

# THE OAKLAND POST

JANUARY

21

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

2015

## MAKING WAVES

OU swim glides to home first place finish in four-team winter invitational PAGE 20

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# thisweek

January 21, 2015 // Volume 40. Issue 48



ontheweb

We're hosting a competition! We've taken pictures of each Resident Assistant's decorative board on the different floors of the dorm buildings. View and vote for your favorite this week by liking them at [www.facebook.com/theoakpost](http://www.facebook.com/theoakpost).



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

**LIGHTING UP THE DANCE FLOOR //** Students packed the neon floor at Glow Out on Friday, Jan. 16, sponsored by the Student Programming Board. Brightly dressed party-goers enjoyed refreshments and music as they formed a large circle for students to show off their electrifying moves as the DJ remixed hit songs.

*Photo by Danielle Cojocari/The Oakland Post*

Submit a photo to [photos@oaklandpostonline.com](mailto:photos@oaklandpostonline.com) for a chance to be featured. View all submissions at [oaklandpostonline.com](http://oaklandpostonline.com)



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### FIT FOR A KING

It's been over a year since Oakland officially announced its "Clean Air" policy to ban smoking on campus, yet students are still lighting up.



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### SAY 'YES' TO VIOLINS

No, your pockets are not just becoming smaller. Blog Editor Selah Fischer explores the trend behind the ever-growing cell phone.



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### BADER'S BACK

The Golden Grizzlies were forced to grin and bear it as the U of D Titans trumped 74-54 in Detroit.

## BY THE NUMBERS

Martin Luther King Jr. edition

250,000

demonstrators marched to the Lincoln Memorial where MLK gave his "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963

\$54,123

amount MLK received for his Nobel Peace Prize, which was all donated to the Civil Rights Movement

>700

streets in the U.S. are named after MLK with one in almost every major city

1964

MLK received the Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent campaign against racism

39

Martin Luther King Jr. was 39 years old when he was murdered by a white racist

## POLL OF THE WEEK

Do you use wearable technology?

- A** Heck yeah! Inspector Gadget is my hero.
- B** I've thought about it — maybe when the prices go down.
- C** What am I? A robot? No thanks.
- D** I already have a smartphone; what's the point?

Vote at [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)

## LAST WEEK'S POLL

When do you purchase books for the semester?

- A** The semester in advance. Gotta buy 'em all!

36%

- B** Not until the teacher says we actually need to.

32%

- C** Mid-semester. I like to live dangerously.

12%

- D** Most expensive ice scrapers ever!

20%

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### January 16, 2008

Oakland art professors showcased their own work at the biennial faculty art exhibition at the Oakland University Art Gallery.

Michigan's presidential primary resulted in frontrunners Hillary Clinton with 55% of the Democratic vote and Mitt Romney with 39% of the Republican vote.

### January 18, 2012

O'Dowd Hall, the Human Health Building, the Oakland Center, and Hannah Hall underwent major construction that cost more than \$7million total.

### January 20, 2010

Oakland sophomore Evan Heuker published his first novel, "Warriors Legacy: The Uncovering", which began as a sixth grade project.

-Compiled by Morgan Dean, copy editor



# Editorial

## Seek the truth, the whole truth

By LeeAnn Brown  
Life, Arts &  
Entertainment Editor

**H**eading into the third week of my final semester at OU, I have learned two important things so far.

First, the public has a misdirected sense of journalists' ethics due, in large part, to the handful of unethical journalists and the Internet, and second, our primary educational system is a joke.

Historically speaking, journalism is an "objective" check on the powers that be: corporations, authorities and government. A journalist's job is to fuel democracy through a marketplace of ideas so the public can make informed decisions.

In recent years, Gallup polls show a decrease in the public opinion of journalists, with only 24 percent of people polled ranking journalists as having high or very high ethical values. This is unfortunate, because all of the journalists that I know believe in fair and accurate reporting.

For me, a journalism major in my last semester, this is depressing.

Not only is it depressing because this public opinion likely stems from rumor mill stories spread by untrained citizen journalists or media entities rushing to break a story, but because it points to a public that is largely gullible and uneducated.

A harsh assessment? Maybe. But is it not harsh to assume that all journal-

ists leave morals behind and will write anything to land their story on the front page?

It pains me that in 2015, many people will project characteristics onto a whole group based on incidents where a handful of individuals did not do what they were supposed to.

We see this all the time. Journalists are unethical. Lawyers are liars. Politicians are soulless. Muslims are violent. Christians are close-minded. Blondes are dumb.

Have we really not learned the blatant stupidity in these stereotypes?

Obviously not, because if we had, there would not be a poll where only 24 percent of people believe that journalists are actually doing their jobs.

This leads me to believe that we are living in a society where a majority of people are taking the easy way out: using stereotypes instead of getting to know people, believing stories on their Facebook feeds without checking accuracy and choosing to tune into partisan programs that support their views instead of challenging their biases.

This lack of education and research leads me to my next point: primary education in this country sucks, to put it bluntly.

I have had this thought for a while, but it really infuriated me in class last week when we discussed Christopher Columbus.

We have a whole day to celebrate this man, who, as we learned in our history books in grade school, was

a heroic and brave explorer that "discovered" America in all of its glory.

Yeah, except that he was a greedy mass murderer that killed and enslaved for his own benefit and in the pursuit of gold.

So, why does society insist on teaching kids differently? Not only is this view left out of textbooks, but teachers that cover history fairly and accurately can be fired.

History is ugly, but so is the present, and, perhaps, if we start teaching young Americans about our own brutal history, rather than just pointing the finger at others' pasts, we can build a more knowledgeable and well-rounded society and, in turn, a better world.

A world where stereotypes may be known, but are thought to be just as truthful as the fact that for every stereotype there are exceptions. A world where ethics prevail in all facets of life.

We need this now more than ever, when anyone with an Internet connection is reporting breaking news. To sort through all of the mess to get an accurate depiction of the truth, one must utilize objective practices to capture every side of the story, not just both sides.

But seeking the truth will not only take fair and accurate reporters. It will take intelligent consumers who demand fair and accurate news, as well — a hard feat, mind you, if grade schools aren't teaching fair and accurate history to begin with.

### Corrections Corner

Last week, the Post published that performers at SPB's Circus Casino Night swallowed swords. There was no sword swallowing at the event.

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail [managing@oaklandpostonline.com](mailto:managing@oaklandpostonline.com) or call 248.370.2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

### Letters to the Editor

Writers must provide full name, class rank, phone number and field of study. Please limit letters to 250 words or less. Letters may be edited for content, length and grammar.



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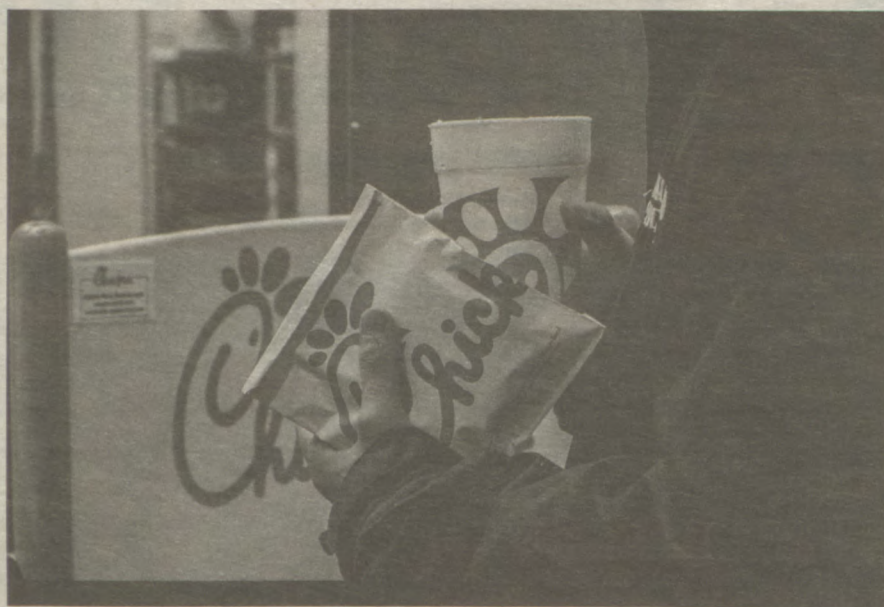
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# Perspectives



Erika Barker / The Oakland Post

Chick-fil-A is the recent center of the marriage equality argument on campus.

## Letter to the editor: 'Are we just as intolerant as they are?'

**Matthew Cannon**  
senior, biochemistry

As I read the Letter to the Editor section of last week's Oakland Post, I asked myself one startling question: Are we just as intolerant as them?

Since the summer of 2012, Chick-fil-A has been at the forefront of one of the most contentious issues (an issue likely to be resolved this June) of our generation: same-sex marriage.

The Chick-fil-A controversy is especially heated here on campus, mainly because OU houses the only Chick-fil-A in Michigan.

As an out-and-proud gay senior of Oakland University, I am appalled at the level of intolerance manifested by some students regarding the treatment of the Chick-fil-A franchise.

While it is undeniable that the company has donated money to anti-gay groups and whose CEO Dan Cathy publicly condemned gay marriage, OU's principles must not be violated: We are a campus of diversity and inclusion; that includes those individuals and companies that have unpopular beliefs and opinions.

In my four years as a student here at OU, never have I once been faced with any kind of discrimination or prejudice, from Chick-fil-A or otherwise. Neither

"I am appalled at the level of intolerance manifested by some students regarding the treatment of the Chick-fil-A in Michigan."

Matthew Cannon  
Biochemistry major  
Senior

does the mere presence of Chick-fil-A on campus offend me, as a gay man, in any way. Oakland University should take pride in advertising its Chick-fil-A; it serves great food and the employees are very friendly to its students.

Overall, our emotions should not get in the way, otherwise, we are just as bigoted and intolerant as many opponents of marriage equality.

*Current and previous coverage on Chick-fil-A and the controversies surrounding it can be found on our website, [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com).*

*Letters to the editor can be sent to [editor@oaklandpostonline.com](mailto:editor@oaklandpostonline.com) with the writer's name, year and major, or position at Oakland University. Letters must be between 200 and 400 words long.*

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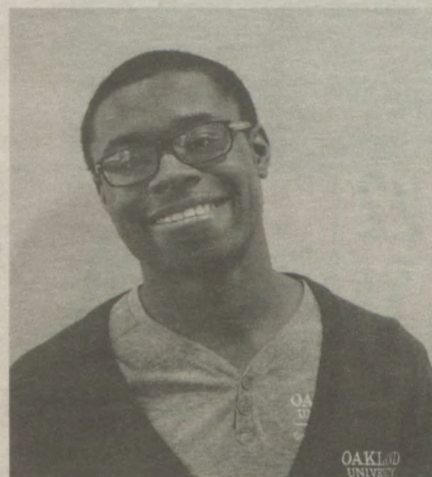


# Campus

## Grizzlies on the Prowl



*"Why is it important that we celebrate Martin Luther King day?"*



**Destin Eddington, psychology, senior**

*"To have an appreciation for freedom. He's done so much for our country."*



**Henna Ata, health sciences with nutrition concentration, sophomore**

*"In a world of violence over differences, it's important to celebrate diversity. I truly believe that the events of the past has happened for a reason and we can only reflect upon them to improve diversity."*



**Stephanie Domsic, psychology, junior**

*"It's important so that we remember our past, where we came from and so that we can continue to move forward"*



**Matthew Allos, health sciences pre-health professions, junior**

*"It's important to understand the origin of what we've accomplished in regards to breaking barriers and that our modern day world has been molded by him."*

— Compiled by Photographer Nowshin Chowdhury

## POLICE

### Person cited for marijuana use in vehicle parked in parking structure

An OUPD officer was doing a routine patrol on Jan. 18 at around 10:00 p.m. when he observed a line of vehicles parked next to each other in the parking structure. He saw five people in one vehicle and two in the backseat of the vehicle next to it. Upon exiting his patrol car, he immediately smelled a strong odor of marijuana coming from the first vehicle.

The officer approached the vehicle and people inside and smelled a powerful odor of marijuana inside the vehicle. He asked them who had been smoking marijuana but all denied smoking or having any inside the vehicle.

Another officer arrived and both officers had everyone exit from the vehicles. They told the people that they had probable cause to believe there was marijuana present based on the strong smell coming from the vehicle. One of the group members admitted to having marijuana and paraphernalia inside of a backpack that belonged to her. She told OUPD that she would take the blame for getting everyone involved. None of the people with her admitted to smoking or having marijuana.

She turned over the backpack to police and inside was a bong, a pipe, a grinder and several containers containing marijuana residue. She was issued a ticket for marijuana use. No one else at the scene was cited.

### OUPD responds to marijuana complaint, finds man in dorm room

OUPD responded to a marijuana complaint on Jan. 9 at around 9:30 p.m. Van Wagoner Hall. When the officers arrived inside, they smelled a heavy odor of marijuana. They arrived at the door the complainant had complained about and knocked, receiving consent to enter the room.

Upon entering the room, the officers noticed that the window was open and a marijuana odor was present, but no physical evidence of marijuana was found anywhere in the room.

One of the officers noticed four bottles on a desk that appeared to contain alcohol, and a non-resident admitted to bringing the alcohol into the room. Both the resident and non-resident in the room said they had not been drinking and would be willing to take a breath test to prove it.

Police then asked the third person in the room how he knew the other two. He said that he had met one of the women in the dorm on a dating website. One of the officers asked the man why he was hanging around in a dorm with women who were much younger than him. He reiterated that he had met them on a dating website. The officers told the man to leave campus and not to return.

After the man had left, one of the women in the dorm said that she had met the man on Tinder and didn't realize that he was much older. She told the officer that when the man came into the dorm he smelled like marijuana which had made her uncomfortable. The officer asked her why she didn't ask the man to leave if she had been uncomfortable. She stated that she was unsure how he would react, so she allowed him to stay.

The officers counseled the woman on the situation, advising her to be careful of her decisions in situations like that. The situation closed without further incident.

— Compiled by Josh Soltman  
Chief Copy Editor





Katherine Cagle / The Oakland Post

President George Hynd discussed upcoming issues as well as a possible new mission statement for Oakland at his annual report luncheon.

## Creating a unified vision

*President Hynd gives a preview of the potential new mission statement*

Kevin Teller  
Staff Reporter

The campus community, comprised mainly of faculty and staff, gathered in the Gold Rooms on Tuesday as President George Hynd held his second presidential report.

An important focal point of this address was the proposed mission statement for the university. The first sentence of this statement reads, "Oakland University is a pre-eminent metropolitan university that is recognized as a student-centered doctoral research institution with a global perspective."

These are the main points to take away from the proposed mission statement that Hynd focused on during his report.

**1. OU is a metropolitan university:** Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Kevin Corcoran gave a definition of what it means to be a metropolitan university. In this definition he said that those involved with the university are to be "stewards of place" in the Metro-Detroit area. Hynd drew attention to the university's increased dedication to the community around campus.

**2. OU's student population comes from virtually everywhere:** While much of the student popula-

tion comes from Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties, there are also students from all over Michigan.

Additionally, OU's alumni are scattered across the country. Hynd said he sees the vastness of their reach as "potential opportunities" for programs such as recruitment or student mentoring programs.

**3. One goal is to be student-centered:** Hynd said that the student-retention rate is growing. A reported 78 percent of students return for each subsequent academic year, compared to 70 percent back in 2011. Currently, OU is working to increase its scholarship opportunities as well as other incentives for continued education.

**4. The number of second-year sophomores is increasing as well:** While only 37 percent of students in their second years had enough credits to reach sophomore status in 2003, that number has more than doubled by 2013, reaching 78 percent.

**5. Graduation rate projections and goals:** Currently, it is a goal to reach a 52 percent graduation rate by 2018.

The university has been praised by students for programs such as the

First Year Advising Center, according to the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). However, advising for upper level students was reported to be lacking by that same survey. This, in addition to the claim that only 19 percent of graduating seniors have worked with a faculty member on research, are areas where Hynd said he feels that the university can do better to improve graduation rates.

**6. OU is also a doctoral research institution:** Provost James Lentini has been a major advocate of doctoral programs, Hynd said, and has been pushing for "startup costs" for such programs.

"Since about 2005 or 2006, the number of doctoral degrees that have been awarded has increased each year," Hynd said.

**7. Since OU's early years of existence, global perspective has been a priority:** Hynd said that now OU must "continue the tradition of giving students global learning experiences." Over 120 students studied abroad during the 2013-2014 academic year. The top three countries from which international students hail are China, India, and Saudi Arabia with over 100 students from each country.

## THIS WEEK AROUND CAMPUS

JAN.  
21

**12-1 p.m.** Winter Career Fair Prep Session 1 in Lake Superior A, Oakland Center

**8-11 p.m.** APM Tutor Night for Nursing in 201 Oak View Hall

JAN.  
22

**9 a.m.-6 p.m.** Quicken Loans Meet & Greet with Lego Home Building Contest in Elliott Hall next to Starbucks

**7:30-9 p.m.** DDA Concert: Detroit Dance Artists Showcase in Varner Lab Theatre

JAN.  
23

**All Day Event** New Orleans Spring Break Trip Tickets Sales at the CSA Service Window, 49 Oakland Center

**11 a.m.-1 p.m.** Army Contracting Command Meet & Greet in the Engineering Center Atrium

JAN.  
24

**1 p.m.** Swimming & Diving: Michigan State vs. Oakland in the Oakland Aquatic Center

**3 p.m.** Women's Basketball: Youngstown State vs. Oakland in the Athletics Center O'rena

JAN.  
25

**12-5 p.m.** Susan Goethel Campbell: Field Guide exhibition in 208 Wilson Hall

JAN.  
26

**11 a.m.-1 p.m.** Using High Tech Medicine to Improve Patient Outcomes seminar in 203 O'Dowd Hall

**3 p.m.** SPB - The Riff Off in the Banquet Rooms, Oakland Center

JAN.  
27

**5 p.m.** Leadership & Volunteer Center - Forgotten Harvest Volunteer Opportunity





# Keeping the dream alive

*Five students awarded for promoting diversity at OU and within the community*

**Kaleigh Jerzykowski**  
Staff Reporter

The iconic words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. rang clear through the Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center on Monday as OU students and community members filed in.

A video of King giving his "I Have a Dream" speech played on either side of the stage and lectern for all in attendance of OU's 23rd annual Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Celebration.

Facilitated by the Center for Multicultural Initiatives, the Keeper of the Dream scholarships are awarded to OU students who "have contributed to interracial understanding and good will," according to OU's website.

This year Omar Brown-El, director of the CMI, and scholarship sponsors Beaumont Health System, the OU Credit Union, Alumni Association, L&L McIntosh and Autoliv

Americas recognized five outstanding students in their efforts to promote diversity at OU (and within the community).

Joseph Kirma, recipient of the Beaumont Health System KOD scholarship, is a biomedical science major who shows particular interest in the health disparities that effect different ethnic groups and minorities.

In his acceptance speech, Kirma said that his father's ability to make friends anywhere served as an inspiration to him, repeating his father's advice of "it only takes a few kind words."

Zienab Fahs, a social work major, received the OU Credit Union KOD scholarship and was recognized for her ability to make "diversity an open and comfortable topic of discussion," as said by Brown-El.

In her acceptance speech, she said that one of her most rewarding experiences on campus was "working with

students that the Pre-College Program introduced [her] to."

Chanel Daniels received the OU Alumni Association KOD scholarship for her work with the OU Veteran Society for serving as a CMI peer mentor and for her service with the International Guard in the US Air Force.

"She can and will make a difference in the lives of others," said Center for Student Activities Director Jean Ann Miller.

"She strives to break stereotypes," Brown-El said.

Aukury Cowart, an electrical engineering major, received the L&L McIntosh KOD scholarship in recognition for his work in promoting diversity on campus through his involvement with Greek life at OU.

Cowart is president of OU's chapter of the National Pan-Hellenic Council and president of the Psi Phi Fraternity. He also works as an Apartment Resident Assistant

for University Housing and as a mentor in the Department of Pre-College Programs.

Taylor Moore received the final KOD scholarship, presented by Autoliv Americas, and Brown-El said that Moore "aggressively seeks opportunity to create an environment of inclusion."

After the five students were presented with their awards, Brown-El introduced keynote speaker and actress Jurnee Smollett-Bell, who told the crowd her story of overcoming adversity using her position as an artist, actress and community leader to make a difference.

"You bring me so much joy, my heart is smiling," Smollett-Bell said as she looked to the scholarship recipients, seated in the front row. "It's so rare that we as a society celebrate young people such as yourselves."

"I so believe in you, because I see that you believe in the fierce urgency of now."

Nowshin Chowdhury / The Oakland Post

1. Actress Jurnee Smollett-Bell shares her story with those in attendance and congratulates the scholarship recipient.

2. Oakland University's President George W. Hynd was also at the ceremony.

3. The five scholarship recipients, sitting in the front row, have effectively promoted diversity in their communities.

4. President Hynd presents the award to Zienab Fahs, a social work major.



# Calculating the costs of library e-resources

Kevin Teller  
Staff Reporter

Today, a representative from Kresge Library will speak on how to use the library's electronic resources. While some may see this as an opportunity to catch up on some sleep or Facebook-scrolling, this is a learning opportunity on how to obtain and publish with the library's resources.

Once a professor writes an article that is published in an academic journal, the publisher then sells that journal to libraries such as Kresge across the country.

The associate dean of Oakland University libraries Shawn Lombardo, describes the publishing business as "cutthroat."

"The publishers argue that they have to now maintain servers and online content, so the environment has gotten more complex," Lombardo said.

Essentially, the companies that compile the databases are paid to act as an intermediary between the academic journal publishers and Kresge.

OU Libraries are not at liberty to discuss individual contracts with database providers, but the aggregate total amount that was spent on electronic resources, such as these last year, was approximately \$2.4 million. This accounts for more than 130 databases—50,000 journals—that are online at Kresge.

Some may believe this money goes back to the scholars in some way. However, this is not the case.

"Faculty members are required to publish their work in academic journals. It is the standard by which their career success is measured. It is also required for tenure and promotion purposes, Dr. Rebekah Farrugia, communication professor, said.

Some are uneasy about the

fact that so much money is going to these companies who simply compile the information presented to them. But it is difficult to judge whether \$2.4 million is an appropriate amount for the university to put into the industry.

The world of readily available electronic media is still relatively new. Kresge Library began moving its vast supply of texts online in the early 2000s, according to collection development librarian Helen Levenson.

"It was around this time that we saw the price of journals increase, too," Lombardo said.

Accompanying this issue is a plethora of questions about intellectual property. For instance, Lombardo credits free publications such as Michigan eLibrary (MEL) with putting pressure on the publishing companies to keep prices affordable.

Another way in which publishers' prices are challenged



Katherine Cagle / The Oakland Post

Since the early 2000s, Kresge Library has been transferring its texts into electronic documents for students to access.

is from the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS).

"They (MCLS) negotiate license agreements with more favorable terms for the universities," Lombardo said. "Because they have a lot of universities behind them, they can negotiate smaller annual

increases."

It is because of companies such as MEL and MCLS that libraries feel a sense of relief about publishers' prices.

Future tuition money given to such technological advances remains unknown for the university.

## Campus assault awareness plans come to a standstill

Cheyenne Kramer  
Staff Intern

After recent discussions on how to prevent campus assaults, members of the Oakland University Student Congress (OUSC) decided to help OU further protect its students.

A resolution, proposed by legislators Andrew Laux and Madison Kubinski, planned to educate the student body through brochures that would be anonymously accessible in bathrooms across campus. It also considered the possibility of promoting the hiring of more female police officers at the Oakland University Police Department (OUPD), and pushing for more student-run initiatives on fixing the problem of sexual assault.

Laux, congressional archivist for the OUSC, said that his and Kubinski's inspiration for the bill was their fellow students' need for it.

### A need for awareness

"We wanted to stress the importance of being safe and presenting different avenues for students who are assaulted on and off campus," Laux said. "The resolution is a springboard for the future. It will raise awareness and help break the illusion that this doesn't happen on our campus."

Kubinski, steering chair for the OUSC, said another part of their inspiration came from the Student Associations of Michigan (SAM) Conference held last year.

"At the SAM Conference, I had used the restroom at the University of Michigan, and saw these pamphlets they had in the bathroom about how to go about recovering from sexual assault," Kubinski said.

OU took things a step further by being one of the first universities to uptake such an effort. According to Kubinski, OUPD has considered educating members in

fraternities throughout campus on the very real possibilities of sexual assault, but this was excluded from the resolution due to the overload of previous ideas.

"Oakland has a very strict alcohol policy, which can really help lower the risks of assaults," Kubinski said. "But it doesn't help every crime from happening. Students still need to be aware of what to do if they're assaulted, which is what the pamphlets plan to do."

Overall, the OUSC had hoped to create a brochure to put in the male, female and gender neutral bathrooms across campus to help educate students and faculty on what actions to avoid domestic abuse or how to report and handle an unwanted sexual encounter.

"I think the biggest thing I've noticed is many students just don't know how real the possibility of being sexually assaulted is," Laux said. "I'm a guy, none of my friends

have been assaulted, but the SAM conference really opened my eyes to realizing that this is something that happens very frequently, and is preventable when the right measures are taken."

### A matter of clarity

According to Laux, the duty of himself, of Kubinski and of the bill was to protect each student. While it was originally set to pass, the resolution was vetoed by Student Body President Annie Meinburg.

The veto states that "The resolution should be very clear on how to promote initiatives that will promote education among the student body regarding sexual assault and abusive relationships."

While the bill had an unpromising resolution, Meinburg said that it might be passed if it was clearer on how the resolution would actually go about teaching students the issues of sexual assaults on campus.

"If Oakland University Student Congress wants to take a stand on sexual assault, it would be advantageous to organize it in the form of a student run initiative that changes the campus structure," she said.

Kubinski said that she and Laux plan on continuing their efforts in creating a resolution that would educate OU students on the issues of sexual assault.

"Oakland has a lot of places to go if you're assaulted," Laux said. "You could go to the Health Center, the Gender and Sexuality Center, or the OUPD. But the problem is students still find it too taboo to talk about, and hopefully, easy access to this information will help break down some of these barriers."

Those interested in helping the bill pass can attend an OUSC meeting, held Mondays at 4 p.m. in the OC, or email Laux at [amlaux@oakland.edu](mailto:amlaux@oakland.edu).



### TOP 10 GO-GO GADGETS

- 10. PORTABLE CHARGER** // Although the only thing smartphone users ask for is a better batteries, it just doesn't happen. Luckily, they make portable chargers. They are small, sleek and relatively inexpensive.
- 9. A CASE** // Since everyone has the same two or three phones, a case is the perfect way to set yourself apart. They come in all shapes, sizes and designs.
- 8. PHONE MOUNT FOR VEHICLE** // Today's phones are so versatile and has led many of us to be very dependent on them. I know that I can not get around unfamiliar lands without it. But with the car mount, you can leave your phone in a safe view, on your windshield, with your map app.
- 7. WATCHES** // Watches happen to be stylish, but not very functional anymore. With phone watches, you can read your texts and with some, answer them and more.
- 6. PHONE TRIPOD** // A phone tripod is the perfect way to take group pictures in a world where most people don't have an actual camera.
- 5. SELFIE STICK** // Because a tripod might actually be outdated, or you don't want to take pictures with anyone but yourself. The selfie stick is the perfect way to show off yourself and what's going on in the background.
- 4. HEADPHONES** // A good pair of headphones can make or break a day. They are the perfect way to shut yourself out of the world and jam out to good tunes.
- 3. CAR CHARGER** // Don't have a portable charger and stuck in the car for a long commute? A car charger can be the best way to keep your phone fully charged for whatever destination you need to get to.
- 2. PHONE SPEAKER** // Not many own a radio anymore. Instead, hook your phone up to a speaker and be in control of what songs play.
- 1. PHONE WALLET** // Why have a wallet and phone in two separate pockets, when they can be all in one? One convenient place that holds two of the most important things—money and a phone.

—Compiled by Sean Gardner, Web Editor

### YAKS of the WEEK

**Yik Yak:**  
The voice of the people



- 1.** "When you see an adult trying to dress like a college student, and they end up looking like a mix of a street hooker and oversized toddler."
- 2.** "Boom clap, the sound of my thighs."
- 3.** "Me: Hey professor how are you? Professor: It's in the syllabus."
- 4.** "Does this uniform make me look fat? —Insecurity Guard."
- 5.** "Study tip: Stand up. Stretch. Take a walk. Go to the airport. Never return."
- 6.** "Vandy needs to turn off the heat. I have so many blankets I would like to use."
- 7.** "Her sweater is blue. So why does it say Pink?"
- 8.** "You know what, care label? I WILL machine wash this shirt. Because I'm wild. And I live dangerously."
- 9.** "Someone take one for the team and date me already."
- 10.** "New year, new GPA. Just kidding mine still sucks."

—Compiled by Shelby Tankersley, Intern

### TOP TUNES

wxou albums of the week

- 1.** Aquadolls — "Stoked on You"
- 2.** Ariel Pink — "Pom Pom"
- 3.** Parquet Courts — "Content Nausea"
- 4.** Bully — "Bully" [EP]
- 5.** Ty Segall — "Singles 2"
- 6.** She and Him — "Classics"
- 7.** Panda Bear — "Panda Bear Meets The Grim Reaper"
- 8.** TV On the Radio — "Seeds"
- 9.** Run the Jewels — "Run the Jewels 2"
- 10.** D'Angelo and the Vanguard — "Black Messiah"



#### AQUADOLLS - Stoked on You

Michigan winters suck.

"It's chilly, so chilly / I wish that it was summertime again," Aquadolls singer Mellybee croons on "Our Love Will Always Remain." The Aquadolls are based out of L.A., which explains the sun-soaked sounds of Stoked on You, their full-length debut on Burger Records. But this record could not have come at a better time for those of us trapped in the depths of another cold, dark Michigan winter. Next time you're trudging across campus through the bitter winds and frost in between classes, pop in Stoked On You and let this album take you away to a lazy, sandy beach where the sun is always high and the guitars are always distorted just enough to warm your bones.

Start with: "Wander," "Our Love Will Always Remain," "So High"

— Anthony Spak, WXOU Music Director



## PERSPECTIVE: One of the lucky few

Andrew Clissold said he considers himself to be pretty lucky, but I consider myself to be even luckier.

I've been at Oakland less than he has, or Taylor Boddy has, or Kaitlyn Keith has. This is my third and final year — even after switching majors.



Kaylee Kean  
Managing Editor

I came to OU straight from high school (2012) and began as a music major. I quickly discovered that it was not what I expected, and that I was most certainly not meant for that life. The summer before my second year I tried out a beginning journalism class and decided

then to make the switch.

In April I'll be walking the stage. While most other students are taking nearly double the time, I'm taking nearly half.

The key for me? Dual enrollment and snappy planning.

I received 60 college credits from St. Clair County Community College through a unique dual enrollment program. I spent ages 16, 17 and 18 in those taxing classes — calculus, chemistry, sociology, psychology, political science — and while I nearly went insane at the time, words cannot describe how grateful I now am that I was chosen for and participated in that program. All of my credits were put to good use.

I had also heard tales and experienced the horror of the first- and second-year advising center, so when I decided to make the change in majors, I sat myself down with both the online and print course catalogs and wrote out my own plan for graduation. A few things moved around, but ultimately, it helped me reach my goal much more efficiently.

This route isn't available for everyone, unfortunately, and that is why I feel so lucky.

I won't say anything on other students and whether it's up to them to finish in four years. I won't say anything on universities and any responsibilities they might have in helping students through. There's a lot of factors, and I'm not sure I have a solid opinion on it; I simply wanted to share my own experience, which I consider to be unique enough, and relevant.

# NO MORE FOUR-YEAR

STORY BY KAYLEE KEAN // DESIGN BY KELLY LARA // PHOTO BY KATHERINE CAGLE

Kaitlyn Keith is finally an alumna. In December she fulfilled her dream of bouncing across the stage dressed in black and gold and grabbing that piece of paper that says she made it. She could finally step off of the commencement stage and into the next, more metaphorical stage of her life.

Keith has been looking forward to this moment for a long time. For 7.5 years, to be specific.

She earned a Bachelor of Music in piano performance, a degree that falls under the four-year plan category on OU's website. It took her much longer than those four years to acquire it.

While the time it took Keith to get her four-year degree is lengthy, it's not unusual. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment at Oakland University (OIRA) reported that only 18.9 percent of OU graduates in 2010 graduated in four years.

In 2009, 15.8 percent graduated in four years and 36.1 percent in five years. The average of those who graduated in six years since 2000 stayed at roughly 43 percent — the report on six-year graduates ends at 2008.

While this data only reflects on OU, the implications go far beyond this single school.

According to the research in recent CNN documentary "Ivory Tower," 68 percent of U.S. students at public universities failed to graduate in four years, as of 2012. Forty-four percent failed to graduate in six years.

The trend is evidenced around the country, with universities and colleges across the na-

tion displaying the same results and speculations, marking these long graduation times as a steadily growing and seemingly unstoppable trend.

### Exploring the causes

Keith acquired her associate's degree at a community college and then attended Michigan State University for another two years. She transferred to OU in September 2011, drawn to it by her friends.

It didn't take long to discover that even though she had earned a hefty number of credits, graduation would take a while. Due to the structure of OU's music program, when Keith failed one class, she could not continue with many others. There were many challenges and no room for mistakes.

Andrew Clissold, computer science major, started in the music program as well.

He came straight to OU from high school and began as a music major in fall 2010. After his first year he realized it wasn't for him and made the "180 flip" to another passion — programming.

"It was weird slowly shifting worlds from music to programming," Clissold said. "I kind of knew what I was getting into when I changed."

It's been four years and Clissold has accomplished more than he was expecting. He was actually set to graduate in April but recently decided to push everything back a semester in order to complete an internship in Texas with IBM for three months.

## A FEW MORE THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Here are some other materials/links that offer different insights into why graduation can take so long and what can be done about it.

To see the hyperlinks, visit this article at [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com).

### A matter of time

"Time is the Enemy" is a summary from national nonprofit Complete College America. While strongly opinionated, it has a plethora of research and findings from the government, and includes a section on ways to address this graduation trend. It includes ideas such as block scheduling, shorter academic terms, formal and on-time completion plans, credit hour caps, and a common general education core program that can fully transfer anywhere.



# AR NORM

AGLE

"I just came across an awesome opportunity that would be worth it," Clissold said.

While it will now take him 5.5 years to graduate, Clissold said he feels lucky that everything worked out the way it did.

Not everyone's experiences are the same when switching careers and majors, but many students do experience this indecision.

Donald Asher, career and higher education writer and speaker, published his own take in list form in 2010: "6 Reasons College Students Don't Graduate in 4 Years." The third reason on his list is that students change their majors too much, such as Clissold. The fourth reason is that students go to too many schools and lose credits while transferring, such as Keith.

Other reasons Asher cites include a lack of motivation on the students' parts, a struggle to balance class and work to pay for school, time taken off for internships or co-ops, and a difficulty in meeting school requirements.

Whatever the reasons and responses for these graduation rates, the rates are there and aren't going away. The topic has been covered as a trend by a variety of universities, organizations and media outlets.

## It's a trend – is it a problem?

"Is there a clear winner for earning a degree in four years versus earning it in five?"

This is the question posed by writer Jon Fortenbury at the end of his USA Today article "Pushing to graduate in 4 years: Smart move?"



Taylor Boddy, elementary education major, doesn't necessarily think long graduation times are a bad thing.

Boddy is expecting to receive her degree in April 2016, six years after her high school graduation. Like Keith, she started at a community college. She said she got pushed back a year before she even reached OU, and that her program takes a longer time than others since it requires more field placements and observation assignments.

So far, Boddy said she thinks she's going to have more than five field placements. The requirements are a little confusing to her still, but she doesn't resent them.

"I think that the amount is good because I think the more experience, the better," Boddy said. "That way I can get more experience in the classroom and get more hours... it's really helpful."

Boddy said it will be sad to watch her fellow education friends leave upon their graduations, and while she does often wish she could walk the stage sooner, she's enjoying her classes and doesn't feel too concerned

about taking so long.

"I'm getting more experience and I'm able to get my name out there more and (the classes and placements will) help get me a job more down the line," Boddy said.

Keith has watched many friends come and go as well. She has had her share of depression, stress, lack of funds and failures, and missed out on years of a full-time job and salary.

It doesn't matter. She's finally done and she said she wouldn't think twice about doing it again. She's been counting down the days and plans to continue supporting her alma mater as one of its most spirited alumni.

"Well everyone... I made it," she wrote in an article that was published in the Nov. 19 issue of the Oakland Post. "Made it to the end of my degree and the end to some of the best seven and a half years of my life."

To see the many hyperlinks included in the original article, visit it on the Oakland Post website, [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com).

## Gen. ed. debates

Speaking of general education, these requirements add two years to a student's education at OU. The OIRA conducted a general education survey in 2012, speaking with OU advisors, faculty and students. The responses were varied; some argued that gen. ed. courses are necessary for well-rounded learning and skill development, and some argued that the classes add time and complicate scheduling. These are only a few of the points brought up.

## You can't finish when you don't continue

One reason the four-year graduation rate at OU is so low is that many students leave before they complete their programs or degrees. In his presidential report on Tuesday, President George Hynd said that only 78 percent of students are returning to OU each year. This is higher than the 70 percent who returned in 2011. Hynd said OU is working on scholarship opportunities and other incentives to keep students coming back.

18.9%

of OU graduates in 2010  
took four years to graduate



68%

of students in the U.S.  
failed to graduate in four years



# 'I will reach the stars that I cannot see'

Speaker conquers  
'special challenges'

Kayla Varicalli  
Campus & Administration  
Editor

A new country. A new language. A new obstacle without the sense of sight. This is the life of 21-year-old Khodr Farhat, who was born visually impaired. At the age of 16, Farhat and his family moved to Dearborn from Lebanon, with the hopes of a better education and advanced technology for the blind.

Farhat volunteers around Oakland and Wayne counties. His work encompasses public speaking about his every day obstacles.

"My challenge of being visually impaired goes day by day, second by second," Farhat said. "You have to be patient, you have to shape your attitude and you have to prove yourself."

Living in a world with no images, Farhat entered this country with the willingness to be independent and to create his own vision.

Because of his mindset, Farhat began learning a new country and a new view on life, starting at Lincoln Park High School (LPHS). LPHS holds a program for visually impaired students—a program that taught Farhat usable technology and ways to succeed independently.

"High school was great. A lot of people thought I would not be able to succeed," Farhat said. "I never judged something, I never underestimated anyone. I just went to school, and I was very successful."

Farhat took LPHS's valuable knowledge and put it to work. Though entering high school with a limited English vocabulary and no sight, he graduated high school on time with a 4.0, which he considers one of his greatest achievements.

Though surrounded by supportive teachers and family

members, Farhat taught himself to be as independent as possible.

"I came from somewhere where I had to figure everything out on my own," Farhat said. "If I had a problem, I found the solution myself."

He lives on the belief that being visually impaired is a special challenge, not a special need. After high school, college was his next challenge to conquer.

Farhat is currently enrolled at Henry Ford College, where he is earning a major in special education. In a year and a half, he plans to enroll at Eastern Michigan University to work for his PhD in special education.

As a special education teacher, Farhat plans to reach the minds of the visually impaired; a position which he took on for himself at a young age.

"People with special challenges are more than able to succeed," he said. "Our society just needs to give us a chance."

Everyday obstacles in college are fiercely taken on by Farhat.

From transportation to taking notes in class, he constantly gathers his experiences and hardships.

With his growing education, Farhat focuses on volunteer work and public speaking. He has volunteered at organizations such as the Detroit Medical Center, the Westland Library and Lincoln Park Public Schools.

"I started giving speeches and people loved it. I wasn't only speaking to the audience, I was proving," Farhat said.

Farhat volunteers and speaks with the objective to teach others how to independently face life's obstacles. As a visually impaired, newer member to the country, he strives to put confidence in the minds of those who face special challenges.

"You have to motivate others. you can't always tap them on the shoulder and console them," Farhat said. "If you are disabled and not doing anything about it, you're wasting your resources."

A new country, a new lan-



Courtesy of Khodr Farhat

Farhat gives public speeches to encourage those who face special challenges similar to his.

guage and new lifestyle without sight. Farhat conquered innumerable hard-to-face obstacles over the last six years, but never lost his confidence and optimistic mindset.

"I will reach the stars that I cannot see," Farhat said. "For me, I can reach something higher than where I'm standing, and I can do it without my vision."

For more information email Farhat at [khodr.farhat12@gmail.com](mailto:khodr.farhat12@gmail.com).

## 5

### The Top Five Reasons to Become an OU Credit Union Member

Stay tuned for reasons 4-5.

### 3 On-Campus Branch & ATMs

OU Credit Union has a branch located in the Oakland Center as well as ATMs in the Oakland Center, Vandenberg Hall, and the Recreation Center.





**Refer a Friend**  
Refer a friend to join OU Credit Union, and you'll each receive an awesome free gift.

**Become a member today!**



[www.oucreditunion.org](http://www.oucreditunion.org)  
248-364-4708



# WHAT'S YOUR PERSPECTIVE?

Submit an opinion column to  
[editor@oaklandpostonline.com](mailto:editor@oaklandpostonline.com)  
and you could see it in print.

Be sure to provide contact information,  
class standing and field of study.



## Life

# The 'quick, easy and cheap' driving option for students

*Uber offers an alternative on the taxi service at any hour of the day*

Selah Fischer  
Staff Reporter

Specifically targeting college students Uber, one of the newest taxi services provides a quick, easy and cheap way of getting students to their desired destination.

Whether students don't have a car on campus, it isn't starting in the cold winter months or they simply need a ride for other reasons; Uber comes to any students rescue within a short period of time.

"I love Uber and I've even used it to rescue me from a horrible first date recently," senior Elizabeth Gretkierewicz said.

Available on smartphones, students can request a ride at any time of the day.

With a college budget, many students don't have a ton of extra cash to be calling a taxi and paying \$2.60 per mile. Uber is much cheaper than a typical taxi ride, making the life of college students easier.

"Uber was an interesting experience," Senior Sai Myint said. "I was without a car this past New Years Eve and I had to get back home to Bloomfield Hills after finishing my shift at work. I downloaded the app, put my credit card information in, and, before I knew it, Mark in a Ford SUV arrived to pick me up. He was a nice guy and I only paid \$22 for a 13 mile trip."

Founded in 2009, Uber is vastly taking over offering rides to people for a low cost.

The car service has now spread to 45 different countries and over 100 cities, according to bcheights.com.

Here's how it works:

First, download the app to your smartphone.

Once you've downloaded it all you need to do is type in your pickup location and final destination.

The app will then tell you how long your wait is, the name of the driver and even allow you to track his or her route on a map.

When the drivers arrive, they will call

uberX is now  
CHEAPER THAN EVER

WE DROPPED FARES IN  
DETROIT BY 30%

The safest, most reliable ride in town  
just got more affordable.

RIDE NOW -- THESE RATES ARE LIMITED TIME ONLY

Selah Fischer / The Oakland Post

Uber, which specifically targets college students, is used by many people at OU.

your phone to let you know they are there.

When you're not receiving a free ride, all money is handled electronically on your phone. When you request a car, it will charge you on the card you have provided.

No cash is accepted and tips are not encouraged.

All payment is done between the customer and the app, not the customer and the driver.

Benefits and promotions:

Uber also allows you to snag a lot of free rides.

You can do this by giving any friends or family members your promotion code that is listed on your app when they use Uber for the first time.

Once they use your code, you will then receive a free ride up to \$20.

There is no limit when it comes to how many times you may do this.

Also, some drivers give out free coupons.

"Uber is easy to use, and I recommend it to everyone," Gretkierewicz said. "I use Uber about once or twice a week and it's extremely cost efficient. From downtown Rochester to my condo near Oakland University it's only \$15."

Although you won't recognize an Uber driver, as they are in normal cars roaming the streets, the service is all around and available with just a click of a button.

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
CareerServices

## Winter CAREER FAIR

2015  
January 28

**OU Recreation Center | 10am-1pm**

Professional dress is required.

Bring your GrizzCard and plenty of resumes.

Check [oakland.edu/careerservices](http://oakland.edu/careerservices) for the list of employers attending.

**Discover opportunities in:**

Business | Liberal Arts | Human Resources  
Engineering | Computer Science  
Occupational Safety & Health  
Safety Management | Information Technology

**Recommended Prep Sessions:**

January 21, 22 or 26

Noon-1:00 in Oakland Center Lake Superior A

Contact Career Services for a resume review or to create a career fair strategy. Schedule an appointment or come in for open advising from 12:00 - 4:30 pm, Monday - Thursday.

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
CareerServices

154 North Foundation Hall  
248-370-3250  
[oakland.edu/careerservices](http://oakland.edu/careerservices)



# Tackling the latest trends in wearable tech

Kaleigh Jerzykowski  
Staff Reporter

This year, "home for the holidays" became "healthy for the holidays" as consumers were bombarded with advertisements for Fitbit, Jawbone, the highly anticipated Apple watch and a myriad of other "wearables" — as they're known on the market.

Now that the dust has settled after the gift-giving season, those who weren't hurdled into the wearable tech trend via a gift from friends or family are left thinking: "Do I want one of these devices? Do I need one?"

For many, the draw of a shiny, new tech toy is enough to make that decision, but in addition to looking slick on the wrist, there are pros and cons of owning one of these devices, explains OU junior, electrical and computer engineering major and former Google Glass explorer, Ziyad Al Obaidi.

"Buying a fitness tracker will be a small investment to provide you with an array of sensors to monitor your body and keep track of your steps, but that's all it will do," Al Obaidi said.

## More than just fitness

"Smart watches like Apple Watch, Moto 360 and others offer more than just fitness data," he said. "It's essentially another window to check out your phone notifications and do some smaller tasks like checking weather, your schedule and responding to texts - on the fly."

If Al Obaidi had to make a wearable tech recommendation, he said he would suggest the Moto 360 — a smart watch — because it's "elegant and it offers much more than what a fitness tracker offers at marginal extra cost. Most other trackers offer too little for the price."

At the moment, the market is divided between smart watches and fitness trackers with, say, Apple Watch being on one end and Fitbit Flex being on the other.

## Differing price points

While each device differs in function and features, price is sure to be a deciding factor for



Photos by Katherine Cagle / The Oakland Post

The biggest issue that Jennifer Peper, a studio art major, has with the FitBit is that it does not register her pre-core work out.



Peper shows off her FitBit and the accompanying FitBit iPhone application.

many.

TechRadar.com cites that the Apple Watch will retail at around \$350 when it debuts in a sort of "to be announced" timeframe in 2015, while the Fitbit Flex runs consumers a cool \$100 and is available nearly everywhere.

Al Obaidi recommends that consumers spend a little more to get a little more and purchase a smart watch, which he

says will do much more for the money.

## Using tech to get healthy

Tim Pontzer, OU senior and journalism major, has obtained great results from the use of a fitness tracker alone.

"I gained the freshman 15 and then some," Pontzer said. "I knew I needed to do something so I bought a [Nike] FuelBand midway through my sopho-

more year."

Pontzer said that purchasing the FuelBand made him more conscious of "just how much time a journalism student can spend sitting around."

"It made me actually get up and move," Pontzer said. "Instead of the elevator, I would take the stairs. I walked the dog instead of watching TV."

Pontzer said that after working healthy activity into his lifestyle, he began to watch what he ate more carefully because of the positive results he was achieving with the help of his fitness tracker.

Like Al Obaidi, Pontzer believes that wearables can be beneficial to users, but it comes down to the adage of "you get out what you put in," for wearing a fitness tracker alone won't make an individual healthy overnight.

Like anything, it takes commitment to achieve results.

Since the purchase of his FuelBand two years ago, Pontzer has upgraded to a Samsung

"It made me actually get up and move. Instead of the elevator, I would take the stairs. I walked the dog instead of watching TV."

Tim Pontzer  
Senior, Journalism

Gear Fit, which has many of the features of a smart watch, allowing Pontzer to track his steps and calories burned and send texts from his wrist.

If Al Obaidi and Pontzer's preferences are any indication of the wearable tech trends at OU, it seems as if higher-functioning, smart watch-type devices are where consumers should focus their attention to ensure the most features for the fairest price.

"As a whole, wearables will stay," said Al Obaidi, which is good news to those yet to be convinced by this latest tech phenomenon.





Danielle Cojocari / The Oakland Post

Regina Carter, an OU alumna and native to Detroit, was eager to play the songs of Jimi Hendrix on her violin this past weekend.

# Jazzing up Jimi Hendrix

## OU jazz band revs up Detroit with new music

Scott Davis  
Staff Reporter

**O**akland's Jazz Quartet, along with OU alumna Regina Carter, set the stage on fire with a performance of Jimi Hendrix music on Saturday night.

The event took place at the Carr Center in Detroit and featured many of the legendary guitarist's greatest hits. The set list included "Fire," "Manic Depression," and "Angel," along with many more classics.

Even though Hendrix's music might not seem like a perfect fit for jazz music, bass player Miles Brown thought it would provide something new and exciting for the audience.

"We picked Jimi Hendrix's music because it's not often performed by jazz musicians," Brown said. "The group is very creative, and we thought that we could really make something out of the raw power that Jimi created."

The Oakland Jazz Quartet is comprised of faculty members Miles Brown

on bass, Sean Dobbins on the drums, Scott Gwinnell on piano, and Mark Stone on percussion. Before the instructors and professional musicians came up on the stage, OU's own Jazz-Off band treated the audience to a performance.

After the opening, the quartet performed with renowned jazz violinist Regina Carter, who graduated from OU and is its current artist-in-residence. Carter is a Grammy nominee and returns each year to the university to teach master classes and perform concerts with the students.

One of the spectators at the concert, Theresa Zajac, said she came to the performance because Carter was performing and thought the decision to perform Hendrix music with a jazz flair was interesting. She said has been a fan of Carter since the violinist's early shows in Detroit.

"I watched her musical growth in her early years playing with Lyman Woodard at Cobb's Corner near Wayne State's campus," Zajac said. "It is always great to hear her music interpretations."

Carter works with OU students and performs concerts about twice a year. Oakland's Jazz Quartet came about by

her needing someone to back her up, but the band has started to flourish on its own as of late.

Upcoming performances for the jazz band include a performance on Feb. 12 and a performance with special guests Steve Wood and Michael Zavorski on April 7.

The quartet is holding a Jazz Workshop, featuring Regina Carter, on June 13 and 14. It is open to the public.

More information on the band and its events can be found at [oakland.edu/mtd](http://oakland.edu/mtd).

### Jazz workshop info

**WHO** Open to the public, ages 14 and up

**WHEN** Saturday/Sunday, June 13 & 14

**COST** \$25 for students, parents and teachers can attend for FREE

**Registration opens soon!**

## Gold Vibrations to riff off in a cappella competition

Shelby Tankersley  
Staff Intern

**I**n its search for a musical event to hold this semester, the Student Program Board (SPB) decided to hold a Riff Off for Gold Vibrations, OU's a cappella team, and the Canadian group, Eh400, for the first time.

One fun thing about this event: the teams don't have very much information as to what they'll be doing.

"We don't know much about the event itself," said Cody Brody, vice president of Gold Vibrations.

Even the audience won't know what to expect, according to Nicholas Kim, mainstage director for the SPB.

"As for the particulars of the rifting, I'm afraid people will have to show up to see it play out," Kim said.

However, Kim did hint that Gold Vibrations will be performing first, followed by Eh400.

When one thinks of a Riff Off, a certain a cappella movie might come to mind — Pitch Perfect and its movie-style competitions. In reality, however, it would actually be very difficult for singers to come up with songs and arrangements on the fly like it is portrayed in the movies.

A cappella singers would need to have a large arsenal of songs they could sing at a moment's notice in order to make a Riff Off work, according to Drew O'Shanick, a college a cappella singer, in an interview with Entertainment Weekly.

"That kind of relies on you having a very in-depth catalog of songs you're ready to pull out, depending on what the topic is," O'Shanick said.

With all of this mystery, the Riff Off can be expected to be a one-of-a-kind experience.

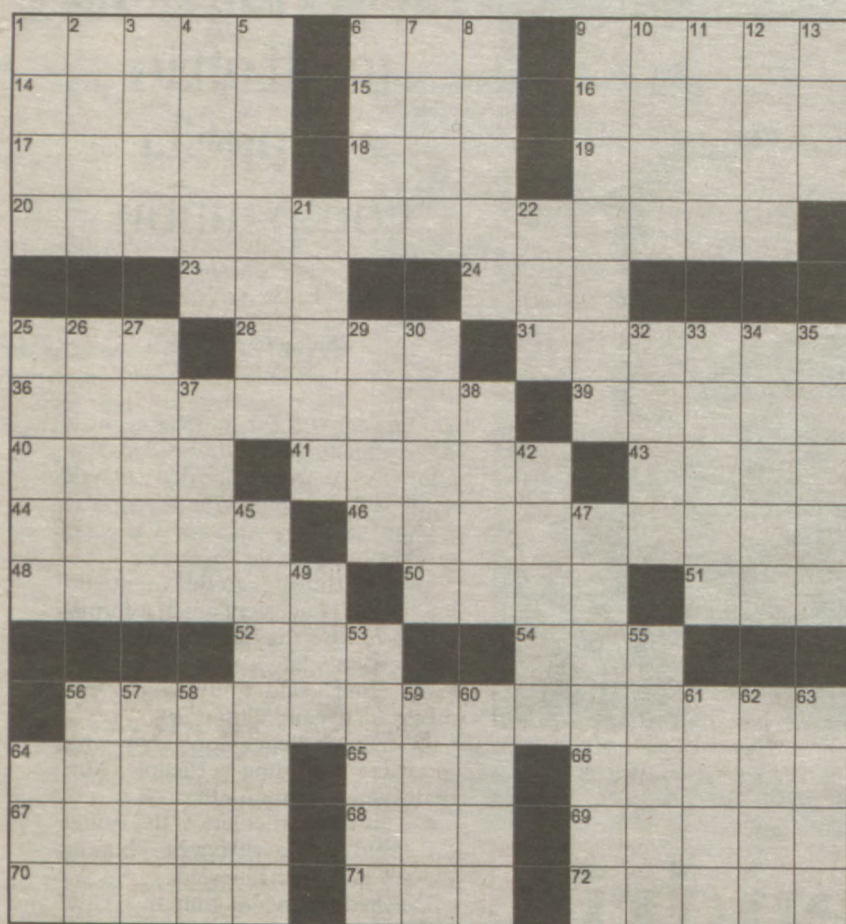
The Riff Off will be held in the Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center on Sunday, Jan. 25 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. There will be free food and plenty of music.

Regardless of whether OU's Riff Off will be what students are expecting, it will be something to check out.

Are Gold Vibrations and Eh400 up to the challenge? To find out, be there to see them dish out their best beats.



# Puzzles



## Across

- 1: Rapid transits?  
6: Repetitive computer program  
9: Wintry mess  
14: Pass out  
15: Fireman's tool  
16: Like some keys  
17: Party's candidates  
18: Remote room?  
19: Islamic chiefs  
20: Experience a lack of oxygen, perhaps  
23: Fade away  
24: Sensational  
25: Star pitcher  
28: Thepeak like thith  
31: Bee attractor  
36: Toothpaste additives  
39: Paycheck booster  
40: Subordinate staffer  
41: Bend a bit  
43: Unused portion  
44: Character assault  
46: Seventh Commandment flouter  
48: Crab type  
50: Incite  
51: Pig's digs  
52: Constricting snake  
54: Wild bunch  
56: Befuddle  
64: Regional flora and fauna  
65: Point, as a rifle

- 66: Turned white  
67: Put a new price on, say  
68: Biathlon need  
69: Nosed (out)  
70: Saw  
71: Go down  
72: Poised for action

## Down

- 1: Impetuous  
2: Friend  
3: Brouhaha  
4: Schlepped  
5: Aseptic  
6: Summoned  
7: Whom the yoke's on?  
8: Agent's take, maybe  
9: Metal refinery  
10: Peru's capital  
11: Single thing  
12: Ruining the run, perhaps  
13: 9 - 5, e.g.  
21: Rock groups?  
22: Cyclotron bit  
25: Flooded  
26: Doorbell component  
27: Kind of down  
29: Words with precedent  
30: Goads  
32: Devil-may-\_\_\_\_  
33: They may be stacked  
34: Balance sheet positive  
35: Give it another shot  
37: Sled dogs, as a group

- 38: Where to see the alphabet float  
42: Weight that sounds like a fruit  
45: Chest protector  
47: Hard-working entertainer  
49: Excessively  
53: Accumulate  
55: Cutter  
56: Conked out  
57: Greek letter  
58: Kind of beetle  
59: Tour de France vehicle  
60: Fail to include  
61: Pond organism  
62: Miffed, with 'off'  
63: Small whirlpool  
64: Two-piece piece

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

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



SATIRE

## Hairway to heaven: Part deux

Josh Soltman

Chief Copy Editor/Hair Enthusiast

If any of you have had the displeasure of reading some of my stuff over the past year, you might remember a harrowing tale I penned about chopping off all of my hair for the first time in over a decade. Even though after several months I have finally started to come to terms with the cosmetic choice I have made, another glorious head of hair has gone through a drastic change.

The head that has changed so drastically belongs to a young man by the name of Sam Schlenner, a friend and former Post employee. He also had a miraculous head of hair. Unfortunately, that miraculous head of hair is now gone, lost to the world, sucked down into the annals of history never to be seen again.

Like me, his hair had been a big part of his life for many years. Now we are both shells of the men we used to be (well, I am - not sure how he's feeling).

This particular incident got me thinking about change though, and how awful it really is. No change is ever a good thing. New job? Sucks. Having to move? Really sucks. New classes? Horrible. New stinging sensation when you pee? Sometimes feels nice and tingly but ultimately not a good thing.

A lot of changes can be remedied fairly easily; unfortunately cutting off a sexy head of hair isn't something that can be fixed so easily. Any regrets Sammy Schlenner may have won't be easily reversed. Hair takes a long time to grow.

Now, I really don't know how he feels about what he did. He may be happy with the results (and honestly, it looks good). This is not an investigative report. I don't know how he spent his years with his hair. I can only assume he spent his time conquering cities, laying down and drinking the blood of his enemies. At least, that's what I would have done if I had that hair.

I didn't know Sam for most of the time that he had the hair, but based on a late night Facebook stalking session, I can infer some things. The dude absolutely slayed. Every single photo he had on his profile consisted of him and several lady friends.

I can also assume from his profile that his hair allowed him to travel the world free of charge. There are several photos in what look like exotic locations. The only place my long hair got me was to the shower because I had to wash it several times a day.

I can't help but be happy for him because he is happy with the cut, but I also can't help but be pissed off because his hair was so much better to him than mine was.

I didn't get women. I didn't get to travel. I didn't get to conquer anything. I got teased and had a greasy-ass face most of the time.

I can't help but think that I am the parallel universe Sam Schlenner. He got all the benefits of having a flowing mane; I got the downsides. He got ass, I got kicked in the ass.

Not that we are both just normal Joes with short hair, I can only hope that we swap universes and I become the Schlenner that I've always dreamed of.



Photos provided by Sampson, the original hair boss

The before and after of one of the most important transformations of our lifetime.

## GOT SOMETHING TO MOUTH OFF ABOUT?

The Oakland Post is looking for satirical scribes, witty writers and comical columnists. Submit your best efforts to [editor@oaklandpostonline.com](mailto:editor@oaklandpostonline.com) and you could get published for the world to see.

SPB PRESENTS GRIZZLY BEATS

## RIFF OFF

JANUARY 26th

8-10 PM//BANQUET ROOMS

There will be performances by OU's own Gold Vibrations A Capella group, as well as the professional group Eh440. There's going to be free food and it's a one of a kind night.





# Sports



Photo courtesy of Oakland University baseball team

Offensive and defensive player of the year went to senior Robby Enslen and junior Mike Brosseau, respectively.

## Stepping up to the bat

### Banquet honors top quality players

Melissa Deatsch  
Staff Reporter

The Oakland University baseball team gathered with family and alumni this past Saturday night at the Royal Park Hotel for the 10th annual First Pitch Banquet. The team kicks off its season with the fundraiser to celebrate last year's team and to introduce the Golden Grizzlies of 2015.

"This event is a celebration of people," Head Coach John Musachio said. "It's to honor the people who have worked so hard to build this program and represent this university in a first class manner."

The evening is filled with a variety of individual awards earned by the players during the 2014 season. Some noteworthy awards include offensive player of the year, earned by senior Robby Enslen and defensive player of the year earned by junior Mike Brosseau. Trent Drumheller received the the Ryan Kennedy excellence award, described by Musachio as the most prestigious award given at this event. This award is given to the Golden Grizzly that shows

overall excellence as a person throughout the year.

These players are expected to do big things again this year. On top of being named offensive player of last season, Robby Enslen was voted preseason player of the 2015 season. Last year, Enslen was named to the All-Mid-east Region Second team as well as the All-Horizon league first team. In addition to leading the Horizon League in batting average, he was top ten in slugging and on base percentage.

"Robby is a tremendous player. He works hard and he's very humble," Musachio said. "Being named preseason player of the year is something that can create a lot of pressure, but it's not Robby's style to let something like that affect him."

Standout shortstop, Mike Brosseau, is also expected to play a big role on this year's team. At Saturday's banquet, Brosseau received the defensive player of the year and the hustle awards.

"He's the best shortstop in our league," Musachio stated. "Mike is poised to have an even better year than he did last year."

Brosseau was also an All-Horizon League first team selection last season after ending the season hitting .322 and slugging .432.

The Grizzlies are coming off a fifth place finish in the Horizon

League. Musachio says their 7-17 record last season does not accurately portray how close they were to being a top program in the Horizon League.

"We had a lot of losses last year that were really daggers to the heart," Musachio said.

The Grizzlies were tied or in the lead going into the seventh inning for 18 of their losses last year.

"The hardest outs of the game are the last three," Musachio said. "I think it became a psychological challenge for our guys once we had a few of those losses."

The start of the year will be a challenge right off the bat. The season opens at Florida State University, a projected College World Series favorite. It won't get much easier the next weekend when the team leaves for a road trip to USC and Arizona.

"Pure and simple, we want to play the best competition we can to prepare our men to win a horizon league championship," Musachio said.

Their schedule is designed to challenge them at the beginning of the year to get ready for the ultimate goal of winning the Horizon League.

"It's going to be a tough league," Musachio said, "but we will be there at the end. I guarantee you that."

## Editor's Pick: Games of the week

Men's basketball against Milwaukee Thursday, 7 p.m. in the O'rena:

The men will take on the defending Horizon League champions on Thursday at home. This is not the same Milwaukee Panthers (6-12, 1-3) team as last year, however. Their two leading scorers from last season graduated and the remaining players have not played at the same level.

This season, senior guard Steve McWhorter is leading the Panthers with 14.6 points per game. Junior forward Matt Tiby leads the Panthers in rebounding with 7.6 per game, putting him at third in the Horizon. The Golden Grizzlies match up well with the Panthers and should be able to shut down Milwaukee's offense.

Prediction: Oakland 86, Milwaukee 68

Women's basketball at Detroit Thursday at 7 p.m.:

Oakland enters the contest



Jackson Gilbert  
Sports Editor

with Detroit sitting at 2-1 in the conference and 8-8 overall. Prior to dropping the contest to UIC, Oakland won both of their Horizon League games by double digits against Milwaukee and Valparaiso. Oakland is led this season by Olivia Nash (14.5 ppg) and Elena Popkey (11.7 ppg).

Detroit (6-11, 1-3) most recently beat UIC and lost to Cleveland State. Senior Ellisha Crosby, who scored 19 and 16 points in the Titan's games last week, leads the Titans team looking to right the ship early on in the conference season.

Prediction: Oakland 77, Detroit 73



Nowshin Chowdhury / Oakland Post

Sinclair Russell scored 13 points for Oakland last week against UIC.





Nowshin Chowdhury / The Oakland Post

Oakland came out focused against Green Bay last Thursday in order to redeem itself from the loss against Detroit last Saturday.

## Grizzlies are 'back on the grid'

### Men's basketball team rebounds from loss

Jackson Gilbert  
Sports Editor

**I** think this win might put us back on the grid now... I'm very pleased."

That's what Head Coach Greg Kampe said after the OU Golden Grizzlies men's basketball (6-12, 2-2) team pulled off a mammoth victory over the Horizon League favorite Green Bay Phoenix, 69-66, Thursday at the O'rena.

Sophomore guard Kahlil Felder finished the night with a team-leading 20 points and 10 assists for Oakland, outperforming preseason Horizon League player of the year Keifer Sykes.

Redshirt freshman Jalen Hayes led Oakland with nine rebounds in the effort.

Senior forward Dante Williams finished with eight points and two rebounds while continuing his streak of dominant defense. Williams managed to hold Green Bay's star point guard, Sykes, to just 19 points

"Great practice always leads to a great game, we were enthused for it, we were ready to redeem ourselves against the No. 1 seed."

Corey Petros  
OU Grizzlies Forward

and five assists. Most of his points came in transition baskets or off Oakland turnovers.

Sykes missed a three-pointer on the final play that would've sent the game to overtime. Wisconsin-Green Bay is now 14-4 overall and 3-1 in the conference.

"Nobody is going to give us credit for defense," Kampe said. "We were pretty damn good on defense tonight... It was like two fighters going at each other."

After the game, senior forward Corey Petros talked about bouncing back from the Detroit debacle.

"Great practice always leads to a great game, we were enthused for it, we were ready to redeem ourselves against the No. 1 seed," Petros said.

Former Oakland star Travis

Bader was honored at halftime during a ceremony and his jersey was hung on the wall of the O'rena to commemorate his three-point shooting prowess through his five years at Oakland.

Oakland will play Albion at home Sunday at 3 p.m. before returning to Horizon League play at home Thursday against Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the third of five straight games in the O'rena.

Contact Sports Editor Jackson Gilbert at [jjgilber@oakland.edu](mailto:jjgilber@oakland.edu).

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

**NEXT GAME** Milwaukee vs. Oakland, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m.

**WHERE YOU CAN WATCH IT**  
Athletics Center O'rena

**MORE INFORMATION**  
[www.goldengrizzlies.com](http://www.goldengrizzlies.com)

## OU swimmers are smitten with mittens

Melissa Deutsch  
Staff Reporter

**T**he basketball game last Thursday against the Green Bay Phoenix included an eventful halftime. Travis Bader's jersey number was retired and his banner placed on the wall of the O'rena. In addition, the swim and dive team held their 11th annual mitten toss.

The mitten toss is a tradition in which winter gear is collected among the athletes to be thrown onto the court during half time. Once the items are thrown by the audience, the swim team collects the mittens and they are donated to The Baldwin Center.

"The purpose of this event is to help out the less fortunate," Colby Haan, the swim team member in charge of the event this year, said. "There are people in serious need of a lot of things, especially in the winter."

This is the 11th consecutive year that Oakland swim and dive has held the mitten toss. The event was first created by associate head coach Shawn Kornoelje over a decade ago.

"Every year he motivates us to do the best job possible with this event and does a very good job explaining the impact we have on the community when we organize this event," Haan said.

Originally, the swim and dive team was the only team to participate in the event. Over the years, the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) has become more involved. The swim and dive team's collaboration with the SAAC has resulted in increased participation from other Oakland athletic teams as well.

"I've gotten a huge amount of help from SAAC and other students athletes as well," Haan said. "It wouldn't have been possible without some of those people."

The biggest challenge facing Haan and the others in charge of planning the event was getting the word out. The swim and dive team even worked with the marketing department to make sure everyone knew about the mitten toss. The SAAC representatives of each team passed the word on to their teams to help gather donations.

On the day of the mitten toss, the swim and dive team collected the mittens from each sports team and passed them out to the children in the stands of the O'rena. At half time, the crowd threw the donated mittens onto the court to be collected by the swim team.

"At this point in the year, The Baldwin Center is starting to run out of the donations they've collected all year," Haan explained. "The 500-plus mittens we've collected will really help."



# Swimming with a stroke of genius

*'Heading into the final race...Oakland knew what they had to do...'*

Scott Davis  
Staff Reporter

In their first meet since Dec. 6, the men and women's swimming and diving teams from Oakland were both able to finish in first over the University of Cincinnati, Kenyon College, and Olivet Nazarene University. The women finished with a score of 971, ahead of Cincinnati with 825, Kenyon College with 821 and Olivet University with 455. The men's scores were much closer as Oakland edged out Kenyon College 830-822.5, while Cincinnati finished with 769 and Olivet Nazarene finished with 716.5.

For the second time this season, the men's competition came down to the final race. Oakland trailed Kenyon College and needed a first place finish along with some key finishes from their other teams to win, and did just that. Oakland's 400 yard freestyle relay team won the race with a time of 3:02.33 and was able to take first place in the overall standings.

Those results are different from the last time the men raced for first place in their final relay,



Erika Barker / The Oakland Post

The men's swim team freestyled its way to victory in the recent race.

as on Nov. 8 they fell to Eastern Michigan University. Head coach Pete Hovland says that he likes it when it comes down to the final because he's able to find out what his team is really made of.

"It is nice to come out on top in those situations; they keep

their head up a little bit higher, they sing the fight song a little bit louder, they'll enjoy this evening and tomorrow a little bit more than they normally would and hopefully it carries over into next week," Hovland said.

Heading into the final race, Oakland knew what they had

to do in order to finish in first place. Junior Jorden Merrilees, who had four individual victories over the two days, said that his team talked about making everything right from fast exchanges, to good turns and especially good finishes.

"Coach really amped us up for that last relay especially," Merrilees said. "Beforehand we knew that we were close, and when the coaches scored it out for us, we knew we had to win it."

The women had a more comfortable victory, led by sophomore Patricia Aschan who had four individual victories. Aschan won the 400 IM (4:28.69) on Friday night, and then added three victories on Saturday in the 200 fly (2:07.66), 200 backstroke (2:06.35) and 200 IM (2:07.54).

"I did better than I was expecting to do because it is the time of the season when we are tired and we have been working hard," Aschan said. "I now know what kind of shape I am in so winning the 400 IM yesterday told me that I'm in good shape and that gave me more strength today to swim faster."

Up next for the two teams is Michigan State on Saturday at 1 p.m. in the Oakland Aquatic Center and then Cleveland State on Jan. 31 in Cleveland. The Horizon League championships start Feb. 25 in Wisconsin.

## THE SPORTING BLITZ

### Women's Basketball

The women's basketball team lost their first Horizon League matchup of the season to UIC 75-60 after starting the conference season 2-0. Nola Anderson and Sinclair Russell combined for 30 points in the effort. Ruvanna Campbell led UIC with 21 points and 24 rebounds, followed by Terri Bender with 19 points. Campbell is the defending defensive player of the year in the Horizon and has continued her success this season. The Golden Grizzlies will take on Detroit on Thursday night at Calihan Hall in the latest installment of the Metro Series rivalry.

### Women's Tennis

Oakland played Michigan State in their season opener and lost 7-0 at MSU's indoor complex. Cam Sabourin, Oakland's number one single, lost to Michigan State's Erin Faulkner 6-1, 6-0.

### Track and Field

Oakland won seven combined men and women's events and finished second in the Jack Skoog Dual at Central Michigan University over the weekend. Oakland won the men's 200m, 60m, 400m, triple jump and 800m. The women won the 400m dash and the 60m hurdles. Oakland's Nicholas Girodat was named Horizon League runner of the week after finishing first in the 60 meter dash in a time of 6.92 at the meet. He also finished second in the long jump.

— Compiled by  
Jimmy Halmhuber, Staff Reporter

## Horizon League Standings

Men's Basketball					Women's Basketball				
	W	L	W	L		W	L	W	L
1. Cleveland State	11	9	5	1	1. Green Bay	13	3	3	0
2. Valparaiso	17	3	4	1	2. Wright State	14	4	3	1
3. Green Bay	15	4	4	1	3. Youngstown State	13	3	2	1
4. Detroit	10	10	3	2	4. Cleveland State	10	6	2	1
5. <b>OAKLAND</b>	7	12	2	2	5. <b>OAKLAND</b>	8	8	2	1
6. Wright State	10	9	2	3	6. UIC	12	5	2	2
7. Milwaukee	6	12	1	3	7. Detroit	6	11	1	3
8. UIC	5	14	1	3	8. Milwaukee	5	11	1	3
9. Youngstown State	9	12	0	6	9. Valparaiso	4	13	0	4