

THE OAKLAND POST

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Rochester, Michigan

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Professor Getnet Bekele discusses his work studying Africa

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PHOTO BY AMELIA OSADUCHUK

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS The SPB hosted event took place in The Habitat last Wednesday. Promoting mental health, support dogs were on the scene for students. *MAGGIE WILLARD/ PHOTOGRAPHER*



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This week's health column talks mental health as seasons shift. *Photo/shondaland.com*



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POLL OF THE WEEK

IS IT TOO EARLY RIGHT NOW FOR CHRISTMAS MUSIC?

- A) YES
- B) DOUBLE YES
- C) IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY
- D) I DON'T CARE

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

MOVIE RELEASE THAT YOU'RE MOST EXCITED FOR?

41%
A) ETERNALS

28%
B) GHOSTBUSTERS: AFTERLIFE

16%
C) SPENCER

16%
D) ENCANTO

Administration answers questions about campus construction projects

BRIDGET JANIS

Managing Editor

The Post sent questions regarding the ongoing campus construction projects to administrators on Oct. 21. The questions were about the general funding of construction projects in South Foundation Hall, Wilson Hall, Varner Hall, a new off-campus research facility and Dodge Hall and how those projects have progressed. After a cancelled interview and a Letter from the Editor outlining six weeks of difficulties sourcing administrators to talk about the construction projects, the administration has responded to our questions.

The answers the administration provided were originally sent to us anonymously through intermediary, the Director of Media Relations Brian Bierley. The Post was able to confirm that the following responses were provided by Associate VP for Facilities Management Pat Engle and interim VP for Finances and Administration Tom LeMarbe. Engle answered the questions about the construction and LeMarbe answered the questions about finances and the budgets.

General Funding of projects:

Question: At the Board of Trustees audit committee meeting John Beaghan mentioned that OU issued \$98 million in tax exempt bonds for the construction projects. As of June 30th, 2021, \$17.5 million of that has been spent, as of today roughly how much of the money has been spent?

Answer: In September 2019, the University issued tax exempt bonds for several construction projects totaling \$98 million. As of 10/31/21, \$31.3 million had been spent on the construction projects. Issuing bonds (debt) enables the University to spread the cost of major construction projects over a period of 30 years while providing the campus community with the new and upgraded facilities now.

Question: Of the remaining money, how is it being distributed among individual projects?

Answer: \$8.3 million for SFH renovation, \$300K for Dodge Hall renovation, \$1.2 million for High Temp Hot Water line project, \$42.2 million for Varner Hall renovation, \$10.6 million for the Wilson Hall expansion, \$4.1 million for the OU Research facility renovation.

Question: How did the delay of the SFH affect the order in which construction on these projects proceeded? Why was the renovation of Wilson Hall able to proceed, while SFH wasn't?

Answer: SFH was a Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB) Capital Outlay project and the State put the project on hold during the COVID shutdown. Wilson Hall is not a DTMB Capital Outlay project and was funded by the university. Capital Outlay is the portion of the State budget that is devoted to the planning and financing of construction, renovation, remodeling, repair and maintenance of facilities and capital assets for use by State agencies, State-supported public universities and community colleges.

South Foundation Hall:

Question: Let's start with the renovation of South Foundation Hall. It is our understanding that the renovation is stalled due to a delay in

state funding. Can you explain what's going on?

Answer: State construction funding for approved 2019 Capital Outlay projects was not appropriated in 2020 due to COVID. When funding was approved in 2021, construction costs had increased substantially due to material and labor shortages. As the cost increased, it was necessary to reduce the scope of the project to maintain the budget. That required legislative review and approval, which occurred in October 2021.

Question: For the sake of context, can you help us understand where the funding for the SFH renovation is coming from?

Answer: \$30 Million - State of Michigan
\$10 Million OU (From 2019 Bond proceeds)
\$40 Million TOTAL

Question: Do you have a new date for the expected completion of the SFH renovation?

Answer: Occupancy is expected by December 2023.

Question: We realize that it is difficult due to COVID to know exactly when the South Foundation classroom space will be needed. What are your projections for classroom space needs for 2022, 2023 and so on?

Answer: The Office of the Registrar is managing classroom space needs by working collaboratively with the academic units to develop the 2022-2023 schedule of classes. Several tactics have been put in place to accommodate the SFH construction timeline. Examples include increasing the use of non-general purpose space for course scheduling as well as more efficient classroom sharing for partially online and hybrid classes. All of the studies that we have done have shown that our classroom utilization is very high. We are currently investigating the time modules used to schedule as well as seat optimization, non-general purpose classroom space usage and other approaches to address classroom space needs. We recently renovated space in both Hannah Hall and Dodge Hall to create two more classrooms as well.

Question: Due to the delay — and taking into consideration the increased number of online courses and the decreased number of face-to-face courses due to the pandemic — have you made any changes to the renovation plan for SFH?

Answer: The building was reduced by approximately 6,000 square feet due to budget constraints. We rely on the faculty to determine the best modality in which to teach a course. We do our best to ensure that we can schedule those courses in those modalities so that students can make progress towards their degrees. Prior to the pandemic there was a shortage of classrooms which negatively impacted our ability to offer all the courses that departments wanted to offer. We anticipate that the need for face-to-face courses and classrooms will continue to grow as we return to more normal operations.

Question: How will these changes benefit students?

Answer: Once completed, the South Foundation Hall Renovation and Expansion will renovate a 60-year-old building with 47 state-

of-the-art classrooms that have been right sized and will include flexible furniture that can be adapted to multiple teaching styles and updated classroom technology. These classrooms will be equipped with the new Vaddio system which will allow a seamless streaming experience for students in Hyflex models of instruction. There are also spaces planned throughout the building for students to gather in small groups for informal learning. Because it is a general purpose classroom building, all students could benefit from the renovation and addition. With these classrooms available we will be able to offer more courses for students at the times that students have shown the highest demand.

Wilson Hall:

Question: While the work inside SFH is stalled, the expansion of Wilson Hall is very much in the public eye. Is the renovation running on time?

Answer: Construction is on schedule with expected occupancy of the new wing in March 2022 and completed renovation of the current wing set for August 2022.

Question: Can you help us understand where the funding for the Wilson expansion is coming from?

Answer: The project is funded from bond proceeds, \$5.7 million from the 2016 bonds and \$14.8 million from the 2019 bonds.

Question: It is our understanding that a portion of the space will be used by President Ora Pescovitz and her cabinet. Can you give us a percentage? Square footage?

Answer: The first and second floors are for student-related departments including Admissions, Welcome Center, Tutoring Center, Disability Support Services and a brand new Testing Center. The third and fourth floors are designated administrative spaces for the staff of the President, Provost, General Counsel, and Finance and Administration. By consolidating the administrative offices in one location, we are freeing up other spaces on campus to support growth in academic areas.

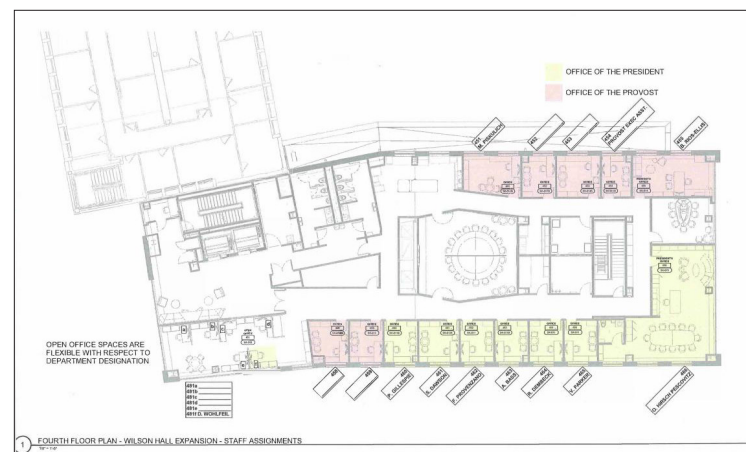


PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF THOMAS

The layout of the fourth floor of the Wilson Hall addition. This floor includes new accommodations for President Pescovitz and her cabinet.

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PAGE 3 CONTINUED

Question: Will admissions have a home in the new space? At a time when enrollment is down — and we've known for years that the pool of high school graduates in Michigan will shrink for the next five to 10 years — why does the administration need more space?

Answer: While the pool of high school graduates in Michigan continues to decrease we are utilizing a variety of approaches to maintain our enrollment. Strategic recruitment of adult and non-traditional students, international students and out-of-state students is occurring. New graduate programs and undergraduate programs are being offered to attract new students and to retain students here at OU. Transfer articulation agreements and 4+1 programs are attractive options that draw students to OU for their education. We need to continue to support the areas which lead these efforts. Admissions and the Welcome Center will be moving out of North Foundation Hall into the Wilson Hall expansion. Furthermore, the need for DSS support and testing support has not decreased. This project addresses these needs as well. The Administration is locating their offices to a central area but the amount of space is similar to what the Administration currently utilizes in several buildings.

Question: At the state of the university address, the projected cost of the renovation was \$21.5M — the project seems to be well underway, so are the finances on track and reflecting this number?

Answer: Yes

Question: How will the Wilson expansion benefit students?

Answer: The new student spaces will benefit existing students and prospective students. They will include new offices for Admissions, the Welcome Center, the Tutoring Center, Disability Support Services and a brand new Testing Center. In addition, parking for prospective students and their families will be provided in Parking Lot P-2, adjacent to the building addition. Consolidation of the administrative offices will also allow for growth in academic units which benefits students.

Varner Hall:

Question: Concerning the Varner Hall project, how much progress has been with the renovations made so far?

Answer: Phase 1 of construction is underway on the 4th and 5th floors of the central office tower. Phase 2 is planned to start in January 2022.

Question: At what date are students and faculty expected to be out of the building?

Answer: The building will be occupied throughout construction. Varner is composed of specialized spaces so the project was phased to create as little disruption as possible to the delivery of the School of Music, Theatre and Dance programs.

Question: What can you tell us about the scope of the work being done? Is it mostly mechanical and technological updates or are there major structural renovations being done to the building as well?

Answer: The focus of the renovation is primarily infrastructure and ADA upgrades. Aging infrastructure (mechanical, electrical, plumbing, lighting, elevators) will be replaced or renovated. Fire protection will be added throughout. Two small additions are planned at the Recital Hall entrance and Scene Shop area. A new elevator and restrooms will be added in the Recital Hall addition for ADA compliance. This will create a more inclusive environment for our OU

students and community members to engage with the School of Music, Theatre and Dance events.

Question: How will these changes benefit students?

Answer: All of the upgrades to Varner Hall were designed with students in mind and intended to improve their experience for the next 50 years. All of the performing and classroom spaces will be upgraded with new furniture and finishes. The building will be more comfortable with renovated HVAC and electrical systems and new windows. Lighting will be improved. The building will be safer and more functional. Acoustic improvements are planned to practice areas making these areas safer for hearing health as well as for improved learning experiences. The building will be ADA compliant. An elevator will be added at the new Recital Hall entrance and the existing elevators will be renovated.

Off-campus research facility:

Question: What can you tell me about the progress so far with the construction of the off-campus research center?

Answer: Design is complete. Bidding is underway. Mobilization and construction will start in December. In the last few years, the university has run out of lab space to provide to new faculty in areas like biology, chemistry and engineering who require labs to conduct their research. Because purchasing existing space is less expensive than building new space, the decision was made to purchase additional lab space off campus.

Question: When is it expected to be completed?

Answer: Occupancy is planned for the Fall of 2022. Purchasing this new space will have two benefits. First, it will provide new modern space for faculty and students in SECS to conduct their research. Many faculty members in SECS have struggled to stay competitive in their efforts to secure outside funding to conduct their research because their existing lab spaces were too small to accommodate their students and the work they were doing. Second, most of the faculty moving to the new building will be vacating space in Dodge Hall. That space will now be available to be renovated for use by the Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Physics departments and OUWB, who also lack space to house new faculty who require labs.

Question: How exactly is the new research center going to be utilized by the University?

Answer: The current plan is to renovate the new building in two phases. In phase 1, the building will provide meeting spaces for faculty, as well as industry partners to develop and share ideas, spaces for students to meet, and labs for Noise and Vibration, Mechatronics, Materials and Photonics, Embedded Systems, Artificial Intelligence, Secure Modeling, Radio Frequency, and the Center for Advanced Manufacturing. In phase 2, we will add additional space for engineering labs, as well as labs to house computer science research. This new capacity will allow faculty to better compete for external funding to support their research.

Question: Also at the state of the university address, the projected cost of the renovation was \$14M — the project seems to be well underway, so are the finances on track and reflecting this number?

Answer: Yes.



PHOTO BY AYMAN ISHIMWE
The Wilson Hall construction is expected to be fully completed in August 2022.

Question: How will this benefit students?

Answer: By providing needed research space, students will benefit by having improved research opportunities. This allows researchers to fund graduate students to complete their degrees and to fund undergraduate student research projects. Undergraduate research, as we know, is a high-impact practice that improves students chances of staying in school, graduating, getting good graduate school placements and demonstrating analytic capacities to their future employers. Hands-on research experience is critical in preparing students for a competitive job market and for those wanting to further their education with graduate degrees.

Dodge Hall:

Question: What can you tell me about the scope of the work that was done at Dodge Hall?

Answer: Work in Dodge Hall consisted of approximately 5,600 square feet of class and research lab improvements including network improvements, mechanical and electrical, plumbing, accessibility upgrades and general space improvements and updates. The aging infrastructure and small lab set up was not conducive to support current research needs. We upgraded the labs and included all the needed safety measures as well as making them ADA compliant. Most of the existing faculty research labs on campus are not ADA compliant and this limits the involvement of both faculty and students with different levels of physical abilities. These updates and improvements are necessary in order to support the needs of the students and researchers. All renovation projects in teaching and research labs include bringing them into compliance with ADA standards and to provide the latest cutting-edge technology for our researchers and students. By removing unnecessary walls we were able to gain workable space to allow more students the opportunity to work with faculty in research projects. These new labs are being filled with externally funded researchers who will support graduate and undergraduate students. This needed renovation provides substantial benefit to the faculty and students of OU.

SEHS receives accreditation for continuous improvement

RACHEL YIM

Senior Reporter

The School of Education and Human Services (SEHS) at Oakland University is one of 26 educator preparation providers (EPPs) from 17 states and the United Arab Emirates to receive 2021 Frank Murray Leadership Recognition for Continuous Improvement.

According to the Council for the Accreditation for Educator Preparation (CAEP), the Frank Murray Leadership Recognition for Continuous Improvement recognizes (EPPs) that demonstrate advanced equity and excellence in educator preparation assuring the quality of continuous improvement of P-12 education.

The accreditation process includes annual reporting, self-study process, formative review and visit. Through this thorough review process, each provider is evaluated based on the completeness, quality and strength of evidence for each standard.

Dating back to December in 2020, OU's SEHS received a perfect score on the accreditation report from the CAEP by receiving the highest rating for all standards including content and pedagogical knowledge, clinical practice, candidate recruitment and support, program impact, quality assurance system and continuous improvement and administrative capacity.

"We don't do anything because of accreditation," Jon Margerum-Leys, dean of OU's SEHS, said. "This is a recognition by other professionals that we are doing the right things. We do it because what we are doing is the right thing."

According to Margerum-Leys, OU's SEHS is one of the first few university programs in the country to conduct virtual visits

He also shared some positive points made by CAEP during their visit to OU. One of them is the relationship the SEHS has with local public schools

primarily in Avondale, Pontiac, Chippewa Valley and Hazel Park.

"I think what impresses the accreditors the most is the relationships we have with other [local community] schools," Margerum-Leys said. "For instance, all of the classes about how to teach kids how to read are embedded in elementary schools. So, if you're taking one of those classes, you're not just hearing about it here in Pawley Hall, but you're in other schools and can watch what happens as it happens."

Another important key feature that the SEHS impressed the accreditors with was its system where the school analyzes data and applies them in decision making for improvement.

Despite some of these positive features, Margerum-Leys said one of the most concerning problems is that the students' pass rate of the first attempt on the teacher performance assessment reported by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) – which, according to Margerum-Leys is commonly known to have anti-teacher education perspectives – is only at around high 30 to low 40%. While the eventual pass rate is similar to that of the University of Michigan and Michigan State University, he said the numbers could be higher.

"These numbers do not look good," he said. "But we'd like that to be better."

To improve these rates, the SEHS has redesigned a new teacher preparation program this fall. With the redesign, he hopes to enhance development of the following:

- 1) curriculum programs
- 2) clinical experiences related to classes
- 3) more scholarship opportunities
- 4) social justice

Lastly, he shared a piece of advice for any students



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
Dean of OU SEHS, Jon Margerum-Leys.

interested in becoming a part of the program.

"You'll be spending almost a quarter of your life here," he said. "You have the opportunity to change your life. What we're trying to do is to set up and be purposeful about ways in which you have the opportunity to achieve your dreams in ways that matter along the four lines We believe in this place."

With a variety of curriculums and clinical experiences as well as with the hope for improvement on statistical outcomes especially on the teacher performance assessment, OU's SEHS continues to support its students with their career paths.

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OUWB professor Michael Trese earns laureate award

TANNER TRAFELET

Senior Reporter

Oakland University William Beaumont (OUWB) faculty member Michael Trese, M.D., will receive a laureate award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) during the organization's meeting this month in New Orleans, Louisiana. The laureate award is the organization's most prestigious honor, and Dr. Trese will be one of the now 23 individuals to have ever received this award.

Dr. Trese is a truly monumental figure in the history of pediatric retinal medicine. According to the AAO, Dr. Trese is considered to be the central figure in the establishment of modern pediatric vitreoretinal surgery. His most distinguished accomplishments come with his establishment of pediatric retinal surgery as a major area of work and research in ophthalmology, and his advocacy for globally accessible telemedical solutions.

"Pediatric retinal disease is something that changes a person's entire life," Dr. Trese said. "In ophthalmology, most of the time you are working with older individuals who have much less life expectancy. With pediatric retinal care, you have the ability to actually change an individual's entire life. Currently — in regard to genetic therapies — we have an analyzer in our lab at Oakland University that allows us to define more genetic pathways that may be manipulatable in terms of therapy."

With nearly 40 years of clinical experience in ophthalmology — Dr. Trese graduated with his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan — and later went on to earn his O.D. from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry and his M.D. degree from the School of Medicine at Georgetown University.

Following his pursuit of collegiate education and early stages of his career in medicine, Dr. Trese founded ROPARD — Retinopathy of Prematurity and Allied Retinal Disease — which has since evolved into the Pediatric Retinal Research Foundation (PRRF).



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
The OUWB Eye Research Institute.

"Most everything in medicine is accomplished by dedicated people and money," Dr. Trese said. "We started ROPARD and raised a rather significant amount of money for use in pediatric retinal research. At the time when ROPARD was started, pediatric retinal research was receiving very much financial support. I felt that it would be good to organize a 501(c)(3) that was dedicated to pediatric retinal research in order to establish pediatric retinal as a main area of research in ophthalmology."

In light of Dr. Trese's list of career accomplishments — which includes the development of the drug Ocriclasmin to being included in 13 scholarly journals — Dr. Trese is committed to not slowing down in pursuit of new methods of research and analysis of pediatric retinal diseases. If anything, the good that Dr. Trese has helped inspire in the OU community and beyond is what continues to drive his strive toward innovation, all in pursuit of helping people.

"It's a very wonderful award, and it is the highest award that the academy gives out. I'm thankful to have been the 23rd person to have received it, and three of my mentors have been in the 22 others that have been awarded this honor. It is a very meaningful and humbling award," Dr. Trese said. "I think that pediatric retinal care is an enthralling area of work and research. We are currently involved in regenerative medicine therapeutics which will be able to grow normal retinal tissue, which is especially exciting."

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Meet Tig: Oak View hall's leader dog in training

ALEXANDER GUSTANSKI

Contributor

There's a new furry friend on campus, and his name is Tig. Sheri Rourke, executive secretary of the Honors College, is raising Tig to become a leader dog for the blind or visually impaired. She often brings him into the office for training.

Rourke is a first time participant in the Leader Dogs for the Blind Program. The non-profit, based in Rochester Hills, allows participants to raise and train a prospective seeing eye dog. To raise a leader dog, a mandatory three week training program at the organization's headquarters is required. Rourke officially received Tig on Oct. 24, 2020. Since then, Tig has made frequent visits to Rourke's workplace.

According to Rourke, bringing Tig into the office in Oak View Hall has benefits.

"I bring him into the office because it is an incredible learning experience for him," Rourke said. "Not only does it help socialize him, but he learns to be in a different environment with a lot of distractions. It is important in the training of Leader Dogs that they ignore distractions and stay right next to their person at all times."

An important part of raising a leader dog is taking them out in public. By bringing Tig to work, Rourke can practice proper car ride protocols and acclimatize Tig to busy locations.

Tig often socializes with Honors College students who pass through the office. Jessica Diller, a student at the Honors College was happily



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER GUSTANSKI

Tig (pictured here) is training in the Leader Dogs for the Blind Program with Sheri Rourke, executive secretary of the Honors College.

surprised to see Tig.

"I was pretty surprised to see a dog at the Honors College, because it's something that is not typically

around a school," Diller said.

Tig was a pleasant surprise for Diller, who said, "he made my day, I posted him on my Snapchat story."

Rourke enjoys seeing students interact with Tig.

"I love it when students come in to see Tig," she said. "One of our students has learned how to walk him, and comes into the office to walk him a couple times a week. Other students come in to play or come in to get snuggles."

Rourke did say while students are almost always fans of Tig, her coworkers sometimes view him as a distraction.

Rourke has thoroughly enjoyed raising Tig, especially his unique personality saying, "he is a loving dog. He is so sweet when he is not into things he shouldn't be, or when he is not pulling me while walking. Tig is extremely strong. I have had 250 pound men have a hard time holding him back on a leash if he wants to go play with another dog. Other than that, he is silly and playful and super snuggly."

Rourke has trained Tig to avoid some of his mischievous behaviors so he can be a professional partner for his potential match.

Tig's tenure with Rourke ends on Nov. 28., when he will be returned. After he is returned, the organization will attempt to match Tig with a blind or visually impaired person. Every year, the organization matches 200 leader dogs with clients, and one future contributor to that number might be an OU alumni.

SPB's annual talent show coming to the Habitat

JOSEPH POPIS

Senior Reporter

On Thursday, Nov. 18 from 7 to 10 p.m., Student Program Board (SPB's) entertaining annual talent show will showcase what OU students can do. The show will be located in The Habitat, as OU students are encouraged to attend (for free) and support their peers.

Audience members can expect to see a variety of talents on stage — such as singing and dancing.

"In the past, we've had singers, musicians, dancers and comedians," Stephanie Jurva, assistant director in the office of student involvement (OSI), said. "Anything that can be reasonably and safely performed on stage is encouraged."

Cash prizes will be distributed to the three top performers of the night. The prize winners will be selected by judges, and one prize winner will be selected by the audience.

"There are three judges: one professional musician, one School of Music, Theater & Dance professor and one OSI staff," Joshua Robinson, SPB president, said. "We are looking for critiques based on technical performance and stage performance. All for the goal of constructive feedback to help the performer in the future."

What makes OU's talent show different from your traditional television talent show is students have the chance to see people they may know perform. In addition, students can go and see how talented their peers are.

"It offers them a chance to see people they know perform," Caleb Hardy, SPB special events director, said. "It also gives them a chance to see what their peers can do."

Talent shows, in general, offer participants a unique opportunity to perform their talent in front of a live crowd. Through this performance, they may be able to overcome their fear of being on stage, gain more confidence in their abilities, boost self-esteem and practice their talent.

"They could overcome a fear of entertaining in front of people — they might gain confidence" said Hardy. "It's good practice for them to get better at a skill. It also gives students a chance to do something they enjoy."

The SPB continually puts in much work to present this event yearly. A collaborative effort is required to make sure the show lives up to the standard the SPB sets.

"It takes many members of the board to put this event together," Jurva said. "The annual events director is the main person involved. It also takes the creative director and the marketing director to do the advertising. The tech director plans the light and sounds and the entire board works together the night of the event to be sure everything runs smoothly."

The OU Talent show offers an exciting evening of entertainment to OU students and its participants. The occasion provides performers with a night they will never forget. Audience members also benefit as they can have an exciting time and support their friends.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STUDENT PROGRAM BOARD ON GRIZZORGS

A 2019 Talent Show performer takes the stage. This year's show will be held Thursday, Nov. 18.

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On-campus job fair to offer employment opportunities

JOSEPH POPIS

Senior Reporter

Students interested in expanding their horizons and pursuing new job opportunities on-campus are in luck.

On Tuesday, Nov. 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Career Services is putting on a job fair — offering all sorts of different on-campus job opportunities students can apply for. The event will take place in the Oakland Center Banquet Hall rooms A and B.

Many different on-campus departments will be attending to promote their department's offerings further. Some of these departments include: Oakland Center Operations, Career Services, Center for Multicultural Initiatives (CMI), the Tutoring Center, University Housing, Admissions, Office for Student Involvement (OSI), among others. Departments will be hiring for fall 2021, winter 2022 and the 2022-2023 school year.

The job fair will have representatives at tables discussing information about their department. Complimentary snacks and food will also be provided.

Working an on-campus job offers many benefits and opportunities for

OU students. It allows students to gain experience, expand their network and meet new people. On-campus employees are also able to feel more involved in the campus community. The flexibility of on-campus jobs is another benefit, as university employers know students' studies are the top priority.

"The benefits of working an on-campus job are the flexibility of hours, leadership and extending your network," said Kiley Kallenberger, coordinator for orientation and new student programs at OU. "Many off-campus jobs can't always be accommodating of college students' schedules, and on-campus employers understand students are students first."

The departments attending will also experience benefits. Employers have the opportunity to showcase what they offer to students, and the positions they have available.

"We hope employers tabling at this event will meet students looking for employment — including work-study eligible students," said Kallenberger. "Many employers are still looking for students to fill their positions, so we hope everyone attending the event will benefit."

The on-campus job fair is not operating

the same as the traditional job fair event. For example, formal dress attire is not required for this event. Attendees are encouraged to "come as they are."

"We really wanted this event to be more of a 'come as you are' event," said Kelly Dorner, director of internal operations at Career Services. "We want this to be very open. One of the things we are trying to do here is to be as relatable and acceptable to students as possible — part of that means a 'come as you are' approach."

As far as preparation goes, students should keep an open mind and have curious questions to ask departments. Of course, having an elevator pitch doesn't hurt either.

"Students should definitely have questions to ask," Dorner said. "An elevator pitch is also a good thing to have, as it is simply an intentional way to introduce yourself and really describe who you are in terms of your name, your major and what you bring to the opportunity you're considering."

Following the job fair, Career Services will be hosting several workshops throughout November. These workshops will help students fix their resumes and polish up their interview skills.

"We really want to work with students throughout their entire cycle of development at Oakland University," Dorner said. "Students should not feel intimidated, come as they are, learn about what is out there and take the steps afterward to prepare themselves before they submit their resume for an opportunity."

To register for this event, visit Career Service's Handshake page.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TORI COKER
Career Services hosted a job fair on Nov. 9 in the Oakland Center. Students pursued on-campus job opportunities.

OU Credit Union Platinum Plus Visa cardholders will earn 1% cash back on all purchases. Cash back is not earned on tax payments, any unauthorized charges or transactions, cash advances, convenience checks, balance transfers, or fees of any kind. Account must be in good standing to redeem cash back. Returns result in the loss of cash back equal to the amount returned. Negative cash back will be given if returns or credits exceed purchases.

Oakland Symphony Orchestra gives second performance of the season

Story by: Grace Lovins | Photos by: Sophie Hume | Design by: Carolina Landeros

The Oakland Symphony Orchestra (OSO) returned to the stage with their second performance of the season on Sunday, Nov. 7 at 3 p.m. The concert was held in Varner Recital Hall and tickets were available for students and faculty as well as the public to enjoy the wonderful sounds of four orchestral pieces.

OSO performed works from composers Dmitri Shostakovich, Heitor Villa Lobos, Frank Zappa and Igor Stravinsky. Shostakovich's "Chamber Symphony, Op. 110a" was conducted by the founder of the Oakland University chamber orchestra and retired OU faculty member, Alan MacNair. The performance also featured bassoon soloist and newly selected applied instructor of bassoon at OU, Jaquian Sloan, in Villa Lobos's concerto for string orchestra and bassoon, "Ciranda das sete notas."

The OSO is a group of OU faculty and professors, selected OU music students as well as paid professional musicians from the southeast region. The faculty musicians sit in principal seats and selected students are offered the opportunity to play beside them as a type of mentorship training. Gregory Cunningham, conductor, director of OSO, director of bands and instrumental music program coordinator of OU, says that this unique opportunity allows music students to learn by example from the faculty they are seated under. The chance to perform in a symphony orchestra also offers students a professional experience in an orchestral setting as they prepare to enter the industry upon graduation.

The orchestra had ceased performances last year due to the pandemic and was thrilled to be back in action with rehearsals and planned performances. Cunningham noted the impact of the COVID-19 regulations on the OSO's program, but that safety is the number one priority for all members of the orchestra.

"It was pretty miserable when we couldn't be musical and we couldn't listen and do what we do," he said. "It's great to be back, but we're doing it very safely."

The OSO requires all members, whether faculty, staff, students or paid professionals, to be vaccinated in order to rehearse and perform. All aerosol-producing performers are also required to provide a negative COVID-19 test at least 72 hours before each performance. Cunningham also stated that he had decreased the length of the repertoire in the program incorporating chamber orchestra pieces in order to limit the number of performers on stage at a time. For Sunday's performance, there were roughly 30 performers on stage as opposed to the typical 70 from previous years.

Despite the challenges that resulted from the pandemic, OSO was once again ready to perform for live audiences. The concert, open to the OU campus community and general public, was a great way for music enthusiasts to re-enter a world of "normalcy" while remaining safe with the university's protocols. Cunningham reflected on the experience of listening to live music, saying that it is crucial to the human experience and that the concert served as a safe method of achieving that experience.

"I think performing arts in live experiences is so profoundly different than just listening or watching or looking," he said. "If you're in the space with the actual performers, there is sort of an electricity and the sound is unmitigated and pure. It's full out — everything that is coming out is represented in its truest sense."

The orchestra's next performance will be in February at the Macomb Center For The Performing Arts. Any and all interested in attending are encouraged to keep an eye on the events calendar for OU's school of music, theatre and dance for further details and links to ticket purchases.



Mental health: What is seasonal affective disorder?

GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH

Campus Editor

With the clock “falling back” one hour and chillier weather coupled by a lack of sunlight rolling in, it can be easy to feel the winter blues. While it is normal to feel a little down as a result of the change of season (10-20% of Americans experience this), some people (5% of adults in the U.S.) experience Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) — a form of depression.

The onset of SAD generally occurs in the late fall or early winter, though there is a rare form of SAD that begins in the spring and ends in the fall. SAD typically affects younger adults and about 75% of people diagnosed with SAD are women.

Risk factors for SAD include living far north or south of the equator, family history of SAD and/or having a mood disorder or other mental health conditions. While research is still ongoing to determine what causes SAD, there are theories that decreased exposure to sunlight may disrupt the body’s circadian rhythm and decrease serotonin and melatonin levels.

The following list is a compilation of SAD symptoms according to the Mayo Clinic :

Feeling depressed most of the day, nearly every day

- Losing interest in activities you once enjoyed
- Having low energy
- Having problems with sleeping
- Experiencing changes in your appetite or weight
- Feeling sluggish or agitated
- Having difficulty concentrating
- Feeling hopeless, worthless or guilty
- Having frequent thoughts of death or suicide

If you have symptoms of SAD, don’t diagnose yourself—talk to your healthcare provider. It may be part of a larger mental and/or physical health issue, and they can help you with treatment options and seeking out a mental health professional to talk to.

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to be diagnosed with SAD, a person must meet the following criteria:

A Grizzly’s Guide to a Healthier YOU



PHOTO COURTESY OF GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH
Campus Editor and Columnist, Gabrielle Abdelmessih with her weekly column on a guide for students.

- They must have symptoms of major depression or the more specific symptoms listed above.
- The depressive episodes must occur during specific seasons (i.e., only during the winter months or the summer months) for at least 2 consecutive years. However, not all people with SAD do experience symptoms every year.
- The episodes must be much more frequent than other depressive episodes that the person may have had at other times of the year during their lifetime.

Treatment for SAD could include bright light therapy, antidepressant medication, taking vitamin D supplements or a combination of these options.

To improve general wellness, exercise, spending time outside (even if it’s cloudy!) and eating a well-balanced diet can all contribute to improving mental and physical health during the winter months.

The Graham Health Center and OU Counseling Center both have on-campus resources regarding your physical and mental health.

If you have any topics you would like discussed in a future column, please leave a suggestion in the comments or email me via gabdelmessih@oakland.edu.

Abdelmessih walked around the OC and asked students the following questions: Do you get the winter blues? If so, how do you feel and what are some of the things you do to improve those feelings?

Jaimee Moshenko, Pre-Biomedical Sciences

“I guess in the past I have felt the winter blues. I don’t know if at the moment I feel it right now, because personally, I am all about fall—it’s my favorite season. So, right now with the leaves changing color it hasn’t really hit me yet, but I have had the winter blues. I think mainly it’s just because winter is that time of year when we’re in the middle of school and that’s what we’re all focused on and there isn’t much time for yourself really. [I feel] tired, really. In order to combat that type of stuff, sometimes I like to go to the gym so really just tired, bored, like nothing is really happening in my life.”

Josh Decoste, Mathematics

“No, not really. I feel like I like being outside, and that keeps me more happy and more engaged.”

Deema Boutany, Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences

“I definitely do...[I feel] extra tired, kind of burned out because of school. I think sometimes exercising and making time for self-care helps.”

Lara Karmo, Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences

“I definitely feel like I have seasonal blues. It’s harder to get out of bed, [I feel] tired throughout the day. Exercising helps.”



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
Oakland University’s campus during the winter months when many students may experience season effective disorder.

People of OU: the History Department's Getnek Bekele

TANNER TRAFELET

Senior Reporter

Teaching primarily in the historical fields of environment and development, economic history, conflict studies and African history, Getnet Bekele, Ph.D. — associate professor of history at Oakland University — works to facilitate a better understanding of the effects of colonialism and environmental change on Africa in his OU students. One aspect of the colonial and post-colonial African political landscape of particular interest to Dr. Bekele is how power structures are constructed and maintained in African societies and politics.

The relationship between structures of power during the colonial and postcolonial era in Africa have always been of great interest to Dr. Bekele. In examining the historical effects of European colonialism and its resource extraction based economies, he hopes to come to a better understanding of the plethora of issues facing Africa today.

"My research right now focuses on a couple things," Dr. Bekele said.

"One thing that I focus on is called 'spatiality,' or socially constructed places and spaces [in Africa] — really how they interact with power and power relations...I'm focusing on urban areas and how the organization of these urban spaces has affected social change and transformation. I have to go back to Africa to do field work for this, so you may imagine how this is going at the moment."

Dr. Bekele's research also focuses heavily on the agricultural and economic development of Ethiopia. The author of a book examining the relationship between agricultural food cultivation and environmental change in Ethiopia — which was awarded the African Studies Association's 2018 Bethwell A. Ogot Prize for best book in East African Studies — he is also the author of four articles studying Ethiopia in academic journals. Recently, much of his time has been devoted to the tense hydropolitics of the Blue Nile and the three African nations that jockey for control of its precious water resource.

"I am spending more time on the

hydropolitics of the Nile River," Dr. Bekele said. "Ethiopia is building this dam on the Blue Nile, and it has created a lot of anger and consternation between Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan who share this water. This and my work in spatiality are where I will be investing much of my research time in the coming years, but still, for these two I must do a lot of field work."

In his spare time — which Dr. Bekele admits is rare given how busy he is — he tries to diversify how his time is spent, attempting to experience as many aspects of life as possible. An avid soccer player who plays as much as his schedule allows, Dr. Bekele also is an accomplished sitcom connoisseur and a seasoned traveler of both the continental United States and abroad.

"I play soccer a lot," Dr. Bekele said. "I enjoy traveling a lot and I've been to many parts of the United States and the world. I like cities, and I like to go to Chicago once and a while. Being an urban setting, it relates to my academic interests as well. Also, I enjoy going to Mackinaw. Since my school days,

almost every year after it opens I go. This may be political, but I like going to Ann Arbor!"

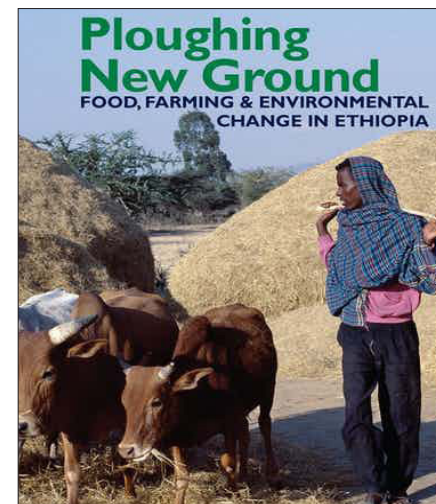


PHOTO COURTESY OF BOYDELL & BREWER

Dr. Bekele's book "Ploughing New Ground" examines the relationship between agricultural food cultivation and environmental change in Ethiopia.

SMTD Presents 'The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee'

GRACE LOVINS

Senior Reporter

Musical Theatre is finally returning to Oakland University Nov. 11-14 and 18-21 with a performance of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." The musical production will take place in Varner Studio Theatre, as OU's School of Music, Theatre and Dance (SMTD) welcomes all for a chance to experience live productions on campus once again.

The production of the musical is being directed by Anthony Guest, associate professor of theatre at OU, and features the work of the talented theatre, design and tech students as part of the school's curriculum to prepare them for working in a professional theatrical setting.

The musical itself is a comical work about the lives of six kids striving for the title of spelling bee champion in Putnam County and the chance to earn a place in the national spelling bee competition. It also incorporates unconventional elements aiming to create an experience as opposed to just a show. Hint — the audience of the performance is also the audience of the spelling bee.

Guest and production members hoped to add more to the show to recognize the pandemic's impact on the world in terms of the human experience.

"It's a comedy, but I always think that an empty comedy that is just there to make people laugh is always missing something and we worked really hard to tell the stories of each of these six kids and what are some of the challenges at home they had to overcome to be at this spelling bee," Guest said. "The point is to make people laugh, but at the same time, there is humanity and there's hope. I think in our world today if we can leave the audience with hope about friendship and human connection, I think we've done our job."

Eileen Brennan, costume designer, and Mason Gaida, who plays vice principal Douglas Panch, expressed their excitement and anxiety about diving back into rehearsal and performances after a year-long wait.

"I was very excited to get back at it. The last thing I did acting-wise was in the fall of 2019 and then it kind of dropped off. But to be back in a rehearsal space was something that I was very anxious about and really just getting to play again," Gaida said.

"From a costuming perspective, a lot of my work revolves around creating characters and concentrating on the personality types of all these kids," Brennan said. "Diving into people has been a really comforting process for me and being able to have conversations with my collaborators about the pandemic and getting back into theatre for one of the first times since all of this stuff has been happening, I really enjoyed the approach that we've been taking."

Brennan and Guest, along with other members of the production team, worked to create a spine reflective of the show — essentially a sentence, phrase or idea that acts as a unifying, driving force — for all team members to refer to during their individual design processes. The spine, "Life is bigger than the bee, Life is bigger than me," reflected the feelings and emotions the team brought to the production after a return from online courses and isolation.

"We've had a lot of creative conversations that have revolved around relationships with people, especially with coming out of a pandemic where we were doing theatre classes online," Brennan said. "With this degree where a lot of our work revolves around collaboration, teamwork and working together to put on these large productions, it was a really cool approach to take."

Guest notes the spine's significance in the

production saying although the cast and crew members work on characters as individuals when watching the performance, the differences and individuality of the characters create a bigger impact when they connect with each other.

"The show is sort of a microcosm of the world right now," Guest said. "We're all sort of individual and wanting to win but sometimes the person that's sitting next to you might be more important than that."

Tickets are available for purchase at etix.com for all performance dates. Guest wants to emphasize that all audience members read the COVID-19 protocols and regulations carefully, which can be found on the SMTD event calendar. All audience members must bring proof of COVID-19 vaccination either in print or picture form, a photo ID and a record of their OU health screening results. As per OU's mask protocols, all audience members are also required to wear a mask over the mouth and nose at all times during the show.



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" is coming to OU Nov. 11-14 and 18-21.

Joi Cunningham is new Vice President of Human Resources

SARAH GUDENAU

Features Editor

The former assistant vice president for Academic Human Resources (HR) Joi Cunningham has assumed a new position as vice president of Human Resources (VPHR) at Oakland University. The position was open since the former VPHR Ron Watson retired in June.

Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs from the office of the provost Peggy Cooke led a diverse nine-person committee from various areas including student affairs, the budget office, the HR department and a few faculty members — one of whom was a department chair. The committee — in partnership with Harris Search Associates — conducted a national search to fill the open position.

The committee interviewed a pool of candidates virtually before narrowing the group down to four finalists who were invited to come to campus for another interview and to meet with different departments. The committee also held a virtual open forum with the candidates as an opportunity for anyone from the OU community to ask the finalists questions.

According to Cooke, the VPHR is the chief HR officer for the university. They are responsible for all aspects of HR for faculty and staff including hiring, recruiting, compensation and benefits, labor relations, union negotiations, diversity, training and performance management systems.

“It’s an interesting role — you’re both providing all of the aspects of HR but you’re also advocating for faculty and staff with leadership,” Cooke said. “[As a committee, we were] looking for somebody that could provide some change management if needed, looking for somebody that had a record in diversity, equity and inclusion, which is very important to the university, and [we also wanted to] make sure that we had leadership in how we recruit, retain and promote people within the university.”

Prior to working at OU, Cunningham was a labor and employment attorney. She later became the university’s attorney and Title IX Coordinator, as well as the director of the Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives, which she served as for 13 years before her

role in Academic Affairs.

“The fact that she knows Oakland is a great benefit,” Cooke said.

An advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), Cunningham has raised awareness of DEI issues and initiatives at the university. For example, she has helped to implement strategies of the Diversity Advocate program.

Among her DEI efforts, Cunningham has also helped to provide strategic planning to the university’s deans and provosts, managed relations among faculty and administration and served on university negotiation teams.

“Joy brings kind of a unique experience having really worked specifically with the faculty — I think that’s a really good background in this merged group [of staff HR and faculty HR],” Cooke said. “[Our goal] is making sure that everybody is heard — that we support everyone at the university.”

While she has since assumed the position on Monday, Nov. 1, Cunningham told The Oakland News in October: “I look forward to leading a new human resources unit that joins the academic and staff functions and works to find more efficient ways to accomplish our collective goals. I will continue to build relationships campus-wide and look at ways at ensuring excellent service to the university community and those we serve.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OAKLAND NEWS
Joi Cunningham is the new vice president of Human Resources at OU. She assumed her new role on Nov. 1, 2021.

CCE hosts journalism presentation on navigating news sources

D’JUANNA LESTER

Senior Reporter

Facts vs. Opinion, an “office hours” virtual presentation, was hosted by Oakland University’s Center for Civic Engagement led by Director David Dulio, Ph.D. on Thursday, Nov. 4. At the event, professors of the Journalism Department Holly and Garry Gilbert were asked about objectivity, opinion and biases and the level of disagreement about objective facts in journalism in U.S. history. In a Q & A format, the professors discussed ideas for finding “the best obtainable version of the truth.”

Dr. Dulio: The public’s trust in news is at 36%. It hasn’t been this low since 2016, when it was at 32%. What’s driving this slide?

Garry: Journalism is our passion and vocation. These are challenging times to be talking about this topic. I get a few raised eyebrows when I tell people I teach journalism at Oakland University. The public has been long suspicious of the ethical, honest version of journalism. It’s complicated — there’s been no easy answer here. It certainly didn’t start in 2016, but definitely helped. The press is all too willing to devour anyone at any time.

Truth decay. Blurring of the line between news and opinion. What happened to objectivity? Unpack that for us — opinion vs. news. What are your thoughts?

Garry: Many that side with the liberal/Democrat side want the news media to give them the facts and help them interpret those facts. Conservatives say “Give me the facts. I’ll decide what they mean.” It is part of our responsibility to not just teach them what’s true, but what it means. Opinion is cheap. Opinion is easy to produce. Ranting makes great television. Being outrageous and provocative has been proven to grab people’s attention. People will go back and comment. Fact-based reporting is not nearly as easy as opinion.

Holly: There are things that people watch that they think is news, and it’s not. They are talk shows. They’re not news.

Am I correct in saying many journalists want to be first? Is there pursuit of the scoop?

Garry: Absolutely. Ultimately, speed is the enemy of accuracy. We all feel pressure to get the story out first. We’re more likely to remember who

got it wrong, versus who got it out first. I was the editor in a newspaper in the 2000 election. We had the news like we were four months ahead. We were right, just too far ahead. That was one of the worst nights of my journalism life.

Let’s talk about fake news. I want you to define that. If a media outlet gets something wrong, is it fake news?

Holly: Those two words just drive people crazy. There’s a long history of actual fake and falsified news. Now that term has been politicized and weaponized by politicians to discredit news stories that they do not like. It’s also used in other countries to limit what gets out.

What happens when someone gets something wrong?

Garry: When you’re wrong, you don’t scrub it. You don’t delete it. You be transparent about that mistake. Acknowledge what happened and tell the audience that you’re sorry. Don’t hide it.

Holly: I think now that maybe because we have shorter memories because there is so much going on — we’re more forgiving of these mistakes. People get over it, or they forget.

What are the best news sources out there?

Holly: That is subjective.

Garry: Holly says instead of following new sources, it’s wise to follow specific reporters. Read news that comes from sources that don’t meet your ideology.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU MAGAZINE
OU’s Center for Civic Engagement partnered with the Journalism Department’s Holly and Garry Gilbert (pictured) held a virtual “office hours” presentation. The Gilberts discussed navigating today’s news sources.

‘Shadow and Bone’: Netflix show vs. books

D’JUANNA LESTER
Senior Reporter

After rewatching the hit Netflix young adult (YA) fantasy series based on the two-book series “Shadow and Bone” and “Six of Crows” by author Leigh Bardugo, I noticed many differences between the books and the show, and those differences hurt the overall feel of the Netflix series. Had some of the changes not been made and the show’s important elements reflected that of the books, fans would appreciate the show even more.

Netflix announced a second season of “Shadow and Bone” back in April. In late October, actor Ben Barnes revealed that the cast will begin filming in 2022. Barnes — who plays the alluring General Kirigan — teased this when talking about projects for the upcoming year.

“I’ve been working on Guillermo del Toro’s Horror anthology, Cabinet of Curiosities, and I’m going back to season 2 of ‘Shadow and Bone,’” he told Devdiscourse.

The first change was something that fans were initially interested in. It was a great surprise when it was announced that

Jessie Mei Li, a Chinese actress, would be playing the lead role of Alina Starkov. This was a big moment for long-overdue representation, and it was unexpected as Starkov was white in the books.

This change itself isn’t what led to the controversy surrounding the show, but what the writers did with it. With Starkov being a woman of color (WOC), the show dives into her experiences with racism, which she didn’t have in the books. One of the biggest problems is that the show didn’t do anything that added to her character.

With the addition of fictional slurs and no real development, fans felt like the show writers threw in the change to seem progressive. Zoya, Starkov’s rival, is a WOC. She’s the one who had racist encounters in the books, so why make Zoya act racist toward Starkov? Switching the plots and pitting two WOC against each other takes away from the show.

In the books, everyone calls the main villain the Darkling, as they are afraid to say his name. This was a big part of the series, where he tells Starkov his real name and says, “Call me Aleksander.” Fans of the book easily recognize this

scene from the third book. So why did the show just drop it out of nowhere in the third episode? No buildup. No tension. It’s such an integral part of the story, and many fans were disappointed with the change.

The most notable change within the series is the inclusion of the Crows, which are called the Dregs in the spinoff “Six of Crows.” The Dregs — Kaz, Inej, Jesper, Mattias, Nina and Wylan — were a hit with the Grishaverse fandom. Audiences were confused that the spinoff characters would be incorporated with the main storyline of the trilogy which took place two years before “Six of Crows.”

The stories have completely different vibes, and with the addition of all but Wylan, it makes the story more confusing. There’s not enough time to develop all of them by trying to shoehorn them into the Alina/Sun Summoner/Shadow fold plot. Many fans wished that Netflix made a Crows spinoff instead of taking this route.

We’re essentially following three stories at once: the Starkov story; Kaz, Inej and Jesper’s plot of trying to capture her; and Mattias and Nina’s love story. The Crows feel like side plots in Starkov’s story, and were only added because of popularity

and diversity, as one of fans’ favorite thing about them is their representation.

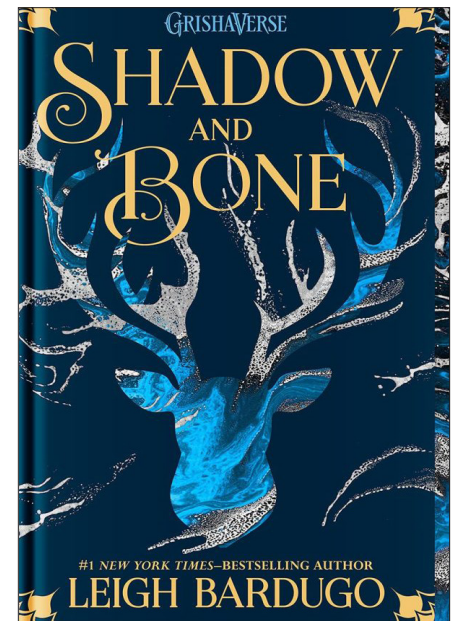


PHOTO COURTESY OF LEIGHBARDUGO.COM
Leigh Bardugo’s two-book series “Shadow and Bone” and “Six of Crows” was made into a Netflix series. The differences between the books and the show hurt the overall feel of the Netflix series.

‘Maid’ is heartbreakingly real diving into poverty

LAUREN REID
Content Editor

The seemingly never-ending cycle of poverty, violence and bad luck is gut wrenchingly evident in Netflix’s “Maid,” starring the uber-talented Margaret Qualley as Alex — a single mom working to raise her daughter Maddy (Rylea Nevaeh Whittet) amidst an unthinkable (yet realistic) slew of obstacles.

The 10 episode limited series, based on the memoir by Stephanie Land, “Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother’s Will to Survive,” takes viewers through Alex’s story — one of perseverance, grit and at its core: the power of love and family.

After escaping an emotionally abusive relationship with her alcoholic partner (and Maddy’s dad) Sean (Nick Robinson), Alex navigates homelessness, government assistance programs, poverty, unemployment and even PTSD from the escaped abuse.

Alex gets a job as a maid to make ends meet, and during one of her cleans she has a jarring flashback — one where she was hiding in a cabinet as a little girl, while her dad (Billy Burke) hit her mom. Alex, having experienced abuse in her relationship with Sean, is inspiringly motivated and resilient in giving Maddy the best possible life.

Alex’s mother Paula (Andie MacDowell, also Qualley’s real mom) is a free-thinking, bohemian artist who exhibits signs of bipolar disorder. Alex works to take care of her mother — who is also often taken advantage of by men, primarily her partner and eventual husband Basil (Toby Levins) — in the midst of her own struggles.

Let me just start by saying: “Maid” is absolutely exceptional. Tears were no stranger as I navigated my way through all the ups and downs.

The way domestic violence was addressed in the show was especially raw and harrowing. At one point, with nowhere left to turn, Alex found herself back living in Sean’s trailer with Maddy — which in the show’s opening scene we see her escaping from. Sean, though trying to get sober, ends up drinking again and emotionally abusing Alex.

“Maid” takes viewers step by step through the tragic



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB
Margaret Qualley (pictured here) stars as a single mother plagued by poverty and domestic abuse in Netflix’s “Maid.”

turmoil domestic violence has, as we see Sean get rid of Alex’s car so she can’t get a job, belittle her, force her to do as he says and limit her contact with the outside world. For most, it’s nearly impossible to leave that abusive relationship, and “Maid” provides the perfect representation of that.

During these moments, the show lays out a distressing visual of Alex laying in a hole — frozen with nowhere to go. I can only imagine that’s how it would feel to be trapped in an abusive relationship. “Maid” doesn’t sugar coat or shy away from the harsh realities of domestic violence, and I’m thankful for that — I feel like everyone needs that glimpse into the impact abuse has.

We also watch Alex experience poverty — which is alarmingly realistic and upsetting. At one point, Alex and Maddy spend the night on the floor of the ferry terminal. These scenes are extremely hard to watch, but also incredibly important to see.

At its core, “Maid” shows the immense lengths we go to for those we love. Alex is plagued by insurmountable obstacles, but viewers watch her stretch herself thin for her daughter, for her mother and for herself — it’s poignant, but beautiful and inspiring all the while. Alex is one of the strongest, most likeable characters I’ve ever seen on my screen.

To put it bluntly: anyone and everyone needs to watch “Maid.” Tons of elements — characterization, plot, storytelling, social commentary, casting, setting — come together to make something truly brilliant.

Rating: 5/5 stars

5 Christmas songs I'll embrace this early in November

TORI COKER

Marketing Director

We're less than halfway through November — and yet, if you've found yourself flipping through radio stations at all over the past few days, you just might have just stumbled across a station or two already having switched over to full-time Christmas rotations.

The appropriate time for this shift is highly contested. Many refuse to welcome the presence of Christmas music until the month of the holiday is upon us, while others are tuned into the festive sounds from the second the clock strikes midnight on Nov. 1 — we're looking (adoringly) at you, Mariah Carey.

I tend to fall somewhere in the middle of this debate — however, some Christmas songs are just too irresistible for me to put off listening to for any longer, five of which I've included right here.

Dolly Parton, "Hard Candy Christmas"

The juxtaposition between Dolly Parton being the most happiness-inducing person in the world and this song being so heartbreakingly moving makes this a shoe-in for my frequent rotation the second temperatures dip. From hauntingly slow verses that chronicle Parton's endearingly fickle post-break up plans to an anthemic chorus that sees her vowing to persevere through her sorrow, Parton's ode to getting through the holidays while nursing a broken heart is among the best in her entire discography. It's empowering to those who need a little encouragement when feeling blue at Christmastime, and a wonderful testament to finding oneself through any struggle that makes me long for the season in which it shines each year.

Elton John, "Step Into Christmas"

I, for one, would blindly follow Elton John anywhere he wanted to lead me — so of course I happily oblige each year when he invites me to step into Christmas with him. Punchy, fast-paced and rather blindingly joyful, this track encompasses in song form the childlike anticipation that comes with so many holiday activities, such as decorating the tree or heading off to sleep on Christmas Eve.

The Waitresses, "Christmas Wrapping"

It's a new wave Christmas song! Incorporating the signature stream of consciousness lyrical style and unconventional vocal melodies beloved by the genre, this song sees Parton's aforementioned

solution to suffering through the holidays and raises it a few humorously melancholy verses and an ultimately happy ending.

If you're a Spotify user, there's also a cover of this song on the app by indie-pop artist JAWNY — recorded as part of his Holiday edition of the Spotify Singles series — that I can't get enough of, either.

Ariana Grande, "Snow In California"

Don't get me wrong — "Santa Tell Me" deserves every bit of the praise it gets as Grande's most popular Christmas song, and it's a staple of my seasonal listening each year all the same. That said — "Snow In California" is my favorite from the glorious catalog that is Grande's Christmas collection. With its soft melodies and that mesmerizing pop/R&B instrumental reminiscent of a soulful nineties classic, it's a completely captivating, underrated holiday gem of a love song. (Also — "Dear Santa, it's me, Ariana," is simply a genius line that I'm grateful to have stuck on an endless loop in my mind each year.)

Kelly Clarkson, "Underneath The Tree"

I may or may not have been listening to this one on the low since August. This song truly places me right in the mindset of one of those people in the Target commercials, throwing around fake snow and dressing to the nines in discounted scarves and boots. If you're looking for the perfect song to wail at the steering wheel until you're officially into the Christmas spirit — and willing to nurse some sore vocal chords after trying to match Clarkson's range — this is the song for you.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DOLLYPARTON.COM
Dolly Parton's "Hard Candy Christmas" is among the best in her entire discography.

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Golden Grizzlies' women's basketball team prepares to take the next step

CHRISTIAN TATE
Sports Reporter

After the promising success of last season, the Golden Grizzlies women's basketball team is prepared to make another leap toward success this season.

After notching a respectable 12-12 [.500%] record with a 12-8 [.600%] conference record and securing a Horizon League playoff berth during their 2020-2021 season, the sky's the limit for the potential of this team. With this mix of young upstart and veteran players being coached by an experienced leader in Head Coach Jeff Tungate, we could be poised to see major improvements in play on both sides of the ball.

Tungate said his team is looking to build on what they accomplished last season.

"Well, I think that we got a taste of winning, and I think our team, having gotten a taste of winning, now wants more," he said. "So I think it really helped in our offseason workouts and having that taste of seeing what it's like has gotten them to want more and they've put in the effort to where we really want to build on what we did last year."

Building upon last season's success is always a goal for every team, but this team has been working to see improvements in very specific areas of the court.

Tungate said the team must improve defensively in order to find success this season.

"We really worked hard on that in the offseason," Tungate said. "We

really worked hard in the preseason, and I think that you're gonna see a much better defensive team, at least compared to what you saw last year. It's been a real point of emphasis for us and something we really need to improve and we've seen the improvement in practice and now we just have to carry it over to the games."

In practice, Tungate leads a group mixed with freshman, seniors and even a graduate student on the roster. In regard to what it's like to coach such a mixed bag of ages and classes on the team, he said, "It's nice because you've got a group of young people coming in with a group of veterans that know what our expectations are and how we do things and they do a great job of teaching them about the way we do things here at Oakland."

Tungate continued on, saying, "You never want to have just one too overloaded and I think we've got a good balance now to where the upperclassmen can lead the underclassmen and everybody can help foster the really good chemistry we have on this team. I think we've done a good job of balancing out our classes now, so it's good to see that there's different groups that have different numbers in each class because that's an important part to us not just being successful but to sustaining that same success."

While on the topic of sustained success, Coach Tungate was asked how successful he thinks this team can be in its current state.

"It's early, but I think we've got a really good basketball team," he said. "How good we are has yet to be seen, and I have an idea about what the rest of the [Horizon] league has, but you just never know until you actually get to the league play."

Tungate said the team's improvement over the course of the season will determine how well they perform.

"I think we've got a very high ceiling on this team, and I don't want to put this team in a box to where — this is what we can accomplish and things like that — but I do think we have a high ceiling and we just have to go out on the court and see where we're at," he said. "If we can continue to get better everyday and continue to get better as we get to March, then I think this team can achieve a lot of things."

The Golden Grizzlies women's basketball team will open up the season against the University of Toledo on Tuesday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. at the O'Rena.

"More experienced" men's basketball team ready to hit the court next week

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL
Sports Editor

Coming off a season that ended with an unexpected run to the Horizon League Championship game, the Oakland University men's basketball team is looking to get over the hump.

"We were 40 minutes away from the Holy Grail," Head Coach Greg Kampe said. "The motivation to get back and have a chance to get there — I think [the team has] handled that very well, and it's exciting as a coach to see a really good group of kids working their tail off in pursuit of a dream."

Last season, the Golden Grizzlies were incredibly young. They were starting two freshmen — Trey Townsend and Micah Parrish — in the frontcourt, and the backcourt consisted of junior college transfer point guard Jalen Moore, and another transfer in Rashad Williams.

For the 2021-22 season, the Grizzlies are not only more experienced, but still relatively young, so there's a chance for the team to have some sustained success.

"We started 0-9 last year and ended up in the championship game," Kampe said. "So, we watched the team grow. You watched a very young group of kids. You've got [Parrish], Chris Conway, [Townsend], very young players that got meaningful time last year, and now they've got a chance to finish the deal. [I feel] confident we're going to have a great year."

Kampe also touched on the promising incoming freshman.

"We've got some incoming freshmen that I think are going to make immediate impacts," he said. "I think Osei Price and Will Shepherd are going to make immediate impacts this year. I think Brody Parker has a chance to make an impact. So — you've got a core group of young guys that have a lot of experience."

Kampe believes the experience will also be enough to help take down reigning Horizon League Champion Cleveland State.

"[Cleveland State has] everybody back," he said. "In their minds, they're talking about getting back to the NCAA tournament and winning a game [this time]. Everybody else is talking about getting to the NCAA tournament, so I think they've got a leg up mentally on everybody. [Torrey Patton] is a very, very good player and then defensively, they really hurt us with their physicality on Jalen [in the Horizon League Championship game last season]. But I think another year of experience — in that we're bigger and stronger. Don't forget how young we were last year. I think we'll be ready for that physicality [this time around]."

Early in the offseason, the team lost Williams and forward Daniel Oladapo to the transfer portal, among others. However, they did acquire former Marquette forward Jamal Cain through the portal, and Kampe is very high on him.

"We brought in a guy that I think could be first team all league," Kampe said. "Jamal is a very, very talented, 6'7"-6'8" guy that can play out on the perimeter, he can play inside — I think he'll be one of the top rebounders in the league, [and] I think he'll be one of the top scorers in the league. Team him with [Moore] and that's quite a combination that should make us a pretty strong and competitive team."

Last year, Moore was a breakout sensation for the Golden Grizzlies, averaging 17.9 points and 8.4 assists per game. This year, Kampe is relying on the development of a couple of young, but familiar faces.

"[Townsend and Parrish] are the keys to the season," he said. "Their growth as players will probably be the determining factor on how far we go."

More than anything, Kampe and his team are ready to play games in front of fans again.

"I just think about the pageantry of college basketball — I really really missed that last year and can't wait for those special moments when the crowd goes crazy and the momentum of a game changes because of the crowd," Kampe said. "I'm really looking forward to that."

The first and only home game for the men's basketball team during non-conference play will be against the Toledo Rockets on Wednesday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. at the O'Rena.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
The women's basketball team practices at the O'Rena. Their season opener is Nov. 9 at 7 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OP ARCHIVES
The Oakland men's basketball team's season starts this week.

Men's basketball fends off Lake Superior State for exhibition win

REECE TAYLOR

Sports Reporter

Oakland University men's basketball survived Lake Superior State University after the Lakers mounted a late comeback to win 91-81 in the final game of exhibition play at home in the O'rena on Friday.

Led by 20 points apiece from freshman forward Trey Townsend and Graduate Student forward Jamal Cain, who also had a double double with 11 rebounds, the Golden Grizzlies used their aggressive offensive strategy as they jumped to an early lead and pushed past the Lake Superior Lakers, who proved to be a feisty opponent.

Opening the first half, Lake Superior jumped to an early lead, hitting a pair of threes and leading 10-5, before Oakland went on a roll, changing leads back and forth before tying the score at 26 with 7:59 left. With time left in the 1st half, Oakland made four three-pointers as a part of a 32-6 run to close the first half up 58-32.

In the second half, Oakland shot their way into a 32-point lead before Lake Superior went on a run. Oakland rested its starters for the final 11 minutes as the game was out of reach. Oakland allowed 11 three pointers of 12 in the second half to allow the Lakers to come back within 10 with 2:08 remaining. Oakland slowed down the game for the time



COURTESY OF JOSE JUAREZ
Freshman guard Osei Price had 11 points in 28 minutes Friday night.

remaining to seal the Oakland win 91-81.

Credit should be given to the Division II Lake Superior team for scoring 49 in the second half, led by guard Malek Adam's 23 and 8 assists. As a team, the Lakers shot 58% in the second half, including going 12/17 from three point range.

Oakland survived the late game rally despite going 1-10 from three in the second half due to their aggressive play, going to the free throw line 29 times in total and making 21. Oakland also capitalized on their size by out-scoring Lake Superior in the paint 48-28.

Though Oakland struggled in efficiency, they were able to win the battle on rebounds both offensive and defensive 45-29, resulting in a massive advantage on second chance points, with the Golden Grizzlies out-scoring the Lakers 23-5, including holding them scoreless on offensive boards in the second half.

With the final exhibition game in the books, Oakland turns its attention to the regular season, where they open up the season on the road against West Virginia University on Tuesday, Nov. 9th. Oakland University stays on the road for the following game before its home opener versus the University of Toledo on Nov. 17.

After going 12-18 in the 2020-2021 regular season, Oakland looks to win its first Horizon League regular season title since 2017 and make its first appearance in the NCAA tournament since 2011. With a high powered offense and an aggressive approach to opponents, the Golden Grizzlies are ready to show their claws.

Swimming and diving rolls past UIC in first conference meet

BRITTANY KEARFOTT

Sports Reporter

Oakland University hosted the University of Illinois-Chicago [UIC] in a swim meet on Saturday, Nov. 6. Oakland's history against UIC is 14-0 since 2013 when they joined the Horizon league.

Last time the two teams met was 2021 on Grizzly territory, defeating UIC 382 to 200.

In the Horizon League Championships, UIC women placed second with 544.5 points, while their men were able to pull together 481 points placing them third out of seven teams. Both Oakland University's men and women brought home first at the championship. The men's team tallied a total of 251 points Thursday, 559 points Friday and 819 points Saturday. The women pulled together 373.5 points Thursday, 689 points Friday and 939 points Saturday.

The first event of the day was the 200-medley relay. The Oakland men's swim team took first place with a combined group time of 1:30.11, followed up with a second place spot as well, with a combined group time of 1:30.80. Third went to UIC. For the women, Oakland took all top three spots with teams consisting of Jewel Huang, Sydney McDowell, Susan LaGrand, Sohvi Nenonen, Jordyn Shipps, Taylor Bailey, Sophia Davis and Ronja Riihinen with times of 1:44.92, 1:45.31 and 1:47.82.

The next event was the 1000 free stroke. For the women, second place went to Oakland's Sonya Zubenko with a time of 10:42.69. Third went to Lola Laenen with a time of 10:54.72. For the men, first place went to Oakland's Jonas Cantrell with a time of 9:34.02.

The 200-yard freestyle finished with Oakland's Emily Aycock first in 1:53.19. On the men's side

Oakland's Marko Khotynetskyi finished in first with 1:40.70 and Oakland's Ben Daiv pulled third with 1:42.63.

Oakland's Huang took first and Abey took third in the 50-yard backstroke. While Rudy Aguilar-Fernandez, Jack Wike and Will Barton took first through third in this event. Bailey and Logan Belanger took first and second for Oakland in the 50-yard breaststroke. For the men, Ryan Geheb took first.

LaGrand took first and Mady Cislo took third home to Oakland in the 100-yard butterfly. Mack Flowers and Sebastian Aguirre took first and second



PHOTO BY AMELIA OSADCHUK
The swimmers made some waves at their conference meet

home for the men's portion of the event. First place was Shipps and third place Nenonen pushed hard with 30 seconds between each placing in the 50-yard freestyle, while Bart brought in first place for the men.

Alyssa Ruhf scored a 227.10 in the one-meter diving placing her third and Scott Scrivano scored 246.98 earning him second place for Oakland. Ruhf scored a 236.55 in her 3 meter dive event getting her a second place spot, while Scrivano pulled out another second place spot with a 249.68 score in his portion.

Third place in the 100-yard freestyle went to Oakland's Ronja Riihinen for women and first place to Rudy Aguilar-Fernandez. For the women — Shipps, Kieran Brough and Huang brought home top three spots in the 100 yard backstroke. While Marko Khotynetskyi and Wike brought home the top two spots for men.

Sydney McDowell brought home first and Logan Belanger brought home third for the 100 yard breaststroke, Bart, Javi Quinones and Geheb took all three top placings. Aycock and Jonas Cantrell brought home first for Oakland in the 500-yard freestyle.

Both men and women took top three spots for the 50-yard breaststroke. LaGrand, Davis, Mia Keranen, Flowers, Aguirre and Herrick are the six who were placed. Continuing the trend — LaGrand, Shipps and Bailey filled the top three for the 100-yard IM. Bart and Andrew Bernsdorf took top two spots. Both Oakland men and women took first and third in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

UIC put up a tough fight the whole meet. It just was not enough to break the streak against Oakland. Oakland won with a final of 191 points to 109 for the women and 204 points to 96 for the men.

Women's soccer clinches spot in Horizon League finals with dominant win

CHRISTIAN TATE
Sports Reporter

The Golden Grizzlies women's soccer team, after playing an amazing regular season, continued to reach for the top as they secured a spot in the final Horizon League game of the year on Thursday.

Coming into the semi-finals matchup after securing a bye due to their regular season seeding, the Golden Grizzlies dominated the Norse using their stunningly dynamic offense and smothering defense. This win punched their ticket to the Horizon League championship game, where an undefeated [in conference play] Milwaukee team awaits.

For the first 10 minutes of the game, the field was a hotbed of excitement and energy as hope buzzed through the air for both teams. Going full-throttle from the get-go, an early rhythm of back-and-forth offense and smothering defense was established.

The Norse had a hard time creating offense as the first half wore on, failing where the Golden Grizzlies thrived. They couldn't create any meaningful scoring opportunities, whereas the Golden Grizzlies made push after push into the goal. Eventually, after putting mounds of pressure onto the Norse goalie, the Grizzlies struck after settling a corner kick down for a score to make the score 1-0.

While it would only take 30 seconds following the goal for the Norse to create an opportunity to tie the game up, they failed to convert the shot due to the masterful defensive pressure put on display by the Grizzlies. Not

a single Norse player nor shot attempt allowed room to breathe.

As the failed drives piled up for the Norse, the Golden Grizzlies continued to find nothing but success on the offensive end. They secured a two point lead after scoring on an unmarked goal close to the net to push the score to 2-0.

After a scarily efficient first half on both the offensive and defensive end of the ball where the Golden Grizzlies smothered their opponents and made the most of all their shots, the Norse came into the second half firing on all cylinders. They converted their first shot into a goal following a header out of a pileup near the goal, cutting the lead in half, making it 2-1.

The Golden Grizzlies matched the Norse shot for shot and score their third and final goal on the back of a longshot from outside the box that barely scraped the fingertips of the Norse goalie, increasing the lead back to two for the Golden Grizzlies. The Norse tried to respond and create dangerous scoring opportunities, but all their attempts were stuffed by the Grizzlies' goalie.

The Norse, feeling the pressure of the game, received back-to-back fouls, essentially sealing both their fate and the fate of the victors. Once the clock hit 90 minutes, the Golden Grizzlies celebrated as they punched their golden ticket to a date with destiny after never trailing in a dominant performance where they won 3-1.

Now, only Milwaukee awaits them, ready to challenge them for the title of the best team in the Horizon League. That matchup will take place Saturday at 2 p.m.

Women's soccer falls short of championship gold in loss to Milwaukee

CHRISTIAN TATE
Sports Reporter

The Golden Grizzlies women's soccer team becomes the fourth different team in as many years to fall to the Milwaukee Panthers in the Horizon League Championship.

entered its second half.

Despite the Panthers holding a one-point lead, the game played up to that point had been very even. The Golden Grizzlies were fighting and working to try and surpass the lead and the Panthers were fighting just as hard trying to protect it.



PHOTO BY JOSE JUAREZ

The Oakland women's soccer team in a huddle.

With the Panthers being the only team to defeat the Golden Grizzlies in conference play this season, the Grizzlies were looking to avenge their loss in the most important game of the season and take home the championship, but the Panthers would continue their second run of dominance over the sport unimpeded and foil their plans.

The game started off aggressively with both teams in good spirits, albeit nervous and hoping for the outcome to be in their favor. Continuous passes and dribbles were aimed for the out of bounds line, and other avoidable mistakes continued to be made as both teams tried to get their feet underneath them.

Neither team was fully in control of the flow, as they both tried to exert their own pressure on both sides of the field. Breaking the monotonous back-and-forth, Milwaukee struck first to make the score 1-0 after taking advantage of an unmarked opportunity that appeared during the collapse of a play.

This score forced the Golden Grizzlies into desperation mode for the remainder of the game, as they pushed ahead frantically in search of a score equalizer. The Panthers' defense stood strong in the face of the Grizzlies' push, hanging onto their one point lead by a thread as the game

The Golden Grizzlies got a perfect opportunity to tie the game up after being awarded a free kick near the goal in response to a foul, but Panthers' goalie Elaina LaMacchia came out of the exchange victorious as she pushed the shot wide of the goal with a jumping save.

In the same play, she protected the goal and block a shot again on an amazing second effort, proving that her Goalkeeper of the Year Award was no fluke. After shutting the door on this opportunity, the Panthers would then put the final nail in the coffin of the Golden Grizzlies' hopes with another goal to push the score to 2-0 with 15 minutes left to play.

The Golden Grizzlies wouldn't lose a single scrap of their fighting spirit, even as the final minutes of the clock continued to tick down. Stopping the near-miracle comeback at every turn, Milwaukee kept their near-half decade long run of dominance going strong as they complete their season of unbeaten conference play with a dominant shutout of the Golden Grizzlies, winning 2-0.

Ending their season with heartbreak amid a year of rapid improvement, the Golden Grizzlies will now look toward a period of growth in the offseason.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS.

The women's soccer team huddles up during a game against Western Michigan.

Swimming and diving laps Grand Valley State

REECE TAYLOR

Sports Reporter

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies men's and women's swim team rolled past the Grand Valley State University Lakers in their return to the Oakland Aquatic Center on Friday.

Returning from last week's A-10 classics, Oakland combined took the most Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals in competition for one of their most dominating wins to date. Oakland won the gold advantage 26-6, including a 16-0 medal sweep from the women's Team, 18-15 on silver, and 16-14 on bronze to win over Grand Valley State in convincing fashion.

Current two-time Horizon League and reigning Swimmer of the Week Susan Lagrand showcased her abilities once again, winning individual competitions 3-0 along with teammate Jordyn Shipps. Four different Golden Grizzlies ended the night with multiple gold medals for the women's team, and 11 in total ended the day with multiple medals, ending the day with Oakland winning 16 gold, nine silver, and 11 bronze compared to Grand Valley's zero gold, seven silver, and four bronze medals.

Lagrand, to go along with her multiple golds, led individual scores with 717.7 in total. Teammates Shipps and Taylor Bailey weren't far behind, posting scores of 686.0 and 680.3, respectively. In team scores, Oakland's dominant performance allowed them to win the women's match 230-70.

Oakland's men's team faced a tough competition with Grand Valley State, winning the medals advantage 10-6 in gold, nine to eight in silver, but lost the bronze totals 10-5. Three Oakland swimmers won multiple gold medals on their way to a narrow win, being Andrew Bernsdorf, Christian Bart, and Marko Khotynetskyi, all of whom won two in total. Credit must be given to GVSU's Jon Ketzenbach, who won two golds and a bronze on his way to top individual scores of the event, earning 719 points.

Competitions were back and forth leading into the final events for the men's team, who won their final three events to take the advantage in gold medals. Grand Valley State's Ketzenbach pulled the final gold for his team in the 500-yard freestyle, but Oakland won the 100-yard fly, the 200-yard IM, and the 400-yard relay to seal

the Oakland victory. In team scores, Oakland won narrowly, 159.5 to 140.5.

After gaining momentum against a flurry of difficult opponents, Oakland University faced it's first Horizon League rival on Nov. 6 against the University of Illinois Chicago Flames, who is coming off of a three-meet losing streak. Last time the two schools met in the regular season, both the Oakland men and women teams

won in convincing fashion, posting scores of 205-79 and 177-121 respectively.

As Oakland continues its trek to a ninth consecutive Horizon League Championship, both the men and women's teams look to test their capabilities against a UIC team that looks to rebound. Coming out of this matchup, Oakland is ready for the test.



PHOTO BY AYMAN ISHIMWE

A Golden Grizzly swimmer starts their run in an event on Friday, Nov. 5 against GVSU.

FALL 2021 PAYMENT DUE DATE

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S FALL PAYMENT DUE DATE: AUGUST 15, 2021.

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