, and makes the audience feel as if we are right there with him.

His culinary curiosity and genuine appreciation for the opportunities he had were apparent.

Tucci, Italian on both sides, conversed

in Italian and added personal anecdotes from previous visits in voice-overs throughout the episode which enhanced the viewing experience. While Stanley Tucci is no Anthony Bourdain, he is pretty darn close.

My only complaint is that it appears as though some filming took place in a time where the pandemic became an ever-looming threat, but it's barely mentioned.

At the beginning of the pandemic, Italy was one of the top global epicenters of the disease. It would be interesting to learn about how the country has changed since then. "Stanley Tucci: Searching for Italy" was just renewed for a second season, so maybe it will be more of a primary focus in future episodes.

Much like a chef skilled at his art, Tucci layers flavor upon flavor, creating a masterfully complicated metaphorical dish. Yet, each ingredient can be savored and appreciated. Italy is shown as the complex, multi-faceted, and iconic place it is. Showing off both the greatness and the grit. The sublime and the suffering.

"Searching for Italy" airs Sundays on CNN at 9 p.m. ET/PT.

Rating: 4/5 stars

OPINION

Making the case for a salary floor in Major League Baseball

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL
Staff Reporter

As the calendar turns to spring — yes, it will be spring, don't look outside — baseball will return. The crack of the bat, the sound of the ball hitting the glove and the beauty of the baseball diamond are all things to look forward to.

Will this baseball season be competitive? Well, probably not.

Major League Baseball has a spending problem, and not in a good way. It's not that owners are spending too much, it's that some aren't spending at all.

Over 1/3 of the league has a team payroll under \$100 million. That's pathetic.

What's even more pathetic is that four teams have a payroll under \$50 million. Granted, three of these teams (Pittsburgh, Baltimore, and Miami) are rebuilding, so it's understandable. Even then, Pittsburgh and Baltimore both have owners with long histories of cheapness.

The team with the lowest payroll in the league — the Cleveland Indians, paying their players a total of a measly \$33 million and change — have been shamelessly selling off their best players before they become “too expensive” over the last couple years, most recently superstar shortstop Francisco Lindor.

Other teams have done the same thing over the past couple years. The Boston Red Sox traded star outfielder Mookie Betts last offseason because their owner John Henry, seventh-richest owner in the league in terms of net worth, was tired of paying the luxury tax.

Prior to this move, Henry fired spend-happy general manager Dave Dombrowski one year after winning the World Series and replaced him with a puppet in Chaim Bloom from the Tampa Bay Rays organization.

More recently, the Colorado Rockies shipped off the face of their franchise, Nolan Arenado. The Rockies didn't get much in return for him, thus the trade has rightfully been viewed as a salary dump.

Do you see a trend here? MLB owners aren't willing to spend money to keep a competitive team on the field, and it's ruining the game.

A fine example of this is in our own backyard. The Detroit Tigers are in the midst of a long rebuild. There's no denying that. But you know what would help speed up the rebuild? If GM Al



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WSJ
MLB commissioner Rob Manfred.

Avila was able to sign quality players in free agency to help keep the team be somewhat competitive.

But owner Chris Illitch isn't interested in that. He'd rather be content with the Tigers losing 100 games every year.

The Illitch family is worth \$4.1 billion, the fourth-richest ownership group in the league. The late, great Mike Illitch is rolling in his grave.

The biggest excuse over the last year for owners deciding to penny-pinch was they lost money in 2020 due to the pandemic — it's time to put that to rest.

None of the owners lost money in 2020. They just didn't make as much as they did in 2019.

Things need to change. The time has come to implement a salary floor in Major League Baseball.

Now I'm not talking about anything crazy — \$100 million should do the trick — just enough to keep the league at a level-playing field.

Now why not a salary cap, you might ask? Well the league tried that back in 1994. It didn't go well, as the players went on strike and the 1994 season was canceled at the All-Star break.

With the current collective bargaining agreement expiring at the end of this upcoming season and the players and the owners already at odds, another work stoppage of some kind is almost inevitable. If there's one thing that both sides need to take into consideration, it's the fans: think of the fans.

We're the ones that pay for tickets (when we can) and the ones that watch the games. Nobody is interested in a product where the same two teams make the World Series every year.

A salary floor is a great way to force teams to spend money, while also keeping the league competitive.

Republican party, are you good?

AUTUMN PAGE
Staff Reporter

Autumn was simply browsing the news one morning when she noticed her news feed was extra depressing and chaotic. Republican party members bombarded her news feed, and she thought to herself, “are they okay?”

I'm not one to judge, most of the time, but the headlines I was reading really made me scratch my head in wonder.

We'll start with Cindy McCain, widow of 2008 Republican presidential nominee John McCain.

She did an interview with People and said, “we have got to overcome this [Doland Trump's acquittal]. Our party's dead if we don't.”

This sounds a little dramatic because the Republican and Democratic party have been around for a long time. It would take a lot more than a president getting voted for impeachment twice to get rid of the party.

Also, some Republicans seem pretty extreme right now, willing to leave the Republican party for a new party led by Trump?

One thing you can't say about us liberals is that we never considered leaving our centuries-old party because of a president creating their own party.

This seems very impulsive, good for Republicans, but also I promise there will be another Republican president, chill out.

Another reason I ask if Republicans are okay is because I saw at least four articles about the 2024 election, specifically, about Trump running for the 2024 election.

It's the third month of 2021, I

understand the eagerness because of COVID-19 and the past year.

Republicans really want to deal with Generation Z again by trying to get Trump in the presidency again?

To clarify, Gen Z is the generation that ‘doesn't’ care about their well-being and safety. We are the generation that ‘ate Tide-Pods’ and ‘sucked our lips on shot glasses’ for free Kylie Jenner lips.

Republicans really want to test us AGAIN? I only have a few more things, dear readers, that are a part of the Republican party, to comment on to make sure you all are okay.

Anyone who claims to like and understand Eric Trump — this is for you.

How are President Joe Biden's policies to blame for the weather in Texas?

I'll patiently wait for the answer to that. If you read that sentence and thought to yourself, “Autumn, you're simply wrong. No way would he say that.”

Well, dear reader, he did. During an interview with Fox News he really said:

“I think every single day, Biden makes people miss Donald Trump more. When you see some of these policies that are literally destroying jobs, that are destroying industries, that are causing Texas to freeze, that are cutting off our power to our energy grids and all these other nonsensical policies.”

I don't think I can give a logical reason why he said this, and I further ask if the Republicans are okay?

Are Republicans eating enough vegetables and thinking logically, questioning everything you all hear?

Let me know at Apag2@oakland.edu, and I'll stroke my ego.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ATLANTIC

Oakland women's soccer puts the team first

LAUREN REID
Sports Editor

After a delayed season start, the Oakland University women's soccer team is back in action, most recently having tied 1-1 in double overtime against Northern Kentucky University. The team is currently 1-2-1 with 6 games remaining.

"Our goal since we started the program has been to get [it] back to a championship level," said Head Coach Juan Pablo Favero. "We've been working very hard for four years to get to this point, and we believe we can do that. Obviously this COVID-19 year has been challenging and less than ideal, but we like how we're playing."

Favero likes the level and style of play he's seen from the team thus far.

"Right now we've unfortunately had results that didn't go our way, but I have peace of mind because we've been playing so well that the results will eventually come," Favero said.

Oakland kicked off their season with a 2-1 win against Youngstown State University on Feb. 3, with goals coming from sophomore Macey Wierenga and freshman Jackie Reilly. The team's two losses came against the University of Illinois - Chicago (1-0) and Cleveland State University in overtime (3-2).

"Soccer is the cruelest of sports out there," Favero said. "You can be playing phenomenally well and outplaying the other team and still lose. In soccer, scoring is so difficult that one little mistake here and there can cost you games."

Favero said the team is trying to make the best out of this season, play every game and stay healthy. Amid COVID-19, he stressed his gratitude for administration, doctors, athletic trainers, parents and his team.

"We are grateful for all the work that's been done to keep us healthy, keep us safe and provide an opportunity for us to compete," Favero said. "I'm really proud of our team — we've been very strict with the COVID-19 protocols. They haven't complained, they've rolled with the punches [and] remained ready for the season."

Although competing without fans "feels a little off" to Favero, he said the team is making the most of it.

"Our focus is and needs to remain on making the most of this imperfect situation," Favero said. "We're playing and we're playing for something that is meaningful."

Teamwork is of utmost importance to the women's soccer team. Favero mentioned the importance of putting the team first — that their strength comes from the whole team and "everybody doing their role with excellence."

Sophomore forward Vera Asare



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSE JUAREZ

Sami Lopez against Cleveland State. Oakland faces Robert Morris next, March 3.

touched on the team aspect, saying the teamwork atmosphere helps foster loyalty and friendships.

"My favorite part about being on the team is the teamwork environment — promot[ing] an atmosphere that fosters friendship and loyalty between teammates," Asare said. "[Coach Favero] makes sure every athlete is working great both on and off the field, which includes our academics. [The

coaches] are really supportive — always helping us to be accountable of ourselves and that of our teammates, motivating and encouraging us. It's just like this father-daughter or mother-daughter relationship, the love is so deep."

Oakland's season continues Wednesday, March 3 at Detroit Mercy, with their next home game taking place the following Wednesday, March 10 against Robert

Men's soccer beats UDM 3-1, Borczak shines

MICHAEL PEARCE
Editor-in-Chief

Men's soccer defeated their cross-town rival, the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM), 3-1 as Dylan Borczak once again put multiple points on the board.

Borczak, who was named United Wholesale Mortgage Student-Athlete of the Week, scored the first and last goal, as well as assisted Charlie Braithwaite on the go-ahead goal in the 64th minute.

At the exact halfway point in the season, Borczak leads the Horizon League in shots (22), points (16) and goals (seven). The Golden Grizzlies are in the top third of the table as well, with an important game coming up against the Wright State Raiders on Saturday, March 6.

"Sitting in first place at 3-1-1 at the halfway point of the season, we are pleased but not fully satisfied, as in all reality we could be 5-0," Head Coach Eric Pogue said via email. "But with 19 new players this year, we knew it might take a little time to gel completely. The depth of our team is a strength that we have leaned on in the first half of the season"

That depth was shown in the 3-1 win over Detroit. Borczak totaled five points with his two goals and assist, but Ville Ahola, Noah Jensen and Dawson Schrum also recorded assists.

Braithwaite, who scored the winning goal, also pitched in on Borczak's second goal, hitting Schrum with a long pass to get Borczak into scoring position.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSE JUAREZ

The men's soccer team celebrates a goal vs. Detroit Mercy. The Golden Grizzlies won, 3-1, and moved to 3-1-1 in the standings.

"We have a lot of great players on our team, which I think helps put Dylan in good positions," Pogue said via email.

Detroit's lone goal came on a corner kick at the end of the first half, in the 36th minute. After the cross, two UDM players got their head on the ball, which found Isaac Shiner, who was in the right place to put one past goalkeeper Nour Moaoui.

Pogue felt despite the draw at the half, his team had played well and put themselves in a good position. The key was to continue to limit set pieces like the one Detroit scored on.

"We played a very good first half, so we were pleased with our play and wanted to continue to outplay them, particularly in wide areas," Pogue said via email. "With UDM, you have to stop them on the counter attack and limit set piece chances, which I think we did a nice job of."

With another win against Detroit, Pogue's record in the past seven years sits at 5-0-2. The team is still undefeated against Detroit in almost a decade.

"It's never just another game against UDM, as we know we are going to be in for a battle, but we also don't benchmark our season on whether we beat UDM or not, as we have bigger goals than that," Pogue said via email.

Those goals are to beat the top of the top in the conference. Right now, the only team above Oakland is the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC) Flames.

"To be completely honest, we don't gauge ourselves against UDM," Pogue said via email. "We are 5-0-2 against them over the last seven years of Metro Series. We gauge ourselves against the UICs, the Wright States, and the best teams in the region and nation."

Next up for men's soccer is a road trip to Dayton, Ohio to face the Wright State Raiders. They return home Friday, March 12 to face the Milwaukee Panthers.

The evolution of Autumn Kissman's game

MICHAEL PEARCE

Editor-in-Chief

During her freshman season, Autumn Kissman hardly saw the floor. The 6-foot-3-inch center received five minutes per game and put up 1.6 points per game, as she sat behind older players like Leah Somerfield and Nikita Telesford.

Now, as a senior, Kissman is a leader on the court. She has evolved as a player and grown her skillset to be a versatile center.

Kissman scored the third most points for the Golden Grizzlies in her senior season, averaging just under 10 points per game (9.2).

Not only have her statistics increased, but Head Coach Jeff Tungate believes she's enjoying being out on the court more.

"I think this year unlike any other year — she's really enjoying playing the game of basketball," he said. "She's just much more aggressive than she had been, and she's having much more fun playing the game than she's had in any time she's been here."

That aggression has led to more free throw attempts in her senior season than Kissman attempted throughout her first three seasons. With aggression comes the need to be tough, which Tungate believes Kissman has found in her final season.

"The biggest thing I've seen from here in these four years is her toughness," Tungate said. "She's really gotten tougher over the last four years."

More than Tungate have seen Kissman evolve throughout her four years at Oakland. Her teammates have seen her growth as well.

"I saw something different from Autumn [this season]," Jalisha Terry said in an

interview with Jason Ross Jr. "I didn't know she had this feisty side to her — she's always been sweet and nice — but on the court she brings out this different side of her that I never really saw."

Her final season was unusual, to say the least. Despite playing a limited schedule with no fans allowed in the O'rena, Kissman felt the team brought an energy that carried them through adversity.

With just the Horizon — and potentially NCAA — tournament remaining, Kissman is focused on ending her collegiate career strong.

"Especially with this COVID[-19] year, we are all bringing our best energy and want to end on such a high note," Kissman said in an interview with Ross Jr. "I think you can tell that we're trying to enjoy the time that's left."

According to Tungate, the 2020-2021 team has "unbelievable chemistry." For Tungate, it's players like Kissman who help contribute to that.

"I think that [chemistry] starts with her," he said. "She doesn't care who gets the credit as long as the job gets done, and that really helps in our locker room as well."

As someone who has seen it all as a Golden Grizzly — the bench, the opening tip and the closing moments of a game, Kissman's advice to freshman following in her footsteps is to keep a balance in everything.

"As important as athletics and school are, you have to find that balance between that and your social life and hobbies you enjoy," Kissman said. "Having that balance, whether it be people outside of athletics, a student organization or a hobby you enjoy is really important for your mental health."

Slugger Blake Griffith aims for big senior season



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS

Griffith swinging at a ball vs the UIC Flames. Griffith is entering his final season as a Golden Grizzly.

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL

Staff Reporter

Oakland University baseball player Blake Griffith is ready to let his play on the field do the talking.

"I'm excited for the season and I'm ready to get started," Griffith said.

Griffith, a redshirt senior majoring in accounting and minoring in finance, was able to stay loose this offseason by working out at home.

"The gyms were closed so I would try to stay focused and do what I [could] at home," Griffith said.

When Griffith steps into the batter's box, he tries to hit the ball to the right center field gap. Griffith has a career .289 batting average, nine career home runs and a career OPS (on-base percentage plus slugging percentage) of .850.

"It keeps me from flying out [over the plate]," Griffith said. "It just [allows me to] keep my hands inside the ball."

Griffith led the team last season in home runs (two) and total bases (21), and he tied the team lead in runs batted in (eight). He ranked second in hits (13) and doubles (two), and third in batting average (.310).

Griffith said he's been working on his defense and two-strike approach at the plate. Griffith had three errors in 12 games last season before it was canceled, due to the pandemic.

"I think I've done a good job of [improving my defense] this offseason," Griffith said. "I

do strike out a lot, but that's what happens when you try and shoot for power."

In his free time, Griffith enjoys watching sports and playing video games.

"I love hanging out with the guys and watching whatever game is on," Griffith said. "Sports are basically my life. I also like playing Call of Duty."

OU baseball Head Coach Jordon Banfield said Griffith's experience is going to be very valuable this season.

"[Griffith] is one of the only guys we have that has [played this long] at the Division I level," Banfield said. "He's a guy that we can put in the middle of the lineup and [he will] drive in runs. As simple as I can put it, that's the expectation for Blake — to put together quality [at-bats] and be a guy that we can count on."

Banfield said he expects Griffith to lead by example.

"Everybody leads in their own way," Banfield said. "I expect Blake to lead with his play on the field. He's made huge strides on defense. All the reports I got were that he had a lot of room to grow defensively at first base, and the progress he's made from the fall until now has been awesome. He's pretty good feet for an older guy, he's got things figured out. He's been really receptive to coaching in that respect. We just need Blake to play well and do things the right way."



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLDENGRIZZLIES.COM

Autumn Kissman (40) celebrating on the court with her teammate, Alona Blackwell (30) during Kissman's junior season. Kissman scored the third most points on the women's basketball team in her senior season.

Women and Gender Studies Program at Oakland University Presents THE 37TH WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES FILM FESTIVAL

“‘KIKI’ shows us a group of brave and beautiful souls”

- *The New York Times*

KIKI

**ZOOM WEBINAR
SAT. MAR. 13TH
6 - 7:30 P.M.**

**REGISTER AT
shorturl.at/asBDT**

**WATCH KIKI
<https://bit.ly/385OKey>**

“KIKI” offers a look inside the world of a new generation of LGBTQ youth of color who practice the performance-based artform of Ballroom, following seven individuals over four years. It documents spectacular performances as well as battles with homelessness, illness, and prejudice, all while celebrating their gains in affirming diversity of gender expression.

* KIKI is available for free for the OU community via the link above. It is also available to buy or rent on most platforms (YouTube, Apple TV, Google Play).

SPONSORED BY

CENTER FOR ETHICS
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
COMMUNICATION, JOURNALISM,
AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
ENGLISH
FILM STUDIES AND PRODUCTION
HISTORY

MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING
THE OAKLAND POST
PHILOSOPHY
SOCIOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY, SOCIAL WORK,
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
WXOU RADIO