

# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Rochester, Michigan

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## BATTING THE BALL AROUND

Golden Grizzlies run up the score in home game against SVSU.

*Page 28*



**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**  
State of Academic Affairs Address  
highlights university priorities  
**PAGE 3**

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**  
President Pescovitz, Provost Rios-  
Ellis talk about the future of OU  
**PAGE 7**

**POLICE FILES**  
Harassing communications, threats  
of extortion on campus in March  
**PAGE 11**

PHOTO BY STANLEY TU



# THIS WEEK

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



**RETRO ROLLER RINK** Student Program Board hosts fun night for students interested in retro skating action in the Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center. Story on pages 14-15. *SOPHIE HUME / PHOTOGRAPHER*

# THE OAKLAND POST

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**6 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**  
LAS plaque reveal ceremony hosts Indigenous community speakers. Photo/Stanley tu



**13 INDUSTRY INSIDER**  
Professor Janell Townsend gives look inside of the field of marketing. Photo/University of Zurich



**26 SOFTBALL SWEEPS**  
Golden Grizzly softball dominates in series against Purdue Fort Wayne. Photo/Golden Grizzlies

## POLL OF THE WEEK

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE ACTOR TO PORTRAY BATMAN?

- A) ROBERT PATTINSON
- B) CHRISTIAN BALE
- C) BEN AFFLECK
- D) GEORGE CLOONEY

## LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHAT ISSUE WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO SEE STUDENT CONGRESS FOCUS ON NEXT YEAR?



2022 State of Academic Affairs details university priorities, updates

LAUREN REID  
Content Editor

President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Britt Rios-Ellis presided over the campus community on March 30 for the 2022 State of Academic Affairs — detailing various initiatives, priorities, strategic investments, finances and funding, and celebrating various members and groups of the campus community exhibiting strength, aspirations, innovations and legacy (SAIL).  
To begin, Rios-Ellis outlined the academic affairs mission and vision — one of “inclusivity, academic distinction and preeminent impact,” before heading into the university’s priorities for 2022-23, which include: student success, faculty achievement, shared governance, community engagement and service learning, integrating diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), professional development and alternative revenue streams.  
“To support student success — we foster transformative learning, high impact practices and distinction in higher education while remaining vigilant regarding diverse ways of

learning,” Rios-Ellis said. “Our team is committed to using quantitative and qualitative information to make inclusive, data informed decisions.”  
In regard to diversifying and supporting the campus community — where 15% of students, 6.8% of professors, 8.2% of associate professors, 10.4% of assistant professors and 13.3% of instructors or special instructors are underrepresented minorities (URM) — Rios-Ellis detailed various initiatives to provide support, including for faculty: a sense of belonging, visibility of accomplishments and refined promotion and tenure processes, and for students: innovative programs, URM mentoring and tutoring, among others.  
Rios-Ellis proceeded to discuss funding, where Oakland University is the least funded of Michigan’s 15 public universities. This was further addressed by Pescovitz later on in the presentation, as OU has the lowest fiscal year equivalent student funding in Michigan, and also relies on tuition revenue more than any other public university in the state.  
Although enrollment is down approximately 9% in the current fiscal year and is expected to decrease for at least the next five years, Pescovitz

detailed a plan that will allow for a balanced budget.  
“Our goal is to strategically balance the budget every year without compromising our mission, our vision, our values and our goals,” Pescovitz said. “[And also] keeping the best interest of our students, faculty, staff and community in mind.”  
The strategy includes expenditure reductions of \$8.9 million to the base budget, added funds from pandemic reserves, a tuition increase below the Governor’s 5% cap and state allocation (assuming OU receives 70% of Governor Whitmer’s higher education budget).  
Rios-Ellis’ portion of the presentation, before Pescovitz stepped in for the President’s update — of which the aforementioned financial update was included in — highlighted the achievements of a plethora of campus individuals and groups.  
“The importance of our work now is to leave a strong legacy for students, faculty and staff for generations to come,” Rios-Ellis said.  
Celebrated individuals, groups and/or organizations included — but were certainly not limited to — Dr. Ilias Chlolis for his research on dark matter, the Master of Arts in Special Education

program, the School of Engineering and Computer Science’s augmented reality center and community leader Justen Daniels.  
Further along in the address, Pescovitz detailed OU’s plans moving forward.  
“The key to the future is the decisions we’re making today,” she said. “Responding strategically to the challenges and fast-changing higher education landscape — we must be bold, we must be innovative and we must be inspirational.”  
As part of this future, OU Focus is an initiative aiming to reimagine OU and take the university to the next level.  
The primary agenda of OU Focus is to elevate OU as a steward of place, foster an engaging campus culture and improve financial education to understand the rationale of strategic direction, as mentioned by Pescovitz.  
Pescovitz closed out the address with a message of appreciation.  
“At the heart of our success and future are the people of Oakland University, the backbone of our beloved campus,” she said. “We greatly value our faculty and staff, and we appreciate all you have done and are doing to support our core — our students.”

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# PRSSA and AMA to host Mocktail Networking Night

**OLIVIA CHIAPPELLI**

*Senior Reporter*

On Thursday, April 14, Oakland University's chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) will be hosting their annual networking night, this year in collaboration with the American Marketing Association at OU (AMA).

The event, titled Mocktail Networking Night, will give students an opportunity to network with local professionals in public relations, communication, marketing, human resources and related fields.

"Mocktail Networking Night has been a great PRSSA tradition since 2019. We had to cancel it in 2020 and hosted a virtual one in 2021 because of COVID-19. We are ready to return in-person this year," Assistant Professor and Faculty Adviser to PRSSA Chiaoning Su said.

The event will take place from 6-8 p.m. in Founders Ballroom A in the Oakland Center and will host around 15 professionals in public relations, advertising, marketing, communication and related fields. Representatives from organizations such as Stellantis (previously Chrysler), Comcast, HOUR Media, Stratacomm, Smith Group, J9 Media Solutions, Green Room Communications, 24G Digital Agency and more are set to attend.

"The goal of this event is to provide students with the opportunity to connect with professionals in their field of interest, all while practicing their

professionalism and networking skills," said Emily Osani, the vice president of OU's chapter of PRSSA.

This year, the event is being supported by the Public Relations Society of America's (PRSA) Detroit chapter, which makes this night an excellent opportunity for not only students, but OU as a community.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRIZZORGS  
PRSSA and AMA are hosting Mocktail Networking Night in-person on April 14 with around 15 local professionals.

"The goal is for students to forge meaningful connections with professionals to advance their careers. In the meantime, this is also a great opportunity to amplify OU's presence and brand in the Metro Detroit area," Su said.

At the event, which is open to anyone, student attendees will rotate in groups in a "speed dating" format to network with professionals and ask questions in a conversational setting. Light appetizers, desserts and refreshments will be provided.

Attendees are advised to dress in business professional attire, and also to bring some printed copies of their resume to hand out to professionals that they connect with. Those interested in attending the event can RSVP on GrizzOrgs.

PRSSA previously hosted their virtual event Coffee, Cocktails and Connection with Michigan State, Grand Valley, Central Michigan, U-M Dearborn and Wayne State — a more casual networking night to get to know some of the other Michigan PRSSA chapters. They also recently hosted the second round of their popular professional headshot event, Headshot Happy Hour.

You can follow PRSSA and AMA on Instagram at @prssa\_ou and @amaoakland, respectively, to stay up to date on their upcoming events and opportunities. Also, for all questions, comments or concerns, email PRSSA at prssaatou@gmail.com.

## Former U.S. Ambassadors visit OU, discuss Abraham Accords

**ARIANNA HEYMAN**

*Senior Reporter*

On Tuesday, March 29, David Fischer, former U.S. ambassador to Morocco, and John Rakolta Jr., former ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), visited Oakland University for a discussion on the historic Abraham Accords.

The Abraham Accords are a series of treaties normalizing diplomatic relations between Israel, Morocco, Bahrain, Sudan and the UAE.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN MCTAGGART  
Former U.S. ambassadors David Fischer and John Rakolta Jr. visited OU on March 29 for a discussion about the Abraham Accords.

"It's complete and thorough recognition of each other. In Morocco's case — while they had a back channel over a number of years — there was no exchange of ambassadors," Fischer said. "There were no direct flights. There were no ministerial meetings and there was very little commerce. We pretty much ignored Israel for 50 years."

Fischer likens the accords to a "refreshing of a relationship." Under the terms of the accords, there has been an exchange of ambassadors, travel restrictions have been lifted and new embassies have been opened.

"The Abraham Accords is a simple aspirational agreement — that peace and prosperity is better than violence, war and death," Rakolta said. "We can see today how important the difference is by what's happening in Ukraine."

Rakolta said that creating economic ties will integrate their societies in a way which will guarantee that they remain allies for a long time to come.

"Trade between Israel and the UAE has expanded 20 fold — almost 3 billion in 2021," Rakolta said. "The amount of investment that's going back and forth is unprecedented proportions. [The] UAE just committed \$10 billion to invest in startups in Israel."

Both ambassadors agree that the cultural similarities between Israel and other gulf nations outweigh their differences.

"From a cultural basis — whether it's art, film, literature or education — they're becoming much closer and bound together," Rakolta said. "They [also

share] common languages — both Arabic and English."

A major factor in the willingness of these nations to make peace is their mutual distrust of Iran and desire for increased protection.

"If you strip away the politics — [the UAE and Israel] both have a common interest," Rakolta said. "That common interest is protecting themselves against Iran."

Fischer expressed that many gulf nations view the Iran deal — which was spearheaded by the U.S. during the Obama Administration was a mistake.

"Everybody is afraid of Iran. Iran is the bad actor [and] evil-doer," Fischer said. "They've got the money. They're funding [terrorists] because they hate Israel and they hate the United States."

Both ambassadors believe that widespread peace throughout the Middle East will encourage diplomatic discussion between Israel and Palestine.

"[With the] missile attacks that were going on into Israel last year — [the UAE was] part of the solution with Egypt and Jordan," Rakolta said. "[They are assisting] to bring peace to this region — they will participate in that discussion as opposed to standing back and watching it unravel."

Rakolta likened the Abraham Accords to the famous Neil Armstrong quote — "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

"[These nations] took one small step to normalize relations with Israel — but one giant leap for the entire region and you're starting to see that come to fruition," Rakolta said.



## OU Center for Autism to host Maureen Ziegler for Autism Acceptance Month

**GRACE LOVINS**

*Senior Reporter*

Maureen Ziegler, Ed.S., advocate and expert on autism in educational settings, is headed back to OU on April 11 to celebrate Autism Acceptance Month with a presentation on how to best support individuals with autism spectrum disorders in a higher education environment.

The presentation, titled Autism Acceptance at OU: Best Practices for Engagement, is open to all students, staff and faculty and will be offered in an on-campus and virtual format from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided for in-person guests but they are welcome to bring their own lunches.

Ziegler is well known in the state for her work in supporting students with autism and other special needs in local school districts and higher education. She previously worked in the Autism Education Center at Grand Valley State University as well as in Clarkston Schools as a teacher for students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

As a teacher in Clarkston Schools, she established program models to aid students in educational environments throughout elementary, middle and high schools. Ziegler specializes in START topics — Statewide Autism Resources and Training — such as educational training and support, peer-to-

peer support, and other related topics.

The event is hosted by OU's Center for Autism with support from OU Student Affairs and Diversity and the School of Education and Human Services. Ziegler's presentation will provide information on how to support individuals with ASD in positions like supervisory roles, student leadership roles, and community leadership positions.

Kristin Rohrbeck, director of the Joanne and Ted Lindsay Foundation Outreach Services known as OUCARES, states that the presentation was planned in order to celebrate the differences that students, faculty and staff have within the community. While celebrating, they also aim to continue to improve the ways in which we support the diverse community, especially the neurodiversity of autism.

She also emphasizes the role the Center for Autism plays for both the campus community and the surrounding community that have or are impacted by autism spectrum disorders.

"All of the events that are offered through the Center for Autism this April, and any time, are very important to support the Autism community," Rohrbeck said.

"I think it's very important that, especially students, but also faculty, staff and the broader community surrounding our university are aware of the high quality supports and services that are offered through the Oakland University Center

for Autism. Our center provides numerous autism programs and works hard to be dynamic and improve our services to meet the changing needs of the community."

In addition to Ziegler's presentation, the OU Center for Autism's community outreach program, OUCARES, will be hosting numerous events throughout April to engage with and support members of the community with or impacted by ASD.

On April 7, a webinar featuring Ron Sandison, successful author and employee with ASD, will discuss overcoming the hopeless complex and the challenges of autism and mental health.

OUCARES will also be hosting Family Fun Day on April 9 for families impacted by ASD. The day will include arts and crafts, bouncy inflatables, swimming, and an information fair. Rohrbeck notes that this event is also currently seeking volunteers to help with the day's activities.

Any individuals interested in attending Ziegler's presentation should RSVP online at the link found in the OU Events Calendar. After completing the RSVP form, the event's Zoom link will be available to virtual participants.

Others interested in volunteering for OUCARES's Family Fun Day or other programs to support the autism community should email [OUCARES@oakland.edu](mailto:OUCARES@oakland.edu).

## Learning about the experiences of the OU AAPI women faculty and staff

**RACHEL YIM**

*Senior Reporter*

The Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) Employee Resource Group at Oakland University held a Zoom panel presentation of OU AAPI women faculty and staff members about the intersectionality of race and gender.

Organized by a group of faculty and staff members at OU that are part of the OU AAPI Employee Resource Group — Ambika Bhargava, Felicia Chong, Ji-Eun Lee, Kuniko Nielsen, Jo Reger, Mi Hye Song and Tomoko Wakabayashi, the one-hour-long Zoom meeting involved discussion of microaggressions, stereotypes, generalizations and their impact on the OU community.

The presentation began with a video of the result of a survey conducted amongst the AAPI community. They were asked, "what is your experience as a female AAPI employee on campus?"

The following are some of their voices:

- "We (people of color) are often excluded from department events."
- "I am expected to do more because I am a woman of color."
- "I found out from the web posting that I had been assigned to teach a new course, and my other course was canceled — there was zero communication from the chair."
- "Over the years, several students

wrote in their evaluations that I should not teach at OU because I have a foreign accent."

- "I was asked if this individual could call me something else because my name was very difficult."

The following are some of the personal experiences of the panel presenters they shared during the Zoom meeting:

**Jo Reger** (Ally to the AAPI Employee Resource Group and community and Chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice)

I felt like there was a conversation that needed to be had. So, I'm on this panel not as an AAPI woman faculty member but as an ally to that community. The reason why we are calling this panel (we are using the word "intersectionality") is that a lot of times, we talk about intersectionality, we talk about having multiple social identities. But what intersectionality really means is that there are times when you have social identities that are so tightly intertwined that you can't really separate out how you are being treated because of one and how you are being treated because of the other. SO, we are really here to talk about what it means to be put in the category of AAPI, in the category of women and in the category of faculty, and how these things intertwine for specific kinds of treatment.

**Tomoko Wakabayashi** (Co-founder of OU AAPI Employee Resource Group and Associate Professor of Human Development and Child Studies)

I was in the [OU] community trying to distribute flyers for my research studies. I found myself in front of the wrong building. Two men came out of the building and offered help in finding where I was trying to go to. One man asked me what I was doing here, so I showed my IRB-approved flyer of my research study and I pointed to the OU logo on my jacket I wore to recruit potential part research participants. This man asked again. "So, what are you doing here? Are you here for a massage?" It really wasn't until I was in my car and on my way back to the campus that I realized that despite me showing my flyer and pointing at my OU jacket, I was still mistaken for a masseuse.

**Mi Hye Song** (Member of OU AAPI Employee Resource Group and Associate Professor of Biological Sciences)

It is critical for each faculty member to have equitable access to essential equipment and research infrastructure to become a productive researcher preparing. [Here] the question is, does each faculty member have an equitable research environment toward research productivity and teaching that involves how many courses are taught and how many new courses are developed, and some class hours and

classroom choices as well as course release due to other services? On the other side, our current teaching review heavily relies on student evaluation. Is there consideration of equity? For example, can we consider revising the student evaluation process to limit the insured biases that affect women and minorities? They're higher frequency. Does each faculty member have an equal opportunity to serve on the committee? There are numerous community opportunities at the department level, such as economic advisors and chairpersons open that are handpicked, or most of them actually through the voting system, cabin advocacy membership. Does that really mean equal opportunity?

**Ambika Bhargava** (Member of OU AAPI Employee Resource Group and Associate Professor of Human Development and Child Studies)

"Because you're East Asian looking uh, so it doesn't matter. I know one word of Chinese." "You're really cool for being an Asian. You're not like other Asians." These are just some of the kinds of questions and statements we have experienced. There are so many more, and I think all of us got together. We could probably, you know, fill a whole book with things that we've heard which are really dumb, offensive, which are upsetting and which we wish people wouldn't say to us.



# LAS plaque reveal ceremony centers Indigenous community

**JEFF THOMAS**

*Editor-in-Chief*

Last Friday's Land Acknowledgement Statement (LAS) plaque reveal ceremony featured a slate of speakers including the people behind OU's LAS and individuals from the broader Indigenous community. The event also outlined plans for the display of two new plaques etched with the statement, as well as a newly-designated Anishinaabe historical site on campus.

OU's LAS, which was crafted over the span of three years by Professor Megan Peiser (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma), English major Ashleigh Dubie (Cherokee), Professor Andrea Knutson and Professor Mozhgon Rajae with the help of Indigenous leaders in the area, was approved by the University Senate in Feb. 2021 and formally announced to the campus community in May 2021.

Two plaques etched with the entirety of OU's LAS will be installed on campus as visible displays for the campus community, with one plaque going in Kresge Library and the other in the Oakland Center. The statement is featured completely in italics below.

"Oakland University resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. The land was ceded in the 1807 Treaty of Detroit and makes up southeast Michigan.

In recognizing the history and respecting the sovereignty of Michigan's Indian Nations, Oakland University honors the heritage of Indigenous communities and their significant role in shaping the course of this region. Further, we recognize the wrongs done to those forcibly removed from their Homelands and commit to fostering an environment of inclusion that is responsive to the needs of First Peoples through our words, policies and actions.

The preservation and perpetuation of customs and traditions of Indigenous nations are essential to our shared cultural heritage. A deep

understanding of Native peoples' past and present informs the teaching, research and community engagement of the university in its ongoing effort to elevate the dignity of all people and serve as shared stewards of the land."

The event began with people occupying the ballroom while musician Joe Reilly (Cherokee) played his acoustic guitar and sang. President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz then took the stage to formally begin the ceremony. Her speech thanked those responsible for creating OU's LAS, while also affirming the university's long-term commitment to Indigenous peoples.

"The words that are etched in this plaque at Oakland University are by no means simply words," Pescovitz said. "The statement is just one step, but it cannot be our only step. The statement cannot be seen as our attempt to just check a box when it comes to diversity, equity and inclusion. It must be backed up by our continued journey to advance diversity and tolerance at Oakland. Quite simply, our acknowledgment statement must be a representation of our values. The statement references the past, but the statement must reflect our actions in the present and our commitment to honoring and acknowledging native peoples who have been historically marginalized, from American institutions, from politics, and from academia. Making a college education more accessible to Native communities is part of showing our commitment. Our goals must include supporting more Native American students in their higher educational journey, and recruiting and retaining Native Americans."

Perhaps the most newsworthy part of Pescovitz's speech was her announcement of a newly designated historical site on campus.

"I'd like to announce the designation of an Anishinaabe historical site for Oakland University," Pescovitz said. "The parcel of land is located on South Campus near Library Drive south of Pioneer Drive. We are so excited about this and honored that we can now designate this site and look forward to an ongoing friendship."

Knutson took the stage after Pescovitz. In her speech she urged supporters of OU's LAS to donate to The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition — an organization dedicated to undoing the harm boarding schools inflicted on Indigenous peoples.

Knutson went on to thank those involved in crafting OU's LAS, specifically highlighting the work of OU students Tara Maudrie (Sault Sainte Marie tribe of Chippewa Indians) and Dubie, and encouraging future students to help continue the important work of building this community on campus.

"This work that we've done over the last few years could not have been done without the leadership of Native American students on this campus," Knutson said. "... We would like to invite our Native American students on this campus into leadership positions as we move forward with this work."

Knutson then introduced Dubie, who took her time on stage to reflect on her work crafting OU's LAS, what it means to leave a legacy and how she can contribute to a better future for her community.

"Rather than thinking about what I will do to have me remembered, I want to think about what I will do that will help my community," Dubie said. "I was taught to always think seven generations beyond me, to think about those that will come after me. This land acknowledgement and the work I do in education has those generations at the forefront of my mind."

Dubie proceeded to read the entirety of OU's LAS before introducing Peiser, who was unable to attend the ceremony and presented her speech in a pre-recorded video. She too spoke about this acknowledgement statement being an important step in OU's commitment to Indigenous peoples.

"I'm so grateful for all of the hands who have lent themselves to this essential first step, and speaking the truth about the history of land theft, and genocide, the places here on plan today," Peiser said. "... This land acknowledgement is a seed to put on our mouths and in our hearts and minds. It does not absolve past wrongs inflicted brutally upon Indigenous peoples — it does not reconcile us to the original people of this land. Rather, it is a promise to move forward with the responsibility of being good relatives to this land."

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Britt Rios-Ellis then took the stage, sharing a few words on the importance of OU's LAS before introducing the next Native American speaker Eric Hemenway (Anishinaabe). He spoke about his extensive history working to preserve the history and culture of Indigenous peoples in Michigan.

Hemenway shared a creation myth about people being created in the Great Lakes and spoke to the importance of our relationship to the land here, before sharing a harrowing story about his experience reclaiming some of his ancestors and performing a burial ceremony.

"It was really, really emotional ... It was as if the whole village was coming alive," Hemenway said. "... It was our duty as Anishinaabe people in the present day to take care of our ancestors."

Rios-Ellis then retook the stage to introduce the final speakers of the ceremony, Indigenous community members Wayne Cleland and his father Jerry Cleland. Both men were also prominently featured during last fall's OU Peace Day Concert.

Wayne Cleland spoke on the harm boarding schools inflicted on Indigenous peoples and how OU's LAS is important for Indigenous people to be able to connect with their communities while receiving their education.

"In my dad's situation, he didn't get back to his community till he was 30 or 35 years old," Wayne Cleland said. "... So with this land acknowledgement here at this school, that's a good thing for all the students who may come here who might be in the same situation my dad was raised in."

The ceremony then concluded with Jerry Cleland performing a song of prayer and a blessing. He thanked young Indigenous people for continuing to push for change, and urged us all to do better for our fellow man during these difficult times and act as better stewards of the land going forward.



PHOTO BY STANLEY TU  
President Pescovitz speaking with Indigenous community member Wayne Cleland at last Friday's Land Acknowledgement Statement plaque reveal ceremony.



## Interview with President Pescovitz after State of Academic Affairs Address

**JEFF THOMAS**

*Editor-in-Chief*

Following last Wednesday's State of Academic Affairs Address, President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Britt Rios-Ellis sat down for an interview with The Post to answer questions about the future of OU. This article outlines and provides context to that discussion.

The State of Academic Affairs Address was a mix of celebrating OU's successes in the pandemic era, while also acknowledging challenges facing the university moving forward. The main challenges being achieving financial policy decisions that allow OU to balance its budget, without compromising its academic mission or appeal to students.

OU's enrollment is down approximately 9% in the current fiscal year and is expected to decrease further over the next five years. OU is the least funded of Michigan's 15 public universities, receiving only about \$3,000 per student, and is therefore heavily reliant on enrollment and the funds received from tuition dollars.

During the address, \$8.9 million in cuts to OU's base budget were announced as part of offsetting the financial impact of decreased enrollment. Similarly, Pescovitz confirmed that tuition rates will likely be increased over the summer.

When asked exactly how much that increase in tuition would be Pescovitz said, "We don't know. What I committed to ... What I said in my presentation is the governor has a cap [where tuition can't be increased by more than 5% at once] ... It'll be below that cap. I suspect there will be some increase."

Last summer, tuition was increased 4.2% by the Board of Trustees (BOT). There was a tuition rate freeze for one year due to the pandemic, but otherwise an approximate 4% increase in tuition rates has been standard in recent years. It is worth noting that, while tuition will likely increase, the university recently embraced faculty and student efforts in making course materials more affordable.

Concerning state funding, Pescovitz revealed during the address the optimism that OU leaders have concerning Governor Gretchen Whitmer's proposed budget and the university's Strive for 45 campaign. That campaign was launched to help lobby Lansing in favor of raising OU's funding per student to \$4,500. If Whitmer's current budget proposal is approved OU could be on track to achieve that goal over the next four years, which would be hugely beneficial for the university.

"The things that were in the budget for this year that she has proposed [were a] 5%, increase for base [funding] for one time, and to go from \$3,000 to \$3,500 this year," Pescovitz said. "So if [that] happened, that would be amazing. We are not expecting [that] ... We're expecting 70% of that ... That was the assumption we made in our budget prediction. So we don't know exactly what's going to happen, but I actually predict that we'll get the \$3,500."

The other component of the university acquiring funds via tuition and state funding is keeping enrollment as high as possible. In order to make sure that OU attracts and retains students going forward, during the address Provost Rios-Ellis outlined the university's focus on strengthening diversity, equity and inclusion and expanding academic opportunities with new graduate studies and specialized major and minor programs.

There have been concerns from faculty about

changes to course occupancy rules, and a new reported 80% enrollment threshold requirement for courses to proceed in the semester that they're scheduled. The main concern being that this requirement could jeopardize a number of course offerings in the College of Arts and Sciences, including new specialized majors and minors. Rios-Ellis addressed those concerns.

"We're trying to be really sensitive around and careful around budget cuts that we've had to make," Rios-Ellis said. "... So in order to do that, we really have to take a critical look at it are we offering undergraduate courses with three or four people? ... Most universities have an enrollment level at which classes have to get to ... We want to have 20 to 25 students in each course. That doesn't mean that we would cancel the course if a chair comes to a dean, and then comes to us and says, 'Hey, we've got eight students in this class, but all eight need this class to graduate, we're gonna hold that class.' We're not going to cancel that class. There's no way we could do that. But we have to have a consciousness of really trying to create ways in which we can achieve a more optimal enrollment per class, or eventually we would have to make larger, more severe cuts and we don't want to do that."

When asked to confirm that 80% enrollment threshold requirement number Rios-Ellis said, "We established a policy, but what we said when we established the policy was, 'We'll work with everyone.'"

Another issue touched on during the address, that students and faculty are concerned about, is the issue of a lack of space on campus. There are several ongoing campus construction projects that will expand space for the campus community; what still hasn't been finalized is the recently reported university plans for an acquisition of what was formerly the Baker College Auburn Hills campus.

Pescovitz was asked about progress on making that deal and the reported \$8.15 million price tag for acquiring the facility — spending that the BOT would have to approve.

"We're very interested in it, but we have to do due diligence on what it would actually cost to be in there," Pescovitz said. "[\$8.15 million] was the purchase price, but to actually be in there, and there would be renovations, we don't know the full price of the renovations. It could cost substantially more to do all the renovations that would be necessary ... It's in a very good location. It has very good classroom facilities for the kinds of things that we are looking for, for many of the kinds of classrooms that we need ... It has a lot of terrific opportunities. But we don't have enough money right now to fully pay for it. So we're looking for other sources of support. If we can get enough to cover the bulk of what it would cost then it becomes a no brainer."

Another theme of the address was facilitating collaboration on campus and getting faculty, students and staff to buy in and support university leadership's vision for the future of OU. A major story this year has been the divide between Oakland University's Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (OU AAUP) faculty members and the upper administration following last summer's contentious faculty contract negotiations.

The recently announced Faculty Board Liaison Task Force (FBLTF) has the potential to be a significant step in the right direction for improving the relationship between OU AAUP faculty and OU's upper-administration. The task force's first scheduled

meeting is April 11. Pescovitz shared her thoughts heading into that meeting.

"There's been a hunger for people to have an opportunity to just get to know each other," Pescovitz said. "I'm well aware of the fact that there's been a sense that there hasn't been an adequate amount of opportunity for communication ... [FBLTF is] a great opportunity for the [BOT] to get to know the faculty leaders here."

When the FBLTF was first announced there was some skepticism from faculty, especially since OU AAUP's proposed faculty liaison plan was denied by the BOT, about how sincere the upper administration is being with efforts to repair relations. Pescovitz acknowledged those concerns.

"Every task force that I have charged has been effective in my career," Pescovitz said. "... A lot of the tension [between the university and faculty] had to do with the contract negotiations ... By improving communications now, we can set the stage so that we will have hopefully smoother negotiations next time around. And that's really important to us. We want to have better lines of communication."

One impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the university that was specifically touched upon during the address is "The Great Resignation" — the phenomenon of people migrating away from their workplaces to pursue other opportunities since the beginning of the pandemic.

On one hand, the university sees The Great Resignation as an opportunity to attract individuals interested in returning to higher education, but on the other hand OU could face difficulties in attracting and retaining talented staff. President Pescovitz touched upon what these changes could mean for OU going forward.

"Are we losing some of our best people? That may happen, that would be unfortunate, but some of that re-sizing may be okay for an institution with a certain amount of declining enrollment," Pescovitz said. "... We certainly don't want that to happen to an excessive degree. And we are very enthusiastic and excited about our future ... In spite of the 9% decline in enrollment that we [addressed] today because we don't think that the sky is falling ... Will there be shifts in faculty? There will be some, but I think we have to put it in perspective and say that ... Some of that is the natural consequence of turnover that happens."



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN MCTAGGART/OU  
President Pescovitz and Provost Rios-Ellis on stage during last Wednesday's State of Academic Affairs Address. Following the event, they sat down with The Post to answer some questions for the campus community.



# Career Services hosts Sweet Monday for post-grad success

**GRACE LOVINS**

Senior Reporter

Career Services hosted Sweet Monday on March 28, offering all students the opportunity to drop in for help from career ambassadors and enjoy free Krispy Kreme donuts. The themed studio event ran from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and offered guidance on resumes, cover letters, professional profile building and more.

Aaditya Dhiman, Aadeesh Dhiman, and Carly Kallen, career ambassadors, helped organize and operate the event as a means of encouraging students to utilize the resources career services offer. Like other interactive offices on campus, engagement with career services declined during the pandemic.

Kallen hoped that by hosting Sweet Monday, traffic in the office would increase and students would be able to gain help in their career planning while having fun with the ambassadors and enjoying some free sweets. By reaching out directly to freshmen and sophomores as well as posting fliers around campus, the trio called the event a success and were able to meet with a large number of students.

The three career ambassadors state just how beneficial a visit to the career services office can be for students, regardless of their year. Aaditya and Aadeesh Dhiman, both freshmen, knew about the office prior to attending OU. They each note how coming in for help with interview prep, resumes

and more allowed them to excel in their career search and even join the ambassador team.

"I didn't even have a resume before coming here," Aadeesh said. "I got to make a resume, I got to prepare for interviews and then eventually interview for this job. It really helped me be more prepared as an individual, not only for this job but also for my future interviews I had with some different employers."

Not only does the drop-in studio aid students with resumes and cover letters, they also offer support with preparing for events like career fairs on campus, establishing professional profiles on platforms like LinkedIn, and how to utilize and navigate Handshake.

In addition to Sweet Monday, career services will also be hosting similar themed studio events during April. On Thursday, April 7, Careers and Coffee will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. where students are able to drop into North Foundation for some coffee and conversations about career planning or help with interviews, resumes, and more.

Candy Land Mayhem, a themed event that offers a chance to win candy and prizes, will take place on Wednesday, April 13. Students are able to drop in whenever their schedule allows for help with career prep. The trio will also be operating a table near Elliott Clock Tower with free donuts and hot chocolate at some point this month.

Career services offers drop-in sessions regularly on Mondays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. No appointment is required and the drop-in studio is available on campus and virtually.

For more information, students can visit the Career Services page on the OU website. Kallen also encourages students to check out their social media pages as well as the events tab on Handshake to stay in touch with future event offerings.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAREER SERVICES  
Career services hosted a "Sweet Monday" event on March 28, 2022 for drop in career advice and donuts.

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# Residents can enjoy a day of fun with Grizzlies in the Galaxy

JOSEPH POPIS  
Senior Reporter

Join the Residence Life Association (RLA) for Grizzlies in the Galaxy on Saturday, April 9. This day is a celebration for Oakland University on-campus residents and their siblings, and will feature several festivities.

The lineup includes:  
**Space Sweets and Treats** — 9 to 10 a.m., Hamlin Circle  
**Out of this World caricatures and tarot readings** — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Oak View Hall  
**Galactic face painting and lawn games** — 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Oak View front lawn and Hamlin Circle  
**Celestial Crafting** — 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Van Wagoner main lounge  
**“Wall-E” movie night** — 7 to 9 p.m., Oak View front lawn  
First 100 students will receive a free blanket.

“Grizzlies in the Galaxy [will] be a spectacular celebration of (OU) students and their siblings,” Programming Coordinator for RLA Ashley Waldecker said. “Residents on campus will be able to participate in a day filled with out-of-this-world activities. Each event during the day will allow students to have a memorable experience while taking home a component for their sibling to enjoy.”  
Grizzlies in the Galaxy provides some fun theming as well, a twist on the annual siblings’ weekend.  
“This event is a twist on our annual siblings’ weekend that has taken

place for multiple years,” Waldecker said. “Considering COVID-19 and concerns for large gatherings of people, we are hoping this event provides a safe and fun way for students to enjoy the day and share that fun with their siblings. We strive to provide great opportunities for students to interact with our (OU) community and have wonderful experiences, and we want to ensure everyone is safe while doing so.”  
Waldercker mentioned the event provides students an opportunity to celebrate their hard work and promotes school pride. Even siblings of OU on-campus residents will receive prizes.  
“I think students can gain fun and memorable experiences by attending this event,” Waldecker said. “It will provide a way for students to relax and enjoy their Saturday while building a sense of community with fellow OU students. Additionally, this event allows students to appreciate their siblings and provide them with some treats.”  
RLA enjoys seeing students engaged in the residential community spreading pride with other students and their siblings. In addition, they enjoy watching students build memories and add to their college experience.  
“RLA gets the joy of seeing students engage in the residential community and spread OU pride to their fellow students and siblings,” Waldecker said. “We enjoy watching students having a great time and building memories that strengthen their college experience.”

# Sudoku

5		1				8	9	6
6	7	8	5	9	2			
		4	1				2	7
		2		5				
1		5	8				6	3
	6		4				7	
2			3	4	8		5	
9			2			3	4	8
		3			5		1	

	2	9	4		7	8		5
8								2
	1		6			7		
		5	1		9	4	2	3
9	8	2						6
	4		7					8
	5				6	3	9	
		6		7			8	4



PHOTO COURTESY OF RLA ON GRIZZORGS  
On April 9, the Residence Life Association presents Grizzlies in the Galaxy.



# Three individuals in custody after campus armed robbery attempt

**GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH**

*Campus Editor*

The Oakland University Police Department (OUPD) is investigating an armed robbery attempt that took place on Wednesday Mar. 30 at approximately 6:15 p.m. in the P-5 parking lot next to Oak View Hall.

A female student reported to OUPD that she was approached by a white 4 door sedan occupied by 2 college-aged males.

As she was walking through the parking lot, the suspect in the passenger seat allegedly rolled down his window, pointed a gun at her and told her, "Give me all your money."

No money was given to the suspects, and the female student immediately walked into a residential building. The vehicle left the victim shortly thereafter, heading north in the P-5 lot.

The incident was reported to OUPD just after 7:00 p.m., who responded to the area and reviewed surveillance footage.

There are currently three arrested individuals in connection to this incident that are in police custody.

Mari Romund, a student double-majoring in accounting and finance, first heard about the armed robbery through the university text alert system while attending a night class.

"I was actually in an exam, so when I turned my phone on after, I saw it. I was kind of scared because I didn't know what time it was sent, and I don't know the parking lots off the top of my

head either."

Romund expressed concern for the victim of the attempted armed robbery, and described not knowing the full situation at the time as a "scary experience."

"It would have been really scary to be that student. Either way, whether it was a real weapon or not, that's still very inappropriate, especially for a college campus."

Alexa Mirobski, a sophomore studying international relations, was driving to the Rec Center when she first heard about the incident.

"It was a little bit scary because I was going to end up getting back to my dorm at night...where it [the attempted robbery] had happened was where I usually park. So, I was just scared a little bit."

After learning that people were in police custody after the incident, Mirobski felt relieved that they were apprehended so quickly.

"It made me feel a lot after that they were apprehended so quickly. I didn't have to worry about it anymore," she said.

Campus community members who may opt in receiving OUPD text alerts might have seen an alert was sent just after 5:00 p.m. regarding a medical situation in Hamlin Hall that also occurred on Mar. 30 prior to the armed robbery attempt.

According to OUPD Police Chief Gordon, the OUPD dispatch received a call on Wednesday afternoon that an individual was in need of immediate medical attention. The police had reason to believe the person was located in Hamlin Hall,

but an exact location was not yet determined. Police and housing staff conducted a room search from 4:40 p.m. to shortly after 6:00 p.m., and no individual in need of medical attention was identified.

OUPD does not believe the armed robbery attempt and the medical situation in Hamlin Hall are connected in any way.

Anyone with information regarding the armed robbery attempt should contact the OUPD at 248-370-3331.



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH  
OU's public safety building. Last week OUPD had to respond to a reported armed robbery attempt.

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# Police Files: harassing communications and extortion

**TORI COKER**

*Marketing Director*

## Harassing Communications

Around 3:00 a.m. on March 10, 2022, an Oakland University Police Department (OUPD) officer was following up on several reported disturbances inside Hamlin Hall when he spoke to a resident who reported that she kept receiving unwanted visits from one individual she knew and several others she didn't, with the latter group making attempts to fight her upon arrival.

The victim had reportedly been arguing frequently with the subject she knew leading up to the string of incidents; upon being contacted, said subject claimed to have been threatened by the victim during their disputes.

All three subjects were ordered to refrain from contacting the victim further, with the latter two advised to remain within the dorm until 7 a.m., when they were to leave.

The next night — around 2:21 a.m. on March 11 — the OUPD officer was informed by the victim that the subjects had returned to her dorm, despite her objections to contact with the subject she knew and the previous orders made to the ones she didn't to depart campus. The latter group was reportedly

once again making attempts to fight her.

Upon arriving, the OUPD officer saw subject(s) outside of the victim's door before attempts to flee were made. Detainment of the two threatening subjects followed; in response, one of them began behaving disorderly, resisting the officer's verbal commands and physical attempts to subdue her before she was led out of the building. Both subjects



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD  
A view of OU's campus.

were ultimately released at the scene and ordered a second time not to return to campus.

## Extortion - Threat to Injure Reputation

Around 1:08 a.m. on March 11, 2022, the OUPD was contacted by someone on campus reporting a threat of extortion.

The victim reported that he had received a direct message via Instagram around 12:30 a.m. from someone he did not recognize but who shared mutual followers with him. The two parties began a conversation that eventually moved onto Snapchat and gradually evolved into one of sexual nature. The subject began sending the victim nude photos, before requesting a photo of the victim's face. The victim complied with this request, though did not reciprocate the sharing of nudity.

The subject then sent the victim a nude photo of someone who looked similar to the victim — close enough so that the victim was not positive it wasn't him in the photo. The subject threatened to send this photo to friends and family of the victim's through social media unless he received \$400 from the victim.

The victim did not comply with this last request, opting instead to block the subject on each account he knew to be his. The subject then attempted to make contact through a different account — in all, he utilized three different profiles in efforts to reach the victim.

# Gay Straight Alliance presents Healthy Relationships 101

**JOSEPH POPIS**

*Senior Reporter*

On Thursday, April 7, the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) organization presents the HAVEN - Healthy Relationships 101 event. This event will take place in the Lake Superior Room of The Oakland Center (OC) from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Cyrelle Wheeler, a speaker from HAVEN, a shelter for domestic violence and sexual assault victims located in Pontiac, will give a presentation on healthy relationships. The presentation will address the difference between healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships.

President of Gay Straight Alliance Marissa Romund emphasizes having a presentation to cater to the LGBT community.

"It's really important for people in the LGBT community to have a presentation geared towards them. So they can realize ways that their relationships can be unhealthy because it's not always taught to us in a different type of relationship dynamic how it can be unhealthy," Romund said.

This event can help LGBT people form distinctions and realize that their relationships might be unhealthy, Romund mentioned.

"It can help LGBT people kind of form that distinction and realize, 'Oh, maybe the relationship that I'm in, even though it might not look like what a typically unhealthy relationship might look like, it's unhealthy in its own way,'" Romund said. "It's just

spreading awareness, specifically in the community, that is lacking awareness in this context."

Romund mentions that we see unhealthy relationships are often portrayed through media, and they are clear to recognize. At the same time, more minor things aren't always recognized.

"I think that a lot of times, I think we're all heavily influenced by the media, and in the media, unhealthy relationships are very clear to recognize," Romund said. "And so we might miss the smaller things about relationships that make it unhealthy when it's not completely a violent relationship. It can still be unhealthy in another way."

It can also be hard to see when you are the individual within the unhealthy relationship versus being on the outside looking in, Romund emphasizes. This meeting aims to have students look at their own relationships.

"I think that we're mostly taught the extremes of it and not necessarily the little things," Romund said. "It's also difficult to identify an unhealthy relationship when you're the one in it versus when it's someone you know. It's much easier to see [when you're viewing on the outside]. Another goal of this meeting is to have students look inward at their own relationships and be able to recognize signs."

Through this presentation, students can grow and learn healthy relationship skills. Romund said that relationships can get better over time.

"We can all grow and learn more healthy relationship skills," Romund said. "I think that



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRIZZORGS  
On April 7, the GSA will present HAVEN - Healthy Relationships 101.

relationships are something that could always be improving. So whether or not your relationship is healthy, you still might find something that you can improve on. Learning new communication skills, just learning how to be a better partner."

Romund highlights wanting everyone to be aware of this topic, and this meeting can provide that.

"As President, my mission is always to educate and help my community grow," Romund said. "And so I feel like, once again, this is an underrepresented topic that we talk about, and I think it's very important that everyone has the awareness that this meeting will teach them."





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# Industry Insider: OU Marketing Chair offers field insight

**SIERRA OKONIEWSKI**  
*Contributor*

Dr. Janell Townsend isn't just a professor of marketing and business. The Oakland University educator is challenging her students to identify their passions and swing for them head on.

After graduating from Wayne State with a degree in finance, Townsend worked as an analyst with a real estate investment company. She realized, however, that she wasn't enjoying her work in the way she had hoped.

After becoming a mother, she switched gears to pursue a Ph.D. in marketing and international business from Michigan State University.

"I've always loved business and I've always been a natural marketer," Townsend said. "When I was in junior high, I used to make crafts and sell them. I think it's really important for people to figure out how to put the pieces together of the skill sets you need in order to pursue your passions."

In 2005, Dr. Townsend accepted a position with the OU Department of Management and Marketing, of which she is now chair. The Oakland Post sat down with this expert in global marketing strategy to discuss

her perspective on the marketing field at large.

**Q: Describe the overarching culture of the marketing field.**

**A:** It's a dynamic space that's constantly evolving. The culture of marketing is creative and fast-moving. There's a lot of change – it's knowing who your customers are and what their needs are.

**Q: What has surprised you about working in marketing?**

**A:** You really need to have a strong analytical skill set. Marketing isn't easy – marketing looks like it's easy when it's done well.

If you don't understand your marketing strategy and execute well on that, you're not going to survive. The biggest surprise is that realization – that epiphany – that if you're not [strategizing] well, then eventually everything else will crumble.

**Q: What's your favorite part of working in marketing?**

**A:** To be able to connect with people. It almost goes back to this idea that [marketing is] facilitating transactions in a way that builds relationships with people.

A lot of times it's about helping people build their dreams. You're helping to make people's lives better.

**Q: What is your least favorite part**

**of the marketing field?**

**A:** There's this impression people have that somehow marketing is nefarious. And sure, in any area, there's always that potential, but that's not what marketing is.

Marketing isn't about getting people to buy things they don't really want or need. Marketing is about creating value.

**Q: What insights do you wish you had been given at the beginning of your career?**

**A:** Explore as many different things as possible. Think about what you want your life to look like.

Look for people who are doing jobs that you want to have. Who are the people you look at and go, 'wow, that's really cool'? Go talk to them. When you're a student, people will be willing to help you out.

Getting involved in student organizations is one of the most important things you can do, no matter your field. Those are the students that I see who get the best jobs, who have the best careers moving forward and then also give back to students.

**Q: How do you see your field evolving in the present day?**

**A:** It's the technology and the digital transformation. The velocity of change in so many fields has picked



PHOTO BY LAUREN REID  
This installment of Industry Insider focuses on marketing.

up because of advances in technology.

With that has come a lot more opportunities, but there's also a lot more challenges that come into play. For example, managing your brand. Right now, with social media, your brand can be absconded with very quickly.

**Q: What direction do you see marketing headed in the future?**

**A:** A bigger focus on customer experiences. I think there's a constant evolution with business in general, so as long as we have a free-market system, it's just keeping on top of that evolution.



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# Retro Roller Rink: a unique event to end the school year

As the school year almost comes to an end, the Student Program Board (SPB) put on a fun and unique event for students to attend — Retro Roller Rink. The event took place on Tuesday, March 29 in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms at 7 p.m.

During the event skates were provided, a DJ from WXOU and food.

“A lot of students enjoyed it, it was just an amazing atmosphere, there was music and skating,” Kaleigh Belz, Annual Events Director at SPB said. “It tends to be a very social event which is always nice for students to relax and hang out.”

This event was a collaboration with the Greek Council because this past week was Greek Week at Oakland University (OU). The Greek Council put on events every day last week toward the Fraternity and Sorority Life demographic, but since SPB was already planning on doing this event last week, they teamed up.

“We wanted to be able to help one expand their audience and just reach a broader pool of students during the week of already full events,” Belz said. “We weren’t necessarily competing against each other but rather collaborating with them.”

To bring the roller rink event to life, SPB worked with a vendor to bring in all the rental roller skates as well as an artificial floor for the banquet rooms.

“We work with a lot of different vendors, and we were initially playing around with the idea of trying to do an artificial ice rink, but that didn’t end up being available,” Belz said.

The vendor then recommended a roller skating rink, and SPB saw this as an opportunity to have a more unique event this close to the end of the year.

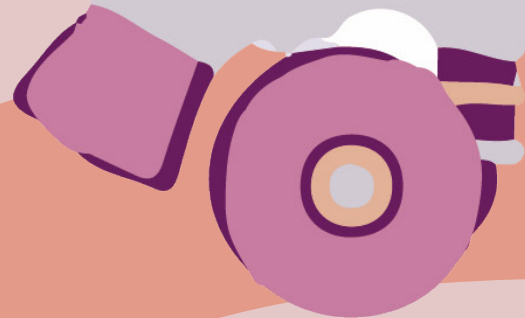
Throughout the course of the event there were about 200 students that showed up to the event. With the event happening on a

Tuesday, SPB was hoping students that were already on campus would just be able to stay for the event, instead of having it on a Friday or Saturday where typically there’s less students on campus and students having to make their way to campus for the day.

“Similar events happen during the week because students stay on campus for them because we’re such a large commuter campus it’s hard to pull back students for an event on a weekend,” Belz said.

SPB still has a couple events left for the end of the semester. They have Expo of the Mind, which will be held on April 12 in the Habitat. This event is a mental health event and will discuss why mental health is so important and how to deal with stress.

Another event SPB is holding in April is Zuzu Acrobats on April 14 in the Habitat. This event will have Zuzu African acrobats performing.







Design by Bridget Janis

Story by Bridget Janis

Photos by Sophie Hume



# Andy Isaac talks Detroit sports and media journey

**MATTHEW SCHEIDEL**

*Sports Editor*

Known for his love of food and Detroit sports, Andy Isaac has become a huge figure in the Detroit area. Fans have grown to love him for his goofy banter and his food and snack reviews.

Isaac, 42, grew up in Sterling Heights, Michigan but currently resides in Troy. A graduate of Michigan State, his brand of sports talk and authentic humor have made him one of the most likable figures in Detroit sports media.

Isaac's love of sports started at an early age, mainly his love of basketball.

"When I was little I was very into sports," Isaac said. "My parents were immigrants and basketball was big in Egypt, so was soccer, but I was never into soccer as a kid and I was very into basketball. My dad really loved the Pistons, so much so that... we used to listen to games on the radio together a lot, which was great. I think it was a really good bonding experience for us."

Isaac's journey into the world of digital media may be seen as a bit unconventional in today's media landscape, but when he got his start in the mid 2000s, things were much different.

"I started out not in digital media," Isaac said. "I was doing personal finance and stuff. And then oddly enough...you have to think about this as how digital media was kind of constructed in the early 2000s. A lot of people had personal blogs and stuff and that's how a lot of us got our start."



PHOTO BY MIKE MULHOLLAND

Andy Isaac has become a huge figure in the Detroit sports media landscape. Photo taken from Isaac's Instagram.

Isaac's blog underwent quite the evolution from there. It started out as updates about his personal health, but it transitioned to his thoughts about Detroit sports and pop culture.

"At the end of 2006, I got diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma," Isaac said. "So I started this cancer blog pretty much to update my friends who lived all around the country. So I started this blog as opposed to just emailing people with updates. I would keep just like a simple blog. And it started out as just updating people on how my treatment was going and how I was feeling and then it kind of evolved from there into me writing about sports, especially Detroit sports and pop culture things. And it evolved even further from there."

Isaac has gained a huge following on Twitter [@WorldofIsaac], currently amassing almost 67,000 followers as of writing this. As far as how this has happened, Isaac said it was simply a case of right place, right time.

"I think a lot of people who are big on these social media platforms get in at kind of the genesis of the platform," Isaac said. "And it was a lot easier to acquire users. I'm not saying that I wasn't interesting or didn't have cool things to say and to share. But I also was very lucky in that I got into Twitter when there weren't as many users."

One of the things that has shaped Isaac's personality and his social media presence has been his love of food. It started with his blog, and has continued to be a huge part of who he is.

"I've really leaned into the food stuff because I wanted to highlight a lot of the places in Michigan," Isaac said. "A lot of people I don't think knew how much Michigan had to offer in terms of different kinds of food. And if you follow me a lot, you know that I like to visit Dearborn because there's a lot of different Arabic food there. And I just think it's good to highlight some of the positive things we have in this area."

Isaac has used his love of food to create an unofficial holiday of sorts. Every Saturday, in his world, is now Faturday, although he can't take credit for the term itself.

He said it was kind of a joke at first, but has spawned into a way of life.

"I had been saying that Saturday was a cheat day," Isaac said. "And Saturday was a great day for people to just go out and find different food places. And then I remember somebody responding, 'Yeah, it's not it's not Saturday, it's Faturday.' Initially if it was just a hashtag and just something that we joked around about on Twitter especially, and then you know, you know, like it just became like a bigger thing and like, I made some t-shirts and people bought t-shirts and it was very fun."

"The mantra of 'Saturday as your cheat day,' really, really caught on with a lot of people," Isaac continued. "Especially people who like to eat really well during the week and just want that cheat meal or that cheat day. And I love it. And I really think it could probably get bigger."

As mentioned earlier, Isaac was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2006. Despite having one of the highest survival rates among all cancers, Isaac has relapsed on it several times since diagnosis.

He's undergone several different treatments, yet the disease keeps coming back.

"They say that Hodgkin's is 'the good cancer to have,'" Isaac said. "Hodgkin's, even back in 2006, had a very high survivability. You know, it was 85-90% I think back then, unfortunately for me, I relapsed after initial treatment and then I had to get a stem cell transplant in 2009. And I relapsed after the stem cell transplant. So they categorize my Hodgkin's as something called refractory Hodgkin's lymphoma. It's kind of like a relapsing recurrent. Basically, you treat it and it comes back and you treat it again and it comes back. So that's the unfortunate part of my disease."

Isaac said he's currently on an immunotherapy drug that is normally not prescribed for Hodgkin's.

"It's working. It's not working to the effect that it's going to cure me — nothing's really I don't think is going to cure me — but it's doing it's keeping the disease at bay, and it's keeping it from spreading, which for me is pretty important."

Last year, Isaac started doing some work for Woodward Sports. He started by doing a video series called "Isaac Eats," where he highlighted different restaurants and eateries in the greater Detroit area.

He's also helped them with their social media content, as well as some behind the scenes stuff. Isaac said he doesn't have the time to do more stuff with Woodward Sports, but acknowledges the importance of media outlets like them.

"I really think places like Woodward Sports are very important to the fan culture in cities," Isaac said. "You need these alternate places for fans to grow. It can't just be all straight print journalism."

As far as what's next for Isaac, he said everything depends on his health.

"It's hard for me to project where I'm going to be in the future because of that," Isaac said. "I really hope that one day I'll be able to get back into making food videos and I think not only do I enjoy them, but I think people also enjoy them. That's the hope — fingers crossed that I start to feel better and can start making videos on a more consistent basis."



# Go gold with Gold Vibrations A Cappella

**D'JUANNA LESTER**

Senior Reporter

Gold Vibrations, an Oakland University A Cappella group, has a passion for performing, as well as an affinity for sparkly gold outfits.

Gold Vibrations is one of OU's performance groups. Started in 2009, they are not associated with the School of Music, Theatre and Dance. They perform several times throughout the year with concerts, competitions and gigs around campus.

"We have an unconventional e-board," President Jazz Pittenger says. "I joined the group my freshman year. I helped out a little with social media and stuff. I became the president my sophomore year, and this year is my second year as president. We have extra positions than most groups."

Pittenger says there are many positions in the group, including a music director.

Gold Vibrations meets twice a week, unless it's the week leading up to a competition. In the week leading up to competitions, they meet every day for four hours.

"Competitions are once a year — the same one that they do in 'Pitch Perfect,' ICCA," Pittenger says. "We start the process of choosing songs in September, and the competition is typically in January or February."

The performance schedule for the year depends on the amount of gigs and events around campus

throughout the year. The group has one concert each semester — one in December and another in April.

"Then we perform at Quarterfinals, usually in January or February," Pittenger says. "If we place high enough, we go to the Semifinals, which would be another performance. Other than that, we have different gigs. It depends on the volume in which we're booked."

Gold Vibrations used to rehearse in Varner, until the COVID-19 pandemic happened. They are currently going back and forth between rehearsing in the Oakland Center and rehearsing at University Presbyterian Church, located on Adams Road.

"Up until last year, we met in Varner to rehearse. During COVID we rehearsed in the parking garage. Now we go back and forth between the Oakland Center and University Presbyterian Church because they've offered us the space to use if we need it," Pittenger says.

The A Cappella group performs many different genres of music at their concerts. They mostly perform pop and funk songs, but they also perform jazz and soul songs. Their repertoire includes Billie Eilish, Lawrence and Sammy Rae and the Friends.

Auditions for the group are held at the beginning of every fall semester and there are auditions for every vocal part.

"The best way to learn about audition details is by following our social media, or our table

at grizzfest. We do a lot of promotional stuff in those two places," Pittenger says. "We usually do open audition parts for every vocal part, soprano, alto, tenor and bass, as well as beatboxers."

Gold Vibrations is currently rehearsing for two big events to round out the school year. They are opening for Tai Verdes and Peach Tree Rascals for OU's Spring Concert on Sunday, April 3. They also have a concert on Saturday, April 16.

To stay updated on Gold Vibrations, follow them on Instagram @ougoldvibrations.



PHOTO BY GOLD VIBRATIONS  
Gold Vibrations performed at the Great Lakes Region Quarterfinals ICCA.

# Alex Jones fined for failing to show up at court

**ARIANNA HEYMAN**

Senior Reporter

InfoWars host Alex Jones has been ordered by a judge to start paying \$25,000 in fines after failing to appear at a court deposition. Judge Barbara Bellis found Jones in contempt for his absence and set a fine schedule of \$25,000 per weekday until he is deposed.

Jones was supposed to appear at court to face the families of the Sandy Hook school shooting victims. These families filed a defamation lawsuit against Jones for claiming that the shooting was a hoax.

"Sandy Hook is a synthetic completely fake with actors, in my view, manufactured. I couldn't believe it at first," Jones said. "I knew they had actors there, clearly, but I thought they killed some real kids. And it just shows how bold they are, that they clearly used actors. I mean they even ended up using photos of kids killed in mass shootings here in a fake mass shooting in Turkey or Pakistan. The sky is now the limit."

As a result of Jones perpetuating this myth, the Sandy Hook families were subjected to further torment. Lenny Pozner — whose son was one of the victims — spoke to Frontline about how his family was forced into hiding because of Jones' lies.

"[Jones] accused [my son Noah's mother] of being an actor, faking an interview with Anderson Cooper in front of a green screen. That

became one of the cornerstone conspiracy points for Sandy Hook," Pozner said.

Pozner was forced to change his address and hide his identity to no avail. He continued to receive threatening messages and one instance led to his tormentor facing a 5-month prison sentence.



PHOTO BY J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE  
Alex Jones has been fined for his failure to show up at court for a defamation case filed by the families of the Sandy Hook school shooting victims.

Per the Washington Post, "Lucy Richards, 57, pleaded guilty to one count of transmitting threats through interstate communications, admitting that she sent the parent [Pozner] a message reading, 'LOOK BEHIND YOU IT IS DEATH,' court documents show."

Richards was an "avid follower of Jones and InfoWars" according to Frontline.

Jones has tried to settle with the Sandy Hook families to no avail. According to The Guardian, Jones offered to pay 120,000 per plaintiff but this offer was rejected.

"Lawyers for the families rejected the settlement offer within a few hours, saying in court filings that it was a 'transparent and desperate attempt by Alex Jones to escape a public reckoning under oath with his deceitful, profit-driven campaign against the plaintiffs and the memory of their loved ones lost at Sandy Hook.'"

Jones cited poor health as the reason why he failed to show up for his deposition, but according to NBC, "Lawyers for the plaintiffs said he defied doctors' orders by appearing on his show March 21-23."

It appears that Jones is running out of time for excuses. The Sandy Hook families and Judge Bellis have heard enough.

Pozner told Frontline, "I simply had enough. And that was what needed to be done. I'm proud of bringing the lawsuit, [it] brought a lot more attention to who he really is, and what his show represents."



# The challenges of virtual piano lessons during the pandemic

**SARAH GUDENAU**

*Features Editor*

Rebecca Happel, applied instructor of music and piano lecturer of Oakland University, was conducting a piano lesson over Zoom. She counted while her student played, but the student was constantly a second or two behind her because of the slight lag of the sound.

With the onset of COVID-19 in March of 2020, piano teachers and students have had to adapt to new safety protocols. Lessons look different than prior to the pandemic — and for many, lessons are relieving stress from it.

Before COVID-19 concerns, many piano lessons consisted of a teacher and a student in the same room. In some cases, such as in the studios at OU, there are two pianos side by side with the keyboards flush to each other so the pair can play together.

Following COVID-19, OU's music classes went virtual, and students could no longer use the studios. Happel explains the difficulties of conducting private lessons via Zoom — figuring out how to maintain the consistency of sound was, and continues to be, a challenge.

“There were so many hacks going around about how to keep the sound consistent, because I think the default setting on Zoom is to equalize the sound,” Happel says. “What happens when you're playing piano is the instant you play sound, the sound goes away via Zoom, and so there had to be these hacks to tweak and select certain things, different kinds of microphones, to defeat that and to allow the sound to go through.”

Camera angles on Zoom were another obstacle for piano lessons. In the classroom setting, the teacher can see the student's whole body to correct posture and movement, but over Zoom, the teacher can usually only see the keyboard, or just part of it.

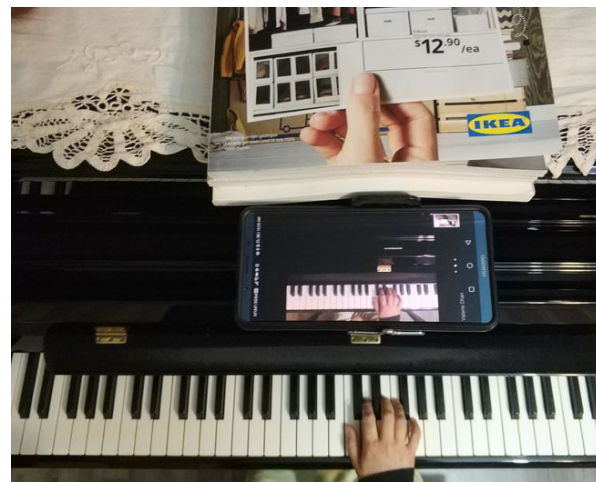


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HAPPY PIANIST

Due to these online formats, websites offer instructions on how to properly set up for your virtual piano lessons.

“Sometimes, if the student chooses to do their lesson in one of our practice rooms, there's not enough space between the wall and the keyboard to see the entire keyboard — certainly not the entire student, so we couldn't see what's happening with their pedal, or if I was trying to figure out if somebody memorized their music, I couldn't see their face so I couldn't tell if they were looking at their score or not,” Happel says.

Internet connection also posed a challenge and caused sound lags over Zoom, so for studio classes where multiple students joined the professor, they adapted to pre-recording their playing for the class to listen to and comment on together.

When the university returned to in-person classes, the studios were retrofitted with rollable plexiglass frames stationed between two pianos. While the students and teachers could then see each other, they were discouraged from being in proximity of one another.

The piano practice rooms at OU are in the same hallway, and the sound proofing is not ideal between rooms, according to Happel. However, the noise can build a student's concentration, and it also allows them to be surrounded by other pianists whom they can ask questions if needed.

“It was different for every student,” Happel says. “I do know students who absolutely flourished. They were at home and they were more comfortable with their home piano. They seem to get more work done, which was not something I guess we all anticipated [...] There was a lot more time, but I think some people found it also demotivating because there's an aspect of competition that was gone [...] But like I said, some people found that freeing — they just really hunkered down like ‘What else am I going to do? I'm just going to practice.’”

The Rochester Conservatory of Music (RCM), a community music school that offers private lessons and group classes for 12 different instruments for students of all ages, was also completely virtual during the bulk of the pandemic.

“One of our takeaways from the virtual lesson experience is that it will now remain a permanent option at the Rochester Conservatory,” owner and Director of RCM Kay Ellen Wilkins says. “If a student is not feeling well enough to come in for a lesson, we can easily jump online — we are able to teach during snow days, eliminating the need for makeup lessons due to bad weather.”

RCM faced similar issues of spotty Wi-Fi, difficulty hearing nuances in music and rough sound quality, but navigated virtual lessons nonetheless.

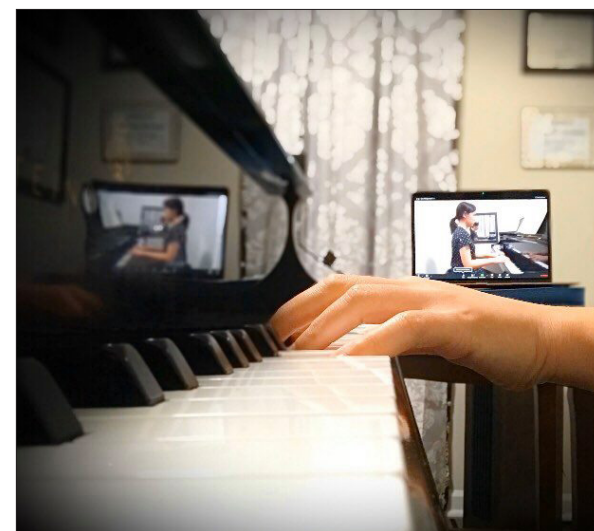


PHOTO COURTESY OF PIANOLESSONS.US

Due to COVID-19, many piano lessons have shifted to a virtual format.

“The students kept progressing, they had a creative outlet during a very stressful time and it was a pleasure every week to see their shining faces through the screen,” Wilkins says.

The creative outlet acted as a relief for many students with increased stressors from COVID-19. The Centre for Studies on Human Stress found that playing the piano reduces cortisol — the stress hormone — more than other creative art activities.

The study concludes: “[...] music performance showed the same effect as listening to music. With all the stresses of modern society, music education in school has a new purpose: the improvement of mental health [...] Music facilitates expression, communication and relationships in a non-verbal context.”

According to Wilkins, the RCM did not see an increase in new students during the first year of the pandemic, and parents said their students took breaks from lessons because of overwhelming changes such as working from home, schooling from home and staying in isolation.

However, new student inquiries — especially for in person teaching — picked up during the second year of the pandemic, and currently, RCM is back to their normal rate of new student inquiries.

“One area that does seem to be on the rise is an increase in our adult students,” Wilkins says. “Perhaps the pandemic has caused many adults who have had their jobs change due to the pandemic — I've heard that many companies are offering more days at home working virtually — realize now is the time to do something they've always wanted to do. Music is a terrific outlet for students of all ages.”



# Entrepreneurs In Action brings like-minded students together

**JOSEPH POPIS**

*Senior Reporter*

The organization Entrepreneurs In Action (EIA) focuses on student entrepreneurship by bringing students together to build strong networks. EIA has organized various virtual guest speaker sessions with entrepreneurs, and meets on Fridays from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Advisor of EIA and Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship at OU, Dr. Jae Kang, states that through this organization, students will be able to learn how to become an entrepreneur. In addition, they can use what they have learned in the classroom and apply it in the business world.

“Students will gain practical knowledge and know how to become an entrepreneur,” Kang said. “They can apply what they have learned in the classroom into the real business world, and they can try to solve the real business problems.”

EIA President, Prudhvi Raj Rongali, mentioned this organization aims to unite students with entrepreneurial mindsets. Students within this organization can learn through guest speaker sessions as well as gain networking opportunities.

Besides gaining insight and building networks,

students can also participate in competitive events with other university organizations, Rongali mentions. He believes these experiences will add value to students by exposing them to entrepreneur leaders.

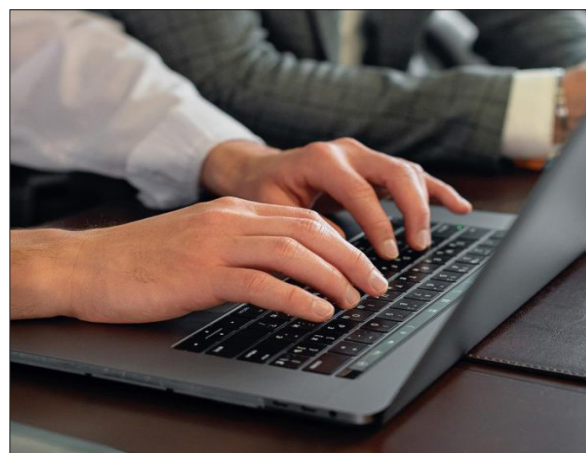


PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS  
Entrepreneurs in Action is a great organization for student entrepreneur leaders to form a strong network, according to GrizzOrgs.

Dr. Kang highlights that the organization helps students explore processes such as creating new ventures and searching for business opportunities.

“EIA aims to help students to explore the process for creating new ventures — including ideation [and the] search for business opportunities,” Kang said, “Students join clubs to meet other students and entrepreneurs get involved in meaningful entrepreneurial activities.”

Rongali’s involvement within this organization was due to the networking opportunities it offers. Rongali also wants to embark on his own startup, as this organization helps him with that.

Additionally, through Kang’s experience as an advisor of EIA, he has met passionate students and learned from entrepreneurs.

“As an advisor, I have gained several opportunities to meet passionate students and learn from great entrepreneurs,” Kang said. “I am very excited to work together with them and support their entrepreneur journeys.”

Dr. Kang’s visions for future entrepreneurial opportunities within the organization can be found here at Entrepreneurial Opportunities for EIA on YouTube. To learn more about this organization or to become involved, contact prongali@oakland.edu.

# Making students’ health smarter: GHC’s patient portal

**SAMANTHA SAYLES**

*Contributor*

Students and faculty can now access their health records and make appointments digitally using the Graham Health Center’s (GHC) patient portal — a secure and private tool for each patient to confidently share their medical information with only the healthcare professionals at the clinic.

Since the pandemic began, the GHC’s patient portal has continued to update, making it more digitally accessible to the Oakland University community.

Around March of last year, the portal was created for students and faculty to have access to their medical records at the clinic. It then became beneficial during the pandemic for students and staff to upload their required COVID-19 immunizations. Oakland University gave a \$100 incentive for students to upload their COVID-19 immunization records to the patient portal.

Today, the portal can be used to make appointments for testing and immunizations, and can also keep track of students’ and faculty’s health records.

Additionally, students and faculty that are patients of the GHC can request prescription refills through the portal. Messages can be directly sent to the desired health care provider through the portal, and any medical forms can be submitted digitally.

Appointments for testing and check-ups can now be made digitally using the portal instead of calling or visiting the clinic.

The GHC offers more than COVID-19 testing

and general immunizations. They also provide illness care and preventative healthcare such as STI testing, contraceptives and medical management for mental illnesses.

The GHC is covered under a variety of insurances. However, insured or not, they will still do everything they can to ensure the safety of the students and faculty at OU. Being a digital way to keep track of students’ and faculty’s health, the portal can create a healthy environment within the OU community.

Some students at OU, however, know about the GHC but are not aware of the features and tools.

Dustin Keel, 22, is attending his fifth year at Oakland University and was unaware of the patient portal. Typically, students who live on campus are aware of GHC and its patient portal. Commuters— not so much.

He lived on campus for the first two years of college, before the portal was launched, then started commuting from his hometown in Ortonville. He spends most of his days on campus then returns home at night.

Keel expressed how inconvenient it is to go to the clinic he usually goes to and have to get his prescription at a pharmacy across town. He goes to a clinic back where he lives but frequently stays on campus more than going back to his hometown. He said having prescription refill requests on the portal seems like a benefit to him.

“I wish I’d known about it sooner,” Keel said. “I didn’t even think they had a lot of medical assistance. I just figured it was a place to get tested.”

Ann Rayford, the interim director of the GHC and a nurse practitioner, said in a patient portal tutorial that the portal only offers appointments

for nurse-type visits such as vaccines and testing. However, the clinic can help with any concerns students may have.

The GHC’s mission is “to provide high quality, cost-effective health care and health education to the Oakland University Community.”

The clinic is located at 408 Meadow Brook road across the street from the Human Health Building, and its hours are on weekdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD  
The Graham Health Center’s patient portal is available to students on campus.



# Held back by a terrible execution, I expected more from Umma

**ALEXANDER GUSTANSKI**  
Senior Reporter

Just one week after *Turning Red*, another film starring Sandra Oh as an overbearing mother was released. “Umma” is a horror film inspired by Oh’s Korean culture and experience of being raided by immigrant parents. I think that the film has some good ideas. However, they are bogged down by terrible execution.

In the film, Amanda (Sandra Oh) and her daughter Chris (Fivel Stewart) live as remote beekeepers that have sworn off the use of electricity because of Amanda’s allergy to electricity. Things begin to go wrong when a distant relative informs Amanda her mother has passed, supernatural events then transpire that force Amanda to reconcile with her childhood trauma.

The main aspect I enjoyed about the film was its use of Korean culture and spirituality. Amanda’s trama causes her to lock away a suitcase of her mother’s remains and possessions in her basement. As a result of Amanda ignoring her heritage and refusing to give her umma a traditional burial, she begins to possess Chris and

eventually Amanda herself. Umma’s ghost dons a traditional mask or Tal and a Hanbok. The literal baggage of Amandas’ culture is hidden away or haunting her, and she only opens up after Chris becomes interested in it.

Unfortunately, this was the only aspect of the film that worked for me—a lot of the issues of the film stem from it being just a bad horror movie. The film is not scary, which I know is a bad metric to judge a film by but hear me out. The film is entirely devoid of tension. There are frequent jumpscare punctuated with bad visual effects cheapening the premise of the film. A film that handles the difficult subject matter of parental abuse should probably treat it with more nuance.

Speaking of nuance, a film that covers the same topics as “Umma” far better is “Hereditary.” Both films have the matriarch of a family succumb to supernatural forces after the death of their mother, which causes them to reenact the traumas their mothers imposed upon them. I don’t think “Umma” was made to be a PG-13 ripoff of “Hereditary,” but the thematic similarities between the two, so it feels fair to compare

them. Speaking of comparisons, “Hereditary” handles its supernatural elements far better. For the most part, “Hereditary” slowly foreshadows its supernatural and cultish elements, making them more shocking when

they show up in full force for the climax. On the other hand, one of the first scenes in “Umma” shows a truck breathing the magic force field surrounding Amanda’s homestead, cheapening the film’s mental health message with corny CGI.

I suppose the similarities were inevitable as “Hereditary” and “Umma” both draw from some of the same influences. Aster himself has cited Korean horror as an inspiration, “I think my favorite horror movie in the last five years might be *The Wailing*, which is a brilliant South Korean horror film. I think South Korea has been juggling tones and genres in a wild way without ever losing coherency, in a way that feels utterly forward-thinking to me. I’ve been more excited about what’s happening in South Korea right now than anywhere else.”

In conclusion, go watch “Hereditary” or other Korean horror movies instead. I recommend *The Host*, “*The Wailing*,” and “*Oldboy*.” If, for whatever reason, you need a more tame and less ambitious version of any of these films, I suppose you can’t go wrong with “Umma.”

**Rating: 3/10**



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB  
Umma was released on March 18, 2022.

# SMTD’s ‘Pippin’ amazes as last performance of school year

**JOE ZERILLI**  
Senior Reporter

The School of Music, Theatre and Dance rounded out the semester with its rendition of “Pippin,” which is easily the best show I’ve seen from the school. Filled with harmonizing songs, whimsical humor and astounding acting, “Pippin” fulfilled on all fronts and was a great way to send off the 2021-2022 school year.

The show follows the titular character Pippin — played by Austin McCoy — who is a prince loosely based on a real-life person from the Middle Ages. His story is told by the Leading Player — portrayed by Leah Wilson — who in this interpretation is the leader of a cult filled with players.

The show’s main focus is about finding purpose in life and doing something fulfilling with the time you’re given. Pippin’s journey finds him trying a multitude of different tasks and duties to prove to the world he has meaning.

The musical performances by the actors were incredible with each new song bringing something different to the table to enjoy. Wilson was magnificent in all her pieces, but she especially shined in her solos with her beautiful vocalizing.

My favorite song of the show was “No Time at All” which was sung by Kaye Hoffmeyer — Berthe, Pippin’s grandmother — as it provided the first instance of things possibly being wrong with the

world Pippin is in. The lyrics for the chorus were displayed for the audience to sing along with, and when a show involves the audience I feel it is one of the best things a show can do.

When the musical numbers weren’t happening — and sometimes when they were — there was no shortage of laughter in the performance. The actors all worked magnificently together and the chemistry effortlessly flowed with one another.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JLBOONE PHOTOGRAPHY  
OU’s SMTD performed “Pippin” from March 30 through April 3 in Varner Studio Theatre.

Possibly the funniest person in the show was Charles — Pippin’s father — who was played by Noah Canales and he absolutely nailed the comedic timing of his deliveries. If I saw him on the stage, I was sure to laugh at least twice during his performance.

Speaking of the stage, the scenic design was top notch and helped encompass the overall idea of the cult worshipping the sun with a giant yellow orb at the center of it all. With hues of purple, orange and red, everything you could see gracefully intertwined with each other and brought the entire show to life.

The lighting mixed in with the design of the shows with led lights lining the red and yellow beams along the border of the theatre. Along with led lights, the overhead lights enhanced the magic of the show, making it an overall more enchanting experience.

Coinciding with the design of the production, the costumes of the show provided alluring black outfits for the players which also fit in with each different setting. In the end of the second act, the players’ cult outfits were off-white robes — a wonderful contrast to the color of the first outfits — featuring the red symbol of the cult.

The acting performances along with the visual aspects of the show are what made “Pippin” spectacular. Director David Gram’s execution of “Pippin” appeals to all audiences — besides children, best to leave them at home — and made for a pleasurable night out and one I would go to again if given the chance.



# My favorite books with autistic characters

**D'JUANNA LESTER**  
Senior Reporter

As April is Autism Acceptance Month, I wanted to write about four of my favorite autistic characters in New Adult (NA) and Young Adult (YA) books that I've read. An interesting note: three of them are a trilogy by the same author.

There is very little autistic representation in the media in general, but especially in the YA genre of books. The other issue is that a lot of it isn't good representation. It's very difficult to find well written autistic characters in fantasy, which is my favorite genre to read. We barely get that representation in the real world book settings, let alone the sci-fi or fantasy settings.

## "The Kiss Quotient"

The first book in the New Adult (NA) rom-com trilogy series by Helen Hoang. This book is my second favorite of the trilogy.

It gives the audience a rare perspective in the media — the point of view (POV) of an autistic woman, Stella. Most autistic representations are men, so it was refreshing to see a story about autism from a girl's POV.

Stella's journey revolves around her struggles with dating experience, which is very common. A classic fake dating story spawns when (mega stud) Michael Phan and Stella form an unlikely bond, the story felt real and relatable, and touched upon things like sensory overload and masking. I found the scene where Stella and Michael talk about Stella's masking to be a beautiful scene that everyone should read.

## "The Bride Test"

Hoang's second book, "The Bride Test" follows Khai Diep, who is an interesting character. The book tackles denial and internalized ableism.

The story between Khai and Esme Tran is very intriguing to read about. It reminded me of the morally gray character from a fantasy novel with a tragic backstory who dramatically exclaims that he can never love.

It was compelling to read about a character who is autistic and doesn't want a relationship. The story dives into Khai's journey with emotional complexity and the struggle of processing emotions.

## "The Heart Principle"

At this point, Hoang may as well just use the Cut from "Shadow and Bone" and slice me in two. That would hurt less than the beautifully tortuous final (and best) book in the trilogy.

While the other characters in the trilogy know they're autistic, this book follows Anna's journey of discovering that she's autistic. There are few stories about characters discovering their truth, so it was pleasant to read about, as well as relive that experience. The love story between Anna and Quan Diep was so beautifully written.

## "Shadow and Bone"

As usual, I can't stop talking about Leigh Bardugo's series. This fantasy series incorporates David Kostyk's tendencies in a way that makes it clear: David is autistic.

From his special interests to the way he interacts with the characters around him, specifically Genya and Alina, I knew. I picked up on it the first time I read it before finding out that Bardugo herself confirmed it as canon.

David is in my top three characters from the Grishaverse. He's so unintentionally funny, and we learn so much about him throughout the series even though he is a supporting character. Also, that scene in "Siege in Storm" has raised my standards for love like no other.

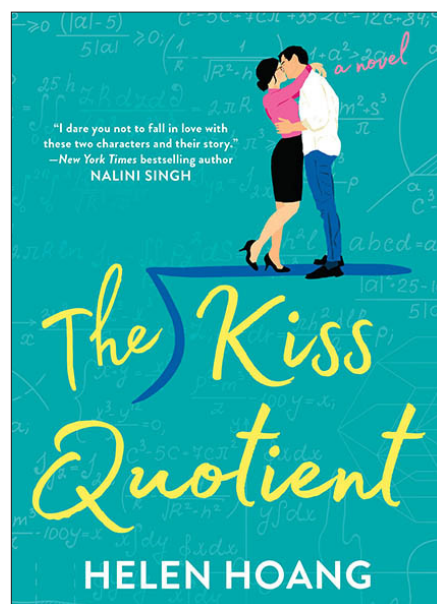


PHOTO COURTESY OF HELENHOANG.COM  
"The Kiss Quotient" is the first book in Helen Hoang's New Adult rom-com trilogy series.

# Anticipated summer 2022 movie and TV releases

**JOE ZERILLI**  
Senior Reporter

This summer is looking extremely promising for the world of movies and TV shows, and I cannot wait to be able to relax and enjoy some new content. 2022 has already blessed us with some great new media, and summer looks like it will continue that trend.

## "Obi-Wan Kenobi": May 27

I have been waiting for this series to come out since it was first announced in 2019. Obi-Wan is one of my favorite characters from the Star Wars Universe and it will be so incredible to see the beloved character again.

Ewan McGregor will be reprising his role as Obi-Wan in the series, and it will take place between "Revenge of the Sith" and "A New Hope." Hayden Christensen will also be returning, and he will be playing Darth Vader in the show.

There's not a whole bunch of information on the show, but the safe bet is it will focus on Obi-Wan coming to terms with losing his friend Anakin and then the realization that he is still alive. The teaser trailer was released on March 9 — what a great birthday present it was — and it looks star-stunning, especially with "Duel of the Fates" in the background.

## "The Phantom of the Open": June 3

I'm sure everyone is super excited to watch a golf movie, but as someone who enjoys playing AND watching golf this seems like an enjoyable experience. It is based on a true story of golfer Maurice Flitcroft — played by Mark Rylance — who shot a 121 at the The Open Championship, which is still the worst score ever recorded at the event.

The thing about Flitcroft is he never played a round of golf before entering The Open in 1976 — he was actually a crane operator. The story seems to be one based on the idea of following your dreams and reaching for the moon no matter what.

The film is set to release explicitly in New York and Los Angeles on June 3, but will be more widely released in the following weeks. I will be happy with the film if it

manages to put a smile on my face and it spreads a good message, and based on reviews I seem to be in good hands.

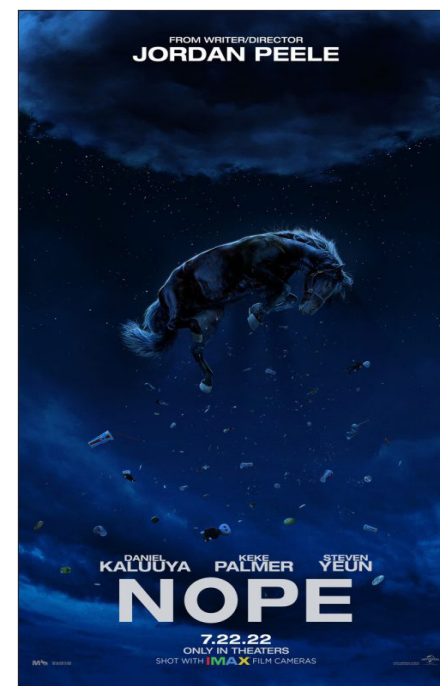


PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB  
Jordan Peele's "Nope" will be released on July 22, 2022.

## "Nope": July 22

Jordan Peele is back on the scene with his latest horror movie creation "Nope" and if it's anything like "Get Out" or "Us" it's sure to be another classic. Based on the official trailer released by Universal Pictures, it looks like it will seriously mess with my head, so I'm absolutely ready for this movie.

Starring actors Keke Palmer and Daniel Kaluuya, the film is centered on the only Black-owned horse trainers in Hollywood. The trailer does not give a whole lot of information, but knowing Peele's other films, it will sure to be both horrifying and twisted with what seems to be an out-of-this-world enemy.

I actually like not knowing much about a movie I'm going to see — especially when it's a horror film — so I'm even more inclined to see this when it comes out. I haven't been disappointed by a Jordan Peele movie yet and I'm not ready to be yet.



# How to feel about the abilities in ‘Kirby and the Forgotten Land’

**BRIDGET JANIS**

*Managing Editor*

“Kirby and the Forgotten Land” has been released on the Nintendo Switch and fans are just raving over all the abilities and hats that Kirby gets to wear throughout the game.

**Ranger:**

This ability just takes a lot to use and almost just isn’t worth it. The charge time to be able to shoot is a long build up and doesn’t do nearly as much damage as you’d expect for such a long build up. But as you go through the evolutions, charging up the shot doesn’t take as long but it doesn’t do as much damage still. This is the second cutest hat that Kirby wears in the game,

**Hammer:**

The classic ability that everyone knows and loves when it comes to a Kirby game. While the ability is super short-ranged it can still do a lot of damage. Some of the evolutions of this ability seem to take a while to charge up, but Kirby does look cute holding the hammer and having a little headband.

**Fire:**

There are the fire and ice abilities which remind me of Mario Bros games and having those abilities on there. This ability is so nice to use, just shooting fire at your enemies, you don’t have to get too close, which is a nice part of it. Kirby on fire looks nice too, almost like he’s Katniss from the “Hunger Games”

**Ice:**

Ice allows you to freeze your enemies solid in a cube of ice, where you can kick them and they shatter (just like if you were to have this ability in

a Mario Bros game). It’s basic, not most exciting to get but necessary in icy levels since it does help Kirby not glide along the ice. Kirby’s hat during this ability is such a ice queen moment

**Bomb:**

This ability is hard to use, it’s like you have two options stand very close and hit with the bomb or throw the bomb. But the problem with throwing it means you have to stand still, and therefore it feels inconvenient. But I prefer just carrying a bomb and hitting the enemies close up, so I like using this power. I don’t really like the wizard hat that comes with this ability, not the cutest.

**Drill:**

This power allows Kirby to be able to dive into



PHOTO COURTESY OF T3.COM  
“Kirby and the Forgotten Land” was released  
March 25, 2022.

the ground and keep him safe from any threats about to attack him. Then he is able to come up and cause damage to an enemy. Overall this power is very powerful and during the evolutions just gets more powerful. Now when it comes to the hat, not the worst but definitely not my favorite.

**Sleep:**

Okay, heals Kirby. Not much else to talk about besides that, I wouldn’t prioritize this ability at all. Easier to find food throughout the levels to heal Kirby instead. But the hat that Kirby wears during this time, so precious looking!!!

**Sword:**

By far the best ability you can have during the Kirby game. It’s the most effective and easiest ability to use. The response time is fast and can be used in many different kinds of attacks. It has a lot of variation as an ability and is my favorite one to receive. This ability also looks the cutest on Kirby, the little hat just melts my heart.

Now it’s important to note, all of these abilities can evolve into stronger versions of each one. There are up to three evolutions and the abilities can change in the slightest ways, with the power being slightly higher and being able to rapid fire use the ability becoming easier.

“Kirby and the Forgotten Land” also has plenty of things for Kirby to eat and become, such as cars, traffic cones, vending machines, grills, stairs and many more. These are super fun throughout the whole game and add another layer of things to look forward to while playing. The car is truly the best thing Kirby can get a mouthful of, but the cone has a special place in my heart.

# These are who were best and worst dressed at the 2022 oscars

**OLIVIA CHIAPPELLI**

*Senior Reporter*

Well over a week has passed since this year’s Academy Awards ceremony, so I have had time to truly marinate my thoughts and opinions and now feel ready to express some hot takes — on fashion.

Don’t get me wrong, I did also anxiously anticipate who would take home those beloved Oscar statuettes — but that is for a different time.

As I was waiting for the tried and true Film Updates Twitter account to post their live red carpet updates and trying to predict which direction celebrities would take with their sartorial choices, I was struck by Zendaya’s entrance — and my best dressed list starts there.

I got the reference immediately because I am archive fashion obsessed — take Sharon Stone at the 1998 Oscars. An oversized Gap button down tucked into a Vera Wang satin skirt. Consequently rewriting red carpet norms for women by blending masculine and feminine, designer brands with retail fashion.

This move was highly criticized

at the time, with people calling it “inappropriate” for such a formal event — especially for a woman — but has since been recognized for being ahead of its time. Which is why Zendaya’s Valentino rendition was such a perfect statement to make given the intense spotlight that shines on her every red carpet move.

The next person on my best dressed list was a total surprise for me. I absolutely adore this actress, but don’t usually pay that much attention to her fashion choices. However, when it came down to it, she showed up.

And that actress is Olivia Colman — wearing a high-necked, shiny, sliver, pleated, billowy sleeved Dior Haute Couture look, I thought I was looking at Dakota Johnson. I just loved everything about it instantly, it was such a bold move for her personal style, and I support it.

Colman was nominated for her role in “The Lost Daughter,” in which Dakota Johnson also stars — perfect curtain bangs and all — but my usual red carpet favorite was absent from the night. However, Olivia Colman covered for her fashion wise, and for that I say thank you.

Now time for my worst dressed — and for that list there are many — but I will spare you and limit my victims to two.

Amy Schumer in Oscar de la Renta will start us off. Her navy dress



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF KRAVITZ  
Zendaya’s Valentino rendition at the 2022  
Oscars award ceremony.

adorned with a crystal embroidered bow smacked on the front looked like those Disney Channel collab shirts we used to buy at Target with the necklaces printed on the front. That’s all I have to say.

I am hesitant to include this next person on my worst dressed list because they totally redeemed themselves at the Vanity Fair after party — more on that later — but Venus Williams’ Elie Saab dress hurt.

Its weirdly cut silver tubular neckline was giving alien spaceship and I just couldn’t look past that. The metallic wrist cuffs only added to the bad. I am sorry tennis queen.

Back to the Vanity Fair Oscar Party — why are those outfits always so much better than those of the actual Oscars red carpet? If I chose to rate that event instead, this review would be way longer — but I don’t know if that’s for better or for worse.

Before I reach my 600 word limit, I would like to list some honorable mentions and those are: Timothée Chalamet’s back, Kristen Stewart’s shorts and Sarah Paulson’s \$30,000 Bottega Veneta skirt.

You can decide whether those are best or worst



# ‘A Weekend Away:’ girls trip gone wrong

**BRIDGET JANIS**  
*Managing Editor*

Going on a girls trip with your best friend is something girls always dream about doing, but in the movies for some reason, one of them always ends up dead. In Netflix’s new thriller movie, “The Weekend Away” we see how wrong as girls trip can truly go.

The movie is based off the the book “The Weekend Away” that came out on July 23, 022 which seems to be a quick turn around from book to movie.

“The Weekend Away” is about two best friends, Beth (Leighton Meester) and Kate (Christina Wolfe) take a trip to Croatia. Kate really wants this weekend to be about Beth letting loose and taking chances.

It wasn’t until the two friends go to a bar and Beth wake up with a bad hangover, no memories and a missing best friend. The only thing she can remember is Zain (Ziad Bakri) the taxi driver and some random men at the bar.

Beth and Zain work together to unravel what truly happened that night, with many interviews with the police and Beth letting her husband know she is extending her trip until Kate is found. The story jumps back and forth between who did it.

In this film, everyone is a suspect and everyone should be questioned because anyone could be capable of killing Kate. Beth always seemed to be at the top of the susp[ect list, knowing within herself she was innocent she was not giving up, even if that meant losing everything.

While the acting isn’t always the best throughout the film and feels a little cheesy at times, the cry scenes were just so bad. The plot moved fast and kept the audience engages, there was always something going on.

The movie overall was beautiful to look at, the location of the film was so nie and each shot looked well put together throughout the whole film.

There were plenty of plot twist throughout the whole film, I found myself jumping back and forth about who I thought killed Kate and every person seemed to make sense, until I thought about someone else being the killer.

But it still classifies as a Netflix thriller, which a Netflix thriller can only be so good. The movie obviously wanted to be a thriller so bad that the director tried so hard to put in so many plots and different twists that it becomes repetitive.

These dumb little Netflix thrillers are so fun to watch with other people though and dicuss some of the absurd plot twists and events that happen, like come on using face ID on a dead person, we all know your eyes have to be open to open an iPhone.

But this isn’t going to be a movie that sticks with me at the end of the day, it just doesn’t have anything that stands out.

I haven’t seen Meester in anything since “Gossip Girl” and I almost didn’t recognize her without a headband on. Of course she looks as good as ever and I hope to see her in more soon.

This film overall was a quick and easy watch with the runtime only being an hour and 29 minutes. It

was a simple and light watch, it wasn’t graphic at all and was a nice movie to watch.  
3 out of 5 stars



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB  
Leighton Meester stars in new Netflix thriller movie.

## Superhero Word Search

- BATMAN
- DOCTOR STRANGE
- BLACK WIDOW
- HAWKEYE
- GREEN LANTERN
- ANT MAN
- WONDER WOMAN
- DAREDEVIL
- FLASH
- THOR
- WOLVERINE
- THANOS
- WANDA
- IRON MAN
- SUPERMAN
- SPIDERMAN
- HULK
- AQUAMAN

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K	N	N	B	T	D	B	B	N	K	L	E	A	K



# The Detroit Lions' future is brighter than you think

**REECE TAYLOR**  
*Sports Reporter*

Football is about culture. You can have a top quarterback prospect, incredible defensive players, and talents at the skill positions, but if your team's leadership and culture are sub-par, your team will fail. Look at the Jacksonville Jaguars in 2021. There was no stability, no leadership, and nobody bought into the culture. There's one thing to have no talent, or to have a bad record. It's another thing to have no culture.

With the Detroit Lions, the culture hasn't been kind. They've won one playoff game in 60+ years, years of top draft picks that left to win in greener pastures, and most recently, a coaching tenure that saw a former playoff team regress as an organization that ended less than two years ago. So what changed?

On Jan. 20, 2021, the Detroit Lions hired Head Coach Dan Campbell. This was seen as a shock to many as his only head coaching experience was an interim position during his time with the Miami Dolphins, and the "bite a kneecap" quote made a few chuckles and became a popular meme.

Through the surprise and jokes, one thing was certain: this is a man who loves football.

I'm not saying Campbell is the first Lions coach to love football since I'm a staunch defender of Jim Caldwell, but Campbell is in a rare situation. He's getting to build his team from scratch. You can look at the 3-13-1 record in his first season, but it only tells part of the story. After starting 0-10-1, the Lions closed the season

3-3, and beat the top-seeded Green Bay Packers, albeit without star QB Aaron Rodgers in the second half. Using only pieces of the team he's signed and drafted, his "kneecaps" quote is something of a rallying cry in Detroit. You can tell he's proud of the players and wants the best out of them. More than that, you can see how the wins impact him.

The culture that Campbell is setting is based on something Detroit sports

is known for: grit. Detroit at its best is a gritty and hardworking city that is built off of toughness, and the current Lions are starting to embody that. Drafting players like offensive tackle Penei Sewell and wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown is a great start. Two of the notable young guys they brought in to establish this new identity. Adding in a good starting quarterback in Jared Goff and some of the top picks in the upcoming NFL draft makes one thing certain:

Detroit is coming.

For the first time in a long time, there's a buzz around the Detroit Lions. It doesn't feel like a slew of meaningless losses for years on end. The players look like they believe in the system. The coach looks like he cares. Each game is a fight. The Lions march into Ford Field and look like they're ready to play. Are they winning right now? No, but for once it doesn't feel like forever.

The Detroit Lions are an organization that feels like it lives in its past losses. They have coaches and players now that are focused on the future. As a fan, all I'm asking for is consistency, then let it bring in the wins. The city of Detroit is ready to be respected on the gridiron again.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES.

The Lions celebrate their first win of the 2021 season against the Minnesota Vikings on Dec. 5, 2021.

# Anthony Simonson wins 2022 USBC Masters

**REECE TAYLOR**  
*Sports Reporter*

Professional bowler Anthony Simonson won the 2022 USBC Masters Tournament on March 28-April 3, 2022 at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The 25-year-old Roto Grip bowler won his fourth overall major tournament over 58-year-old veteran Norm Duke, a Storm Bowler, 219 to 216. This win came after a grueling seeding tournament which saw Simonson take overall pins, but Norm Duke won the No. 1 seed overall.

The tournament started off on a sour note, as the USBC announced the banning of several top bowling balls in competition, most notably from Storm Bowling and Roto Grip, for below USBC hardness standards. These bans went into effect mid-tournament, a controversial move to many, with some having to relinquish their preferred equipment for backup.

After a multiple day seeding tournament to determine the TV Finals, Duke defeated Simonson in the final day 666-644 to solidify the single-game elimination finals: 1. Duke, 2. Simonson, 3. Brad Miller, 4. AJ Johnson, and 5. Shawn Maldonado.

Johnson opened up the televised play with a decisive victory over Maldonado, winning 199-143. Johnson vs. Miller was a much more dramatic finish as both finished the game tied at 224, but the third-seeded Miller would pull ahead in a two-frame roll-off, where he scored 9-7. Simonson was up next, as he and Miller battled until Simonson ultimately pulled away 189-185 to set up a rematch from the seeding tournament. Miller clinched the third overall of the day here, winning \$25,000 in the process.

Along with the much anticipated USBC Masters win, both men were chasing something more. Simonson was looking for another major title to add to his historic young career, but all-time great Norm Duke, who is the youngest bowler to ever win a majors tournament at age 18, wanted to bookend it by being the oldest professional bowler to win a major tournament at age 58.

The championship match was a drama-filled back and forth between the two, as neither could build a substantial lead over the other. The score was within four pins going into the ninth frame, where both needed a major conversion to win the championship.

Simonson went on to strike, putting pressure on the decorated vet. Duke lined up in the ninth, but the ball just missed the pocket. He would go on to spare and finish the day with 216. Simonson, only needing a strike and a seven to claim victory, would get the strike and an 8 to add to his historic young career.

While celebrating the win, Simonson took aim at the recent USBC bans

as many bowlers in the tournament, including himself, were subjected to the bans. Simonson and others are not happy about the immediate ban and will likely appeal these decisions over the coming months.

The next tournament will be the ongoing USBC Open in Las Vegas, Nevada, but the bans and bittersweet title will linger over the celebrated event.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLOBOWLING

Anthony Simonson took home the USBC Masters Championship last weekend.



# Mladentseva lone bright spot in tennis loss to Notre Dame

**PAYTON BUCKI**

*Sports Reporter*

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies women's tennis team lost their first Horizon League matchup 6-1 against the Cleveland State Vikings on April 1 at the Medical Mutual Tennis Pavilion in Cleveland, Ohio.

Liza Mladentseva was a standout player for the Golden Grizzlies, earning the team their only point of the matchup. The talented freshman, playing in the number one singles spot, beat the Vikings' Oihane Vicario 2-0 (6-2, 7-5).

This win in the number one singles spot brings Mladentseva's season record to 5-3, an incredible feat for the tennis athlete's first year with the Golden Grizzlies.

Mladentseva continued to shine in the number two doubles spot when paired with Jillian Milano. The dominant duo overpowered the Viking pair of Selma Tounsi and Bethany Yausch with a 6-2 win.

The doubles pair of Mladentseva and Milano has shown a lot of promise as their season has progressed. Following their win against the Vikings, the team now holds a winning record of 3-1.

Milano also had a good showing in the number four singles spot. The redshirt senior stole the first set from Selma Tounsi 6-4.

Tounsi put up a good fight for the Vikings, winning set two with a score of 6-3. In the tie-breaking set three, Milano lost a close battle, dropping the set with a score of 7-6 in favor of Tounsi.

Oakland's number five and six singles players, Tegan Heaton and Emma Hultquist, followed Milano in a similar fashion. Both players managed to win the first set of their match, before dropping the final two to the Vikings.

In the number two singles spot, Yasmin Glazbrook fought hard for the Golden Grizzlies. The senior athlete dropped her first set to Klara Mrcela 3-6, before powering back to win the next set with a score of 6-2.

In a third-set battle, Glazbrook fell just short of winning the match, losing the third set with a score of 6-4 in favor of Mrcela.

The number one and number three doubles teams for the Golden Grizzlies had identical showings.

The number one duo of Yasmin Glazbrook and Nirva Patel faced the Viking pair of Klara Mrcela and Sima Heren. The Golden Grizzlies lost their match with a close score of 4-6.

Meanwhile, the number three doubles team of Tegan Heaton and Emma Hultqvist went against Oihane Vicario and Tereze Vevere of the Vikings. The Oakland duo also lost their match 4-6.

In the number three singles spot, Nirva Patel struggled against her competitor, Sima Heren. The junior lost both sets to Heren, scoring merely two

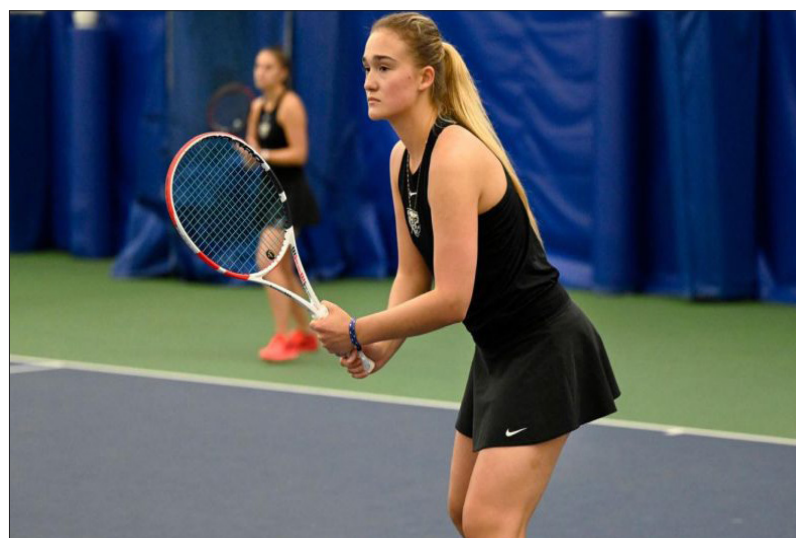


PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS

Liza Mladentseva earned the Oakland tennis team's only point on Friday.

points each (2-6, 2-6).

Despite the Golden Grizzlies' tough loss to the Vikings, they leave the matchup carrying a respectable 6-6 season record.

Oakland will play their next match at Notre Dame at 5 p.m. on April 10 in South Bend, Indiana. Oakland looks forward to strong competition against the Fighting Irish, a team that has a 7-4 record on their home turf this season.

## Tennis drops to 0-2 in Horizon League play after loss to Youngstown State

**CHRISTIAN TATE**

*Sports Reporter*

The Golden Grizzlies' tennis team dropped their third consecutive road game on Sunday in Youngstown, Ohio, losing the game to the Youngstown State Penguins by a score of 5-2.

Despite the loss to the Penguins, there were multiple silver linings shown during the weekend stretch of games for the Golden Grizzlies tennis team, including Liza Mladentseva and her perfect weekend.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS

The Oakland tennis team lost to Youngstown State on Sunday to fall to 0-2 in conference play.

Following the 1-6 loss to the Cleveland State Vikings last Friday, the Golden Grizzlies went into Sunday's match with a purpose and vision and started off executing that vision to perfection. In what is seemingly becoming the norm for this duo, Yasmin Glazbrook and Nirva Patel put on another great doubles performance.

Glazbrook and Patel grabbed their doubles point, successfully winning their matchup with a score of 6-3. Following their performance, their teammates Liza Mladentseva and Jillian Milano matched the Glazbrook/Patel duo by winning their match in straight sets with a score of 6-0.

These two dominant victories allowed the Golden Grizzlies to capture their doubles points in the first and second place spots, getting them off to a great start. This success, however, started to wane and dissipate during the very close singles matches that were to follow.

In one of the matches that wasn't close, however, Mladentseva turned in a great performance, beating her opponent in both sets with a score of 6-2 and completing a "perfect weekend" with wins in both her games played. Then in a twist of fate, the games following her dominant performance spelled disaster for the Golden Grizzlies' overall hopes of victory.

After their rousing doubles performance, both Yasmin Glazbrook and Nirva Patel would drop their singles matches to the Penguins [with Glazbrook losing her match with two scores of 6-1 and Patel losing her match with scores of 6-3 and 6-2].

Milano dropped her match with scores of 6-2 and 6-0, going before a string of two very close matches to end the meeting. In the number five singles position, Tegan Heaton took her opponent to a riveting three-set match after winning the first set but would fall just short of the victory in the final set [the final scores were 7-5, 6-3, and 6-3].

In the last game of the day, at the number six singles spot, Emma Hultqvist took her opponent into extra time during the first set, but would fall in straight sets with scores of 7-6 and 7-5 despite her clear-cut tenacious play. The one doubles loss and these singles game losses culminated in a 2-5 loss to the Penguins for the Golden Grizzlies, extending their current skid of losses to three as they fall to 0-2 in Horizon League conference play.

Despite the current skid, the Golden Grizzlies still have many accomplishments and milestones to be proud of. Their bursts of dominance and overly-tenacious playstyle have shown that they are still capable of beating any team on any day, and it looks like they will get a chance to create some momentum heading into the final stretch of the season.

The next time these ladies step on the courts will be to face off against the Notre Dame Fighting Irish for the first time in the program's history, on April 10 at 5 p.m. in South Bend, Indiana.



# Softball sweeps weekend series against Purdue-Fort Wayne

**PAYTON BUCKI**  
*Sports Reporter*

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies softball team went 3-0 in a three-game series against the Purdue-Fort Wayne Mastodons on April 1-2 at the Purdue-Fort Wayne Softball Field in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

**Game One**  
The Golden Grizzlies' began the series with a slow start. By the end of the first inning, the scoreboard remained scoreless.  
In the second inning, the Mastodons managed to secure the lead after an Oakland fielding error allowed Emma McMillan to score.  
Purdue-Fort Wayne's 1-0 lead did not last for long. When it was their turn to bat, the Golden Grizzlies quickly loaded the corners. With players within scoring position, Cammie Brumitt blasted a two-run RBI double to left field.  
Lauren Griffith followed Brumitt with another RBI double, pushing Oakland's lead to 3-1. The rally continued for the Golden Grizzlies with dual singles from Jen Krizka and Shannon Carr, allowing another run to score.  
Now leading 4-1, the Golden Grizzlies were determined to continue their

momentum in the third inning. With two teammates in scoring position, Griffith drilled yet another RBI double to grow the Golden Grizzlies' lead to 6-1.  
After a scoreless fifth inning, the Oakland team continued to play hard. An RBI single from Brumitt propelled Oakland's lead to 7-1, securing the Golden Grizzlies win.  
**Game Two**  
The Mastodons began the second game of the series strong. With two teammates on base, Sonia Solis blasted an RBI single to center field, allowing the Mastodons to take an early 1-0 lead.  
Jen Krizka began the second inning for Oakland with a homer out of the park, allowing the Oakland team to tie the game 1-1.  
At the top of the third inning, Krizka approached the plate once again and earned another run for the Golden Grizzlies with an RBI single to the middle field.  
In the fifth inning, the Mastodons battled offensively. Brooke Wintlend hit a two-run RBI single for PFW, allowing them to regain the lead with a score of 3-2.  
The Golden Grizzlies used this setback to fuel their fire. Maci Brown fired an RBI single to shortstop to tie up

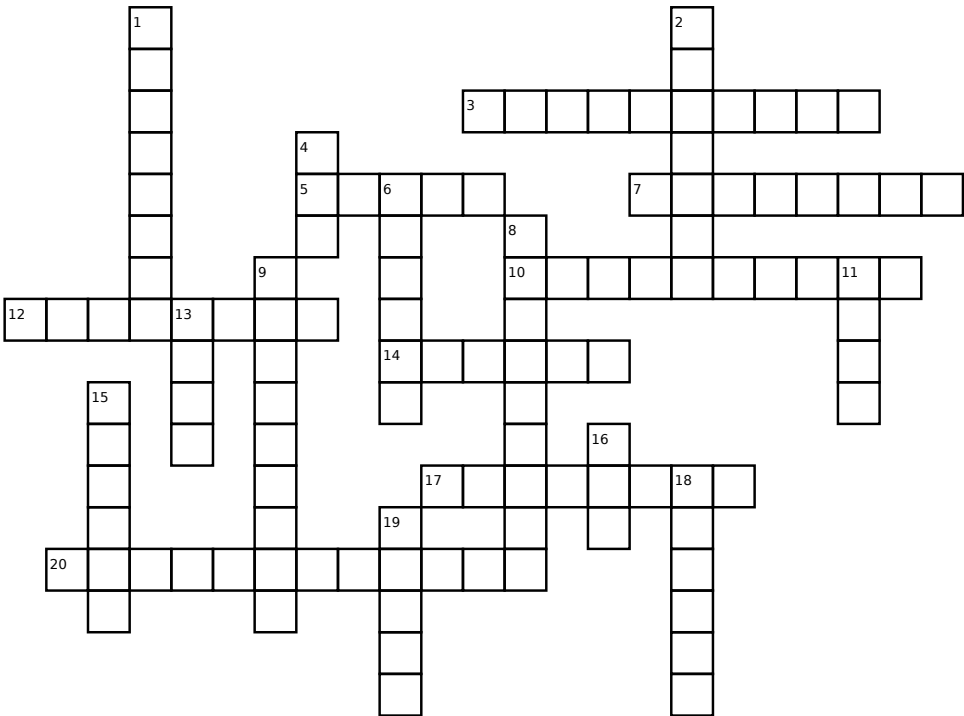
the game 3-3.  
Madison Jones kept the game rolling for the Golden Grizzlies with an RBI single to second base, allowing the Oakland team to regain the lead. Brumitt followed up Jones' hit with an RBI single to right field, securing the Golden Grizzlies' second win of the series with a score of 5-3.  
**Game Three**  
Oakland began their last game of the series looking bright. Madison Jones led off the team with a bunt towards third base, good for a single.  
Jones advanced to third base, after a steal and a sacrifice hit from Brumitt. With Jones in scoring position, Griffith slugged an RBI fly to the outfield, giving Oakland the 1-0 advantage.  
The game remained 1-0 until the fourth inning. Brumitt grew the Golden Grizzlies' lead to 2-0 with an RBI double to left field.  
Oakland continued to gain momentum in the fifth. Jones doubled her team's lead with a two-run homer to left field.  
The Mastodons remained scoreless until the last inning when an RBI single to right field from the bat of Epiphany Hang allowed her team to score a run. However, PFW's fire burned out as quickly as it started, allowing the Golden

Grizzlies to win the game 4-1.  
Oakland will play their next game at Michigan State University at 5 p.m. on April 5 in East Lansing Oakland must be prepared for a 'battle of the bats' as they face the skilled Spartans, a team that overpowered the Golden Grizzlies offensively earlier this season.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS  
Lauren Griffith had two RBIs in game one of the Oakland softball team's weekend series against Purdue-Fort Wayne.

## Company Slogan Crossword



- Down:
- 1. Taste The Rainbow
  - 2. Save Money, Live Better
  - 4. Every kiss begins with..
  - 6. The Quicker Picker Upper
  - 8. I'm Lovin' It
  - 9. Like a good neighbor..
  - 11. Just Do It
  - 13. Silly rabbit, \_\_\_\_ are for kids
  - 15. American runs on..
  - 16. It's finger-lickin' good
  - 18. Eat Fresh
  - 19. Think Different
- Across:
- 3. Maybe she's born with it, Maybe it's..
  - 5. We have the meats
  - 7. Think outside the bun
  - 10. What's in your wallet?
  - 12. You're in good hands
  - 14. Let's Go Places
  - 17. The snack that smiles back
  - 20. Snap! Crackle! Pop!



# Tennis 0-2 in Horizon League after loss to Youngstown State

## CHRISTIAN TATE

*Sports Reporter*

The Golden Grizzlies' tennis team dropped their third consecutive road game on Sunday in Youngstown, Ohio, losing the game to the Youngstown State Penguins by a score of 5-2.

Despite the loss to the Penguins, there were multiple silver linings shown during the weekend stretch of games for the Golden Grizzlies tennis team, including Liza Mladentseva and her perfect weekend.

Following the 1-6 loss to the Cleveland State Vikings last Friday, the Golden Grizzlies went into Sunday's match with a purpose and vision and started off executing that vision to perfection. In what is seemingly becoming the norm for this duo, Yasmin Glazbrook and Nirva Patel put on another great doubles performance.

Glazbrook and Patel grabbed their doubles point, successfully winning their matchup with a score of 6-3. Following their performance, their teammates Liza Mladentseva and Jillian Milano matched the Glazbrook/Patel duo by winning their match in straight sets with a score of 6-0.

These two dominant victories allowed the Golden Grizzlies to capture their doubles points in the first and second place spots, getting them off to a great start. This success, however, started to wane and dissipate during the very close singles matches that were to follow.

In one of the matches that wasn't close, however, Mladentseva turned in a great performance, beating her opponent in both sets with a score of 6-2 and completing a "perfect weekend" with wins in both her games played. Then in a twist of fate, the games following her dominant performance spelled disaster for the Golden Grizzlies' overall hopes of victory.

After their rousing doubles performance, both



PHOTO BY OU ATHLETICS

The Oakland tennis team lost to Youngstown State on Sunday to fall to 0-2 in conference play.

Yasmin Glazbrook and Nirva Patel would drop their singles matches to the Penguins [with Glazbrook losing her match with two scores of 6-1 and Patel losing her match with scores of 6-3 and 6-2].

Milano dropped her match with scores of 6-2 and 6-0, going before a string of two very close matches to end the meeting. In the number five singles position, Tegan Heaton took her opponent to a riveting three-set match after winning the first set but would fall just short of the victory in the final set [the final scores were 7-5, 6-3, and 6-3].

In the last game of the day, at the number six singles spot, Emma Hultqvist took her opponent into extra time during the first set, but would fall in straight sets with scores of 7-6 and 7-5 despite her clear-cut tenacious play. The one doubles loss and these singles game losses culminated in a 2-5 loss to the Penguins for the Golden Grizzlies, extending their current skid of losses to three as they fall to 0-2 in Horizon League conference play.

Despite the current skid, the Golden Grizzlies still have many accomplishments and milestones to be proud of. Their bursts of dominance and overly-tenacious playstyle have shown that they are still capable of beating any team on any day, and it looks like they will get a chance to create some momentum heading into the final stretch of the season.

The next time these ladies step on the courts will be to face off against the Notre Dame Fighting Irish for the first time in the program's history, on April 10 at 5 p.m. in South Bend, Indiana.

# Baseball goes to Ann Arbor and cruises past Michigan

## BROCK HEILIG

*Sports Reporter*

The Oakland baseball team defeated the Michigan Wolverines, 14-7, on Wednesday afternoon at Ray Fisher Stadium in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The Golden Grizzlies traveled an hour southwest of campus to take on the Wolverines in a midweek matchup. Perhaps Michigan underestimated the Golden Grizzlies, but it was clear that Oakland didn't make the trip just to bow down to Michigan.

After last weekend's series victory over Purdue Fort Wayne, Head Coach Jordon Banfield previewed this week's slate of games.

"We're not going [to Michigan] to lose," Banfield said. "We just got to go out, play our game and show we belong."

And that they did. Oakland jumped out to a 6-0 advantage over Michigan in the first inning and never looked back.

The Golden Grizzlies batted around the order in the top of the first inning, registering six singles. Seth Tucker, Brad Goulet, Brandon Nigh, Michael Stygles, Jared Miller and Brandon Heidal all recorded hits in the first inning as Oakland forced a Michigan pitching change before the Wolverines even had a chance to bat.

Nigh, a freshman who leads the team in batting average, launched an opposite field home run in the bottom of the second inning to extend the Grizzlies' lead to seven runs.

"What [Nigh] is doing is pretty impressive," Banfield said. Despite Nigh being the youngest player on the team, Banfield says he was "physically

ready" to make the transition from high school to college.

Oakland's starting pitcher Travis Densmore gave up a solo home run in the bottom half of the second inning, but Oakland's offense had already built a comfortable cushion.

The Golden Grizzlies jumped all over the Michigan pitchers again in the third inning. Miller and Thomas Green each recorded triples, and Oakland found itself with a 9-1 lead after the top of the third inning.

Michigan added three more runs in the bottom half of the third inning, but it was nowhere near enough. Oakland had already established its dominance over Michigan.

The Golden Grizzlies added a total of five runs in the fifth and sixth innings. Oakland led, 14-4, through six innings of play.

The Wolverines added three runs in the bottom of the seventh inning, but it was all a moot point. Oakland clearly was the better team on this day, and the Golden Grizzlies walked out of Ann Arbor with a 14-7 stomping of the Wolverines.

"The most exciting thing for me was that we showed up, from the time we got off the bus, and we acted like we belonged out there," said Banfield. "We didn't do that earlier in the year against teams that weren't nearly as good as Michigan."

The Golden Grizzlies are playing very good baseball as of late. They have scored at least 10 runs in each of their last four games, and Banfield said it all goes back to confidence.

"Our guys are just getting some confidence that

they belong," Banfield said. "And I get it. I'm getting some too to be honest. When we show up, [we] make other teams know that they got to play good to beat us, and even if they do, they still might not."

Banfield says the win is not only good for the program, but for the players, too.

"It was great to see," said Banfield. "Great for our guys, great for our kids, they deserve it."

Oakland, now 11-12, will look to keep confidence sky-high as it hosts Youngstown State this weekend.

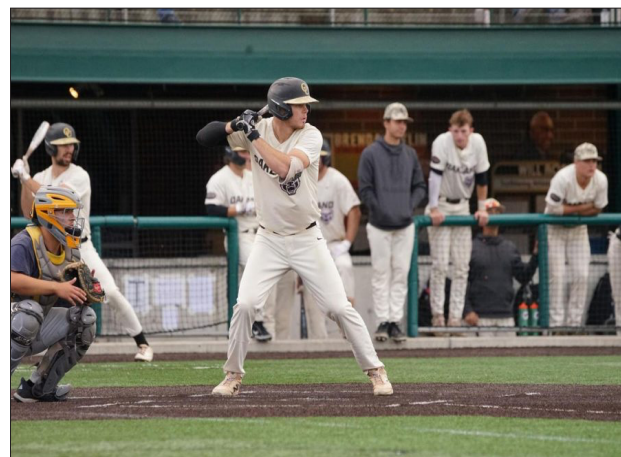


PHOTO BY OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Brad Goulet had four hits in six at-bats against Michigan on Wednesday.



# Baseball routs SVSU behind monster days at the plate

**BROCK HEILIG**

*Sports Reporter*

The Oakland baseball team defeated the Saginaw Valley State Cardinals, 13-2, on Tuesday afternoon at the Oakland baseball field. Oakland scored at least three runs in each of the first three innings to put the game well out of reach early.

SVSU struck first in the top of the first inning. The Cardinals loaded the bases with one out and SVSU's Tucker Roe beat out a double play to bring a run home. Starting pitcher Chas Sagedahl struggled early for the Grizzlies, but settled in later in the inning and only gave up one run.

Brad Goulet quickly tied things up in the bottom of the first inning with a solo home run. Michael Stygles then connected on a three-run home run a few batters later, giving Oakland a 4-1 lead.

Seth Tucker laid down a near-perfect bunt to lead off the second inning. The center fielder then advanced to second base on a balk, and stole third and scored on an error.

Brandon Nigh continued his recent hitting groove in the bottom of the second inning with a two-RBI single to extend the Grizzly lead to 7-1.

Thomas Green singled and brought home Luke Malmanger in the

bottom of the third inning to make the score 8-1 Oakland. Goulet continued his good day at the plate with a two-RBI single later in the bottom of the third inning.

Cam Post then blew the game open with a two-RBI single, making the score 12-1.

Oakland went scoreless in the fourth inning, but in the fifth inning, Post reached on a hit by pitch. He then stole second, and advanced to third on an overthrow and scored on a passed ball, extending the lead to 12 runs.

Both teams went scoreless for the next two innings, as Hunter Pidek came in for Oakland and shut down the Cardinals' offense.

The Cardinals were able to scratch another run across in the top of the eighth inning on a sacrifice fly from Jeffrey Rese, but the game had already been decided.

"We jumped all over them, and that's what we feel like we should do against a one-level-down program," said Head Coach Jordon Banfield. "We got every position player into the game, minus two regular starters that didn't start, just to get them some rest. And we got all the young guys in there, and those games are valuable."

Banfield went on to explain why these types of games are so valuable.

"[These games] are valuable," Banfield said. "No. 1 because there's a chance to get guys in if you can take care of business, and No. 2 is because when they hang with you, which inevitably happens sometimes, it's good to show up and make sure the guys always play the right way."

Oakland followed up the big victory over SVSU with a statement win in Ann Arbor over Michigan the following day. The Golden Grizzlies now sit at 11-12, and will hit the road this weekend to take on the UIC Flames in Chicago.



PHOTO BY STANLEY TU

Brad Goulet slides head-first into home plate against SVSU on March 29.

## WINTER 2022 PAYMENT DUE DATE

**OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S WINTER PAYMENT DUE DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2021.**

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

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

Payment  
Due

**LEARN** how to avoid cancellation (drop) at [oakland.edu/financialservices/payments-refunds/payments-cancellation](https://oakland.edu/financialservices/payments-refunds/payments-cancellation)