

# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

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PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD



# THIS WEEK

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



**NOT SO FRIENDLY FIGURES** As the snow starts becoming a common occurrence on campus, these feathery beasts will not be bothering us anymore. Until spring, you dirty geese!  
PHOTO / NICOLE MORSFIELD

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## POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT'S THE BEST THANKSGIVING FOOD?

- A) TURKEY, DUH
- B) MASHED POTATOES, YOU UNCULTURED SWINES
- C) STUFFING, SORRY NOT SORRY
- D) PUMPKIN PIE, AND THAT'S THE TEA

## LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHO SHOULD RUN FOR PRESIDENT?





## CAMPUS

# Student debt, campus renovations addressed at Ask Ora

**TREVOR TYLE**

*Editor-in-Chief*

Navigating college inevitably raises many questions for students, leaving them with crippling debt and increased anxiety. While the issues college students are facing may seem overwhelming, Oakland University President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz sought to alleviate some of those concerns during the fifth biannual Ask Ora event on Thursday, Nov. 14.

Pescovitz sat down with Vice President of Student Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer Glenn McIntosh to give students the opportunity to address issues affecting them on campus, including student debt, upcoming building renovations, environmental sustainability, and diversity and inclusion. The event was moderated by Director of Presidential Communications Frank Provenzano and Vice President of University Communications and Marketing John Young.

Pescovitz began the event by asking for a moment of silence for OU student David Molnar, who died unexpectedly after suffering a fatal seizure the week before. A vigil will be held Thursday, Nov. 21 at 6 p.m. on campus in his honor.

One of the most prominent topics of conversation was OU's strength in enrollment, which Pescovitz attributed to OU faculty members, as well as the university's investment in the students.

"We have among the best and most prominent faculty in the country, but one of the things that really distinguishes Oakland from many of the other universities in the state is that our students ... are taught directly by our faculty, not by TAs and by graduate students,"



MAGGIE WILLARD | PHOTO INTERN  
President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz discusses student debt and other campus concerns.

she said. "When you go to some of the other universities around the state and around the country, that's not always the case."

Pescovitz reaffirmed there would be updates to Wilson Hall and announced her excitement for the upcoming renovation to South Foundation Hall, which is slated to start undergoing construction over the summer. McIntosh confirmed that gender-neutral restrooms are being included in the plan for South Foundation, and will be included in future building updates as well.

Young also mentioned that the mobile offices in the center of campus will be moving over the summer, but will still be necessary in other areas on campus due to the lack of space as a result of the South Foundation renovation.

The forthcoming renovations to South Foundation have proven to be controversial,

though, as the building will be rendered inaccessible, forcing several departments to relocate their classes for a planned five semesters. According to Assistant Vice President of Budget and Financial Planning Michele Knox, university administrators are working diligently to ensure there is enough classroom space for departments and faculty members who are affected by it.

"We actually have been working closely with the Registrar and Classroom Support and Facilities Management to identify every possible space on campus ... to actually turn it into a classroom during the construction period," she said. "We actually have found a lot of spaces, so we will be taking over some conference rooms, but also some spaces that maybe have been underutilized under departmental control during this period."

With the rising cost of education at the fore-

front of students' minds, student debt was also inevitably discussed in great detail. According to Pescovitz, the average Michigan college student graduates with over \$30,000 in debt, while the average OU student graduates with approximately \$25,000 in debt.

"I am very concerned about student debt, and I recognize what kind of a burden it is for students and their families to pay for college," Pescovitz said. "I'm proud that we've been able to make the average [cost of tuition at Oakland] lower than the average in the state, because that's a reflection of our commitment and our goals ... I want to do everything in my power to bring that number down more."

Concerning environmental sustainability, Pescovitz admitted "it is on [her] mind a lot," but OU is not doing enough.

"I like to say you can't boil the ocean — you can't do everything at one time," she said. "Just this week, we have actually ramped up our initiatives on this, and a number of faculty and students and staff are gearing up together to try to learn what we can from those institutions that are really in the lead on this."

The evening ended with a tease of some changes in campus food vendors with more details coming soon, as well as a conversation on diversity, equity and inclusion, something Pescovitz has been very vocal about improving on campus.

"The very first thing that I did when I came to the university was to make that my number-one initiative — diversity, equity and inclusion," she said. "It's not that it wasn't here before, it was. But we didn't articulate it. We didn't talk about it ... No matter what, Oakland needs to be a warm, welcoming and tolerant community for everyone."

## OUSC Update

Currently, the elections for next year's student body president and vice president positions are set up and ready. Candidacy is due to elections commissioner Kara Cermak by Jan. 17 at 5 p.m. Students can submit candidacy by obtaining a form from Kara in the OUSC office (Room 62 of the OC), or go to GrizzOrgs and download the form. The important detail is that candidacy is private and so the form may only be submitted to Kara in person or through email ([kecermak@oakland.edu](mailto:kecermak@oakland.edu)). Candidates are not allowed to advertise or speak about their candidacy until Feb. 5 at the elections reveal. At the elections reveal, candidates will be introduced and announce their platforms in rooms 128-130 at 12:30 p.m.

Candidates who want to become a legislator are also allowed to go through the elections process, but only up to 10 legislators can be elected in. They would go through the same process as the presidential and vice presidential candidates and the same stipulations apply.

The elections timeline is:

**Candidacy form due:** Jan. 17 at 5 p.m. to Kara Cermak a.k.a. the Elections Commissioner

**Elections kickoff:** Feb. 5 in rooms 128-130 at 12:30 p.m. — will be live-streamed

**Vice Presidential Debate:** March 3 in the Habitat at 12 p.m. — live-streamed

**Presidential Debate:** March 4 in the habitat at 12 p.m. — live-streamed

**Polls for voting will be open:** March 6-13 — through Engage

**Elections Reveal:** March 19 in the Habitat at 12 p.m. — live-streamed

OUSC is also currently looking for legislators to join, so if people are interested, they should email [ousc@oakland.edu](mailto:ousc@oakland.edu) to find out how to join.

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# Macomb-OU Incubator teaches educators about cybersecurity

**DEAN VAGLIA**

Staff Reporter

A new program launched by the Macomb-Oakland University Incubator is teaching high school educators the ins and outs of cybersecurity. Located at the on-site cyber range at the Velocity Hub, Cybersecurity Essentials for Educators has teachers learn about malware, the dark web and various forms of cybersecurity.

To Mathew McMurray, lead cybersecurity instructor at the Macomb-OU Inc., today's cybersecurity teachers desperately need a class like this to connect with their students.

"Their roles have always been in accounting or business or other areas other than computer cybersecurity," McMurray said. "We are teaching them the essentials that they would need to know to be able to connect with their students on some level."

According to McMurray, students view their computer-based classes as electives that can be easily blown off, while teachers have difficulties getting students to connect with the materials.

"We are trying to educate the teachers so that they can approach the students and the students will take them seriously because [the teachers] know what they are talking about," McMurray said.

The idea for the course came from a Macomb Intermediate School District administrator who told the Macomb-OU Inc. that teachers wanted to be better prepared for their cybersecurity classes.

"We actually developed a program from scratch for them," McMurray said. "[The district] could not find anything out there that was not gonna cost them a ton of



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
High school teachers get the opportunity to learn about the protection of their computer systems. money, and I think for the entire class we were charging \$15 per teacher per day."

McMurray believes that the Macomb-OU Inc. program is unique in the state of Michigan for its focus on teaching educators the basics of cybersecurity.

One of the program's features is a guided tour of the dark web, the suspicious place only accessible through logging into certain websites. Once inside, the students were able to find places to buy items such as drugs, illegal firearms, forged passports and pirated movies.

"[The tour] gave [students] a better understanding of what is there," McMurray said. "Everybody knows about the regular internet, but not everybody knows about the dark web, and to give them a better understanding of the entire internet was helpful because now they are more aware of what is there."

"We wanted to show teachers 'Hey, if your kids are getting fake IDs or they are getting torrents ... this is where they are getting it from'."

Since the program's students are tasked with handling dangerous software and accessing potentially harmful and illegal websites, teaching them on a regular school desktop is too risky. This is where the cyber range comes in.

"Think of it as a shooting range for computers," McMurray said. "You can take something that is inherently dangerous like ... malware, viruses and other types of malicious programs and software and you can use them in this secure environment without damage to the systems and external systems."

In the cyber range, students use normal computers to log into virtual programs that emulate computers and work with the dangerous programs on the virtual computers. If the students end up wrecking a virtual computer, no harm no foul. Just hit reset and try again.

Sam Srauy, an assistant professor of communication, is happy to see schools starting to take cybersecurity seriously.

"To the extent that [cybersecurity] is codified and formalized [for] a classroom seems to be fairly recent, so that is great," Srauy said.

Already supportive of the class for computer teachers, Srauy is not against extending this kind of training to all educators.

"If you think of computers as something special, then you might not think why a sociology teacher or a PE teacher need [cybersecurity training]," Srauy said. "But computers are not [special], computers are a tool, so everybody needs to learn how to use it."

## Moe's Southwest to be replaced by The Halal Shack

*The highly requested restaurant will offer more options to the Pioneer food court*

**MICHAEL PEARCE**

Sports Editor

In an effort to increase halal options in the Oakland Center, Moe's Southwest Grill will be replaced as soon as Thanksgiving this year.

Chartwells informed their employees and select on-campus groups like Residence Life Association (RLA) earlier in the month.

"We close on Thanksgiving," said a Chartwells employee, who wished to remain anonymous. "Moe's is closing because they bring in the least amount of money."

The assembly-style restaurant, which closely resembles its competitors, Qdoba and Chipotle, was founded nationally in 2000, and has been in the Oakland Center for multiple years alongside Subway, Chick-fil-A and Panda Express.

Employees first found out about the

change in venue in early October, which Chartwells confirmed later in the month.

"Students in the OC would come up to us workers," the employee said. "The money wasn't coming in, and students complained about a better place to eat."

The date of replacement will be at the start of the winter semester, on Jan. 6. If that date cannot be met, the following Monday will be the date that the new restaurant, The Halal Shack, takes Moe's place.

"A restaurant called The Halal Shack will replace Moe's," said Chartwells District Manager Mark McCormic. "The menu and flavors, I believe, will be a terrific addition to the food court."

The institution of The Halal Shack was in response to the increasing demand for options that work for Muslim students. Chartwells does focus groups in both the spring and winter semesters to reevaluate their options on campus.

“

Halal offerings are in high demand on our campus, we have made some changes to some of our menus, but it was not sufficient to meet the needs of the campus.

MARK McCORMIC

CHARTWELLS DISTRICT MANAGER

”

"During the late summer, this option became a possibility, and the university and Chartwells both thought it would be a terrific addition to the food court," McCormic said. "Halal offerings are now in high demand on our campus, we have made some changes to some of our menus, but it

was not sufficient to meet the needs of the campus."

McCormic confirmed that Moe's brought in the least amount of revenue of any food court option, including Plum Market. He said the only restaurant that makes less money than Moe's is Wild Blue, the new ramen and poké bowl restaurant where Create used to be.

"We like Moe's, it is a good product," McCormic said. "It did not necessarily not work out. Ultimately we needed to have a halal option for our students, and we thought the flavors and menu will be a hit with all of our guests. I'm excited for the opening, and I believe it will be a hit. It is difficult changing out a known name (Moe's) with a relatively unknown restaurant, feel free to visit thehalalshack.com to learn more. When you try it, I think you will be pleasantly surprised."



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# CETL Learning Tips: Study a little bit, a lot

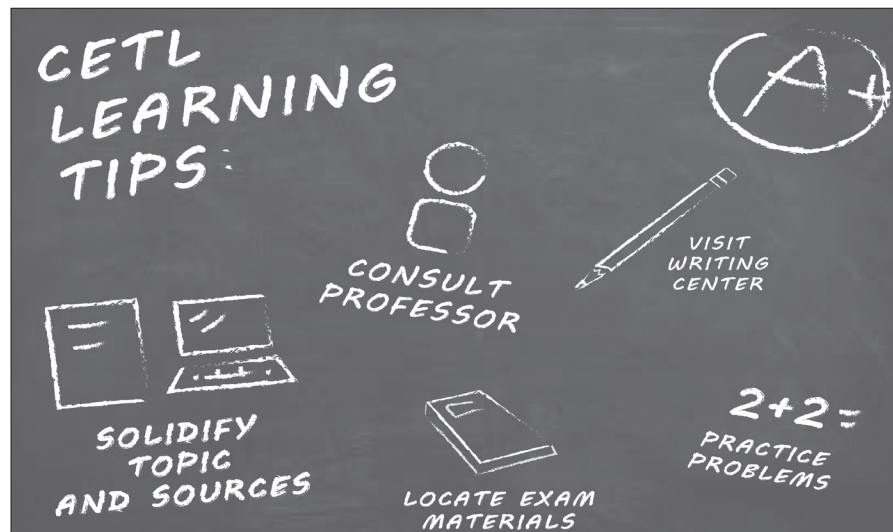
**CHRISTINA MOORE**

*CETL Virtual Faculty Developer*

Welcome to the Learning Tips Series! Every other week, I, with a little help from my OU friends, will provide quick but powerful tips to get the most out of learning in your classes and beyond.

It might seem early to use the “E” word, but to avoid stress and learn for real, now is the time to start thinking about exams or whatever project comes at the end of the semester. Starting now gives time for ideas to solidify permanently in your brain. In her Learning How to Learn Coursera course, OU’s Dr. Barbara Oakley compares it to building with bricks: we can only build one layer at a time because the mortar that makes the bricks stick together needs time to dry. If you try to build a whole brick wall in a couple of hours, you’ll end up with a messy pile. (Tip: Oakley developed a related OU course, ISE 1170: Learning How to Learn.)

In popular study on the most effective ways to remember what you learned, the top two were practice-testing and distributed practice, which means practicing a little bit often and over time. A little bit goes a long way — even 15 minutes a couple of times a week. Not only does the active time help your brain make the connections required for learning, but it also ignites un-



JIMMY WILLIAMS | GRAPHIC DESIGNER

These are some tips to help you have a successful semester as a college student.

conscious learning. In other words, your brain continues learning that material even when you’re not paying attention to it. Now that’s smart!

Even if your schedule is tight and you have a ton of classwork up until Study Day, these are a couple of ways that any of us can take advantage of learning over time:

- Immediately after class, take five minutes to reflect on what you just

learned. After class, intentionally record answers to three questions: (a) what is the quick story of what I have learned in this class session; (b) how does this fit into the larger picture of this class; and (c) what questions do I have? Dr. Stephen Carroll shared this strategy at OU a few years ago, and his students benefited greatly from this small change. If you have back-to-back

classes, answer these questions with voice-to-text on your phone while you walk to your next class. Speaking of which ...

- Make your phone your learning friend. Phones are perfect for small, frequent practice whenever we happen to find some time. Start simple: Pick a familiar, convenient note-taking app (I like Google Docs), create a note for each class, and use it just for this on-the-go of practice. Then, branch out: if you have a lot of vocabulary, formulas or other concepts to remember, use an app like Quizlet to be your portable flashcards. When you’re tired of making your fifth trip down the Instagram feed, those quick study opportunities are there.

These strategies take little or no extra time, but they work best if you do them at least a couple of times a week. Make these the things you do before you go to bed (also good for memory), the practice at the beginning and end of your school week, and whatever time you find in between. You may just find this gives you the chance to enjoy what you’re learning!

Christina Moore  
CETL

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# Teddy Bear Clinic gives OUWB students patient care experience

KATELYN HILL

Staff Reporter

Patients at Beaumont Children's Hospital got to play doctor for the day for their teddy bear patients.

The Teddy Bear Clinic is an annual event where students from the Pediatric Interest Group at the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) assist kids in playing the role of doctor for their teddy bears.

Helen Huetteman, vice president of the Pediatric Interest Group, said this event is really important because it helps kids learn what they could experience in the hospital.

"I think one of the big things that scares kids about doctors is that they don't know what they're going to do," she said. "So to be able to see what's going to happen and actually perform the action is very helpful for them to have a more positive experience in the hospital."

There were various stations the young patients could visit, including casting, placing IVs, reading X-rays and taking vitals.

Cheryne Kim, first-year OUWB medical student, said events like this help show the pediatric patients that the hospital isn't as scary and daunting as it may seem.

"I think it's important to humanize the experience and make the overall hospital experience feel not as cold and to find laughter and joy in the process, even though that can be hard to find at times," she said.

Though this event is aimed at letting kids be kids, even in the hospital, it's also a great experience for the students.

Kevin Roby, treasurer of the Pediatric Interest Group, said events like the Teddy Bear Clinic help motivate him to keep going.

"In the first two years, it's all textbooks. You kind of lose track sometimes of why you're doing this," he said. "It's just nice to have that reminder that this is why I'm in medical school."

Kim said it's a great opportunity for students to engage with the children.

"Volunteer events like these become a reminder that half of medicine is the heavy textbook material, but the other half of it is an art form of really being able to connect with people when they're hurting and when they might be afraid," she said.

Motivation isn't the only thing students can take from the Teddy Bear Clinic. It is also a great learning experience.

Huetteman said the Teddy Bear Clinic, and events like it, are beneficial to students.

"It's definitely important to kind of keep these events going," she said. "It helps kind of perfect our medical skills. Not only are you working with kids and learning how to talk to kids, but you're also having to refine your medical skills to be able to do so."

Kim said it's easy to get caught up in biochemistry and anatomy, so on-site volunteer events, like the Teddy Bear Clinic, help students learn more about working with patients.

"I felt that the experience was really eye-opening and it really allowed me to gain a better understanding of what's needed to effectively communicate and empathize with pediatric patients," she said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

OUWB students lead kids in playing doctor on teddy bears at the annual Teddy Bear Clinic at Beaumont Children's Hospital in Royal Oak on Friday, Nov. 1.



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# Former president of Poland Lech Wałęsa reflects on career

by Emily Morris | design by Ashley Averill | graphics by Ashley Averill & Jimmy Williams

Former president of Poland, union leader, activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate — Lech Wałęsa has held several titles thus far. Last Friday, he added Oakland University guest speaker to his list of positions. Over thousands of listeners were drawn as he introduced the moral and political beliefs his life has inspired.

Just a short time ago, Poland was operating as a communist nation, until Wałęsa became the first president of Poland to be elected by popular vote in 1990. Poland's political transformation was achieved through many years of Wałęsa and like-minded people banding together and taking action.

"This is my message — do not underestimate democracy, or you may end up in trouble," Wałęsa said.

His activism stemmed from his original trade, electrical work, where he spent time along the Lenin shipyard. As an electrician, he further planted roots in his career and joined a trade union.

From this moment, he had contracted the democratic bug, and the communist government took notice.

The former government made note of his beliefs, which led to several of his arrests. He co-founded the Solidarity trade union, gathering many more followers and initially boosting the morale of the movement. Solidarity was soon outlawed, leading to Wałęsa's most recent imprisonment in the late 1980s.

"The old era was full of very bad divisions in the world," Wałęsa said. "The world was divided into two blocks, ready to clash. Communism was getting prepared to fight, using nuclear weapons, of course, but using shared forces, we disarmed that danger."

Surely, his dream was not lost within his cell, but only grew more precise. In less than a decade, Wałęsa moved from incarceration to the head of the country.

"Everything depends on what we construct after the fall of communism,"

he said. "If the new construction is better and it is a better world, then we will be able to judge if it was a good idea to overthrow that regime."

Therefore, Wałęsa is leaving the impression of Poland to emerging generations. His Friday night lecture also offered advice about world government to its attendees, and although he has strong ideas regarding politics in the modern-day United States and Poland, as of a true democratic mind, he believes we are all entitled to our own thoughts and opinions.

"Do not take anything I say as instructive or teaching a lesson ... The point is that I lead that struggle in the past, so I feel co-responsible for what is currently happening in the world today," Wałęsa said. "That's why I will continue to look for answers. I have my own ideas on almost any topic, and if you find them right, take them — if you find them wrong, just improve them."

"... do not underestimate democracy ..."





## Oakland welcomes former president of Poland for lecture on politics

by Dean Vaglia

Former president of Poland and Nobel Prize winner Lech Wałęsa spoke about the state of politics at Oakland University on Nov. 15 as part of the Varner Vitality lecture series.

"Oakland University is just thrilled to welcome to campus one of the most influential people of the 20th century," President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz said. "A person whose leadership of Solidarity not only confronted the Soviet empire during the cold war, but a person who remains a lasting symbol of courage and lasting defiance in the face of totalitarianism."

This lecture marks the second time Wałęsa has been to OU. Back in 2001, the former president spoke at the Meadow Brook Theater about globalization and how he imagined it would shape the coming decade.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, Wałęsa started his political career as a union organizer in the 1980s, leading the Polish union Solidarity as an underground organization from 1983 to 1988 and as the first post-communism president of Poland from 1990 to 1995.

Since 1995, Wałęsa has run the Lech Wałęsa Institute, a think tank that promotes democracy and supports local governments in Poland. He left Solidarity in 2006 over its support of the right-wing Law and Justice Party (PiS).

"I have always been a revolutionary," Wałęsa said through an interpreter. "I have always struggled, all my life, against obstacles. And now, being 77, I continue fighting."

One sign of his continued fighting was the T-shirt Wałęsa wore under his suit jacket. Reading "constitution" in English, the shirt serves as a protest of what the former president thinks modern governments are failing to live up to.

"In Poland, [the shirt] says, 'You are violating [the] constitution, you are violating democratic principles, and this is not what I fought for."

"But there is a message for [the US] too with my constitution T-shirt," Wałęsa continued. "This message says 'Look at Poland.' They struggled so beautifully and won such beautiful victories in the past. But at one point the Poles underestimated democracy and they gave power to the populists and demagogues. And they are doing really strange things, and we can hardly oppose whatever

they are doing."

To say that Wałęsa is critical of modern Poland is an understatement. When asked about the ongoing elections in Poland, he had few positive words to share.

"We are in a time of great debate," he said in response to a question from Detroit Free Press columnist and "Michigan Matters" host Carol Cain. "We have not come up with solutions for this new world, and the U.S. is not whispering solutions. This is a time when demons of the past awaken."

The theme of the U.S. not being as much of a leader in a troubled world was a subject Wałęsa spoke at length on.

"In the old era, you, the U.S. — the superpower — used to be the good empire and you played a beautiful role to the rest of the world," he said. "Wherever there was trouble, people would hope that the U.S. would come to the rescue, and for many countries the U.S. was the ultimate refuge."

But times have changed, and Wałęsa asks the U.S. to take back the wheel.

"If we do not have a leader, this is a very dangerous situation in the history of mankind," he said. "We have to do everything we can for the U.S. to regain its leadership position."

To be a leader in the post-Soviet world, Wałęsa said the U.S. should work as a beacon for free discussion between nations, generations and be the model that other nations look to become.

"Do not give the world the money, do not give the world dollars, do not solve all the problems for the rest of the world," he said. "Give us ideas. Organize us, encourage us to search for different solutions."

Despite his critique of the U.S. role in the world, Wałęsa did not cast Donald Trump in as negative a light as some may expect. The former Ronald Reagan ally gave the controversial commander-in-chief a rating that was, at best, lukewarm support.

"I think Donald Trump has a very good diagnosis of almost everything he claims," he said. "But I disagree with the treatment he wants to apply. I guess he needs to be assisted to come up with a good treatment."

Regarding the 2020 U.S. elections, Wałęsa said whoever follows the constitution and "promotes values" will have the right solutions for the future.





NICOLE MORSFIELD | PHOTO EDITOR

Dr. Rusakov started his teaching career on Oakland's campus this fall semester.

## Chemistry professor from Russia finishing up first semester at OU

**RACHEL YIM**

*Staff Reporter*

Dr. Alexander Rusakov, assistant professor of the chemistry department at Oakland University, is finishing up his first semester of teaching at OU.

Rusakov began his college career in Russia. After receiving his master's degree at Moscow State University, he moved to the U.S. to further study his field. He has received doctorates from both the Nuclear Physics Institute and Rice University, after which he worked as a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Michigan (U of M).

Though he decided to move to the U.S. to continue his academic career and to start his teaching career, he said his family is still in Russia. He mentioned the hardest part of doing so was the physical separation from his family in Russia.

After the completion of his research at U of M, he was offered his current position at OU in August 2019. Currently, he is teaching General Chemistry I.

"It's not easy, because honestly, the phrasing of contents and grading tests take a great deal of my time," Rusakov said.

Rusakov hopes to find improvement in his students over the course of the semester. According to him, this is what drives him to be a better professor and makes him feel rewarded.

He said one of the most important keys in his teaching career is to accommodate his students' desires and goals they want to achieve by the end of the semester.

Isabella Mahuad, a freshman at OU, is one of the students in Rusakov's general

chemistry class.

"Professor Rusakov is really involved in helping students," Mahuad said. "He extends his office hours pretty frequently before quizzes and exams in order to make sure everyone can get help if they need it. He also puts a lot of effort into his PowerPoints and making them interesting."

Mahuad said she has been provided with many opportunities and resources from Rusakov throughout the semester. She didn't forget to express her gratitude toward Rusakov for his effort he has put into the class.

"His class takes a lot of work to do well in, but he is always willing to help," Mahuad said. "I feel that I've learned a lot in a short period of time."

Aside from teaching, Rusakov has also been involved in research, called "theoretical chemistry of heavy elements." He mentioned his research mainly focused on quantum mechanics to describe molecules and materials.

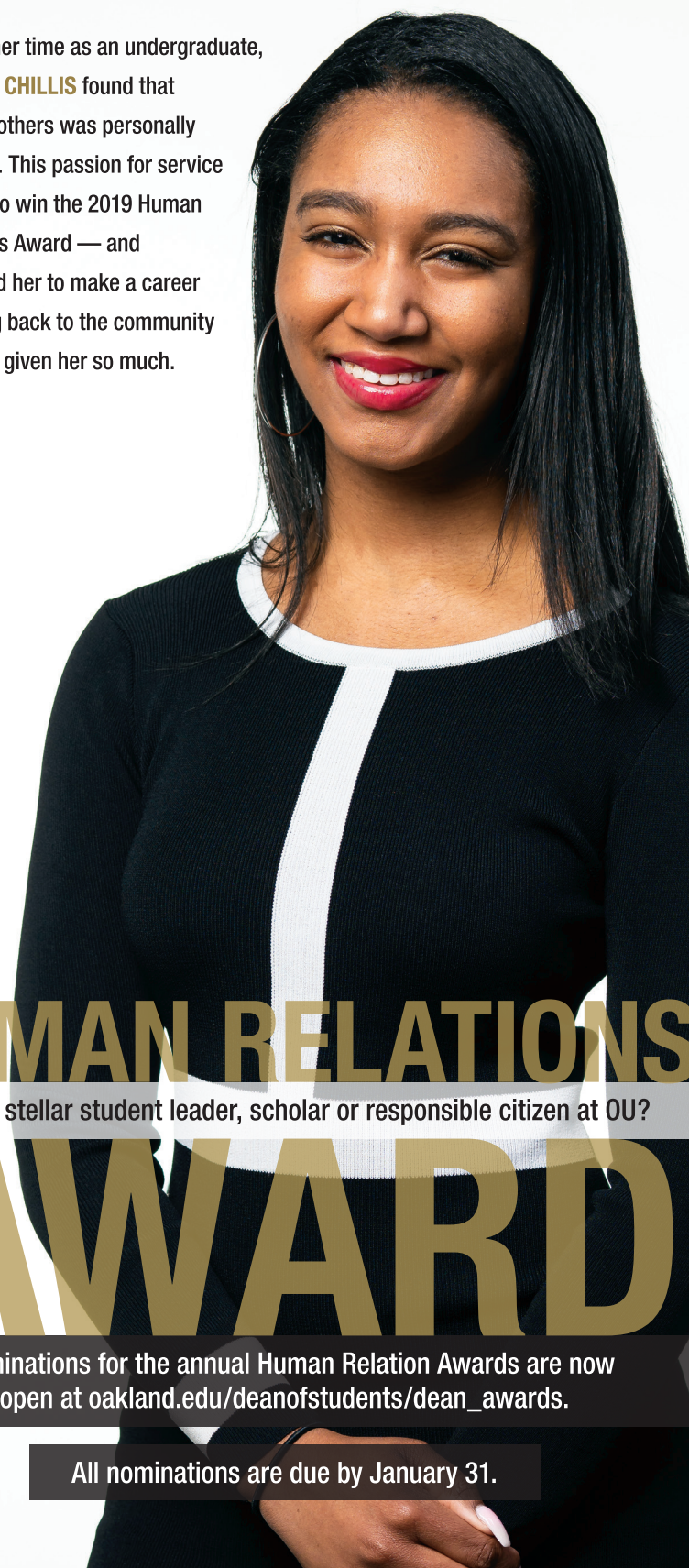
Finishing up his first semester of teaching, his goal for the semester is to work on his time management. From being a researcher working under someone else to now being on his own and having the responsibility of how he uses his freedom, Rusakov said time management is a crucial change in condition he experienced.

For his students struggling, Rusakov gave three pieces of advice to help them overcome the common problems they experience in class throughout the semester.

"Get enough sleep and eat on test days, never think the questions you are trying to ask are stupid and always use my office hours if there's any questions," he said.

During her time as an undergraduate,

**ASHLEY CHILLIS** found that helping others was personally fulfilling. This passion for service led her to win the 2019 Human Relations Award — and prepared her to make a career of giving back to the community that has given her so much.



## HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD

Know a stellar student leader, scholar or responsible citizen at OU?

Nominations for the annual Human Relation Awards are now open at [oakland.edu/deanofstudents/dean\\_awards](http://oakland.edu/deanofstudents/dean_awards).

All nominations are due by January 31.

**OAKLAND  
UNIVERSITY**

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## OPINION



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

Three females lead in new film and work as spies for a private detective agency.

## 'Charlie's Angels' emphasizes the empowerment of women

**TAYLOR McDANIEL**

*Staff Reporter*

As reboots have been a major trend of the last few years, I suppose it only made sense to remake a girl-centered action classic: "Charlie's Angels."

Full disclosure, I have never seen any of the previous "Charlie's Angels," so I don't have a large frame of reference to go off of. All I know is the franchise began with a television series in 1976 and had two movies prior to the release of the 2019 one.

While I am jazzed for any sort of women empowerment, I was particularly looking forward to watching this film for one reason and that reason is Kristen Stewart, plain and simple.

I have been a "K-Stew" fan since "Catch That Kid." My love for her as an actress and as a person has only grown since then, and I will never be over how slept on she is.

During the "Twilight" era, Stewart received criticism and hate for her "flat" acting, her apparent inability to smile and the fact that many thought she was not conventionally pretty. She even told Elle UK back in 2016 she experienced a lot of anxiety and stress during that period in her life due to the frustration of being misunderstood and the pressure of being in such a popular franchise.

Now, unfortunately, this is not about Kristen Stewart, although I know that you all wish that it was, but I should probably get back to the main point.

The movie's plot centers around an energy conversion device being developed by scientists in Europe, including main character Elena (Naomi Scott). Scott's character discovers the device could potentially be dangerous if it falls into the wrong hands, but no one listens to her,

especially her male superior. An unknown source comes after her to keep her quiet, leading the Angels (Stewart and Ella Balinska) to protect her.

"Charlie's Angels" (2019) was a fun, action-packed movie, but I would keep expectations medium if you plan on seeing it. I did enjoy the film overall, however, where it excelled in funny dialogue — mostly by Stewart — and girl spy themes, it lacked in innovative action scenes and clear plot points and character backgrounds.

While the film was slightly cheesy, there were some things that it did really well, mainly involving women empowerment. The various strengths and talents of girls and women were highlighted throughout the film, exemplifying to never underestimate the female population. As well as empowerment, the movie stressed the importance of female friendship, feminism and the reality of sexism and mansplaining.

There was a scene of mansplaining between Naomi Scott's character and her boss that I thought was over the top at first. However, the more I thought about it, the more I realized that it may have been on purpose, a way to make it apparent and obvious to those who do not believe that degree of sexism still happens, especially in the workplace.

Finally, Kristen Stewart was very dumb and attractive in this movie. If you need any reason to go see this film, do it purely to revel in the following quotes said by her character:

"I've got to get a dog."

"Sandwich? It's tuna."

"Mo' money, mo' horses."

Crime Boss: "You are the most incredible woman I have ever met."

Stewart: "I know."

**Rating: 3/5 stars**

## #StopGlobalClimateChange ends with US leaving Paris Agreement

**AUTUMN PAGE**

*Contributor*

One of the most mainstream issues we deal with today is global climate change. This problem is going to become that much harder to beat since President Donald Trump has now begun withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement.

This yearlong change isn't surprising for anyone. Trump said in 2017 that he intended to stop all participation with the Paris Agreement because we all know that he doesn't believe in climate change, according to his Twitter. I'd call that "fake news," but the irony is too much.

The United States has been involved with this agreement since 2015, when it was created at the 21st Conference of the Parties. This conference started with The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and The Kyoto Protocol. It laid down the goals for the reduction/limitation of greenhouse gas emissions in developed countries and transition economies.

The United Nations (U.N.) Climate Change website said, "The Paris Agreement's central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius."

Secretary Mike Pompeo, U.S. Secretary of the Department of State, tweeted Nov. 4, "Today we begin the formal process of withdrawing from the Paris Agreement. The U.S. is proud of our record as a world leader in reducing all emissions, fostering resilience, growing our economy and ensuring energy for our citizens. Ours is a realistic and pragmatic model."

Trump's early November announcement that the withdrawal motion would commence caused a roar of protest.

Nanette D. Barragán, a congresswoman for California's 44th Congressional District, tweeted, "In another blow to combating the climate crisis, the Trump administration has officially begun the process of abandoning the #ParisClimateAgreement — Denying science, breaking international agreements and deserting our global allies is not American leadership, Mr. President."

Former President Barack Obama was known for his efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

“

The Paris Agreement's central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE WEBSITE

”

In fact, it was one of the more prominent issues he was concerned with. According to the White House archives from Obama's presidency, "Since the President [Obama] took office, carbon emissions have decreased 9%, while the U.S. economy grew more than 10%." This won't last long once the U.S. leaves the Paris Agreement.

By the day after the new president is elected — or the same one is reelected, unfortunately — the U.S. will be officially out of the Paris Agreement. It is possible for the next president to rejoin, but this would cause a new sea of complications and new commitments.

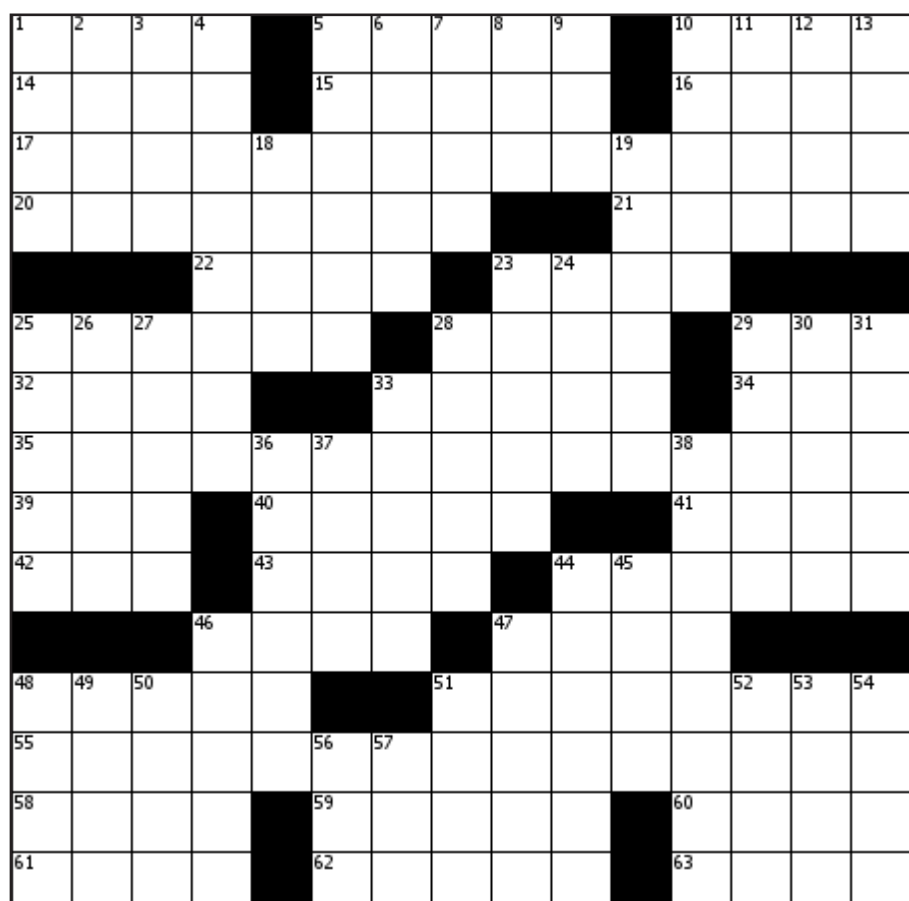
Climate change isn't exactly a hidden topic that only makes its way in conversation during elections. A Yale Climate Program did a poll, about seven in 10 Americans (69%) think global warming is happening, about six in ten Americans (62%) say they are at least "somewhat worried" about global warming, and more than one in five (23%) are "very worried" about it.

Being frank, Trump's decision to leave this agreement is worrisome. This agreement was one of the major ways to protect the environment.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) projects the atmospheric concentration of GHGs could reach 685 parts per million (ppm) CO<sub>2</sub> by 2050. As a result, global average temperature is projected to be 3 degrees Celsius to 6 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century, exceeding the Paris Agreement's internationally agreed goal of limiting it to 2 degrees Celsius.

If something's not done fast, humanity will destroy the world to a point of no return.





1. Exemplar of innocence
5. It follows a long March
10. Retained possession
14. Verbal
15. Prejudice partner in literature
16. Kind of code or rug
17. If a man does this and 35-A on 55-A, he may wind up saying 8
20. Waste away
21. Auguries
22. Go-\_\_\_\_ (four-wheeled racer)
23. Heroine of an Austen novel
25. By a nose
28. Hindu garment
29. Successor to F.D.R.
32. "--- in a Manger"
33. Like some cereal
34. Mother of one across
35. See 17-Across
39. Miner's pay dirt
40. Ancient
41. Some wallet wadding
42. Beatty of "Deliverance"
43. Lawn tool place
44. Abrasion
46. Use a swizzle stick

47. Domestic squabble
48. Positive thinker
51. If it's German, it may be a dog
55. See 17-Across
58. Legal action
59. Impressive in scale
60. Life of Riley
61. Almanac topic
62. Billionaire Bill
63. Fuse measurements

**Down**

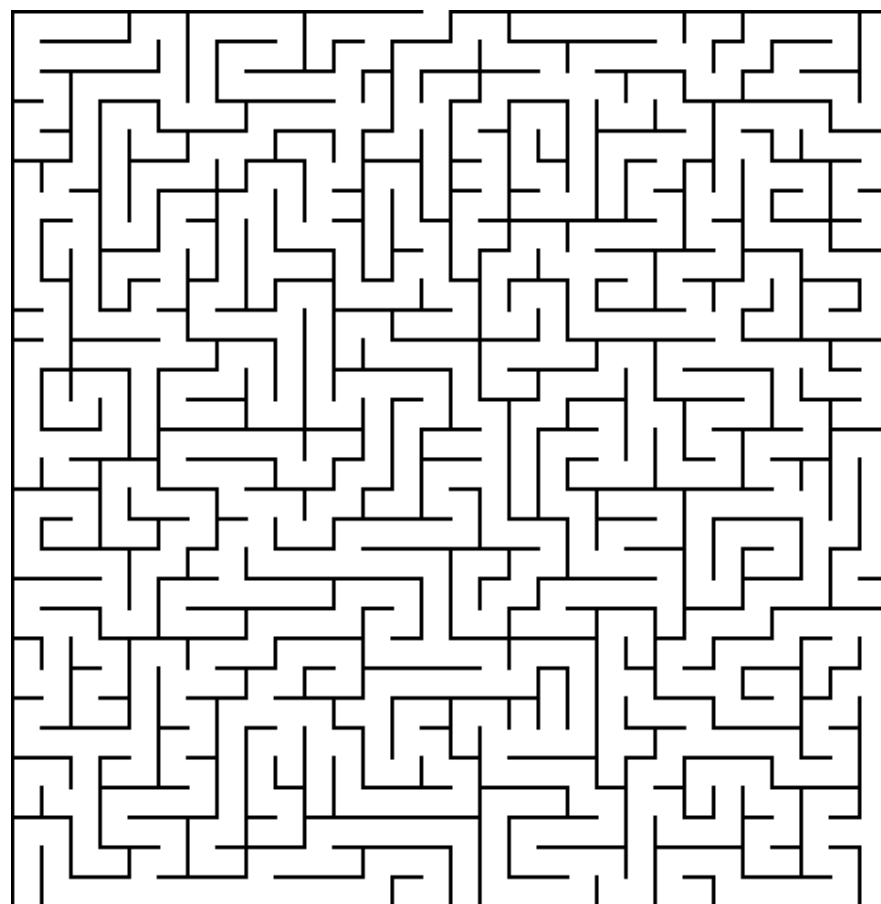
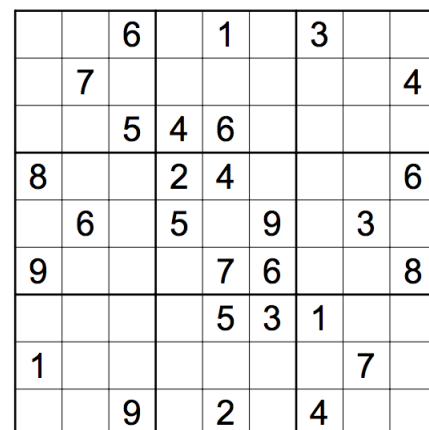
1. Jewelry holder
2. Jack-in-the-pulpit
3. Author Angelou
4. Ring souvenir?
5. Home of a busy queen
6. Whitney's partner in engine production
7. Icy cover
8. Words with a ring to them?
9. Grid great Dawson
10. It was "Instant" to John Lennon
11. New York canal
12. Sean of "I Am Sam"
13. New car necessities
18. Bygone telephone device

19. Part of A.D.
23. ... the run (dine hastily)
24. TV's talking horse
25. Conductor's stick
26. With eyes wide open
27. Did a fall job
28. Full and satisfied
29. Reddish-orange dye
30. Word with chimney or clean
31. To the point
33. Law's partner
36. Inexpensive inn
37. PTA milieu
38. Waterway between the United Kingdom and Denmark
44. Goes for broke?
45. Attire for Superman
46. Pool table rock
47. Shoe finish
48. Utterance during a play
49. Case for needles and pins
50. Enthusiastic
51. Rebounds per game, e.g.
52. Cheese in a red shell
53. Rough file
54. Coloring matter
56. Bacon contemporary?
57. Gun lobby org.

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## SPORTS

# Senior champion named Swimmer of the Week

**BRITTANY WELCH**

*Staff Reporter*

Katie Colwell was recently named Horizon League Swimmer of the Week, making her the fourth Oakland woman to win the award in the last five weeks.

Swimmer of the Week is not the only accolade Colwell has earned. She has also earned the “champion” title in the 50 and 100 freestyle in last year’s Horizons along with a few other titles in her time here.

“My big goal for this year is to win all my events at conference. I know last year I won the 50 and 100 freestyle,” she said. “So for this year it would definitely be cool to have a repeat.”

Colwell not only has goals for herself, but also for the Golden Grizzlies. After following the year of winning the 41st Horizon Leagues, Colwell and the team are looking to accomplish this year’s goals.

“Our team goal is to win the conference, but also bring a lot of people to the NICs. We went last year, which was our first year and it was really fun,” Colwell added. “So as a team, getting to these postseason meets, and it would also be cool to make it to NCAAAs — which is always our goal.”

Colwell said the Golden Grizzlies Swim and Dive team have always supported her from the very beginning.

“I definitely could have not been where I am without them. I know swimming seems like an individual sport, but we

would not be where we are without each other,” the senior said. “When you’re racing, you can hear people cheering and see them and it makes such a huge difference, especially in those longer events.”

With a successful high school career becoming a state champion, Colwell felt a strong connection with Oakland right away, she said.

“The call with Oakland is the one I remember most. I got a call from Andre, my coach,” Colwell said. “We were talking about filming because that’s what I wanted to do, and I just remember it was such a lively conversation that wasn’t just fully asking me about my times.”

Colwell has her own routine that she follows before every meet, along with the team also having a special routine.

“I always listen to music, that’s really big, and at really big meets, we walk out if you’re in the final heat,” she said. “So, I’m always listening to music having my warmups on before, and then just getting pumped.”

As Colwell winds down in her senior year, she has made memories that she will keep forever and cherish.

“There’s so many memories, but one of the best things was when I was a sophomore and there was a girl named Holly Morren, she holds a bunch of the records here and we won the 50 and 100 free together,” she said. “It was super cool doing that together and everything and scoring those points for Oakland.”

Colwell and the Golden Grizzlies return to competition on the road in Akron at the Zippy Invitational on Dec. 5-7.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Senior Katie Colwell was named the Horizon League Swimmer of the Week.

## The Sporting Blitz

Many Oakland University sports teams took to the road this past week, with some competing in Horizon League playoffs.

### Men’s Soccer

After about a week off of playing, the men’s soccer team took on the Wright State Raiders in the second round of the Horizon League tournament. They fell to Wright State 4-1 after the eventual league champion Raiders came out firing.

The Golden Grizzlies fell behind quickly, as Wright State scored an early goal in the 13th minute. Another goal two minutes later gave Wright State a 2-0 lead that would never be taken from them. The Raiders would score two more goals before Oakland was able to find the net for the first time in the 88th minute.

The tournament was held in Chicago at the University of Illinois-Chicago on an icy field, something that Head Coach Eric Pogue took issue with on Twitter.

“EXTREMELY disappointing decisions allowing games played on ice rink in freezing temps at 7 p.m. with 15 fans,” Pogue said postgame after congratulating the Raiders on their victory. Oakland was the leader in shots, corners and had fewer fouls, but Wright State was able to get more shots on goal, recording 14 to Oakland’s nine.

### Women’s Basketball

The women’s basketball traveled to Chicago State to win their second game in a row. The Golden Grizzlies controlled the game from the start, winning by a final score of 98-70. This was the team’s second win in a row after losing their season opener to Bradley.

Jalisha Terry led the team in scoring, putting up 21 points in 25 minutes. Kayla Luchenbach led the team on the boards with

10, grabbing seven defensive and three offensive rebounds.

As a team, the Golden Grizzlies shot 52% from the floor, 29% from three and 80% from the free throw line. 20 of their points came from the free throw line, as the team was able to get into the paint and score, as evidenced by their 46 points in the paint. The win was a team effort, with the bench putting up 51 points, a stark contrast to Chicago State’s 26 bench points.

The women’s basketball team returns home next on Dec. 18 after a lengthy seven-game road trip.

### Cross Country

The cross country teams competed in the Great Lakes Regional Tournament in Madison, Wisc. over the weekend. Numerous runners finished high and brought accolades to Oakland.

Maggie Schneider and Connor Goetz ran the 6K and 10K respectively. Schneider finished with a time of 20:52.9, good for 20th place, while Goetz ran the 10k in 31:32.3, which gave him 45th place. Schneider’s performance was the third in school history to be worthy of competing in nationals. On Nov. 16, she was announced as a finalist for the NCAA’s National Championships.

The women’s cross country team placed 13th overall, and the men’s team placed 19th overall. The 13th overall finish by the women’s team is tied for the best finish at regionals by any Oakland women’s cross country team.

Schneider will compete in the national championship Saturday, Nov. 23.

*Compiled by Michael Pearce,  
Sports Editor*



## From the court to commentating: Chatting color with Greg Kelser

**EMILY MORRIS**

*WXOU News Director*

Greg Kelser is a former Detroit Pistons player and current basketball color commentator, which ensures that basketball has spanned through most of his life. Being recognized by universities across the country at Henry Ford High School moved him into another local spotlight, playing at Michigan State University.

Following MSU, Kelser was the fourth round one NBA draft pick of 1979 and wound up playing for the Pistons. One career for the Pistons eventually drifted into another as he became a color commentator for Fox Sports Detroit and contributes to each Pistons game.

However, moving from the Spartans to the Pistons was not a seamless transition. Kelser and his teammates had formed an impressive basketball record during his four years in college.

When Kelser entered the MSU basketball program, there were some transitions they faced. Gus Ganakus, former MSU head coach, left his position following Kelser's freshman year, which shook the foundation of Kelser's college decision.

"Michigan State came out on top ... I leaned on my parents heavily for their advice and wisdom," he said. "The coaching staff at Michigan State made it a point to recruit my parents as much as they recruited me. They wanted them to know that they would take care of me."

Then Jud Heathcote took on the head coaching position, and Kelser soon accommodated to a new leadership style. In 1979, Kelser's senior year, the Spartans earned their first NCAA championship. He became known as "Special K" because of his impressive ability, setting a record of over 2,000 points scored during his college career.

The Pistons, on the other hand, were in a completely different stage with a lot of rebuilding left to do. Even so, the Pistons are Kelser's hometown team. The Pistons inspired a sense of nostalgia that encouraged him.

"I enjoyed being able to play for my hometown team, the one I cheered for as a youngster, but I had already gone through one rebuilding process," Kelser said. "I would have much rather played for a winning team right away. That was a learning experience for me when I had to start all over with the Pistons."

Despite the Pistons being a struggling franchise when Kelser began playing for them, he was able to celebrate a championship. He continued to support the team in a different way, although his time play-



PHOTO COURTESY OF WXOU  
Kelser broadcasts play-by-play analysis, and exchanges comments on the games.

ing for the Pistons had expired. Kelser had become a color commentator for the Pistons during their victory.

"My only regret is that I wasn't able to be there when they collimated their championships there, but I was there as a broadcaster by that time," Kelser said. "It would have been tremendous to actually earn a championship with the Detroit Pistons."

This season has come off to a slow start for the Pistons, which Kelser predicted would happen if the Pistons were not healthy to start the season.

"So much of it clings to their health," he said. "If Blake can stay healthy, if Andre stays healthy, if Derrick Rose stays healthy — you know, the main players — Reggie Jackson, if they stay healthy, the Pistons are going to have a good year. When I say they're going to have a good year, I mean they will be in the middle of the pack, not just the seventh or eighth spot."

So far, he has been correct, since injury troubles have caused the Pistons to be a few games below .500 right now. If they can stay healthy, Kelser's prediction can still prove true through the rest of the year.

Kelser has been involved with the broadcasting for Pistons games since 1988 and does not see a retirement plan in the future yet. He ensured that, as long as he is able and the organization wants him, he will be dedicated to the Pistons broadcasting.

## OU student runs 'Detroit Sports Twitter' account

**GRANT RICHARDS**

*Staff Reporter*

Since Twitter was created in 2006, 126 million people continue to use it as a part of their daily lives. It is almost impossible to predict what the inaugural users of Twitter saw for the future of the platform, but it is easy to assume they would not have expected the camaraderie formed by "Detroit Sports Twitter."

There is not an official representative of the Twitter community surrounding Detroit sports, but if voting for a representative began today, Oakland University junior Tony Dombrowski would be high in the polls.

Dombrowski has been covering Detroit sports since 2017, his freshman year at Oakland. Since, his Twitter (@tonydombrowski), has amassed over 4,100 followers while spreading enough to reach the players he covers, including Michigan basketball player Luke Wilson.

"Luke Wilson reached out to me," Dombrowski said, "to let me know 'a lot of people go to Twitter after games to see what I have to say.'"

Dombrowski also recognizes that being the first time he noticed a genuine following.

"It never crossed my mind until then," he said. "It was really the first time I sat back and realized that people really do care about my opinion on my 'trash' teams."

Dombrowski rides the highs and lows of Detroit sports with the rest of the Detroit sports fans, and produces recap videos of the games he has watched, including all 162 Detroit Tigers games. His work on Twitter helped land him an internship in the sports department of FOX2.

Dombrowski recognizes the roller coaster of emotions Detroit sports fans go through,



PHOTO COURTESY OF TONY  
DOMBROWSKI

Dombrowski with Detroit Tigers all-star Miguel Cabrera.

and he appreciates having a community to ride with him.

"The best part of Detroit sports Twitter is the interaction," he said. "During every season, there's an entire group of people talking about and reacting to what's going on. And I think that's really cool."

It has also gotten to a point where people around Detroit recognize him from his videos alone, establishing himself as a local celebrity. Dombrowski loves interacting with people who recognize him on the street.

"Whenever I meet people, I always appreciate the moment," Dombrowski said. "During a Lions game in 2017, one of my followers, Ben Cadoret, came up to me after the game and I still remember the conversation we had. It meant so much to me at the time."

Detroit sports Twitter is a wild, wild world. There are opinions and takes wilder than one could imagine, and without a solid guide one could find themselves deep in some "Jeff Driskel > Matthew Stafford" takes, and that is somewhere no one wants to be. Let Dombrowski be your guide as you try to survive until the Lions win the Super Bowl.



# Volleyball loses 3-1 on senior night

**ROHAN MOHAN**

*Contributor*

A modest crowd welcomed the Wright State Raiders to the O'rena on Saturday afternoon for senior night as seniors from both teams were welcomed with a bouquet of flowers. Megan Hobler, Courtney Wightman, Mackenzie Schneider and Taylor Dellinger will graduate from Oakland University this spring. The Golden Grizzlies lost the senior night match to the Raiders, three sets to one.

Dellinger led Oakland in kills, collecting 14 over the course of the game. Jamie Walling recorded 11 kills on 34 attempts. Kenzie Dunn tallied 21 assists while AnnaBelle Tomei added 15. Defensively, Lindsay Wightman led the Grizzlies with 18 digs while Brittany Welch summed 12 over the course of the game.

Oakland took an early lead in the first set, but Wright State struck back with eight unanswered points, taking an 18-10 lead. Two timeouts by Head Coach Rob Beam seemed to refocus the Golden Grizzlies as they overcame the deficit and won the first set by a narrow two point gap, 25-23.

The second set was back and forth with five lead changes throughout the set. Wright State led for most of the second set, leading

by as much as seven points at one point, 14-7. Oakland came back later in the set, taking a 22-21 lead toward the end of the set. After a highly contested battle, the Raiders reclaimed the lead and took the second set, 25-23.

The Raiders pulled away from the Golden Grizzlies in the third set. At one point, they

built a 13-point lead against their opponents, up 18-5. Wright State's Lainey Stephenson recorded nine digs in the third set, leading her team to a third set victory, 25-16.

Oakland put up a fight to start the fourth set, keeping their opponents within two points early on. Later in the set, Wright State was

able to pull away, creating a nine-point deficit for the Golden Grizzlies. The Raiders maintained this lead for the rest of the set, helping them win the fourth and final set, 25-14.

Head Coach Rob Beam spoke about the impact of his seniors after their last home match in the regular season.

"It doesn't matter how much they played, it doesn't matter if they set records," Beam said. "It's always about the experience, maturity and the lessons learned that accumulate over time. Some of those are academic, some are personal growth, some are athletic. It's about things that have to do with execution, and we're gonna miss all the seniors."

Dellinger and Hobler spoke about what they will miss most about playing volleyball for Oakland. Hobler will miss playing with her best friends.

"I'm gonna miss the sisterhood of our team the most," Hobler said. "It's like 18 best friends."

Dellinger will transition into the team's graduate assistant role next year, but she was still bittersweet about the end of her playing career.

"It's sad that it's my last time playing on the home court," Dellinger said. "I was playing with 18 of my best friends, which is the sad part about it."



SOPHIE HUME | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oakland volleyball took on the Wright State Raiders for their senior night match.

## WINTER 2020 PAYMENT DUE DATE

OAKLAND  
UNIVERSITY™

The winter semester is right around the corner — start it off right and avoid any last-minute financial surprises by being proactive.

**Reminder: the winter payment due date is December 15.**

You can avoid class cancellation (drop) by paying your student account in full. Consider all your financial options. An OU payment plan helps spread tuition and costs into smaller, more manageable installments and be sure to pay your installments on time. Obtaining financial aid, utilizing external sources, and/or using your own funds are other options for you. Know which charges can be paid with your financial aid (an authorization may be needed) and which charges you must pay out-of-pocket.

**We are here to help.** If you need help understanding payment options or how to pay for your education, please contact Student Financial Services at (248) 370-2550 or stop by North Foundation Hall, Room 120, as soon as possible.

Payment  
Due

**LEARN** how to avoid cancellation (drop) at [oakland.edu/financialservices](http://oakland.edu/financialservices)



# Tips and tricks you need to survive Thanksgiving

**ASHLEY AVERILL**

*Design Editor*

Since “Game of Thrones” ended, no one told us that “winter is coming.”

Instead of the crisp autumn air and sound of leaf blowers we normally hear this time of year, there’s a foot of snow on the ground and my long underwear is up to my chin. It’s like we went from Oct. 31 to Dec. 20 and just leapfrogged over November entirely.

With finals around the corner, work stress piling up, the frantic hunt for winter internships, claims of “seasonal depression” on the rise, everyone has strep, ebola or the flu, and mental breakdowns are happening left and right — it must be almost time for my favorite holiday. Not Christmas ... Thanksgiving!

I don’t understand why people don’t like Thanksgiving. Nothing will make you forget your problems like the suffocating embrace of extended family time. Start thawing that turkey and setting the extra long table, big enough to fit everyone and their baggage.

Personally, I like my family, they’re not half bad. Do they drive me to drink or cry sometimes? Yes, but in the grand scheme of things, I’ve heard far worse horror stories from friends. This is what I tell them to survive Thanksgiving, and now you can too.

As long as you have the right mindset about the whole thing and you’re not the biggest hot mess at the table, you can get away with just about anything, because everyone knows tensions are running high.

When your aunt begins grilling you about school and why you’re getting a degree in communication, remind them that, unlike their delinquent, high school dropout, failed musician, basement-living spawn who smokes like a chimney, you’ll actually graduate and find a career.

Tired of sitting next to your uncle who open-mouth chews, didn’t bring anything and feels the need to criticize your potatoes? Clear the table! \*Gauge\* Manual labor, amirite, but it’s all a smoke show to get you out of the room so you can take another shot in the kitchen. Grandma will see you as a helpful angel in between glasses of sherry and keep you in the will.

Speaking of shots, drink up, soldier! There’s no time like the present to drink copious amounts of alcohol. Even when your parents give you a dirty look, they probably won’t say anything because chances are they’re half in the bag too. For those of you who are under 21, a glass of Kroger’s sparkling grape juice looks a lot like a glass of white wine and LaCroix. Tastes like shit, but it gets the job done. Not a drinker? Sit in the bathroom and watch TikToks.

After dinner, say you’re going “Black Friday shopping.” You don’t actually have to shop though — you can consume questionable substances with friends behind a Walmart, hook up with a significant other who is also “Black Friday shopping” or actually go shopping. Whatever sketchy shit you’re into, just come home with a decoy shipping bag before dawn.

The colors I associate with Thanksgiving are brown, orange, yellow and blackmail. Every family has secrets and blackmail can be fun, like your cousin across the table whose



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Time with family during Thanksgiving can be the worst.

eyes match the cranberry relish, or your brother’s girlfriend who is making like the bird on the table and hasn’t told anyone she’ll be eating for two, or your klepto aunt who is stuffing shit into her purse.

Still not sold? Thanksgiving has the best food of any holiday so sit back, unbutton that top button — we all do it, don’t lie — and eat that delicious food. Most importantly though, while they’re around be grateful and give thanks to the things and people we have in our lives.

## Preparing for Black Friday: How to live through the chaos

**SERGIO MONTANEZ**

*Photographer*

Black Friday is coming up, and it’s never too early to start preparing yourself for the onslaught that is sure to happen.

You survived Thanksgiving, and watched the Detroit Lions lose once again in their annual Thanksgiving Day game, but now it’s time to survive Black Friday.

It’s basically like “The Purge,” but more festive. And the same amount of violence.

Fortunately, The Oakland Post has some great tips to get you through Black Friday without landing yourself behind bars or sacrificing your soul to Cthulhu to get your hands on that 70-inch, 8K flatscreen TV at a merely discounted price of 25% off. Take it or leave it, losers.

### Start early

You want to be one of the first people in the store, so your best bet is to arrive earlier than everyone else. Rather than waking up at 2 a.m., start camping outside the store by tomorrow. Better yet, if it’s a sporting goods outlet, camp

inside their store in one of their many tent displays. You have no life anyway, and you’re not doing that 15-page paper due in two days, so pack up your belongings and go camping.

### The switcheroo

You didn’t go camping and now you’re not sure what to do. Here’s your plan of attack — go in the store, make your way to the back, find the employee break room and put on an employee’s uniform. Go back to the main floor of the store and start “shopping.” Take your hot new items to an exit located

by the back, pretend you’re taking out the trash and then sprint to your car to get away.

Bonus points if you called an Uber to pick you up from the back. It’s a classic take on the Trojan Horse strategy.

### Who’s that celebrity?

Do you have a friend that remotely resembles a celebrity? Great! Get a group of your friends, rent a luxury car — like a Rolls Royce Phantom — and drive to the store. Be sure you drive by the crowd of people so they notice and get distracted.



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There are plenty of ways to survive the insanity that is Black Friday.

You and your other friends will pretend to be bodyguards and you guys will escort your “celebrity” friend past the horde of people and swiftly walk into the store. Once inside, lock the doors and have yourself a Tom Cruise moment from “Risky Business” — shop your heart out in just your shirt and underwear while dancing to “Old Time Rock ‘n’ Roll.”

### The Infinity Gauntlet

This one is a bit of a cosmic doozy. You’ll have to first get your hands on a spaceship, primarily one that can go faster than the speed of light, so you can travel across the universe in a short period of time. After that, all that’s left to do is collect the six infinity stones, get the infinity gauntlet and snap everyone out of existence. Should be a fun trip.

### Avoid Kidz Bop Karen

Do you really want to be told to “calm down” a bunch of times while being intensely stared at? Wherever you decide to shop, there will always be a Karen wanting to speak to the store manager and hold up the line

that stretches out and around the store building. You don’t want to come between Karen and the store manager — NEVER!

On the other hand, if your own mom is a Karen, you might as well go shopping with her and take advantage of that. You will probably get a bigger discount or just get some sort of in-store credit.

### Freeze yourself like Walt Disney

If you really want to survive Black Friday, you might as well skip it. One of the ways you can do that is by cryogenically freezing yourself to conserve your body the way Walt Disney did.

One of the benefits is you get to make the decision when you want to wake up from your “sleeping state.” Whether it’s the next day, or the day after the 2020 election, or you might as well go the “Futurama” route and wake up in a thousand years. In the end, it’s your call. Be aware though, if you “Futurama” yourself, you might wake up in a world where A.I. has taken over the human race. Or maybe it’s apes — “Planet of the Apes.”