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face off in primary debate
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PHOTO BY CHRIS ESTRADA

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



IS THAT TONY HAWK? Sam Dietiker shows off some skateboarding moves on campus.
CHRISTOPHER ESTRADA / PHOTOGRAPHER

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gabdelmessih@oakland.edu

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cestrada@oakland.edu

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ADVISING

Garry Gilbert Editorial Adviser
gjgilber@oakland.edu
248.370.2105

Don Ritenburgh Business Adviser
ritenbur@oakland.edu
248.370.2533

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OU hosts Andy Levin, Haley Stevens for primary debate

ARIANNA HEYMAN

Features Editor

On Tuesday, May 24, Oakland University hosted a primary debate between Andy Levin and Haley Stevens, the incumbent democratic representatives for the 10th and 11th Districts, respectively.

The race between the pair has been controversial from the beginning, with Levin opting out of running for reelection in the 10th District to directly challenge Stevens in the 11th District.

"I'm running [in the 11th District] because it's my home," Levin said. "It's where my politics have always been based, and I'm super excited about it."

The fierce debate covered a variety of topics important to Michigan voters — the representatives' stances on each major issue are as follows.

Gun Control

Stevens: "I'm in big favor of the background check bill. That is a great place to start, because it does prevent those who seek to do evil with weapons — it does prevent them from getting access to weapons. I also think that red flag laws are a great place to start."

Levin: "I support universal background checks. I support closing the Charleston Loophole. When we passed the bill to close the Charleston Loophole, it included my amendment to study the effect of that, because the people opposed to gun legislation have always been opposed to research to see what's effective, so it was very important to me to have a research piece of that."

I support Emergency Risk Protection Orders — or red flag laws. I support banning assault weapons. I support banning huge magazines."

Student Loan Debt

Stevens: "I think we've got to expand financial aid. We could expand Pell, and not by [a] measly 1% or 2% amount. I think we've got to really look at a multitude range of coverage for Pell, and I'm on legislation to do that."

I also think we really need to attempt — and I wanna do this on the Educational Labor Committee [and have] been talking with the chair about this — we have got to do a deep dive over who is actually getting any financial aid. What I am witnessing as a representative is that not enough people are qualifying for it, and if you're middle class, you're just left out."

Levin: "On a current basis of debt, I'm for forgiving \$50,000 of student loan debt for every person who has it. I'm also very active in making college more affordable. I'm the author of the America's College Promise Act that would provide two years of free Community College and a federal state partnership to every state that would pay a quarter of it, and also two years virtually free study at historically black colleges and universities and other minority serving institutions. I'm also more broadly for lowering the cost of attending state universities like Oakland, too."

Abortion

Stevens: "You've seen me as a pro-choice democratic woman in a traditionally republican seat hold the line for all of us. I'm going to continue to do that. I am the candidate in this race to stand up for women's rights, for pro-choice values and to make sure that we do not go backwards."

When my mother was a student at [OU] — Roe was not enacted. Roe was not the law of the land. She does not want to see this go back. We do not want to



PHOTO BY CHRIS ESTRADA
Ahead of the primary election on August 7, representatives Stevens (left) and Levin (right) took to OU's campus for a debate.

see this go back, and we won't."

Levin: "I've been a backer of the Reproductive Rights for All petition drives since before it was launched. I'm very deeply involved in Michigan voices. I really applaud the Planned Parenthood of Michigan [lawsuit] which has — temporarily at least — blocked the implementation of our 1931 law that would criminalize abortion in this state."

I applaud the governor for leading on this, so we really have to take every approach to this. We've got to end the filibuster and keep fighting in Congress to make Roe V. Wade the statutory basis of rights in our country."

Eliminating the Filibuster

Stevens: "It is time to eliminate the filibuster and make sure that we can get voting rights done so we can protect a woman's right to choose and so we can pass the George Floyd Justice and Policing Act. I am sick of broken government institutions. One of the reasons why I want to get back to Congress so badly is I want to usher in reforms."

Levin: "In the 20th century we had contentious debate about so many things — Medicare, Medicaid, The National Labor Relations Act, The Fair Labor Standards Act, all the architecture that we Democrats passed that the Republicans opposed — not one of those things was ever filibustered."

Don't tell me we need the filibuster. It wasn't in the founding fathers' original vision of the country. They specifically, in multiple federalist papers, talked about that it's bad to have the idea of minority control of the Senate [and] Minority control over voting. The filibuster was always a bad idea and right now it's a pants on fire crisis for our democracy. We've got to get rid of it."

Expanding the Supreme Court

Stevens: "I am all for reimagining the functionality of our institutions. [...] If we can get to a place where we could see a more modern Supreme Court, I will review that legislation as I do all bills and sign on."

Levin: "We should absolutely reform the Supreme Court. We should expand it. I think there are a lot of great ideas — like what if each four-year term of president they got to select one member of the Supreme Court? That would take a lot of the vituperation out of it. It would become a standard practice."

Our justices are appointed for a lifetime, but that doesn't mean they have to stay on the Supreme Court. They could rotate off and become [an] appellate

judge or district judge.

We need to reform our Supreme Court. We should expand it, we should reform it in other ways, and I think we should have 18-year term limits. I think we could absolutely improve the Supreme Court."

Inflation

Stevens: "I proudly supported the Build Back Better legislation — which I'm still pushing for — that includes the prescription drug bill that I co-sponsored in the last Congress, and along with this, Congress, we need to get that done."

We certainly need to do what is achieved in Build Back Better, which is index the cost of daycare so that no middle class family is paying more than 7% of their income for daycare costs. We need to hold the rich and profiting corporations who are price gouging Americans accountable."

Levin: "In Congress, there are parts of Build Back Better that would really help with cutting costs for people, like no family paying more than 7% of their income for child care, universal pre-K [and] cutting [the cost of] prescription drugs."

We really have to go after lowering prices across the board. I have a specific bill that has really taken off that I'm very excited about to deal with supply chain issues called the GOT Truckers Act — guaranteed overtime for truckers."

Healthcare

Stevens: "There are people here in Michigan who lose their job and can't get access to coverage. There are people who are paying too much for healthcare, and it's wrong. We need to get the public option."

We tried to get that done with the Affordable Care Act [ACA]. That very principle allows everyone to access Medicare, but doesn't take away private insurance. [...] I believe that if we get the public option, that will get more people access to healthcare, and that's what I am pushing for."

Levin: "Yes, I favor a universal healthcare system, and at the same time I'm pragmatic progressive, so I write bills like the Stop Games Act and also fought very hard to expand Medicare coverage in Build Back Better, which we were able to do because of the progressive caucus, of which I'm the deputy whip, held out for it and demanded it."

We were able to expand ACA coverage also in the American Rescue Plan. We gotta do what we can for now, but if we don't send someone to Washington with the vision of universal health care, we'll never get it."

As the race heats up for the primary election on August 7, Levin and Stevens want to ensure that voters understand their deep commitment to their communities and objectives to move America's progress forward.

"It's not a mystery why I've continued to beat the odds," Stevens said. "I got to congress and I stayed because I listened — and that is my commitment to you. I will always listen to you. My door will always be open to you, and I promise that I will continue to get things done for this country."

Levin echoed similar sentiments in his closing statement.

"Democracy is not about voting every two years," he said. "If you let me, I'll be coming to look for you to work month in and month out to make the fundamental changes this country needs to be the beautiful country and to create the beautiful, safe, clean, green [and] cool world that we need to leave our kids."

Klein Center for Culture and Globalization to be led by Chiaoning Su

JOE ZERILLI
Campus Editor

Chiaoning Su has been selected by Oakland University to serve as director of the Barry M. Klein Center for Culture and Globalization.

The Klein Center's vision is to promote national and international dialogue, recruit researchers and scholars and create opportunities for students and faculty to experience culture and globalization studies. With this vision, Su would like to bring the world to OU and promote OU to the world.

"I hope this new center will achieve two things: to cultivate students' interest in global culture and international affairs, and to increase OU's visibility internationally and thereby encourage more cultural exchanges — for example, institutional partnership and growing our international student body," Su said.

Su is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations who received her Ph.D. in media and communication from Temple University in 2015. Su's experience speaks for itself, as her research interests are culture and globalization — though it is also her lived experience.

"I was born and raised in Taiwan, moved to the United States in 2007 and started teaching at OU in 2016. Ever since I joined OU, I have worked to serve as a cultural ambassador bridging the knowledge flow between the East and the West," Su said. "In addition to teaching the East Asian Popular Culture Class for

the Honors College, I co-organized OU's Taiwan Week in 2017, 2018 and 2021 to foster a dialogue on global competency within and beyond OU."

The center will recruit an internationally renowned visiting chair every year to work alongside two OU faculty who share similar agendas of research. Su feels the collaboration will cultivate OU as a place for deep thinking about issues related to globalization and culture.

Despite the Klein Center being so recently established in 2021, Su is confident the benefits will come sooner rather than later.

"It will take a few years to grow this center to its full potential," Su said, "yet given the enthusiastic



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND.EDU
Dr. Chiaoning Su to direct Klein Center for Culture and Globalization with a theme of race, ethnicities, and identities.

applications we received this year for both the Visiting Chair and Faculty Fellow positions, I am very confident we will get there soon."

The Klein Center is currently looking for two College of Arts and Sciences undergraduate students to work with the Distinguished Faculty Fellows. These students will receive the Klein Center Undergraduate Scholar Award and will have opportunities to present their work on the annual theme.

The students must have demonstrated enthusiasm in international affairs and have to be capable to help the Center's operation.

For the Winter 2023 program, the theme for the Klein Center is Race, Ethnicities and Identities in Transition. The center wants to train the next generation to think in global terms so they will be valuable allies, partners and contributors to the global community by hosting events in the 2022-2023 school year.

Su feels now is a perfect time for this theme, as she feels the pendulum is now swinging in the opposite direction of globalization in terms of political rhetoric.

"There was a time in the 90's that we truly believed this world would become a global village and we would witness the emergence of global governance. In fact, the European Union is a prime example of such a belief," she said. "However, recently we are witnessing the rise of populism and political extremism as well as attacks on racial, ethnic and cultural minorities. Politicians specifically use 'us versus them' rhetoric to redraw and reinforce boundaries to advance their political agenda."

Office of Global Engagement hosts group of Pakistani educators

PAYTON BUCKI
Campus Reporter

This summer, Oakland University's Office of Global Engagement is hosting a group of 20 secondary education teachers from Pakistan. During their five-week stay, the educators will participate in Exchange for Pakistani Secondary Educators and Administrators (EPSEA) — an enriching program which focuses on classroom inclusivity.

The first four weeks of EPSEA will be led by faculty on OU's campus. This initial portion of the program includes seminars that provide an overview of diverse learning and innovative teaching methods.

Once a week, the educators will visit Eaton Academy, a school in Birmingham that specializes in teaching students who learn differently. This experience will allow participants of EPSEA to observe diverse teaching methods in a classroom setting.

During their stay in the United States, the Pakistani educators will be exposed to American culture through a variety of experiences. The group will enjoy guided tours of the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Henry Ford Museum, family dinners and a picnic in Belle Isle.

"We have many fun activities planned for the educators," Rosemary Marx, OU's executive director of global engagement, said. "During the first portion of the program, we will visit several interesting places in the Metro-Detroit area."

For the last week of EPSEA, the participants will visit historical sites in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. In these cities, they will learn more about American history and politics.

"This unique aspect of the program will allow the educators to gain a better understanding of the differences between Pakistan and the U.S.," Marx said.

Once the group returns to Pakistan, OU faculty will stay in touch with the participants. Faculty

will meet with the Pakistani educators three to four times virtually throughout the year to monitor the program's success.

The EPSEA program was made possible through a two-year, \$400,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Senate.

"[OU's Office of Global Engagement is] very thankful for the U.S. Department of Senate's generous grant," Marx said. "Without this funding, this program would not have been possible."

For the Pakistani educators, EPSEA is an experience of a lifetime. The program will equip them with valuable tools and knowledge to bring back to their own classrooms.

"It has been a pleasure working with the educators throughout the duration of this program," Marx said. "I am proud that Oakland University is able to promote inclusion internationally."

OU's Office of Global Engagement organizes a wide variety of international hosting programs such as EPSEA, while also overseeing Study Abroad participation and International Student affairs. Participants of the department's programs are able to broaden their worldview while simultaneously expanding their knowledge of other cultures.

"I recommend that all students participate in one of our [Global Engagement] programs at least once," Marx said. "Although it may force individuals to step outside of their comfort zone, the knowledge and experience they will gain in the process is worth the initial discomfort."



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU NEWS
20 Pakistani educators are being hosted by the Office of Global Engagement. Here they are pictured outside of Pawley Hall.

Alum, Washington Post photojournalist details coverage in Ukraine

ARIANNA HEYMAN

Features Editor

Since graduating from Oakland University, Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist Salwan Georges has been busy reporting on numerous topical and internationally significant events. Most recently, Georges was on assignment in Ukraine – providing the world with the truth behind the ongoing conflict in Eastern Europe.

“It’s a very ugly war, I would say,” Georges said. “The death and destruction and, of course, the bodies. It’s one of the most documented and accessible wars, to be honest, because it’s a war not being fought on the battlefield — it’s fought in neighborhoods, cities and farm lands, all across the country.”

Georges began his coverage in Ukraine after being rerouted from an assignment in Afghanistan. He arrived on February 14 — 10 days before the invasion by the Russian army.

“The day before the war, I was in Kharkiv and people were at coffee shops — [it was] a normal day in any European country, just people going about their business,” Georges said. “I actually photographed a couple getting their wedding picture taken downtown — it was like a totally normal life. Then the next day, bombs started dropping all across Ukraine.”

Georges says that the brutality from the Russian army and impact of the war on civilians is abominable.

“It’s really violent — there are [bombs dropping] in neighborhoods and [on] residential buildings,” Georges said. “I went to so many areas where [there was] a totally

residential building — only children lived there with their families, women and elderly people, and [the Russians] are dropping all these bombs. It makes no sense.”

Of the many images Georges captured of this conflict, there is one photograph that stands out to him as the most poignant: at a train station in Odesa, Georges watched as desperate refugees made the devastating choice of leaving the country and their loved ones behind.

Georges relayed the story of this photograph to CNN. “I approached the man — who I later came to know as Georgiy Keburia — with my camera down,” Georges said. “He acknowledged me with a subtle nod, giving his approval for me to document him saying goodbye to his wife, Maya, and their children. I kept my distance

as the scene unfolded. It was one of the most emotional situations I had to witness in my life — and it took me a while to process what I had seen.”

The moment evoked an emotional response from Georges due to his own experiences and background. Georges and his family immigrated to the United States from Syria, after having fled Iraq in the 90’s.

“It’s reliving something I really lived in the past,” Georges said. “Watching the bombs fall and also a lot of goodbyes and funerals — that was all part of growing up. I could really relate to the war there.”

Despite the dangerous nature of the assignment, Georges was willing to accept the element of personal risk because he was so focused on capturing and depicting the emotional toll on those impacted by this conflict.

“You’ve just got to be really smart and try to be as vigilant as possible, but it’s dangerous,” Georges said. “It’s a war — you’ve got to wear the protection gear and also make smart choices, make calls and [do] research. We’re very thankful we had local journalists helping us.”

Reflecting on his time in Ukraine, Georges recognizes the importance of depicting the totality of the events and the effect it has on the victims of this war.

“As a journalist, we have to expose what’s really happening in that country even with the difficulty, even with the dangers [and] even with threats we face,” Georges said. “It’s not all about people who don’t want to listen, because even if they don’t listen, other people in other countries will want to see what’s happening. When you cover something like this, it’s for the whole world to see.”



PHOTO BY SALWAN GEORGES
Photo courtesy of The Washington Post.

‘The Living Classroom’ receives two Bronze Telly Awards

JOE ZERILLI

Campus Editor

Sarah Griffith and Jon-Paul Bakaric released a video called “The Living Classroom” in April, and now the video has won two Telly Awards — Bronze Winner for Sound and Sound Design and Bronze Winner for Videography/Cinematography.

“It’s awesome that we have this award, but I think the more important thing is just the fact that getting this video out and getting the awareness around it and highlighting what these people have been doing — I think that’s the best part about it,” Griffith said.

Griffith and Bakaric work for Oakland University’s Communications and Marketing (UCM) team, and pitched the idea as opposed to being assigned for it. The video was a short documentary on the two biological preserves as a whole, and it highlighted the efforts students and faculty were putting into the preserves.

“I’ve always been very passionate about environmental sciences and I almost went into the environmental science program, but I decided to do the film program with hopes that I would always be able to combine the two,” Griffith said. “This is the first video that I was able to really work on to combine those two passions together.”

Griffith was able to get hands-on experience while shooting the video, and there is even a point in the video where she can be seen planting flowers alongside the students and professors.

She went on to say the most difficult part of

making the video was trying to piece everything together. The video first began as a feature of the prescribed burn, but the group working on the video continued to go back for more footage to cover other things — such as how students were going to research the aftermath of the burn.

Another goal for the video was to help establish OU as a leader in the fight to protect the ecosystem and the environment in general.

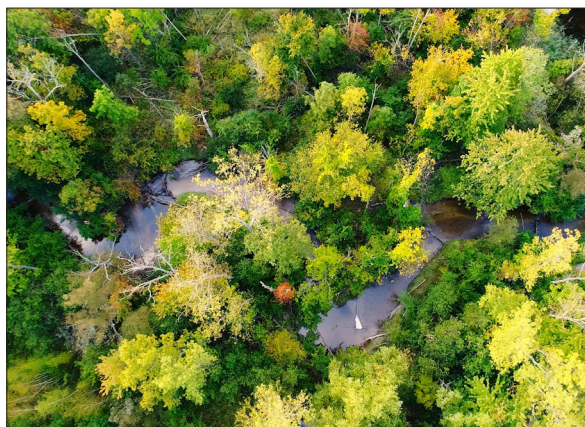


PHOTO COURTESY OF OU
Oakland University has 110 acres of wildlife preserves, where 10 of those acres were burned in the spring of 2021 to welcome regrowth of healthy plants. Griffith and Bakaric’s video shed a light on the preserves and all of the work being done to restore them.

“The preserve is pretty unique to Oakland because there’s a lot of other campuses that have preserves but they’re not right onsite, on campus, whereas the students and faculty here can walk 10 minutes down the road,” Griffith said. “I think it’s great to show prospective students what Oakland has to offer and that the professors are doing amazing work. [...] Hopefully it does help to put Oakland’s name out there.”

Griffith went on to say that working with the professors and students was one of her favorite parts because of how much she learned from them. She would learn while shooting the footage and can now identify invasive species herself, just as it was taught through the video.

While this video was very important to Griffith personally, she also believes it is important for other people to watch and learn more about the bigger picture.

“It is part of a larger issue that is our relationship with the environment and with the Earth and a lot of things we’re facing nowadays, like climate change,” she said. “I think something like this is good to just show people a different perspective and hopefully make them think in a slightly different way, reframing how we think, because a lot of people might have grown up in areas that didn’t even have this type of landscape.”

Next up for UCM are more Research Series videos and Legends of OU — but that does not mean this is the last of the longer form documentaries.

Course Highlight: HC 2080 – Science and the Late Cold War

RACHEL YIM

Science & Technology Reporter

From science courses to art and global perspective courses, the Honors College provides its students with a variety of classes to choose from. This fall, the Honors College will present a course named “Science and the Late Cold War (HC 2080),” taught by Steffan Puwal, Adjunct Assistant Professor from the Department of Physics.

This course is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 11:47 a.m., and counts toward the students’ “Natural Science and Technology” requirement. Its primary focus will be on science relevant to the Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, with a particular emphasis on the post-World War II period and the 1980’s.

Students will study nuclear weapons’ fundamental concepts and their health impacts, nuclear winter, ballistic missiles and lasers. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to learn about the Space Race, the Moon Landing and geologic science.

Through a variety of videos and lectures, key events in the history of the Cold War will be explored, including

the founding of NATO and the Warsaw Pact, as well as the division of Germany.

According to Puwal, the idea of teaching the course originated from his own background in physics and personal interest in the history of the Cold War. This led him to read three books about the Cold War: *Chernobyl: The History of a Nuclear Catastrophe* by Serhii Plokhly, *Arsenals of Folly* by Richard Rhodes and *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin* by Timothy Snyder.

“My ancestors are from Poland, and friends and colleagues are from Russia and Ukraine, so I’ve been motivated to explore Eastern European languages,” Puwal said. “All of this came together into a class that explores physics and the physical sciences in the later years of the Cold War.”

While the course is open for any student interested, Puwal highlighted some of the perspectives of different majors in this course.

“I think that science and non-science majors alike will learn a great deal from this course,” he said. “Modern language majors may appreciate that we begin the course by exploring the Russian and Ukrainian alphabets. Physics majors may appreciate how a language that

does not have the equivalent of the English language “X” is not going to call them X-Rays (something I hadn’t given much thought to until teaching this course). Additionally, in light of current events, history and political science majors will appreciate an all too relevant historical context as we discuss nuclear arms control, the Space Race and the environmental and biological effects of nuclear war.”

Puwal chose an applied nature — one of the most appealing aspects of this course — that allows students to explore the central role that physics played during the Cold War.

“It’s one thing to learn about nuclear fission, but to discuss it in the context of the Three Mile Island and Chernobyl nuclear accidents makes it more understandable,” Puwal said. “[We also] survey the geology of the Moon and rocket science in the context of the Moon Landing, which is always a favorite subject for students. I try to combine my usual lecture format with some interesting applied lab activities and, as I am not a historian, more than a few films to provide some historical context.”

Students who are interested in learning details about the course can visit Puwal’s lecture notes on

his personal website or email him at puwal@oakland.edu.

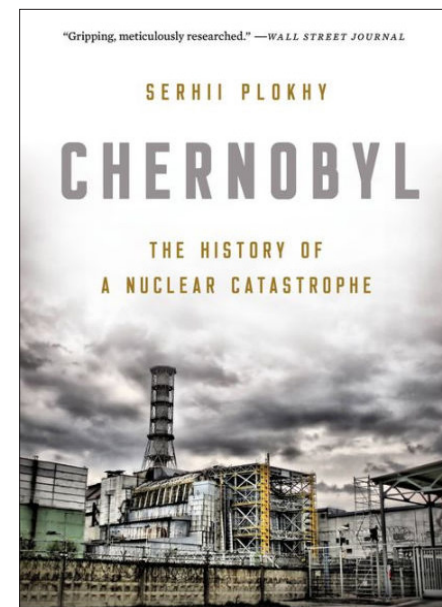


PHOTO COURTESY OF BARNES AND NOBLE
Chernobyl: The History of a Nuclear Catastrophe by Serhii Plokhly is one of the three books that Dr. Puwal has read about the Cold War.

SUMMER 2022 PAYMENT DUE DATE

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY’S SUMMER PAYMENT DUE DATE: APRIL 15, 2022.

Students who do not pay their balances in full or sign-up for a payment plan (and make the required installment(s)) may be dropped from classes and University housing (if applicable), and may be subject to late payment penalties and registration holds.

If you have questions or are experiencing circumstances that may prevent you from paying your account balance, please contact Student Financial Services at (248) 370-2550. We are ready to support you and help with your financial aid and billing options.



LEARN how to avoid cancellation (drop) at oakland.edu/financialservices/payments-refunds/payments-cancellation

Course Highlight: Introduction to Human Subjects Research

GABRIELLE GAPPY

Science & Technology Editor

Introduction to Human Subjects Research I/II (BIO 4930 and BIO 4932) are a sequence of courses unfamiliar to many students. The first semester course is four credits, with lectures on campus once a week. The second semester course is two credits and fulfills an upper-level laboratory requirement for biology majors. Lectures in the winter course are held bi-weekly at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

During lectures, students learn of all aspects of clinical research. This includes ethics, data collection, research methods, designs and how to perform literature searches. Last year, several guest speakers — many Emergency Medicine physicians — gave presentations concerning their own research endeavors.

Beyond didactics in the classroom, however, this course has another requirement: weekly clinical shifts at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. Students working in pairs assist with several research projects, working directly in the Emergency Room alongside physicians, nurses, research assistants and several other healthcare professionals. Students also interact with hospitalized patients during each shift.

Christina Thomas, a senior Biology major on the Pre-Med track, completed this series of courses during the last academic year. She considers this participation as monumental in her journey to becoming a physician.

"I could not have asked for a more fulfilling experience. It was so much more than just a course for me," Thomas said. "The clinical shifts allowed me to directly experience what it is like in a busy emergency department, while also gaining a

deeper understanding of how research is conducted with patients."

Thomas had a difficult time deciding what her most memorable moments were — however, she settled on her exchanges with patients and with other volunteer research assistants employed by Henry Ford.

"Each shift spent working in Henry Ford's ED was a completely unique experience and every patient was eternally grateful for our help, even if it meant simply bringing them a sandwich and a blanket," she said. "I will never forget those people and the lessons learned working alongside the residents, PA's and nurses in the Detroit community."

These courses are spearheaded by Henry Ford Emergency Medicine Physicians Dr. Howard Klausner and Dr. Matthew Ball. Klausner serves as the Principal Investigator of several research studies, a few of which are highlighted in the curriculum and are part of students' duties as research associates in the emergency department. Examples include studies regarding sickle cell anemia, acute pancreatitis and hyperkalemia.

For pre-health professional students wishing to gain relevant knowledge in a traditional classroom setting — as well as hands-on experience in a busy clinical setting — these courses are a great fit. Further, this type of exposure can help students solidify their choice in pursuing a career in medicine. It can also open the door for shadowing and future employment opportunities within Henry Ford Health System.

BIO 4930 will be offered during Fall 2022, with BIO 4932 to follow in Winter 2023. For anyone with questions regarding the courses, feel free to contact Thomas at christinathomas@oakland.edu.

Biopsychologist on campus: Dr. Keith Williams

GABRIELLE GAPPY

Science & Technology Editor

An area of study that many may not be familiar with is biopsychology, an interdisciplinary field seeking to discover how biological processes impact our behaviors, thoughts and feelings. Dr. Keith Williams, who has a Ph.D. in biopsychology, runs a laboratory on campus aiming to further understand the behavioral and biological factors that contribute to drug-taking and addiction.

"Part of what my lab does is something called behavioral pharmacology," Williams said. "What that means is that I'm interested in giving drugs that fall into a therapeutic area to animals, usually rats. I further characterize FDA approved drugs' effects on the behavior of these animals. This includes observing the effects of alcohol consumption. I don't do anything with hard drugs such as opioids."

Williams also studies lesser realized sources of addiction, such as palatable substances like sugar.

"When we think about drug addiction, we often think about heroine, cocaine. However, there are public health implications that arise from food addiction, such as obesity, which ultimately taxes the healthcare system," Williams said. "I have rats that press levers to consume solutions containing Red Bull or high fructose corn syrup."

Williams has centered his lab around working with undergraduate students, allowing them to become immersed in all aspects of the research process. He usually has 7-8 undergraduate students part of his laboratory at a given time.

"In the fall, we do a lot of hands-on work," Williams said. "Students come in around twice a week and work with a partner, learning how to handle and inject rats. They learn how to be meticulous with data collection and meet to discuss journal articles. Then in the winter semester, I meet with them regularly to teach [them] how to create posters and how to present research findings. We try to attend conferences and present in May."

Williams expressed that he did not know what he wanted to do when first starting college. However, he was inspired to pursue psychology and later biopsychology after taking an introductory psychology class.

"While watching how my instructor vividly described topics such as synapses and neurotransmitters, I

thought to myself, 'how can I get into this field? What kind of classes do I have to take?'" Williams said. "I was hooked."

Half Native American, Williams saw how alcoholism affected relatives and Native American society as a whole. This helped shape his research focus.

"I've seen it touch my family and the people around me," Williams said, "so when my mentor asked if I wanted to look into how alcohol works, I said absolutely."

For anyone intrigued by biology and how it intertwines with psychology, Oakland offers courses such as PSY 2150 — Introduction to Biological and Cognitive Psychology and PSY 3180 — Biological Psychology. Dr. Williams invites those interested in this topic or in the work he conducts through his lab to reach out to him for more information, such as necessary prerequisite courses. His email is william9@oakland.edu.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU

Dr. Keith Williams combines Biology and Psychology to teach the courses PSY 2150 and PSY 3180.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HENRY FORD HEALTH

This course requires weekly clinical shifts at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

JORDON BANFIELD LEADS OAKLAND BASEBALL TO FIRST WINNING SEASON IN DECADES

BROCK HEILIG

Sports Editor

It was a historic season for the Oakland University baseball team. For the first time in the 21st century, the Golden Grizzlies finished with a winning record.

Oakland's 31-27 overall record propelled it to a second-place finish in the Horizon League, both in the regular season and in the conference tournament. The Golden Grizzlies posted an 18-11 mark in the conference to secure the No. 2 seed in the league tournament.

The second-seeded Golden Grizzlies headed to Dayton, Ohio in late May, in search of a tournament championship and a spot in the NCAA Tournament. However, the legendary season came to a close in Dayton, as the Golden Grizzlies ran out of luck. The Horizon League Tournament started in victorious fashion with a 2-0 victory over Youngstown State. The Penguins committed a costly error in the seventh inning which allowed two runs, and Oakland starter Quinton Kujawa pitched a wonderful game. In Kujawa's 7.0 innings of work, he allowed only three hits, struck out six batters and gave up no runs. Kujawa's monster performance was enough to will Oakland on to the second round.

Awaiting Oakland in the second round of the conference tournament was the No. 1 seed Wright State Raiders. Despite the Raiders being the top-seeded team in the conference, Oakland dominated the season series, winning four of the five matchups. However, Wright State clearly had Oakland's number in the conference tournament. Led by two five-run innings, the Raiders tallied 15 hits in a 14-3 rout of the Golden Grizzlies.

Thanks to the Horizon League Tournament's double-elimination style, Oakland's season was still alive. The Golden Grizzlies faced Youngstown State once again, in what was an elimination game for both teams.

Oakland was able to stave off elimination with a 4-2 victory over the Penguins. Each team brought home a run in the first inning, but Oakland's two-run second inning proved to be the difference in the low-scoring affair.

The Golden Grizzlies then found themselves in a familiar position. Wright State awaited Oakland once again, however, having already won the first matchup, the Raiders had the upper hand on the Grizzlies.

Oakland would have needed to beat Wright State twice to claim the Horizon League Tournament championship. However, that hypothetical scenario was quickly abolished.

Wright State obliterated Oakland, 24-0, to claim the tournament championship.

Although the season ended in a crushing defeat, the team reached new heights in 2022 under head coach Jordon Banfield. In just his second full season with the team, Banfield was named Horizon League

Coach of the Year.

In 2019, the last full season prior to Banfield's arrival, the Golden Grizzlies posted an abysmal 11-37 record. In 2021, Banfield's first season with the team, he led Oakland to a better, though still not great 18-29 record.

Things seemed to have clicked in 2022.

Oakland's 31-27 record is good for one of the best seasons in program history, and the program is clearly headed in the right direction under Banfield's tutelage.

Banfield doesn't deserve all of the credit, though. Brad Goulet was named to the All-Horizon League first team, while Brenton Phillips and Jared Miller made the All-Horizon League second team.

Perhaps the most impressive part of Banfield's time at Oakland has been his ability to find and develop talent. That is clearly the case with freshman Brandon Nigh, who is undoubtedly a star in the making.

Nigh, who is one of the youngest players on the team, was named to the All-Horizon League first team, the All-Horizon League freshman team and was named the Horizon League player of the year. Nigh posted a .327 batting average, along with 35 hits and 32 RBIs in his 36 games played.

If Banfield is able to consistently find and develop talent like he did with Nigh, Oakland will be a dangerous team in the years to come.

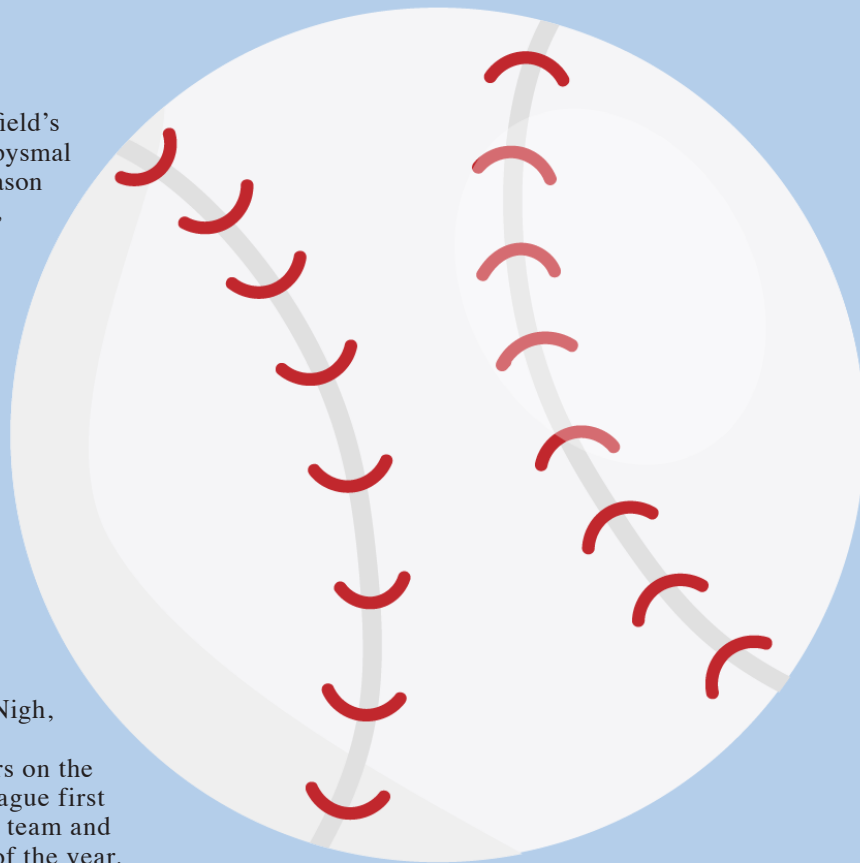
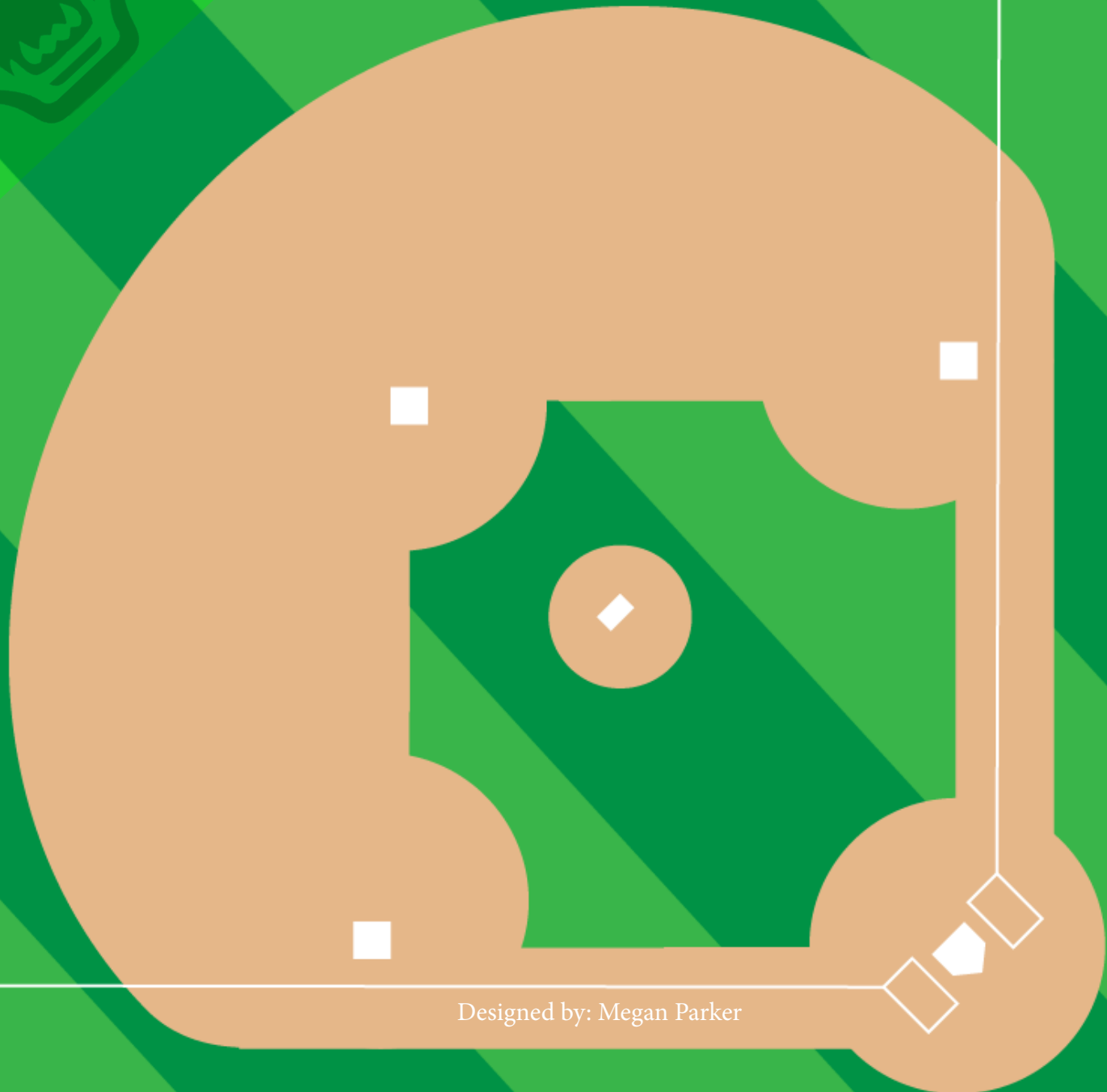


PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSE JUAREZ, OU ATHLETICS

The Oakland baseball team started their season with an impressive opening series victory against CSU-Bakersfield.



Designed by: Megan Parker

‘Stranger Things’ returns with fourth season

OLIVIA CHIAPPELLI

Arts Reporter

After nearly three years, Netflix phenomenon “Stranger Things” has finally returned with its fourth season.

Even just in terms of structure, this season is unprecedented compared to the last three — with this installment being released in two parts. The first seven episodes dropped on May 27th, and the final two will be released on July 1st.

The production is also welcoming changes in terms of episode run time, with each episode being considered feature-length. The first seven episodes each run about an hour to an hour and forty minutes, with the final episode expected to be two hours and nineteen minutes long.

In typical “Stranger Things” fashion, there are multiple intense, separate storylines going on at once, with each group of characters unaware of what crazy thing has happened to another group. Because the final two episodes haven’t aired yet, we were left off without the iconic scene where all of the characters meet up and explain how all of their stories interrelate.

So before our favorite characters reunite, I want to break down some of the thoughts I had while watching these storylines unfold. You won’t get too much plot out of me, however, because I do not want to reveal too many spoilers — more importantly, I operate mostly on pop culture references. You have been forewarned.

Let’s begin with the Byers family. Joyce, Will, Jonathan and Eleven have moved to California, and Eleven is not having a good time. Last season she lost her powers, and is now struggling with fitting in at this new school, being bullied for literally no good reason. Just let the girl wear her overalls and chill!



PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX
The highly-anticipated fourth season “Stranger Things” has made its debut on Netflix.

Jonathan is also a lowkey mess, with the only silver lining being him hanging out with my “Booksmart” fav Eduardo Franco. He’s honestly the exact same character in this series, so I’m

thinking that that is just his personality — which I am totally here for.

Meanwhile, Mike comes to California to visit Eleven and drama ensues because he is an emotionally unavailable teenage boy.

Before long, Eleven is separated from the group, embarking on the storyline that is basically at the core of the whole season. This plotline introduces now fan favorite Jamie Campbell Bower of “Twilight” fame — though I immediately recognized him from “The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones.” It’s probable that none of you even know what that is, but my middle school self sure did.

90’s queen Winona Ryder also has her own journey to reunite with Hopper — which I was totally invested in, because I am obsessed with David Harbour and his little real life family with Lily Allen.

By far the most stacked storyline cast-wise takes place right back in Hawkins with Dustin, Lucas, Max, Nancy, Robin, Steve and newcomer Eddie all going on their own whodunit quest. This cast also delivers the best scene of the season, in my opinion, with the perfect use of Kate Bush’s “Running Up That Hill” and the perfect Sadie Sink.

But most importantly, with each new season of Stranger Things comes the inevitable Joe Keery renaissance, which I always welcome with open arms.

I personally cannot wait for the last two episodes to drop so I can finally see Winona Ryder find out that her kids are on the run after being under the impression that they were just at home sitting on the couch this whole time.

HAIM kicks off Meadow Brook Amphitheatre’s concert season

TORI COKER

Content Editor

Four time Grammy-nominated pop rock band HAIM took to the Meadow Brook Amphitheatre Stage on Wednesday, May 25 to kick off the on-campus venue’s summer concert season.

The “One More HAIM” tour sees the trio of sisters Danielle, Este and Alana Haim bringing their latest album “Women In Music Pt. III” to audiences all across the country. Filled to the brim with the sunniest, twangiest, Sheryl Crow-iest mesh of 70’s rock and 90’s R&B influences you’ll have heard in a while, this is an album which deserved its own boisterous-meets-classy outdoor venue tour to follow — and this evening at Meadow Brook delivered on every front.

Beyond some very aesthetically pleasing, colorful lighting, the fairly simplistic stage design could have left much to be desired production-wise — but between the fervent stage presence tumbling out of each band member and the effortless synchronicity connecting them as one fiery unit, the audience’s mind never had the chance to wander.

The siblings brought a natural chemistry to the stage that was

hypnotizing to observe, consistently elevating the production of the show. Take the performance of single “Now I’m In It” at the top of the set for instance — each Haim’s entrance entailed a lone spotlight and their instrument of choice against an accompanying undercurrent of synths at the anxious song’s core, before the lights came up and the sisters fell into step alongside one another with a solidity you felt in your gut.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TICKETMASTER
HAIM brought their “One More HAIM” tour to Meadow Brook Amphitheatre on May 25.

To put it simply, power in sisterhood was evident in the band’s every unified stride during the show. Every only child surely left that venue feeling a little more only child-ish than usual that night — or at least with a clever “Fourth HAIM

sister” t-shirt from the merchandise stand under their arm.

The show marked the group’s first stop in Michigan since 2018. Each sister mused that they’d missed Metro Detroit in the time since they’d visited, with Alana — who movie buffs might recall assuming a leading role in Paul Thomas Anderson’s “Licorice Pizza” last year — jokingly likening her time spent in Hollywood and away from the crowd to having cheated on the fans.

“It felt good for a second — but then I started missing you guys,” Alana teased, to raucous approval from the metaphorically scorned lovers in every row.

This type of onstage banter persisted throughout the night with a rhythm that felt natural instead of stuffy, as the whole musicians-attempting-to-be-comedians charade often tends to. Gimmicks such as a faux phone call between Este and the subject of the track “3 AM” were welcome moments of levity rather than eye-roll provokers, and the other joyful, slightly ironic theatrics such as the “I Know Alone” dance break recreated from the music video were simply a joy to watch unfold.

HAIM knows they’re cool, and will not shy away from a corny music video recreation here and there for any fear of

jeopardizing that swagger — human in a way that only makes them even cooler.

While the overly-prepared music geek in me was disappointed that the setlist she’d studied so closely ahead of the show was shortened by two or three of her most highly anticipated songs (“Don’t Wanna,” and “FUBT,” I will avenge you), I must say that this is a group that knows how to fill out a set, curfews be damned. “My Song 5” was breathless from front to back, dark and angered and bathed in red lights — I can’t recall a moment in my lengthy list of live music experiences that felt anything like it.

By the time the encore rolled around with the unveiling of huge banners adorned with the album and band titles against breakout hit “The Wire,” I felt just as cool as the thirteen year old version of myself who discovered that song mid-Tumblr scroll in 2014 hoped I’d one day be — or, at least, as though I was a part of something just that cool.

I guess that’s the lesson here: being in the audience at a HAIM show — on top of being empowering, emotional, electrifying and freeing — feels pretty damn cool. I can’t think of a more promising first glimpse at what the summer of Meadow Brook concerts ahead of us might look like.

Harry Styles drops third album ‘Harry’s House’

OLIVIA CHIAPPELLI

Arts Reporter

Between the release of our previous issue and this current one, Harry Styles released his highly anticipated third album “Harry’s House.”

Below is my attempt at an expanded version of the formerly unintelligible mess that existed in my notes app, frantically typed out in the dead of night upon first hearing this release during the early hours of May 20, 2022.

While I cannot bring myself to actually rank the album, I will offer up my top five songs, in no particular order:

“Grape Juice”

Upon first hearing that ASMR-like whisper count off and dark, thundery guitar intro, I am not going to lie — I thought this song was going to give off slightly evil vibes, for lack of a better term. However, I was completely thrown for a loop.

Something about the wonky keyboard parts really reminds me of The Beatles, and the filter on his voice just adds to the feeling that the song is being played on an old record player.

That combined with his vocals on “There’s just no getting through,”

makes the song feel like when you hang your hand out the car window and let it ride the wind like waves.

“Cinema”

The transition from Matilda to Cinema gave me whiplash in the best way possible. I went from silently sobbing in my bed to wiping my tears and grooving. It felt like the clouds were clearing after a stormy night, with little bird sounds included.

There is also a level of vulnerability in the lyrics, “I just think you’re cool, I dig your cinema. Do you think I’m cool, too? Or am I too into you?” in this otherwise sultry, funk-leaning song that I really appreciated.

I knew as soon as I heard that twangy little electric guitar solo that those notes were coming from the hands of John Mayer himself, thanks to my having strictly listened to his 2006 album “Continuum” every morning before my freshman year of high school. Questionable times, but I stand by that choice.

I, too, dig Olivia Wilde’s cinema. #BooksmartWasRobbedOscars2020

“Daydreaming”

From the moment this track opened with a sample of The Brothers Johnson’s “Ain’t We Funkin’ Now,” I knew this

song was going to be a good time.

Everything about it feels euphoric, like strutting down a runway and dancing in your summery kitchen and screaming from the rooftops. The song really sounds the way he felt while making it — it’s infectious.

John Mayer makes another appearance on this song for his signature funky guitar solo — which I couldn’t be happier about — and Harry’s ending belts leave this song off on a major high.

“Keep Driving”

Harry uses a different lyrical style in this song, with the majority of it consisting of him listing words that create really vivid imagery that is almost more impactful than narrative-like lyrics.

The lyrics, “Maple syrup, coffee, pancakes for two. Hash brown, egg yolk, I will always love you,” paint such a picture of domestic bliss that the lyrics don’t even have to make a coherent sentence for you to tap into the feeling.

The real standout of this song is the bridge where anxiety builds in rapid lyrics and instrumentals alike, ending with the relieving, “Should we just keep driving?” breaking through all the noise



PHOTO COURTESY OF PITCHFORK.COM
“Harry’s House” made its debut on May 20, 2022.

and pulling you back to Earth.

“Satellite”

This track starts off with you literally feeling like you are floating in space, orbiting around Earth.

The song begins like it might be quite sad and mellow, but quickly drops in punchy synths and drums that pick up the pace. Everything builds so well that I can tell an arena performance of this song would feel just as all encompassing as it does in my airpods.

I do, in fact, feel like I am spinning out waiting for Harry Styles himself to pull me in.

Rating: 5/5 stars

‘A Show for Two’ - is a YA rom com must read

D’JUANNA LESTER

Arts Reporter

Tashie Bhuiyan does it again! The Bangladeshi-American “Counting Down with You” writer dazzles in her sophomore coming-of-age, romantic comedy. This Young Adult (YA) rom com will have readers squealing with joy (and Swifties singing Cornelia Street) long after finishing the can’t-put-down story.

This review will be spoiler-free for those of you who want to go check this out! If you haven’t added this to your TBR, I suggest doing it soon.

Keeping with Bhuiyan’s record of having relatable, no nonsense protagonists, Mina Rahman joins the “Bhuiyan-verse” (yes, I’m calling it that) as one of my favorite YA protagonists. She’s witty, sarcastic and passionate — but that doesn’t mean she’s without her flaws, which makes her a well rounded, interesting character to follow.

YA protagonists seem to fall into one of two camps: Mary Sue or terribly unlikeable. I think having an imperfect character makes audiences want to see their arcs unfold.

The other characters are interesting to follow, as well — in true Tashie fashion, love interest Emmitt isn’t just a love interest, but rather has his own interesting background as an up and coming actor. Mina’s sister and best friend get to be their own characters, too, instead of simply existing to support the main lead. Honestly, it’s one of my

favorite parts about Tashie’s books, and I wish to emulate it in mine.

While the plot follows a classic enemies-to-lovers trope, “A Show for Two” throws the characters into the midst of chaotic events, leading their romance to develop as more of a slow burn.

Mina, a high school senior, wants to win her school’s film competition to get into the college of her dreams. The problem? She needs a star.

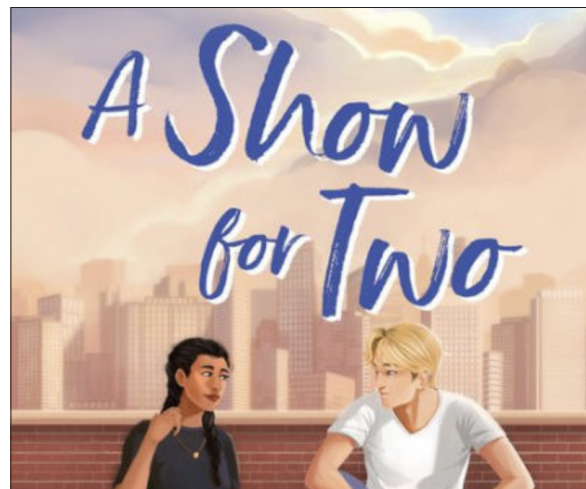


PHOTO COURTESY OF BARNES & NOBLE
“A Show for Two” by New York Times bestselling author Tashie Bhuiyan

Mina and Emmitt make a deal: Emmitt will help Mina with her film competition if she will help him with his photography contest. We get to see how their family dynamics mirror each other as they start to bond. It’s written in a way that feels authentic, not rushed.

The pining. The desperation to see them actually admit their feelings? Golden. Their romance is one for the books!

Not only is “Counting Down with You” a diverse story — “A Show for Two” is, as well. We get characters of different races, cultures and orientations, making the story feel grounded and real. Tashie’s writing is so carefully crafted that her stories feel like there’s something for everyone in this book.

This book takes pieces from Bhuiyan’s own childhood and struggles with her family, culture and religious identity, delving into Mina and her sister’s near constant issues with their parents and identity. This book hits on topics that seem unfamiliar — especially in a YA Romance book — adding a sense of depth to these characters that make you want to read more.

If you are a Taylor Swift fan, read this book immediately. It feels like a Taylor Swift song — it’s beautiful, the epitome of Swift’s Lover album vibes. There’s even a scene involving “Cornelia Street” in a climax so gorgeous (fully intended) that I’m still gushing over it — this one’s for the Swifties.

Rating: 4/5

Positive Space: Actor, photographer Sam VanKampen

BELLA JAVIER

Arts Editor

Pursuing a career in art — performing, visual or written — is no easy feat. Our goal with “A Positive Space” is to highlight and celebrate student artists of Oakland University who are on the up and up, making impressive steps in the world of art.

For this issue, we interviewed Sam VanKampen — a west-Michigan native and rising senior in OU’s Bachelor of Fine Arts program for musical theater.

VanKampen started his involvement in theatre at a young age, with the help of his sister. He spent his early days doing backstage work and didn’t start performing until the eighth grade. Performing as a career didn’t seem feasible until, “after my first lead role and getting nominated for the Sutton Foster ovation awards,” VanKampen said.

His first lead role as Chad in his high school’s production of “All Shook Up” was pivotal in his pursuit of a career in theatre and for his improvement in self-esteem. It was the positive feedback from this show that encouraged VanKampen to seriously pursue theatre.

His experiences in college were not as encouraging as expected, but having put in some elbow grease, VanKampen now finds himself in his second professional show prior to graduating college.

This past spring, VanKampen was cast in his first professional production as a part of the sailor quartet in Nicely Theatre Company’s “Anything

Goes.” On top of the work he was originally cast for, he also did the work as an understudy for the lead, Billy.

He is currently working at OU’s very own Meadow Brook Theatre as a Jordanaire in “A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline.”

Professional work as a college student is not easy to come by. Even as the show winds down to its final few performances, VanKampen said, “it still doesn’t feel real.”

Offstage, VanKampen does his fair share of photography — something that started as a Spider-Man-inspired hobby and later turned into a small business with the help of his growing network.

“I came to the realization [in college] I could take headshots, and make a career out of that as well,” he said.

Whether it’s photography or theatre, what VanKampen says he struggles with the most is mindset.

“Anxiety of not feeling good enough, thinking I lack what it takes,” he said.

These insecurities were said to be hindering his college education. Regardless, it is clear VanKampen is doing something right given the impressive amount of work he is doing. That is worthy of applause.

As we can see, it is not always smooth sailing out in the world of theatre, so it is important to support and encourage local artists. For anyone in pursuit of a career in art, VanKampen stresses to keep pushing onward, even when the going gets tough.

“Never give up, unless you know it’s not for you,”

he said. “Just keep working and keep auditioning — you can do it.”

You can catch VanKampen in “A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline” at Meadow Brook Theatre, which runs until June 19. Follow @sjvkphotos on Instagram for a look at his photography work, or find him on his personal account, @sammy.vankampen.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BACKSTAGE.COM
Sam is a west-Michigan native and rising senior in OU’s Bachelor of Fine Arts program for musical theater.

5SOS announces fifth album release date, tracklist

D’JUANA LESTER

Arts Reporter

Attention 5SOS fans (did we ever come up with a fandom name?) — the moment is finally here. Australian pop-rock band 5 Seconds of Summer (5SOS) have finally released the name and release date for their fifth album.

The ‘Youngblood’ quartet consisting of Luke Hemmings, Ashton Irwin, Calum Hood and Michael Clifford have been teasing their fifth album since the start of 2021, and have even played one of their unreleased songs, “Easy for You,” on their current Take My Hand tour. Many fans have been anticipating the announcement of the album — and its name, with many wanting it to be called “5SOS5.”

Our wish has been granted, as the album name and date have been released — 5SOS5 will drop on September 23, 2022.

In a series of (agonizingly slow) tweets from the band’s official Twitter account, the band began releasing the tracklist for 5SOS5. It was released in an order of every 30 minutes, as well as in different languages. The singers had to have done this to torment the fans by making us wait.

There were 19 songs in all released on the band’s account. The first track, “Complete Mess,” was the band’s first single released from this album, followed by “Easy for You,” which they’ve played on tour.

“Me, Myself, and I” and “Take My Hand” are the other two singles that have been released, with Take My Hand replacing No Shame as the 2022 tour name. Clifford himself produced “Complete Mess” and “Take My Hand.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEOPLE.COM
5SOS5 is set to be released on September 23, 2022.

Then there are the songs we’ve yet to hear, including “Bad Omens,” written by Hemmings and Irwin, “Carousel,” written by all four boys and singer Sierra Deaton of Alex and Sierra fame,

“Older,” written by Hemmings, Deaton and Clifford and “Haze,” written by all four boys.

“You Don’t Go to Parties” was written by Irwin and Hood, “Blender” and “Caramel” by Hemmings, Hood and Irwin and “Best Friends,” “Bleach” and “Red Line” each being written by all four boys.

There are five additional songs listed as deluxe edition bonus tracks. They are “Moodswings,” written by all four boys, “Flatline,” written by Hemmings and Irwin, “Emotions,” written by Hood and Clifford, “Bloodhound,” written by all four boys and “Tears!” penned by Irwin.

“Complete Mess” was the first single released for this new era. It was a genius way of opening the era for the boys, with Clifford producing the song and the band members writing it themselves. The boys talk about how freeing it felt going into this new era writing the music they want to write in interviews.

“Take My Hand” was the second single released, with fans calling it a nostalgic nod to Sounds Good, Feels Good — the band’s second album, released in 2015.

“Me, Myself, and I” is their latest released single. This single is my personal favorite out of the three.

All three singles touch upon themes of relationships with others, as well as yourself. They all stand out in different ways, making fans excited for the complete album.

Personally, the three songs I’m looking forward to hearing the most from this new release are “You Don’t Go to Parties,” “Red Line” and “Caramel.”

Sorting out men's basketball roster after hectic offseason in transfer portal

JOSEPH POPIS

Sports Reporter

Last season, Oakland University's men's basketball team had a record of 20-12. The team was 12-7 within conference play, 10-3 at home, 3-1 on neutral courts and 7-8 on the road. The season would end in the Horizon League Tournament quarterfinal with a loss against Wright State, 75-63.

The leading scorers on the team throughout the season included forward Jamal Cain [20 points per game], point guard Jalen Moore [15 points per game], forward Trey Townsend [13 points per game], forward Micah Parrish [12 points per game] and forward Blake Lampman [7 points per game].

Between some athletes graduating and others entering the transfer portal, vast amounts of teams experience changes to their rosters. The Oakland men's basketball team is no different, as there will be some new faces on campus and a few departures from last year's group.

This upcoming season, the team additions include Lorne Bowman, Keaton Hervey, Chuol Deng and Rocket Watts.

Bowman is a 6-foot-2 guard from Detroit, Michigan who played for the University of Wisconsin-Madison as a freshman last season — appearing in 22 games, averaging three points per game while shooting 40% from three-point range.

Hervey is a 6-foot-7 guard out of Cedar Park,

Texas. He played for the University Of The Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas and Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. Throughout Hervey's career, he averaged nearly seven points per game and three rebounds while shooting nearly 42% from the field.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
The Oakland men's basketball team in a huddle during a timeout against Milwaukee on Jan. 9.

Deng is a 6-foot-8 forward who played for Colorado Northwestern in Rangely, Colorado and Hill College in Hillsboro, Texas. In his career, he averaged 11 points per game while grabbing six defensive rebounds per game.

The final transfer is Watts, another 6-foot-2 guard out of Detroit, Michigan. Watts, a four-star recruit and top-40 prospect out of high school, spent the first two years of his career playing for Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan before transferring to Mississippi State where he played one season. In Watts' career, he averaged seven points per game while shooting nearly 37% from the field.

While the incoming transfers will undoubtedly make an impact, the team's additions this offseason also come with some losses. Horizon League Player of the Year Jamal Cain played his last season of college eligibility this past season.

Along with this loss, sophomore Micah Parrish transferred to San Diego State University in California. Parrish averaged 10.5 points and 5.9 rebounds per game in his two seasons with the Golden Grizzlies. His production is not something that head coach Greg Kampe will be able to easily replace.

The guard position for this Grizzlies team in the upcoming season will be a strength, along with the returning athletes at the forward position. College basketball veterans Moore and Watts will anchor the backcourt, while Townsend will lead the frontcourt.

Five Oakland coaches named Horizon League Coach of the Year

BROCK HEILIG

Sports Editor

Oakland University Athletics blossomed throughout the 2021-22 academic year. The Golden Grizzlies had five coaches receive Horizon League Coach of the Year honors after excellent seasons in swimming and diving, men's soccer, softball, women's golf and baseball.

The 2021-22 season was Pete Hovland's 42nd as the head coach of the swimming and diving team. Hovland led both the men's and women's teams to Horizon League championships, with the title marking the ninth consecutive combined championship for both teams.

Along with Hovland, men's soccer coach Eric Pogue was also named the Horizon League Coach of the Year. Pogue led the men's soccer team to a 12-7-2 overall record, and the team also posted an 8-1-1 record in the conference.

The Golden Grizzlies won seven of their last eight regular season games under Pogue to secure the regular season Horizon League title. Following the championship, Oakland continued to stay hot in the conference tournament, where it went 2-0 against UIC and Cleveland State to secure both the regular season and tournament titles.

Pogue then led the team to the NCAA Tournament. However, the hope for a Cinderella run was diminished in the first round when the Golden Grizzlies fell to Northern Illinois, 2-1. Despite the loss, it was still a remarkable season for the Oakland men's soccer team, and Pogue played a huge role in

the team's success.

The spring sports season was especially prosperous for Oakland.

Lauren Karn did an outstanding job coaching the softball team to a Horizon League championship. After last season's heartbreaking finish in the conference tournament championship game, Karn said ahead of this season that one of the team's biggest goals was to win the conference this time around.

The team did exactly that. Oakland won both the conference regular season and conference tournament titles.

Karn led the team to an 18-7 Horizon League regular season record, earning it the No. 1 seed in the conference tournament. The team advanced to the championship game before accomplishing what last year's team couldn't, defeating Robert Morris 5-4 to claim the tournament title and punch their ticket to the NCAA Tournament.

Alyssa Gaudio joined the long list of coaches of the year with her impressive leadership of the women's golf team. As is common with many Coach of the Year award winners, Oakland went on to win the Horizon League championship, thanks to Gaudio's leadership.

Gaudio played a huge role in the Golden Grizzlies' success, but much of the credit can also be given to Amalia Shahzan. Shahzan was one of the star players on the championship-winning team, and carried Oakland to the league title.

Jordan Banfield became the fifth Oakland coach to win the league's Coach of the Year award after a very successful baseball season. Oakland finished the year with a 31-27 overall record, marking its first winning season of the 21st century.

Banfield brought the Oakland baseball program out of the abyss, and he clearly has it headed in the right direction.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS
Coach Peter Hovland was inducted into Michigan's sports hall of fame in 2016.

Netflix presents Marilyn Monroe as you've never heard her before

LETICIA CEZÁRIO SANTOS

Marketing Director

You probably have heard of her before. She was an artist. She was the face of American beauty in the '60s. She was an actress. She was a model. She was the voice behind the most famous "Happy Birthday" rendition ever sung in the United States. She was Marilyn Monroe.

Monroe was relevant in so many contexts where she is still cited today, her image as alive as it has always been.

I was surprised to find out Monroe was born in 1926 and died in 1962, having existed in a reality so far away from today. Still, her story is so remarkable that sometimes the time slips off our minds and it feels as if her legacy was paved yesterday.

On April 27, Netflix launched "The Mystery of Marilyn Monroe: The Unheard Tapes." This documentary follows the years-long investigation of Anthony Summers, the investigative journalist and Pulitzer Prize Finalist behind the 1985 biography "Goddess: The Secret Lives of Marilyn Monroe."

Summers recently updated his work with significant new content, which Netflix then transformed into this newly debuted special.

"[...] naming names, previously withheld, and publishing long-censored documents, the new

'Goddess' delivers clear answers to long-simmering questions about Marilyn Monroe's death," Summers said in an interview with publishersweekly.com.

We all remember the blond hair and the remarkable eyes, the laugh and the delicate look. We know about the white dress flowing in the wind and the potato sack episode. But who really was Marilyn Monroe?

This documentary goes beyond all of that, telling the raw version of Monroe's story. It exposes her relationships, dreams, challenges and struggles, going even further than her life.

Her story is told through tapes recorded of people close to her. Their voices and the multitude of their perspectives place the viewer in an intimate position. Watching the documentary gives you the feeling of listening in on a secret or something prohibited.

Monroe's experiences tell a lot about the old media industry and its sexist practices. It is not the first show that exposes how much power politics hold, and how much a bad influence can change someone's life.

Monroe's name is not the only famous one cited in this documentary. A lot is said about President John F. Kennedy and his brother, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, detailing how they were compromised by their relationships with Monroe. After her death, they sought frantically to cover

up their involvement with her — but now it has all become infamous historical knowledge.

There is a Portuguese proverb that says, "he who sees the face does not see the heart." It means that what someone shows outside does not correspond accurately with what they carry inside their heart — a phenomenon that stood out to me in Monroe's story.

Monroe was known for her beauty, not for her difficult and lonely childhood. She was known for her talents, not for her struggle to feel loved. She was known for her status, not for her dreams of having children and building a family. She was known for what the media showed of her, which was only a small part of everything she truly was.

We as a society are still struggling to find ways to humanize celebrities and give them enough space to live. It's thought-provoking to see that not much has changed since 1962.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Monroe's story has much more to it than most are actually aware — and someone whose life was so incredibly altered by the public obsession that followed her deserves to have her truth known. This documentary feels to me like a good place to start.

Artstrology: A Song for Your Sign — June 2022

BELLA JAVIER

Arts Editor

The main theme of the recent major astrological events we have undergone is information saturation and the communication of it. Cancer season — beginning on Tuesday, June 21 — starts off strong with Venus entering witty, fickle-hearted Gemini on Wednesday, June 22. Toward the end of June, we are greeted with yet another retrograde — Neptune in Pisces on Tuesday, June 28 — along with a new moon in Cancer.

Retrogrades normally get a bad rep, but don't be afraid this time around — this transit offers heightened, clarified intuition. As the season persists, you'll warm up to your surroundings around mid-July.

With that being said, here's my predictions for each of the signs and a corresponding song to get you through the road ahead:

Aries: Through the month of June, you are grinding day in, day out — but come the middle of Cancer season, your home planet, Mars, moves into steady Taurus. Don't let this change of pace break your stride! Take a break and get grounded with mxmtoon's "coming of age," the perfect backtrack for a transition like this.

Taurus: Come Cancer season, you'll be feeling

pretty ambitious. You'll find yourself in more stimulating conversations in the coming weeks. It's all about collaboration and creativity this season, so hype yourself with "Venus Fly Trap" by MARINA.

Gemini: As the Sun moves through your second house, you'll start experiencing some financial confidence! Use "STUPID BIG TEETH" by EMMY to manifest prosperity this Cancer season.

Cancer: This season is all about you, birthday babe! I think you'll love listening to Latto's "Big Energy" this season. This song is perfect at empowering its listener with feel-good energy.

Leo: The next few weeks are going to be pretty lowkey for you, so take this time to focus on yourself. Patiently waiting isn't the most exhilarating activity, so listen to "Marvelous" by Wallows to help pass the time.

Virgo: You're inspired to serve the greater good this season. That's a pretty big endeavor, but you'll find yourself taking up the opportunity to nurture the connections already present in your life. Take a listen to "Let's go to Hell" by Tai Verdes this season (AKA the perfect anthem for taking risks with your partner-in-crime).

Libra: You're beginning to take bigger career steps as Cancer season approaches. Keep the momentum going with the motivation of Trixie Mattel and her song "C'mon Loretta."

Scorpio: This period of time is going to push

you out of your comfort zone, so buckle up and get ready to learn. The journey ahead requires that you play the song of the summer on repeat — Alexa, loop "As It Was" by Harry Styles.

Sagittarius: Cancer season is a deep, reflective time for you, as the Sun is entering your house of growth and transformation. Your mental stamina was tested this year, but this season brings much needed, well-deserved fun. Relax and cultivate your peak energy this season with "Jodie" by SZA.

Capricorn: The Sun is in your house of partnerships — the good, the bad and the ugly — making this a very social season for you. Any strong opinions or feelings in an active relationship of yours feel illuminated at this time. The vibey love song "sun and moon" by anees is your track for this season.

Aquarius: Your life this season will feel more structured than you're used to, but don't let the unfamiliar stress you out. A song you might love (and relate to) this season is "Parent Trap" by Jack Harlow (feat. Justin Timberlake).

Pisces: Sit back and enjoy yourself this season, Pisces — this is a time to keep your inner child entertained with playful, creative hobbies, new and old. Add "Baby Boo" by Muni Long (with Saweetie) to your playlist to buy into the romantic themes Cancer season is bringing you this year.

Industry Insider: Dr. Rawashdeh points to future of embedded systems

SIERRA OKONIEWSKI

Contributor

Accelerating technology is pushing the field of computer engineering to become more integrative than ever – and embedded systems are a linchpin to the trade’s initiative of “smart” success.

Dr. Osamah Rawashdeh, Oakland University’s chair of electrical and computer engineering, is preparing his students to face an era of cyber innovations that was unforeseen a decade ago.

Rawashdeh completed most of his undergraduate degree in Germany before transferring to the University of Kentucky. As an undergrad, he became involved in embedded systems with 2DI — a company that crafts temperature monitors for commercial refrigerators.

After deciding to pursue a master’s degree and Ph.D. in electrical engineering, he began working with Precision Systems and Instrumentation to develop spinal cord and brain tissue impactors for medical research.

Rawashdeh graduated with his Ph.D. in 2005 and stayed on with the University of Kentucky as a lecturer before accepting a position with OU in 2007. He has since led a team of OU engineering students to win a \$1 million international award for designing the Loon Copter, a multi-rotor drone that can operate both aerially and underwater.

The Oakland Post met with Dr. Rawashdeh to gain insight into the advancements of embedded systems and the field’s projected impact on our world at large.

Q: What are embedded systems?

A: An embedded system is a special-purpose computer system. You keep hearing about things becoming “smart,” right? Making things “smart” just means putting a processor computer in it.

There’s a computer in my watch, there’s a computer in the printer, there’s a computer in that thermostat – all of these are computers. There’s some code running, checking temperatures, sending signals to the HVAC unit, there’s a Wi-Fi transmitter – that’s a computer, too.

The word ‘embedded’ comes basically from embedding a processor in an application — and I think this is one of the most exciting fields for the next foreseeable future. To do something like this, you have to understand applications and write software, but you also have to design hardware.

Q: When you first became an embedded systems professional, what surprised you the most about working on-the-job versus studying the field?

A: Probably the hardest thing and most surprising thing is effectively communicating with people outside of my discipline.

Engineering is using science and applying science to solve problems. And as an embedded systems engineer, the problems are not embedded systems or electrical and computer engineering (ECE) problems – they are problems in other disciplines.

If I’m trying to design a solution, it’s on me to communicate what the possibilities are and what the limitations are of the technology.

Q: What is the best part of working in your field?

A: Probably creating something. Just having this ability is empowering and exciting – to envision something and actually [be] able to create it.

I could go home now and work on a toaster that wakes me up and warms up my coffee and makes toast. It’s not hard. That is probably the best part about this.

Q: How do you see your field evolving in the present day? What direction do you see it headed in the future?

A: What’s happening right now is these embedded processors are becoming more and more capable. When I went to school, a computer engineer was not too concerned about operating systems, security, machine learning or AI algorithms because we couldn’t run them on these little controllers.

Now these embedded controllers are becoming so powerful, many algorithms that used to run on full-fledged PCs are now moving to embedded systems. So it’s actually important for embedded systems [students] to learn more and more about what is happening in the general computer science field and with general-purpose PCs.

Because these processors at the edge of embedded systems are becoming more powerful, we’re starting to migrate these algorithms to the edge. And this is called edge AI. We have to learn about artificial

intelligence and machine learning as embedded engineers, which we didn’t 10 years ago because we didn’t have the processing power.

This is another example of also describing how the lines are blurring between this traditional thinking: computer scientist, computer engineer, mechanical engineer – all these lines are blurring.



Take a peek into various career paths with The Post’s column Industry Insider.

‘It Ends with Us’: A most unique cliché

LETICIA CEZÁRIO SANTOS
Marketing Director

I know what you are thinking. “Ugh, yet another romance book ending with the happily ever after.” I understand, believe me – but give me the chance to convince you why this one is actually worth reading.

“It Ends With Us” is a novel by Colleen Hoover. Published in August of 2016, it tells the story of protagonist Lily Bloom.

The first element that makes this book worth reading is its timeline – which is more of a scribble and not so much a line. Hoover goes back and forth between past and present telling Lily’s story, leading readers to start devising a mental puzzle of sorts in an effort to follow along.

A second important element to note is that Ellen DeGeneres is one of the main characters of this story — but I won’t give you spoilers. Just keep that random fact in mind.

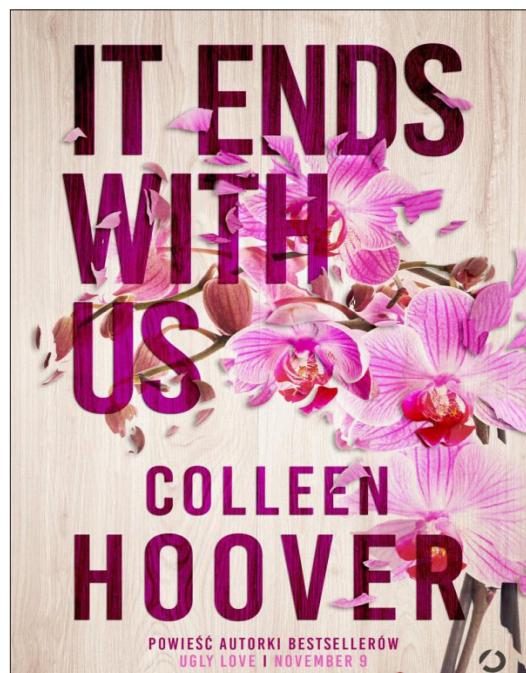


Photo courtesy of Colleen Hoover’s website.

Like every good romance, Lily wrestles with the question of “who should I love?” Her first love is Atlas Corrigan, with whom she lives many of her first experiences

and a not-at-all traditional romance. When she moves to Boston she meets Ryle Kincaid, a neurosurgeon with a remarkable appearance that steals her attention from the first second.

The truth about this book is that the love it talks about has nothing to do with love triangles or past and present loves. The most important act of love described in this story did not happen in either Atlas’ or Ryle’s relationship with Lily.

“It Ends With Us” is based on the true story of Hoover’s mom. The book holds a surprising end that goes beyond anything the reader can imagine.

It’s almost agonizing how you only understand what the title of this book means in its very last pages. Chapter by chapter, the reader follows along with Lily’s decisions and struggles, and it makes you wonder what comes next. Differently than in some books, the epilogue and the note from the author’s sessions are essential to tie up this story and provide the necessary details that expose the reasoning behind every page.

Lily’s story makes us understand what happens in many relationships. It takes us to a vulnerable place, leading us to question how easy it is to fall into a difficult situation. It makes you deeply ponder how far away boundaries are within what we define as love.

“Naked truth?” This was the question Lily would ask one of her lovers to let him know the most honest of her thoughts. Now I ask you – naked truth?

This book made me cry like I had not done in a long time.

Hoover describes the story as “an unforgettable tale of love that comes at the ultimate price,” – and that it truly is.

Rating: 5/5 stars

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