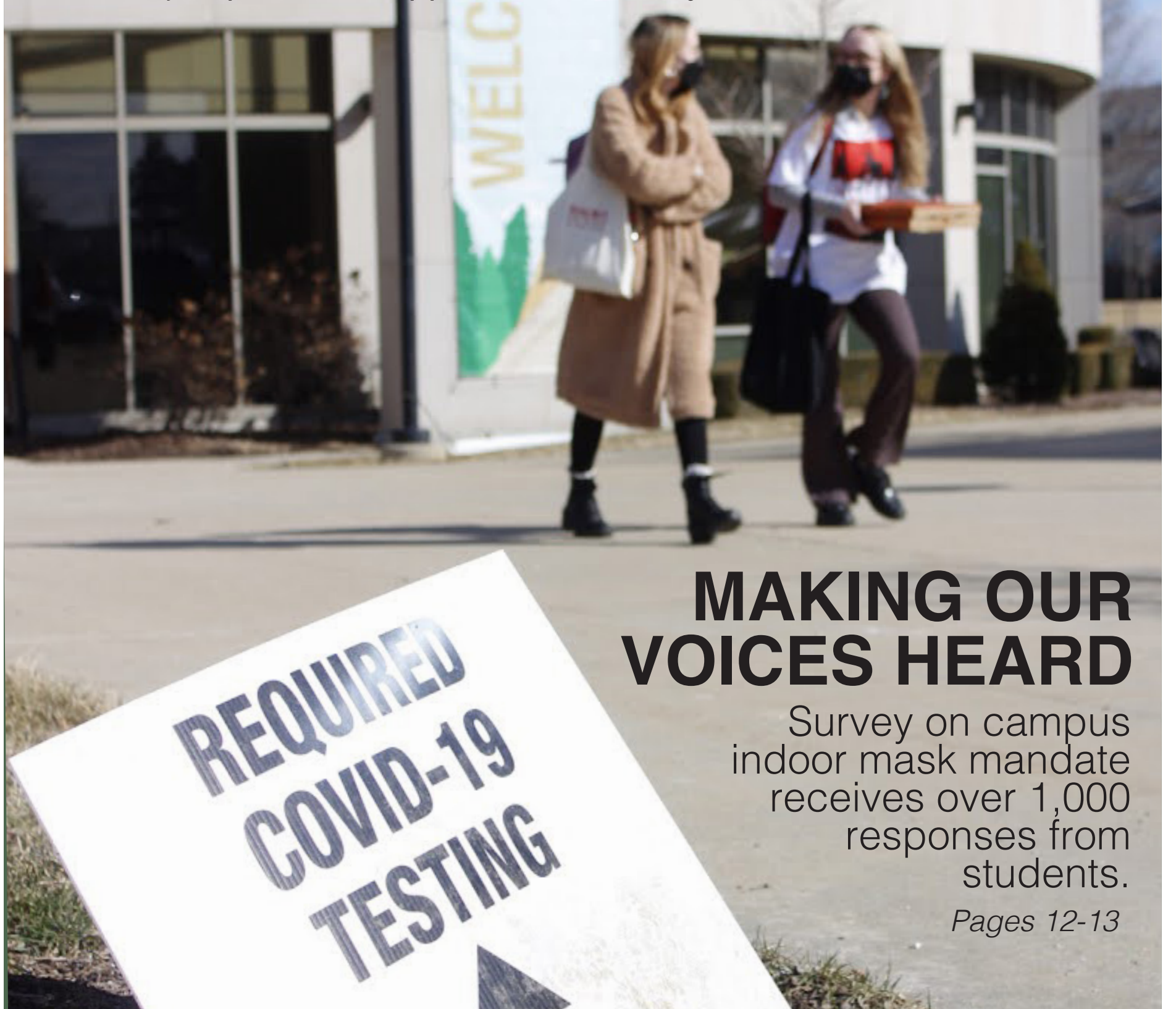


# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Rochester, Michigan

Volume 47 | Issue 25 | March 9, 2022



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PHOTO BY SOPHIE HUME

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## POLL OF THE WEEK

WHICH SPRING HOLIDAY ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO?

- A) ST. PATRICK'S DAY
- B) EASTER
- C) CINCO DE MAYO
- D) MEMORIAL DAY

## LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR SPRING BREAK?

16%  
A) VACATION

21%  
B) SLEEP

48%  
C) WHAT BREAK? I GOTTA WORK

15%  
D) HANG WITH FRIENDS/FAMILY



# University plans for in-person spring commencement ceremonies

**SARAH GUDENAU**

*Features Editor*

Spring 2022 commencement ceremonies will be held in-person at the O'rena on Thursday, April 28 through Saturday, April 30.

Winter 2021 commencement ceremonies took place in-person as well — the first time back to the O'rena during COVID-19 following the drive-in ceremonies of the year prior. The ceremony plans have been dependent on case numbers.

“At the beginning of the term, we had not established yet what we were going to do,” Assistant to the Provost Stephanie Lee said. “We were looking at what was happening with the COVID numbers and also what would be best for the university, so immediately, once we saw that the numbers were going down and we were assessing what is going on in the state and in the country, we made the decision to make sure we have it in the O'rena.”

About 1,900 students will be participating in the spring commencement, and the ceremonies will also recognize three honorary degree recipients.

Each student is allowed three guest tickets, but could request more in their application to commencement. Applications closed on Feb. 25, and students will be notified if they are to receive additional tickets, which will be distributed equally.

For guests who may not be able to attend or for those who do not feel comfortable in the O'rena, there will be other options. The ceremonies will be livestreamed and a link will be listed on the commencement website, as well as shared with participating students. The livestreams will also be projected in the Habitat in the Oakland Center where guests will be able to spread out more than in the O'rena.

Currently, an indoor mask mandate is in place at OU,

but there is an ongoing discussion of potentially lifting the mandate by March 18. Commencement protocol will follow that of the university.

“Right now, we’re definitely going with what is currently the COVID protocols for our campus,” Lee said. “If the mandate is changed about the masks and the daily health screening, we will assess and evaluate at that time and we will notify the students of the change. The safety of our guests is important.”

Many graduates are looking forward to in-person commencement, but there is some concern about COVID-19.

“I’m actually glad the commencement will be in-person instead of an alternative option,” Brianna Sharpley said. “During my entire college career, I have been picturing the moment I walk across stage and receive my degree, so I’m pretty excited for that to finally happen. The only issue that may arise is potentially being around someone who could have COVID, but I’m hopeful that the limit of tickets being given out will work in our favor to prevent that.”

Sharpley feels safe attending the event as long as mask mandates are in place, but may feel hesitant around a large crowd if the mandate is lifted.

“If it is lifted, I at least hope there are sanitizing stations and masks being handed out to people who still choose to voluntarily wear theirs.”

Dalia Iskander agrees. While she’s also excited for in-person commencement, she is nervous about having it in an indoor space and hopes extra precautions are taken.

“If the mask mandate is lifted I wouldn’t feel very comfortable attending the in-person commencement,” Iskander said. “Unless the university had another way of ensuring our safety — for example, only allowing vaccinated students and guests to attend, and being very strict when it comes to distancing the guests.”

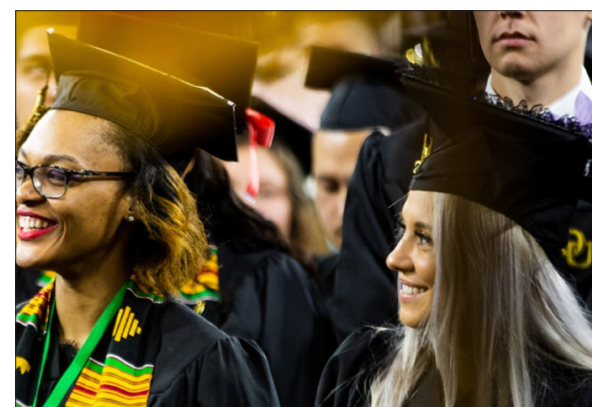


PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
Spring commencement ceremonies will take place at the O'rena on Thursday, April 28 through Saturday, April 30.

OU administration will continue to monitor cases, follow recommendations from the CDC and listen to concerns from Graham Health Center leadership, faculty and students before the decision is made, and commencement will follow suit. Despite the challenges and uncertainties, Lee and her team are dedicated to making commencement ceremonies an experience to remember for graduates.

“We wanted to make sure that we keep our traditions,” Lee said. “We would like to make sure that our bagpipes are there and also we would like to make sure that our students’ names are read and their photos are displayed with their degrees and honors on them. Those are some of our traditions and they are important to us, so we want to make sure we keep the traditions live and running.”

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## Beloved professor, alums to read for Creative Writing's 10th anniversary

**JEFF THOMAS**

*Editor-in-Chief*

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of OU's Creative Writing program, the program is hosting a Creative Writing faculty/alumni reading featuring Professor Peter Markus alongside alums Suzanne Honda and James Braun.

The event will take place Wednesday, March 16 at 5:00 p.m. in rooms 128-130 in the Oakland Center. Those attending the event in person are asked to complete OU's Daily Health Screening forms before arrival.

"[This reading] highlights what is so fantastic about our creative writing program," Professor and Program Director for Creative Writing Jeff Chapman said. "It's crazy how lucky Oakland students are to have a teacher and writer of Peter's caliber teaching here ... He's the most generous mentor ever ... It's very exciting to get to hear him read and celebrate him as a writer, not just a teacher."

Markus is an award-winning author and educator with decades of experience teaching young writers as part of InsideOut Detroit Literary Arts project and OU's Creative Writing program. He released his first collection of poetry titled "When Our Fathers Return to Us as Birds" last September. The new book, published by Wayne State University Press, chronicles Markus' experience caring for his dying father.

"I'm honored to be able to read my words in front of students and faculty and staff at Oakland this year," Markus said. "It means a great deal that I'm able to teach here and work with such good students. James Braun and Suzanne Honda are just two among the many students I've had the pleasure of working with. Their work speaks for itself, but I can tell you both of these young writers are the realest of deals."

Braun has work that has been published or is forthcoming in Fiction International, DIAGRAM, failbetter, Sequestum, Minnesota Review, Bayou Magazine, The Laurel Review and SmokeLong Quarterly. He's currently working on his novel by the name of "Only When I'm Singing", and is set to start studying at the Iowa Writers' Workshop in the fall.

"To be coming back to Oakland again, and better yet, to read alongside my mentor and friend Peter Markus, means more than I can say," Braun said. "Peter's one of those special breeds of people one can only ever hope to meet; or in the least, be in the same space as. Call him a shaman, call him a sage. A fisherman, a writer, a teacher—all of which he is and is more, more-than, as we like to say, and being so, Peter's teachings have forever changed the way I look at writing ... OU's English Department is one of the best out there. They take you seriously. And being taken so, in this lonely-world that is the world of the writer, makes you feel just a little bit less alone."

Honda has work that has been published or is forthcoming in The Hyacinth Review, SWWIM,

Every Day, Pink Panther Magazine, and Soundings East. Her chapbook "When We Were Birds" is forthcoming in 2022 with Porkbelly Press, and she's currently working on a full-length book of poems entitled "When We Were Birds".

"When I started at OU back in 2016, the Creative Writing program was still in its infancy," Honda said. "It's pretty wild and definitely incredible to be back for its 10th anniversary. I loved being part of the program: the professors – Annie Gilson, Peter Markus, Alison Powell, Vanessa Stauffer ... In more ways than one, I have the connections I made while at OU to thank for where I am today: working as a Writer-in-Residence with InsideOut Literary Arts, publishing a chapbook of poems, returning to OU – and so much of that is because of one professor in particular: Peter Markus. Peter's confidence in me at a time when I wasn't sure of myself, and his dedication to my growth as a writer over the past 6 years, makes this opportunity to read alongside him a really beautiful, full-circle moment."

This reading is the third in a series of readings this year in celebration of Creative Writing's 10th anniversary. The program hosted alumna Mary Ann Samyn in the fall and alumnus Matt Bell in the winter, both received their undergrad degrees from the OU Department of English before OU started offering creative writing as a major.

Longtime Professor and former Program Director for Creative Writing Annie Gilson elaborated on the early days of creative writing at OU.

"Before we offered the major, Ed Haworth Hoepfner and Gladys Cardiff (both beloved poets and colleagues who have since retired) taught poetry workshops, I taught fiction workshops, and the late wonderful Linda McCloskey taught creative nonfiction workshops. Due to the popularity of the fiction workshops, we were able to hire the short story and comics writer [current Program Director] Jeff Chapman. At the same time, Ed, Gladys and I created the CW major under Ed's leadership."

This reading is also the second faculty/alum reading OU's creative writing program has hosted. The first occurred last winter and featured Gilson reading alongside alum C.R. Grimer.

"It was a great joy to see C.R. again, after having mentored them for the years they were here as an undergrad. They offered terrific advice to current OU writers, as I'm sure Suzanne and James will," Gilson said. "... One reason we created the major was the great talent and enthusiasm of our students ... We are excited to continue this tradition of faculty and alumni reading together next week. For former students and their professors, it's a great joy to spend time together reading and sharing our work with the new generation of undergrads, who we know will also go on to do great things."

Chapman seconded this sentiment, expressing his gratitude for OU's creative writing community.

"What's ultimately so exciting about all of this: it reminds you that a university isn't a single moment in time, but a continuity," Chapman said. "You have all the students who are here, all the students



PHOTO COURTESY OF WDET 101.9 FM  
Peter Markus doing his work as Senior Writer of InsideOut Detroit Literary Arts Project.

who came before and are migrating out into the world, and all the students who are to come. It's a community that grows and lives. Writing is a really hard path that requires consistent, thankless effort much of the time. A vibrant community can help make it all worthwhile."

The Creative Writing program takes pride in the work their students are doing, with Braun and Honda being examples of the excellent young writers coming out of OU.

"Both Suzanne and James worked extraordinarily hard when they were here, and have continued to do so," Chapman said. "[Our] students are so wonderful and so talented ... I feel like we're only beginning to tap into this amazing potential in our student population. I can't wait to see the movies, essays, poems, and stories written in the next ten years."

Markus also expressed his pride in and gratitude for his students.

"[Braun and Honda] are both writing stuff that is years ahead of where I was when I was their age," Markus said. "I'd be happy to be writing the writing they're writing. And they're not alone. I can make you a list as long as a river of other students whose work I've been proud to play a small part in the making/mentoring/inspiration of. I only wish there was time and space to showcase the bounty of writers I've had the great joy of teaching since I was first given the opportunity to teach here at OU some years ago (I guess this is maybe my 9th or 10th year of being so lucky). I'm thankful to my colleagues in the Creative Writing department who first reached out to me about teaching and those who do what's in their power to keep me around. I'm lucky to be able to do what I love to do, both on the page and in the classroom. I wouldn't be the writer I am and the writer I've become had I not been given the opportunity to teach others and to teach myself in the process. For me writing and teaching writing are tributaries of the same river."



# Auburn Hills City Council opts out of SMART Bus transportation

**D'JUANNA LESTER**

Senior Reporter

On Feb. 21, the City Council of Auburn Hills met at 7 p.m. to vote on SMART Bus transportation. The council voted 5-2 in favor of opting out of the SMART Bus system.

Prior to the vote, Auburn Hills residents and attendees from the surrounding area read out public comments to the council with the intention of persuading them to keep Auburn Hills opted in to the SMART program.

As a result of the vote, the SMART Bus transportation system, which connects many cities throughout the Metro-Detroit area, will no longer run through Auburn Hills. This includes Oakland University's campus, where the SMART Bus was the only remaining public transportation for staff and students following the elimination of the Bear Bus in 2020.

The SMART Bus will continue to be around through the remainder of the year, but after 2022 it will be eliminated. However, at the council meeting, the idea of an alternative for transportation for only the elderly and disabled population was brought up.

Council members proposed to replace the SMART Bus system with a voter-funded service that would run Monday through Friday. Members say that this service will be cheaper than opting-in for the SMART Bus service.

It is uncertain as of yet if the proposed alternative

will be implemented. Residents will have the opportunity to vote on the alternative transit service on the August ballot.

"The council voted to eliminate the SMART mileage from the ballot in 2022," OU Student Congress (OUSC) Speaker of the Legislature Jeremy Johnson said. "SMART will still be around for the rest of the year, but voters will not get a chance to vote yes or no on continuing the program with their tax dollars."

Without the SMART Bus, many Auburn Hills residents and OU students who relied on the service will need to find other means of affordable transportation.

Campus transportation accessibility has been an ongoing conversation at OU since the return to campus following remote learning and many are especially concerned about transportation during the winter weather conditions. If the alternative voter-funded transportation is not approved, the elimination of the SMART Bus could be another obstacle for disabled students.

Disability Support Services (DSS) at OU works one-on-one with students to meet their individual needs and accommodations. However,



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRTUAL TRANSIT CENTER

In a Feb. 21 meeting, the City Council voted to eliminate the SMART Bus service in Auburn Hills after 2022.

student transportation is not a service that the DSS department facilitates, and students are currently responsible for their own means of transportation.

"Some administrators have said that they're open to a new transit system on campus," OUSC Vice President Murryum Farooqi said. "In terms of OUSC's actions, we are exploring what it means for us and what we can do. We definitely want to secure transportation for students."

## OU professors form surgical simulation fellowship with Beaumont

**ALEXANDER GUSTANSKI**

Senior Reporter

Professors from the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) have partnered with Beaumont Health to provide a new simulation fellowship program for resident students in their fourth year. The simulation fellowship, located in the Applebaum Simulation Learning Institute at Beaumont Health Royal Oak, seeks to train future surgical educators.

According to the Beaumont Health website, "The goal of the fellowship is to train and produce individuals with the necessary knowledge, skills, and behaviors to conduct independent simulation-based research and education as part of an academic career and leadership role in Surgical Education."

While in the program, student fellows will "engage with a wide range of learners, including medical students to senior residents from multiple specialties. The fellow will be involved in the development of curricula and medical education as well as the implementation of existing simulation-based education. Fellows will also be active in research within the discipline of simulation and medical education and will be expected to work on ongoing projects and develop existing ones."

Ngan Nguyen, co-director of the fellowship program and assistant professor in the Department of Foundational Medical Studies and Department of Surgery, was inspired to start the fellowship after having completed a similar program back in 2014.

With the help of Beaumont's leadership and OUWB professor Stephan Sharf, the fellowship was able to swiftly gain accreditation within six months of its founding. The program is one of only twenty to become accredited by the American College of Surgeons Accredited Education Institutes.

Nguyen explained the simulation program will be beneficial to future healthcare providers as it increases the number of available training opportunities and provides standardized training.

According to a report done by the Imperial College of London, "Simulators can provide a safe and standardized method for training in surgery without the risks that come with operating on real patients. Such experiences can be realistic, highly engaging, and immersive, such that users forget they are in a simulation. Here, the acquisition of competency in procedural skills occurs hand in hand with team building and communication skills within an educationally focused environment."

Being able to perform surgeries safely and efficiently is a must for future residents and being in an immersive professional environment is invaluable.

Nguyen said it made sense for Beaumont and the OUWB to bring the program to fruition, as simulations are becoming more prevalent in the education of healthcare providers, but also because the two organizations have collaborated in the past. Recently, a joint research collaboration between OU and Beaumont published a study that could provide insight into more effective treatments for lung cancer patients.

Dr. Tyler Parsons, a former Ph.D. student, talked about the value of their partnership saying, "the collaboration between OU and Beaumont was pivotal and allowed us access to resources to complete a study of this capacity. The research went on to be the bulk of my dissertation." The partnership will bring new opportunities and resources to OU student fellows.



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH

There is now a new simulation fellowship program for fourth year residents.

# Battle of the Bands is returning after two years

**RACHEL YIM**  
Senior Reporter

There are musicians all across Oakland University who want nothing more than for their band to be the one that makes it. Many students appear to be continuously collaborating with their peers to make music that will resonate with others. Luckily for all the musicians out there, Oakland University's one and only band competition, "Battle of the Bands," is returning after two years on March 10 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. in the Habitat inside the Oakland Center.

The Student Program Board (SPB)-hosted event, which began decades ago, allows the best five bands – with at least one member from each band being an OU student – to showcase their musical talents and become the band on campus.

Kaleigh Belz, Annual Events Director for the SPB, assisted in setting up auditions, outreach to bands and event timelines that come along with coordinating an event.

"Battle of the Bands really tries to put the focus on group talent and is also more music-centered," Belz

said. "One of the really interesting facets of the Battle of the Bands event is the way that we get to pair it with the Spring Concert that we are fortunate enough to be putting on later this semester."

The audition for this year's Battle of the Bands competition was officially closed as of Feb. 28. Interested individuals submitted their band name, band members and a video submission of their performance, which is then reviewed by the SPB committee.

"We want to give as many voices an opportunity to compete as possible, so our board reviews the video and selects the top five contenders," Joshua Robinson, president of SPB, said. "The winner is then selected the night of the event by a combination of the popular vote and judges voting."

According to Belz, the winner of the event will be provided with an opportunity to perform during the opening ceremony of the upcoming Spring Concert hosted by the SPB. After a few years of being unable to host the concert, it is finally going to return on April 3 in the O'Rena where Peach Tree Rascals and Tai Verdes will be performing.

"They're both more up and coming artists, but they've each got some popular, more recognizable songs if you listen to their discography, and we're excited to be able to bring them to campus," Belz said. "Tickets should be opening up soon."

Anyone interested is welcome to join the night listening and watching the performance of a

wide range of genres and styles the five bands have to show in the Habitat.

The SPB is also hosting a variety of other events, including the Drive-in movie night, murder mystery, Red Wings game trips and the roller rink. For more information, visit the SPB website or its Facebook page.

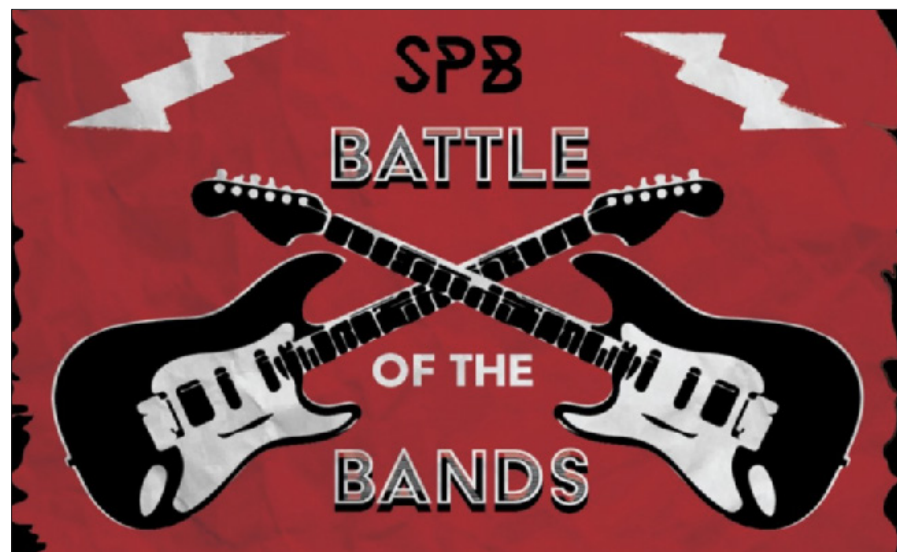


PHOTO COURTESY OF STUDENT PROGRAM BOARD ON GRIZZORGS  
Battle of the Bands is returning to The Habitat on March 10 after a two year hiatus.

## Police Files: 3/9/2022

**TORI COKER**  
Marketing Director

### Injured on the job

Varner Hall has been the site of two recent occupational injury incidents — though the two incidents appear by all accounts to be unrelated to one another.

At 9:30 a.m. on November 29, 2021, an employee of the university was walking through Varner Studio Theatre when a set of portable steps fell from its place atop the risers onto the back of the employee's head/neck area. The employee sought medical treatment for his injuries at McLaren Oakland Hospital in Pontiac following the incident.

No investigation was made at the scene of the incident, which was reported to the Oakland University Police Department (OUPD) on December 16, 2021.

Months later on the evening of February 3, 2022 — somewhere between 10:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. — an employee departed Varner Hall for a moment of fresh air before reentering the building. Upon setting foot in the lobby beside the theatre, the snow that had collected on the bottoms of his Skechers Dress Boots caused the employee to slip, falling to the ground and dislocating his right shoulder.

The employee proceeded to seek medical treatment for his injury at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital, making a complaint regarding his accident to the OUPD on February 9, 2022.

## Grizz Dome update: Repairs, reinflation of the facility begin

**JEFF THOMAS**  
Editor-in-Chief

The process of repairing and re-inflating the Grizz Dome began Monday, Feb. 28. While the work of restoring the athletic facility is underway, costs and the timeline for when the dome will be operational again are still unknown.

Assistant Athletic Director for Facilities and Event Management Andy Adrianse provided the following update on the situation:

"We were able to get a service team on site [Monday] afternoon so we are just getting underway with determining the full extent of the damage while also working around inclement weather. The plan for now is to make repairs to the exterior and then begin the inflation process. Once inflated, we can then get a better sense of the interior space which will likely

include additional structural repairs, repair of lighting fixtures, and also assess the sports related equipment to determine what can be salvaged or might need replacement.

This is truly a team effort that involves many of our support areas of campus including Facilities Management, Purchasing, Risk Management, Legal, Finance, etc. Everyone involved is contributing with a sense of urgency, recognizing the space is an important resource for our campus and community. It remains uncertain at this point in time as to when the Grizz Dome will be safe to engage in regular activity again."

The Grizz Dome collapsed due to a campus-wide power outage and winter storm conditions early in the morning on Saturday, Feb. 19. OU sports teams including: baseball, softball, soccer, golf, track and field and cross country all relied on the dome as a practice facility.



# Gender and Sexuality Center to host Pride Month events

**ARIANNA HEYMAN**

Senior Reporter

March is Pride Month at Oakland University and the Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC) will be hosting numerous events to celebrate the LGBTQIA community.

"I think it's important to have a Pride Month because it gives students a sense of community," GSC Graduate Assistant Jackie Weisenfelder said. "I think it's especially important that we hold Pride Month during the academic year as opposed to having it in June when Pride is traditionally celebrated. We really want to bring that celebration and that sense of community and togetherness to the students here at OU, and I think that's most important through our Pride Month events."

Pride Month kicks off on March 14 with the annual Tim Larrabee Memorial Lecture featuring special guest Brittany Ashley. The rest of the month includes a variety of programming designed to appeal to everyone.

There will also be educational programming as well. The medical school is hosting a session called "Our Transcestors" which serves to inform the community about transgender history and will explore the lives of the most influential transgender individuals.

The return of drag bingo and the drag show is another highlight of OU Pride 2022. Due to

COVID-19, these events had to be hosted virtually last year, but are now scheduled to take place in the Oakland Center banquet rooms on March 15 and March 31 respectively.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GENDER & SEXUALITY CENTER  
The Gender and Sexuality Center will host a variety of events throughout March to celebrate Pride Month at OU.

Other events include Pride Month Book Club, Tie Dye with Pride and the School of Music, Theatre and Dance will be putting on performances to share and celebrate queer stories.

The month is capped by Lavender Graduation which "serves to congratulate and celebrate the

achievements of Oakland University's LGBTQIA and ally graduates of all levels."

Each of these programs are open to the OU community as well as the surrounding campus community to attend.

"We don't ask 'Are you an OU student? What's your connection to the university?'— We just want everyone to come enjoy pride, have that celebration and have that sense of togetherness," Weisenfelder said. "I think Pride Month in general is a way for folks to become aware of things that they weren't aware of before. It instills in people that empathetic curiosity."

While Pride Month is an uplifting celebration, it is important to note that it was not always this way. Weisenfelder believes it is important to note that Pride started as a riot at Stonewall.

"A lot of people had to work very hard to get it to a point where we can feel safe and where other LGBTQ people can feel safe to celebrate themselves in such a way," Weisenfelder said. "I think it's also important for the OU community to remember that this fight isn't over. We see day after day watching the news — different anti-trans or anti-LGBT bills being brought before [congressional] houses across the country, so remembering that although Pride is a celebration — Pride is a push to make the world a more equitable place for everybody."

For more information on Pride month and the GSC, find them on Facebook, Instagram or visit [oakland.edu/gsc/pride-month](http://oakland.edu/gsc/pride-month).

# Black-owned businesses highlighted for Black History Month

**RACHEL YIM**

Senior Reporter

The month of February marks Black History Month. In an effort to celebrate Black History Month, the OUWB chapter of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) highlighted some of the local Black-owned food businesses.

Camila Joy Ramos (M2), the vice president of the SNMA chapter, was first inspired by SNMA chapters from other schools doing a similar event series and eventually brought this idea to the group as a way for SNMA to celebrate Black History Month at OUWB.

"One purpose of Black History Month is to highlight successes within the African-American history, and our food event series was our way to fulfill this purpose during the special month," Ramos said. "We also wanted to raise awareness within our OUWB community of them and others like them in order to help these businesses continue to flourish with returning customers."

According to Ramos, they chose to spotlight food enterprises since sharing a meal with one another is how different cultures bonded and demonstrated their love and care for one another.

Chosen from a document by WXYZ Detroit that lists hundreds of Black-owned businesses, the following businesses were

highlighted for this event:

Feb. 10: Savannahblue Detroit (Serves contemporary northern soul food in Detroit)

Feb. 17: April's Famous Bakes (Creates baked goods from scratch and are reminiscent of April's Southern and Hispanic heritage)

Feb. 24: Flavors of Jamaica (Serves Caribbean inspired and traditional Jamaican food in Pontiac)

"Many of us are not from the Metro-Detroit area, and so this event was a great opportunity for us to get to know where we can go locally if we want to support black-owned businesses," Adel Andemeskel (M2), the president of the SNMA chapter, said. "We also learned a lot about how to host event series involving food, since it was the first time that our SNMA chapter has done an event like this. The lessons that we have learned and the obstacles that we overcame during the planning process will help us in the future to make these events smoother, and better yet bigger than they were before."

The turnout of the event was the most successful in the OUWB chapter's history, according to Andemeskel. Over 25 OUWB students and faculty enjoyed food with SNMA at each event.

"What we loved most about these events was that students and faculty would stay long after the food was served in order to mingle and converse amongst

each other in fellowship," Oyin Akinpelu, the secretary of the SNMA chapter, said.

Shortly after highlighting Black-owned businesses in the Metro Detroit area, the SNMA was also involved in the Mission Baptist Church Community Health Fair, where they provided blood pressure screenings and were able to provide free groceries (from Gleaners Food Bank and Micah 6) along with other OUWB organizations and community organizations.

For their upcoming event, the officers of the SNMA are planning on hosting an Underrepresented in Medicine Physician Panel, which aims to allow medical students and undergraduate students who are both interested in a career in medicine and identify as underrepresented to hear from current physicians who will give their perspectives on their path to medicine and challenges they have faced along the way, in addition to encouragement and mentorship.

SNMA is dedicated to assisting current and future underrepresented minority medical students, serving underprivileged communities, and increasing the number of clinically outstanding, culturally competent, and socially active physicians. The OUWB chapter of the association strives to leave a strong impact on the medical treatment provided to the people of Detroit and the surrounding areas.

Together as medical students and future



PHOTO COURTESY OF OUWB  
The Student National Medical Association of OUWB highlighted Black-owned businesses last month for Black History Month.

physicians, Ramos, Andemeskel and Akinpelu emphasized the importance of being culturally conscious of different ethnic, national, religious and other backgrounds in order to provide a safe environment and improved medical service to the underrepresented population.

"When patients feel safe and comfortable, they are able to adequately express their health concerns while also being open to making recommended changes because of the trust they have built as a result of our empathy as student doctors and eventually doctors," Andemeskel said. "When we see patients and our community members as they are, recognizing our similarities and differences, it makes for a cohesive community in which there is respect, love and growth. This is the ultimate vision for all communities in Oakland County, Michigan, the United States and the world."



## OULDI to host 'Linguistic Justice' discussion with Dr. April Baker-Bell

**GRACE LOVINS**

*Senior Reporter*

Award-winning transdisciplinary researcher, teacher and activist, April Baker-Bell, Ph.D., is coming virtually to OU on March 10 for a presentation titled "Linguistic Justice: Black Language, Literacy, Identity and Pedagogy."

The presentation is being hosted by the Oakland University Linguistic Diversity Initiative (OULDI) and the School of Education and Human Services (SEHS) Initiative for Eradicating Racism. The Office of Student Affairs and Diversity, SEHS and College of Arts and Sciences are also serving as co-sponsors.

Baker-Bell, associate professor of Language, Literacy and English Education at Michigan State University, is known as a leader in national conversations surrounding Black Language education. Her book, published in 2020, has been widely praised for connecting theory, research and practice to disassemble "Anti-Black Linguistic Racism" and white linguistic supremacy.

She was the 2020 recipient of the National Council of Teachers of English's George Orwell Award for Distinguished Contribution for her book and has had research published in *The Journal of Literacy Research*, *The Journal of International Review of Qualitative Research* and multiple other publications.

Kuniko Nielsen, associate professor and chair of OU's Linguistics department, says Baker-Bell's book and presentation question the current education system in regard to how language is taught in school systems and what it does to speakers of what Baker-

Bell refers to as Black Language — known in linguistics as African American Vernacular English.

She states this discussion is about spreading the message of Baker-Bell's work to as broad an audience as possible. Nielsen also notes how Baker-Bell's research and book coincide with the essence of OULDI: to foster and support linguistic diversity at OU.

OULDI aims to support its mission through raising awareness of linguistic diversity, expression affirmation of linguistic diversity and practicing advocacy for the legitimacy of linguistic diversity and importance of linguistic justice.

Nielsen hopes attendees of the presentation will gain an understanding of the ability to use language that we feel most comfortable using to express ourselves is a basic human right.

"Everyone should be able to speak their mother tongue without oppression and that's at the core of what we are trying to do through OULDI, celebrating linguistic diversity and advancing linguistic justice. That's why we want to celebrate and understand linguistic diversity on the OU campus and in the community because there are a lot of people who speak something else," Nielsen said.

She also hopes attendees are able to recognize and be aware of what society is doing to speakers of Black language and provide the opportunity to think about what needs to be done in order to correct the injustice in language standards and expectations.

The event will take place over Zoom from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and will consist of Baker-Bell's presentation and a question and answer session moderated by Carly Overfelt, Ph.D., special lecturer

in the linguistics department.

Registration is required to attend and the registration form can be accessed on the OU events calendar. Nielsen also encourages everyone to read Baker-Bell's book, which is available electronically through Kresge Library at OU.

The Zoom presentation will be recorded, however, it will only be available through the OU Diversity Challenge space. Students can register for this challenge on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion webpage.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU EVENTS CALENDAR  
Dr. April Baker Bell is known as a leader in national conversations surrounding Black Language education.

## President Pescovitz, campus community respond to Russian assault on Ukraine

**JEFF THOMAS**

*Editor-in-Chief*

Russia shocked the global stage recently with its military invasion in Ukraine. The campus community has responded to this humanitarian crises, offering words of support and perspective to students and the broader community.

President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz sent out the following statement to to the campus community Thursday afternoon:

"Oakland University supports the U.S. government and the international community in condemning the brutal and unprovoked attack by Russia on the people and democratic republic of Ukraine.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NY POST  
Russian troops began pushing into Ukraine last week.

At this troubling and dangerous moment, our hearts are with the people of Ukraine and the 40,000 people of Ukrainian descent in southeast Michigan, including Oakland University students, faculty and staff.

In the upcoming days, the unjustified Russian invasion will likely lead to a humanitarian calamity. We stand resolute in our opposition to the senseless aggression and united in our support for the Ukrainian people."

The campus community also received this communication from Chief Information Officer Bhavani Koneru warning against potential cyber attacks:

"In light of the current geopolitical situation between Russia and Ukraine, the U.S. government is advising the nation to be prepared for cyberattacks. Russia may launch these in hopes of creating enough domestic disruption to lower American resolve to oppose Russian military campaigns in Ukraine.

As a higher-education institution, Oakland University is a potential target for these kinds of disruptions.

The University Technology Services (UTS) Security Team is asking all students to vigilantly watch for and nullify cyber threats by carefully reviewing any suspicious emails to avoid succumbing to phishing attempts.

Students are also encouraged to ensure their devices have:

- a current, vendor-supported operating system installed;
- antivirus software installed and set to

automatically update. (Many vendors such as Apple and Microsoft include this free of charge);

- current versions of all installed programs and applications;
- fully enabled security features; and
- applications compliant with OU's Security Baselines;

UTS will provide the campus community updates on this situation as they become available.

As always, the university appreciates the cooperation and understanding of campus community members as it works to protect the security and functionality of its data networks."

In a Letter to the editor published yesterday in *The Post*, Assistant Professor of Biology and native Ukrainian Taras Oleksyk had this to say:

"Ukrainian people are taking up arms, standing alone on the front line, to defend the values of Western civilization. They are ready, but they did not invite this conflict. Are the people in the US prepared to watch them die for the truths Americans hold to be self-evident?

This is not a local issue that involves a border dispute between two countries far, far away in Eastern Europe. If Russia succeeds on its destructive path, there are global ramifications that will extend to everyone living today and to those in many generations to come. In the immediate future, the failure to stop this unprovoked war will clearly demonstrate that military power needs no justification. This will change the rules of global security and will lead to further escalation of conflicts elsewhere in the world."



# Professor Wilson receives awards from APT Association

**ARIANNA HEYMAN**

Senior Reporter

On Feb. 4, Dr. Christopher Wilson, associate professor and director of clinical education in the physical therapy program at Oakland University, was honored with two awards at the American Physical Therapy Association's (APTA) combined sections meeting. Dr. Wilson received the President's Award and the Debbra Flomenhoft Humanitarian Award from the Academy of Oncologic Physical Therapy.

The President's Award was given to Dr. Wilson to recognize his efforts and service to APTA Oncology. The Debbra Flomenhoft Humanitarian Award honors those whose work has resulted in the advancement of the practice of compassionate oncology rehabilitation, heightening the understanding of cancer illness and psychosocial rehabilitation issues, as well as demonstrating patient advocacy.

"The recognitions were so meaningful because it helps me say that we're on the right track," Dr. Wilson says. "We are really making an impact [by] improving the education of physical therapy students to be better prepared to work with people with cancer and just advancing the science of cancer rehabilitation even more."

Dr. Wilson's well recognized success also stems from his ability to address the problems frequently associated with cancer treatments. According to Dr. Wilson, the number one side effect that people reporter after cancer treatments is fatigue — they feel exhausted and washed out because the treatments have physiologically affected their nerves.

"One of the things that we notice and that research

shows is that exercise is one of the best things for cancer treatment — to the point where every person who is diagnosed with any type of cancer [or] is getting treated for cancer needs to be on an exercise program," Dr. Wilson says.

Dr. Wilson also believes the role of a physical therapist for cancer patients is undervalued. He feels that a physical therapist should play an ongoing role in cancer rehabilitation.

"You can have symptoms that develop weeks to months — even years after cancer treatments are done. Even once a person has been cured or stabilized they may still experience fatigue or they might end up having range of motion restrictions that happen years after their issues," Dr. Wilson says. "[Patients] need to have an established relationship with a

therapist even through periodic check ups, so we're trying to teach therapists how to do [this] across the United States."

Dr. Wilson has also been a huge part in changing policy for the APTA. One of Dr. Wilson's contributions was establishing the position that patients who may not survive their cancer deserve treatment just as much as those who are cured or stabilized.

"Some people think, 'why would we do rehabilitation or do physical therapy on someone who's facing a life threatening illness and may be dying?' My response to that is, well, they aren't gone yet. They haven't passed away yet. They still have a lot of living to do," Dr. Wilson says. "I don't think it's very ethical for us as a profession to abandon them when they need therapy the most."

Dr. Wilson's vast knowledge on the practice of physical therapy in the area of cancer and oncological diagnoses is not just impacting the APTA, but also new generations of students whom he teaches who will shape the field of physical therapy.

"Cancer is the number two killer in the United States, and we need you know we have a skill set that can help improve the quality and length of life of these individuals. It's our job to prepare ourselves and step up to the plate," Dr. Wilson says. "I think it's really important for us to acknowledge that no matter what setting our students are going to be working in, they will see people with cancer. It's not something we should run away from. It's not something we should be afraid of. It's something that we should embrace. We're helping to solve a major public health issue and helping to save and improve the lives of people [for] as long as they have left."



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY NEWS  
Dr. Wilson with President of the Academy of Oncologic Physical Therapy Laura Sheridan. Dr. Wilson received two awards from the Academy.

## Explore opportunities in healthcare and natural sciences

**JOSEPH POPIS**

Senior Reporter

On Friday, March 18, students can discover opportunities in healthcare and natural sciences at the Exploration Fair presented by Career Services, which will occur in Oakland Center Banquet Room A from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

The event is open to the School of Health Sciences, and Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Natural Sciences students of any class level.

Companies that will be in attendance include: DirectRx, HTC Global Services, IKUS Life Enrichment Services, North Star Reach, Start My Wellness, Stratford Place Assisted Living & Memory Care, Synergy Health Partners and Team Rehabilitation Services LLC.

Students can discover an array of opportunities from full-time, part-time, internship and volunteer opportunities. They can also meet and connect with professionals from a range of healthcare and science-related companies and learn about available positions.

Career Services career consultant Denise McConkey mentioned the fair is for students looking for opportunities, no matter the class standing.

"This is really a unique event — it's not your typical fair," McConkey said. "This is any students from

freshman to even graduate-level who are looking for full-time positions and internships, but also part-time positions, job shadowing and volunteering."

McConkey said the goal of the fair is connection. Career Services wanted to provide people for students to speak to and learn about opportunities within the field.

"We thought we would have an event that would provide them with an opportunity to make that initial connection," McConkey said. "To give them a resource or someone they can speak to learn more about opportunities. We wanted something that was specific, because healthcare is such a large field and natural sciences."

McConkey emphasized the importance of networking and speaking with people in the field you're aiming for. Students who attend can see what opportunities are available to them.

"I think no matter what a student is considering, connecting with people — like previous graduates and university alumni, and individuals already working in the field that students are potentially considering — is instrumental in helping them determine what they want to do," she said. "Especially when they have a major like health sciences, which is incredibly broad. There are a lot of different paths students can take with that major."

McConkey highlights securing opportunities,

learning more about potential opportunities and networking as the main benefits of the fair.

Students who plan on attending this event can register on Handshake.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAREER SERVICES  
The healthcare and natural sciences exploration fair is slated for Friday, March 18.

# University, OU AAUP file Unfair Labor Practice charges against each other

**JEFF THOMAS**

*Editor-in-Chief*

Oakland University and the faculty union Oakland University's Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (OUAAUP) have both filed Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) charges against each other in the past month.

Both charges relate to 2021's faculty contract negotiations, with OU AAUP accusing the university of bad-faith bargaining and the university accusing OU AAUP of initiating an illegal strike at the beginning of the fall semester.

OU AAUP filed their charge in February after a FOIA request revealed information that they say proves the university bargained in bad faith by withholding information about healthcare costs during last summer's faculty contract negotiations, allegations the university denied.

OUAAUP leadership made their accusations of bad-faith bargaining clear in a letter to President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz and the Board of Trustees in early January and then awaited a response from the university. When that response did not come, the union decided they had no option but to take their claims to the courts.

"I can't say that there was an expectation of a response, but people, including me, thought that there would be some kind of private, or if not private, at least email or letter exchange over these issues, and we didn't hear anything from the administration," OU AAUP President Karen Miller said. "... The only legal recourse at that point we had was a ULP because contract negotiations were over. Our position on our ULP is that we asked for [the information about healthcare costs] across the table ... previous filings demonstrate that we were within the right to ask for that and to have an expectation that it would be delivered, and it wasn't."

The university filed their ULP against OU AAUP on Wednesday, March 2. The charge alleges that the faculty violated the Public Employment Relations Act (PERA) with their work stoppage at the beginning of September. OU Director of Media Relations Brian Bierley supplied The Post with the following from the university statement on the matter:

"Oakland alleges in the OU ULP that the AAUP initiated an illegal strike in September, 2021, for the purpose of inducing, influencing and coercing a change in employment conditions, compensation and the rights, privileges and obligations of employment. In addition, Oakland alleges that the strike took place before alternative avenues to reach an agreement, including fact finding, were exhausted as required by law.

Oakland is asking the Commission to find the AAUP in violation of the Michigan Public Employment Relations Act and to order it to cease and desist from future violations.

The OU ULP was filed following the AAUP's filing of an Unfair Labor Practice Charge against Oakland ("AAUP ULP") alleging that Oakland failed to provide information to the AAUP during bargaining. Oakland denies the AAUP's allegations.

Once the AAUP elected to file the AAUP ULP, it became important for Oakland to

file the OU ULP to preserve all of the issues relating to the 2021 negotiations, ensure that the Commission has access to all of the relevant facts and applicable law (including the AAUP's illegal strike activity), allow Oakland to fully defend itself against the AAUP's allegations, and make certain that all of the potential issues relating to the 2021 negotiations are resolved.

"Oakland University negotiated in good faith with the AAUP at all times during the 2021 collective bargaining process, as it does in all negotiations with every bargaining unit on campus," said university spokesperson Brian Bierley. Notwithstanding the OU ULP and the AAUP ULP, "the administration's goal is always to work productively and collaboratively with the faculty to maximize student success and faculty excellence."

News of the university's ULP charge has not been well received by faculty, with the timing of the university's ULP seeming particularly dubious to some.

"Many people who advise me from the faculty have used both the terms intimidation, and retaliation," Miller said. "[OU AAUP] were slow to move as we saw [evidence of bad-faith bargaining], we did not rush out and do a ULP. We actually wanted to digest it to make sure that what we thought was correct, and [that the charge was filed] on the basis of newer information, that we didn't know back in September. Everything [the university] cite in their document is information that was all public ... So it's the fact that the timing of this is days after we file [our ULP], I think lends a certain suspicion to it ... As a labor leader, I would think ... They want us to be afraid."

Laws in Michigan dictate that ULP charges must be filed within six months of any alleged incident. While there is some dispute by OU AAUP about the days and whether the university met their deadline, the university appears to have filed their ULP on the last day they could have done so.

To the best knowledge of OU AAUP's current leadership, it is unprecedented in OU history for the university to file charges against faculty for work stoppages related to contract negotiations.

OU AAUP Executive Director Amy Pollard released the following statement regarding the university's ULP charge to faculty members in an email Monday morning.

"Last week, Oakland University filed an Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) charge against the AAUP alleging that the September 2021 work stoppage violated the Public Employment Relations Act (PERA). The complaint alleges that the AAUP acted 'prior to the exhaustion of the full scope of statutory impasse resolution mechanisms available to parties under PERA and the Labor Mediation Act; specifically mediation and fact finding.' (See attached ULP filing).

This complaint comes on the heels of the AAUP's ULP charge against Oakland filed last month (attached below). While the AAUP's ULP charge was filed as a result of new information regarding 2022 health insurance rate information discovered through FOIA requests, Oakland's ULP charge appears based on no new information and could have been

filed at any point over the last six months. As a result, Oakland's ULP seems clearly retaliatory in nature.

We are disappointed Oakland has chosen this course of action. President Pescovitz's message in the 2021 State of the University address, 'let the healing begin' feels false given Oakland's conduct. The AAUP remains committed to ensuring fair and equitable negotiations, regardless of hostile attempts to challenge or punish us for doing so."

While judges have not been appointed and court dates have not been set at this point, it is likely that these cases will unfold in the courts this summer.

OU AAUP did file another ULP charge against the university in September for what they saw as the university's unwillingness to bargain the effect of OU's vaccine mandate. That case was settled out of court in October.

"When the university announced that there would be a vaccine mandate, there was not a real clear sense of what would happen to the minority of people who did not do the vaccine mandate," Miller said. "... [After filing our ULP we received] a letter of agreement that established that process. And that process seems to have been put into effect smoothly, we have not had any complaints."

The current ULP charges are likely to have an adverse impact on the already-strained relationship between OU AAUP faculty and the upper administration. Last month there was an announcement of the Faculty Board Liaison Task Force (FBLTF) to foster better relations between the two sides. That group is apparently scheduled to have their first meeting on April 11.

"Hopefully [the FBLTF meeting] will be wonderful and the clouds from our unhappy lives will be lifted," Miller said. "And we can go on to be a mature and responsible institution dedicated to the education of Michigan's public."



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD  
Oakland University and OU AAUP faculty have both filed Unfair Labor Practice charges against each other in recent weeks.



# OU-Beaumont Research could improve future cancer treatment

GRACE LOVINS

Senior Reporter

Recent OU alumni, Tyler Parsons, Ph.D., in collaboration with OU faculty and Beaumont Research Institute, published research on blood stem cell relation to tumor growth in the *British Journal of Cancer* — presenting new findings that could improve future cancer treatment.

The project, “Intratumoural haematopoietic stem and progenitor cell differentiation into M2 macrophages facilitates the regrowth of solid tumors after radiation therapy,” was the first study to show that blood stem cells were utilized by tumors as a way to evade radiation treatment.

Gerard Madlambayan, Ph.D., associate professor of biological sciences and co-author of the study, states this project was a continuation of previous research conducted in his lab by former doctoral student at OU, Jonathan Kane.

Prior research conducted by Kane, Madlambayan and others showed that a population of blood stem cells migrated to tumors — specifically looking at lung carcinomas — after exposure to radiation. They also found that the higher the population of these cells in the tumor, the higher the probability the tumor would regrow after radiation.

Building off of these findings, Parsons, Madlambayan and several OU faculty members and investigators from the Beaumont Research Institute, hoped to identify how blood stem cells correlated to tumor growth. The research looked at cell differentiation or the process in which dividing

cells change their functional type.

In this specific research study, the cell differentiation being analyzed involved how blood stem cells differentiated in the tumor to cause the growth.

The team discovered that a change in the microenvironment of the tumor could cause blood stem cells to turn into M2 macrophages, cells that allow the tumor to regrow. They also realized when the tumor was irradiated, the microenvironment produced stimulating colony factor 1, or CSF-1, which led to the hypothesis that the radiation was creating an environment that told the blood stem cells to differentiate themselves into M2 Macrophages.

Continuing to build off of their discoveries, Parsons and the research team began investigating how they could potentially block the blood stem cells from differentiating into M2 macrophages. They discovered by incorporating a drug that blocked the CSF-1, the tumor did not tell the blood stem cells to turn into M2 macrophages.

To test their CSF-1 inhibiting drug, the team used cells that glow red and radiated the tumor with these red-glowing cells in order to track them. Before adding the drug, the team recorded the cells changed into M2 macrophages, aiding the growth of the tumor. After blocking the CSF-1, they were able to decrease the number of M2 macrophages and the size of the tumors were significantly smaller.

In conjunction with clinical trials currently being conducted at Beaumont, the team tested two forms of radiation during their research. The first was the standard form of radiation commonly used in cancer treatments, and the second called hyperfractionated

radiation, or radiation that is administered multiple times a day but in smaller doses.

Ultimately, the team recorded that the use of combination therapy between the CSF-1 inhibiting drug and radiation therapy caused the tumors to decrease dramatically. The combination worked well using standard radiation treatment doses and increments but worked even better using the hyperfractionated radiation treatment.

Madlambayan hopes this discovery will lead to improvements in standardized cancer treatments and, because the combination method worked well in the research process, he believes the hyperfractionated radiation, combined with the CSF-1 inhibiting drug could be extremely beneficial to the future of treatments. He also credits the university for allowing such research to take place.

“The environment that we have at Oakland University does allow for this kind of research, it allows us to interact not only in research labs but also with clinicians and allows this kind of translational research to be done at Oakland University,” Madlambayan said. “We’re not just a teaching institute, we do a lot of good research at Oakland and hopefully students see that and come into OU and do their graduate work or do some kind of research while they’re here.”

Parsons graduated from OU with his Ph.D. in Biological and Biomedical Sciences in the spring of 2021. He is currently working at Washington University School of Medicine in Saint Louis as a hematology-oncology postdoctoral research fellow in the Division of Oncology.



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## YOU ARE SMARTER THAN YOU THINK, STRONGER THAN YOU KNOW AND SOARING TOWARD SUCCESS!

There are lots of resources and services at OU to help you be mentally and physically healthy and academically successful.







Federal, State and/or County funding has been provided through the Oakland Community Health Network Office of Substance Use Disorders to support project costs.

# Majority of students surveyed support ending campus mask mandate

Story by: Jeff Thomas  
Design by: Carolina Landeros

Results are in for Oakland University Student Congress (OUSC) and The Oakland Post's co-sponsored Oakland University mask mandate student survey, and 57.5% of respondents have voted in favor of lifting OU's campus indoor mask mandate before the end of the winter semester.

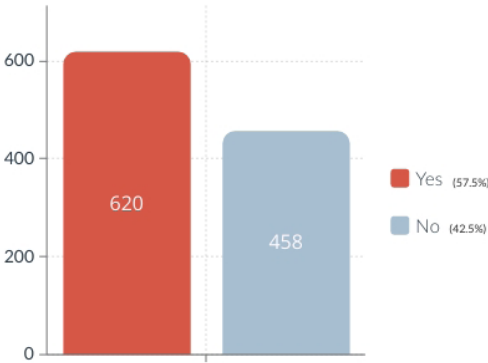
The survey was launched Monday, Feb. 21 in response to a discussion that was led by Provost Britt Rios-Ellis at the University Senate meeting on Feb. 17 about the university considering the possibility of lifting its indoor mask mandate by March 18. The survey stayed open until Wednesday, March 2.

Of the total responses received, 1,078 were deemed legitimate by our survey parameters which were designed to make sure the results were indicative of what OU students want concerning the mask mandate. A conscientious effort was made by OUSC to exclude votes received from non-student OU email accounts from the final poll results which will be shared in this article.

The Post and OUSC are confident in the legitimacy of these survey results, and are thankful to have received such an outpouring of responses from students. We're proud and grateful to be able to amplify student voices on such an important issue to the campus community.

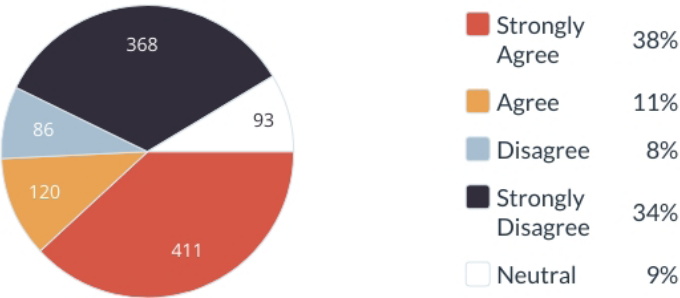
The survey featured seven questions and a section for open comment. The first question on the survey was a simple yes-or-no question: "Should OU end the campus indoor mask mandate before the end of the Winter 2022 semester?" to which 620 (57.5%) of respondents voted "yes," and 458 (42.5%) voted "no."

Should OU end the campus indoor mask mandate before the end of the Winter 2022 semester?



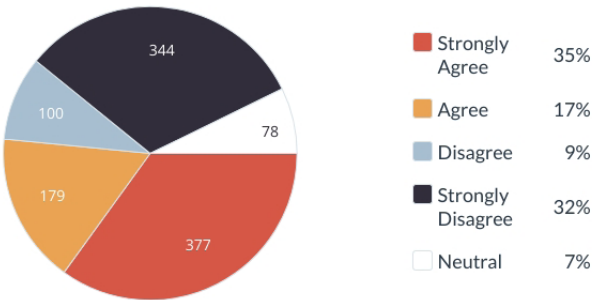
The next six questions were framed as statements with the option to select a range from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree" as responses.

OU should drop its mask immediately



Question number two, "OU should drop its mask immediately" received 411 (38.1%) "strongly agree" responses, 120 (11.1%) "agree" responses, 93 (8.8%) "neutral" responses, 86 (8%) "disagree" responses and 368 (34.1%) strongly disagree responses.

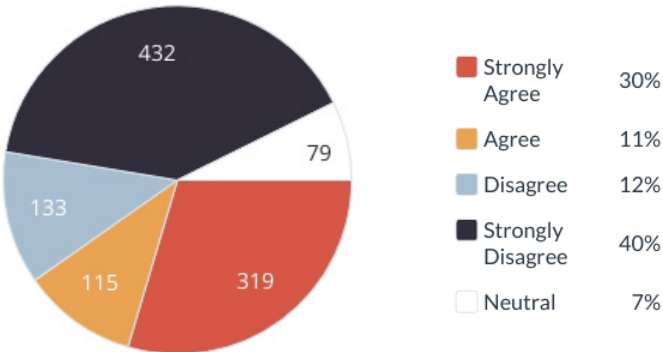
OU should drop its mask mandate by March 18



Question number three, "OU should drop its mask mandate by March 18" received 377 (35%) "strongly agree" responses, 179 (16.6%) "agree" responses, 78 (7.2%) "neutral" responses, 100 (9.3%) "disagree" responses and 344 (31.9%) "strongly disagree" responses.

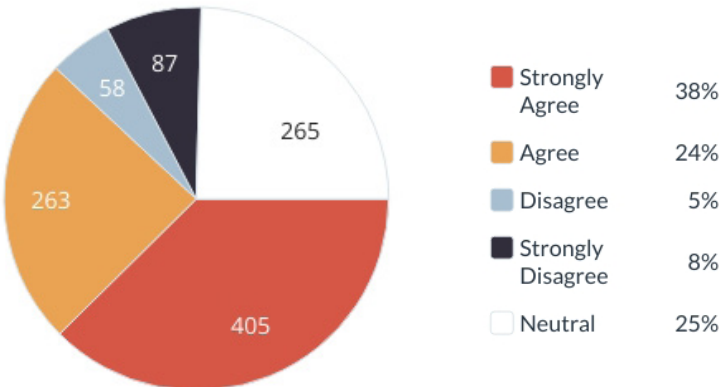
Question number four, "OU should keep its mask mandate until the end of the Winter 2022 semester" received 319 (29.6%) "strongly agree" responses, 115 (10.7%) "agree" responses, 79 (7.3%) "neutral" responses, 133 (12.3%) "disagree" responses and 432 (40.1%) "strongly disagree" responses.

OU should keep its mask mandate until the end of the Winter 2022 semester



Question number five, "If OU drops its mask mandate, it should expand options for remote learning" received 405 (37.5%) "strongly agree" responses, 263 (24.4%) "agree" responses, 265 (24.6%) "neutral" responses, 58 (5.4%) "disagree" responses and 87 (8.1%) "strongly disagree" responses.

If OU drops its mask mandate, it should expand options for remote learning

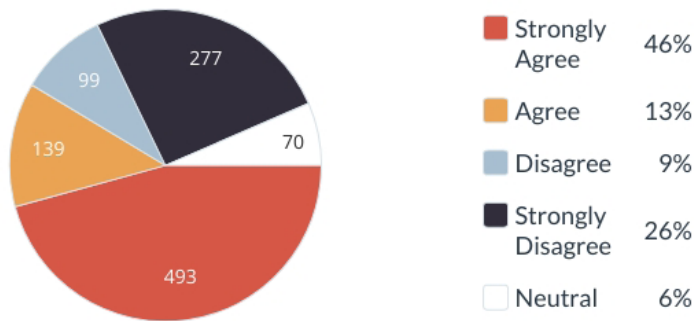




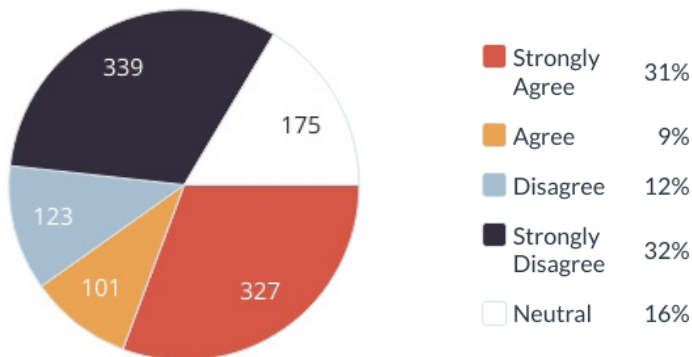
Question number six, “I would feel comfortable going to class in person, without a mask mandate” received 493 (45.7%) “strongly agree” responses, 139 (12.9%) “agree” responses, 70 (6.5%) “neutral” responses, 99 (9.2%) “disagree” responses and 277 (25.7%) “strongly disagree” responses.

Question number seven, “I was under the impression that the mask mandate would continue until the end of the Winter 2022 semester when I paid for my classes” received 327 (30.7%) “strongly agree” responses, 101 (9.5%) “agree” responses, 175 (16.4%) “neutral” responses, 123 (11.5%) “disagree” responses and 339 (31.8%) “strongly disagree” responses.

**I would feel comfortable going to class in person, without a mask mandate**



**I was under the impression that the mask mandate would continue until the end of the Winter 2022 semester when I paid for my classes**



*We received 343 responses in the written comment section of the survey.*

Comments supporting OU keeping the mask mandate in place included:

“The university needs to take care of the students who have stuck with this university the past couple years during this pandemic and not cater to outsiders bitching about our COVID-19 response for political reasons. There’s consensus among the scientific and medical community, we know masks save lives. Everyone is used to the mandate this year, keep it in place until the end of the winter semester.”

“As a healthcare worker that has been working with Covid patients throughout the duration of this pandemic, I would feel incredibly unsafe on the campus if it is not mandating masks. I would see it as irresponsible on behalf of the administration and the university to lift the mask mandates. Additionally, we must consider the way that this decision would impact immunocompromised students and faculty. It would be endangering them to lift this mask mandate. I seriously hope that the mask mandate will continue until it is safe to lift the mandate.”

“I am medically high risk and more susceptible to getting COVID. If OU drops the mask mandate, I will be extremely disappointed in this University. Online options better be offered to students if the mandate is dropped. I will NOT be comfortable attending anything in person if the mandate is dropped.”

Comments in favor of OU lifting the mandate included:

“The university should not mandate students to wear face coverings. If students feel more comfortable wearing masks they may choose to, it should be up to the individual student to decide this for themselves. I personally would wear a mask to larger lectures, but feel that wearing them while in my residence hall or the Rec, where I am socially distanced anyways is unnecessary.”

“OU is the only place where I am required to wear a mask. It has really been messing with my asthma and I have difficulty breathing for hours after I take it off. The dean said exemptions would be considered but I have never heard of anyone getting one.”

“I have been vaccinated and boosted, and I am relatively certain near the start of the pandemic I already had COVID before there was even a test or the ability to get one as testing was only reserved for the incredibly sick. I can go everywhere else with whoever I want anywhere else in Michigan pretty much without a mask, including being indoors for extended periods of time with many other people. I feel like with the expanding ability to teach classes in person while streaming the course material and the lectures in real time we can drop the mandate down to recommending the mask if you are not vaccinated or if you wish to continue wearing one. I respect my fellow students enough to not cause a problem for those who wish to shed the masks or choose to continue wearing one. But I feel like it would be a step towards making people feel less anxious and feel like we are returning to more normalcy.”

Comments neutral to the mask mandate staying in place or suggesting alternatives included:

“If the school does decide to drop the mask mandate then social distancing standards must return in its place. The mask only works if both people are wearing it, so if no one decides to wear it then some distance needs to be maintained between people. If people don’t want to abide by social distancing rules then ALL classes must give the virtual option or class AND labs.”

“I think there should be an in-between situation, such as classes with more than 30 people still wearing masks or if someone in the class is immune compromised, they should be able to tell the prof so that the entire class can continue wearing their mask.”

“I think lifting the mask mandate will lessen the student activity in class, especially for me, as I have family and teammates that have some health issues that they are more prone to catch COVID than others. I think that if they lift the mask mandate, professors and the university should allow students to attend class remotely. In reality, we do not know where everyone on campus is coming from or who they saw the day before. We all know that no one fills out the health survey on MySail so there is no way to calculate how many people are there, if they are feeling sick, etc.”

With 57.5% of those surveyed voting in favor of lifting the mask mandate before the end of the Winter 2022 semester, there is a majority of this healthy sample size of students who favor lifting the mandate. Though that majority is slimmer than what administrators thought, with some in university leadership concerned that the number of students in favor of lifting the mandate could be as high as 80% to 90% of the student body based on emails they were receiving.

As of writing, Student Body President Andrew Romano and Vice President Murryum Farooqi had already met with and shared information about the survey results with Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer Glenn McIntosh.

While The Post isn’t aware of the university having any plans at this time to lift the mandate, OU leadership continues to monitor COVID-19 cases and assess the situation.

With the effects of lifting the mandate likely to significantly impact what happens in university classrooms, The Post reached out to Oakland University’s Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (OU AAUP) President Karen Miller to see if the union had surveyed its members about the mask mandate.

“We have not surveyed our membership,” Miller said. “We believe that the opinions of our members differ greatly; however, our larger concern has been the public health issue for our members who live with vulnerable family members, as well as our students who have similar concerns. For that reason, we have been supporting the idea of moving ahead cautiously to maximize safety.”



## 38TH ANNUAL WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES FILM FESTIVAL

Saturday, March 19, 2022 | 1 – 3:30 p.m.

Oakland University, Human Health Building 1050

### INTERSEX IDENTITIES

## *No Box for Me: An Intersex Story*

(2017, Devigne; French, subtitled in English) 58 min

The film will be followed by a question and answer session plus discussion of intersex activism in Michigan and beyond.

#### CO-SPONSORED BY

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| ■ Film Studies and Production                    | ■ WXOU Radio  |
| ■ Philosophy                                     | ■ The Oakland Post  |

#### LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

This event will follow OU guidelines in response to health requirements. Masks are required to be worn by all attendees and a health screening form for guests will be provided upon entrance into the event.

Please confirm the format of the event using the QR code.

This beautifully crafted, poetic documentary joins brave young people as they seek to reappropriate their bodies and explore their identities. The film reveals both the limits of binary visions of sex and gender, and the irreversible physical and psychological impact of non-consensual surgeries on intersex infants.



**OAKLAND**  
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# Industry Insider: Dr. Madlambayan discusses biomedical science

**SIERRA OKONIEWSKI**

*Contributor*

Dr. Gerard Madlambayan is pushing the boundaries of biomedical science, one student at a time.

The Oakland University educator is a specialist in cancer research, particularly concerning blood-based cancers and the use of stem cells to accelerate the treatment of chemotherapy patients.

At the beginning of his career, Dr. Madlambayan used his background in engineering to design bioreactors for the purpose of cultivating stem cells at Aastrom Biosciences. He later transitioned to Inception Biosciences, where he worked as a director of their clinical lab and designed a bioprocess to expand blood stem cells, which was approved for clinical trials.

After graduating with a combined Ph.D. in chemical and biomedical engineering from the University of Toronto, Dr. Madlambayan finished a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Florida before accepting the position of associate professor for OU's biomedical science department in 2010.

For the purpose of giving OU students a window into the world of science and modern medicine, the Oakland Post sat down with Dr. Madlambayan to talk about his insights on the field.

**Q: What is the overarching culture of the bioscience industry?**

A: The culture of the biomedical science industry is one of discovery and working toward developing products and technologies that will benefit our lives. There is this choice between industry, where you work



PHOTO BY STANLEY TU

Dr. Madlambayan discusses a career in biomedical science in Okoniewski's first installment of Industry Insider.

on projects as a scientist, or academics, where you're a professor training the next generation of scientists.

I think that's one of the things you want to make sure [students] understand – is that they have these choices, and afterwards you can transition between the two. So just because you've made the choice to do industry in the beginning doesn't mean you're stuck there. You can transition to academics and vice versa.

**Q: What is your favorite part of working in biomedical science?**

A: It is always a good feeling when an idea or hypothesis is supported by the data. We spend a lot of time developing hypotheses and then collecting data to test them. When the data shows that you are on the right track and that your hypothesis is supported, it is a great feeling.

**Q: What is the most challenging part of working in your field?**

A: Learning how to deal with periods where experiments just don't work. This is something that is dealt with in both industry and academic settings. In academic settings, writing and obtaining grants to perform research is a challenge. I usually submit two to three grants a year.

**Q: What insights do you wish you had been given when you were beginning your career?**

A: One thing I wish I had known sooner is that the progression of science is slow. If you are looking for a career with instant gratification as part of the daily experience, you will not find it in bioscience. You have to be prepared for slow, incremental gains on a daily basis, so a lot of patience is necessary.

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

A: From the perspective of cancer research, one way the field is evolving is in the development of precision medicine, where you use assays [a process of analyzing a substance to determine its composition or quality] to better understand a patient's cancer at the molecular level. The ability to better define an individual's cancer at this level allows physicians to use therapies that specifically target these characteristics.

In the future of cancer therapy, I envision the use of new methods that would allow us to self-diagnose cancers at home. The ability to do this would lead to faster diagnosis and treatment. Together with precision medicine, this could significantly reduce the negative impact of cancer on our society.

# OU Perspective: Should masks remain mandatory?

**JOE ZERILLI**

*Senior Reporter*

After Oakland County lifted the mask mandates for schools on Feb. 28, questions were raised whether Oakland University would follow suit. During the OU Senate meeting on Feb. 17, discussions have begun about lifting the mask mandate for OU.

In one effort to hear the community's opinions about whether or not the mask mandate should get repealed, The Post teamed with OU Student Congress (OUSC) to conduct a student survey. The short survey asks questions regarding the mask mandate and includes a section to write in a custom response.

The results of the survey show 57.5% of students are in favor of removing the mask mandate before the end of Winter 2022. Full results of all included questions can be found in the article from The Post on March 4.

Some students at OU share their thoughts about what they feel is the correct course of action going forward.

**Stephen Grenn, Freshman, Accounting**

"It's about the right time to lift it, with COVID-19 no longer being as big as it was and the vaccine mandate, the masks are no longer necessary."

**Samson Jeyakumar, Senior, Biology**

"The mandate has served its purpose, especially now that the elementary, middle and high school kids aren't mandated to follow it. I think with the advent of the boosters everyone who was really at risk has gotten it [the vaccine]."

"At this point I feel like everyone is walking

around off campus without masks anyways. If they're to transmit anything it'll end up happening while people eat on campus or go to take drinks. It may serve as a preventative measure but at this rate I feel like it's ineffective."

**Lorena Valenzuela, Senior, Marketing and Spanish**

"It should be optional, because there still are immune compromised students attending in person classes, but the vaccine has shown to prevent illness as well as it has been mandated at OU."

**William McGovern, Sophomore, Business**

"My thoughts are that it should be removed, since to be on campus you already need to be fully vaccinated. Not to mention how many people in the [Oakland] Center I constantly see not wearing a mask. I think that it should be a choice not a rule."

"Some K-12 schools have already removed the mandate so I don't see why we're any different. I'd say remove it on the 18th and warn people, and if people are scared and removing it is an issue then maybe direct them somewhere they can talk about that."

**Victorija Webb, Social Work**

"I don't think they should be removed this semester just because COVID-19 is still a risk and even if it gets lifted I'm still going to have to wear one because of living with someone who's high risk. So it would make it easier for me to keep the mask mandate for this semester at least."

**Maryam Toma, Sophomore, Clinical and Diagnostic Science - Pre PA**

"Students were required to be vaccinated to be going

in person. If the vaccine works and almost everyone is vaccinated, we do not need to add a layer of fabric. It would not change a thing."

"Students are mostly not wearing masks when going out, so why sit in class for one to three hours wearing a mask? If everyone is 'social distancing' then there shouldn't be a mask mandate. Masks should be optional and be removed ASAP. It should really be the students choice, as they decided to be on campus and take the vaccine."



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD  
Students weigh in on OU's mask mandate.



# Singer-songwriter Audrey Ray talks sound, style and performing

**LAUREN REID**

*Content Editor*

Music has always been an instrumental (pun intended) part in local country singer-songwriter Audrey Ray's life. Now, she's performed all around Michigan, released songs of her own and is making a name for herself in the music industry.

From a young age, country music was playing in Ray's house — she has family from Tennessee, and her dad was even in a southern rock band. Ray started taking piano lessons in her Michigan hometown, Milford, at Milford Music. Her love for music took off from there as she began to sing and teach herself acoustic guitar.

"Around highschool I was doing concerts in coffee shops around my hometown — knocking on doors, taking no for an answer, and I always did acoustic shows that way," Ray said. "Then I formed a band and just played shows wherever they let me before I was even 21."

Ray's first song, "Reckless," came out in 2012, a year before she graduated from Oakland University with a Journalism degree — which was the first song she wrote as an independent artist, and also her first song to play on country radio at 99.5 WCID. Ray detailed how "Reckless" was her anthem as she was going through the ups and downs of life, and trying to get out of where she was to be something bigger and better.

"['Reckless'] resonates with me still," she said. "The lyric in the song is 'I think it's time for me to

shake hands with the bright lights,' so for me that meant 'I'm gonna do this, and do it my way.'"

Since then, Ray has released a plethora of other songs, most recently "Temporary Fix" in August 2021.

The inspiration behind the tune stemmed from a fun night Ray had with her cousin — playing board games over some glasses of wine — where the phrase "temporary fix" felt like a seamless ode to many aspects of life: relationships, past experiences, etc. Once she journaled about the idea and took it to Record Producer Tim Patalan, the song came to fruition.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUDREYRAYMUSIC.COM  
Local singer-songwriter and OU alumna Audrey Ray talks her blooming career in country music.

Like songwriting, when it comes to performing, Ray is no stranger. Last summer, she opened up for Grammy winner and Country Music Hall of Fame Inductee Travis Tritt at the Genesee County Fair.

In Michigan, Ray's favorite place she's performed is the Royal Oak Music Theater, where she opened for Uncle Kracker in front of 3,000 people.

"Having that opportunity — I'll never forget that. Looking back at those pictures just blows my mind."

Ray talked more about her pre-performance routine saying, "usually when I'm getting ready for a show — doing makeup or hair — I have a minute to just sit and relax. I always listen to music — I'll play Miranda Lambert or my favorite girl country artist at the time and just decompress."

Talking about Ray's music idols, she mentioned a wide variety of icons, including Jewel, Patty Griffin and Johnny Cash. Her dream collaboration would be with Miranda Lambert, Carrie Underwood or Dolly Parton.

As someone who didn't take a conventional path post-graduation, Ray's mindset is extremely inspiring. She values hard work and following your passions.

"Any job or career comes with hard work, drive and initiative. There's times where you do want to give up, but there's so much beauty [in picking yourself up]. I've always found being organic, and staying true to who you are really shows. No matter what you do, your heart will show you and guide you the way."

To keep up with Audrey Ray and her work, visit her website or check out her music on Spotify. You can also follow her on Instagram at @audrey\_ray.

## OU's Tennis Club welcomes any and all interested students

**JOSEPH POPIS**

*Senior Reporter*

The Tennis Club is an active organization on Oakland University's campus, welcoming any and all interested students.

This club provides students with the opportunity to meet new people, make new friends and attend social events. Vice President of The Tennis Club Andrew Ferdig highlights the club is just a refreshing, different experience offered on OU's campus.

"The number one thing is going to be something to do on campus, meet new people, make friends, and go to socials," Ferdig said. "We host social events here and there. It's just a different atmosphere than you would expect on a college campus."

Ferdig states the club is for people who used to play, are interested and/or want to keep playing tennis.

"It works like an extracurricular athletic club," Ferdig said. "A bunch of people — who either used to play in high school or used to play semi-pro — come together to hit three days a week. We do some doubles, some singles, really whatever we want to do."

Beau Schulze, a member of The Tennis Club, highlights the community this club brings to its members. Students can hang out, have a good time and make connections well beyond graduation.

"It's more like a community of students who are all hanging out and having a good time," Schulze said. "The idea is that we all create friendships, hang

out with each other and have a good time. There's a good number of people that I know who have met each other in The Tennis Club, and now years after graduating, they're hanging out to this day."

As far as what students gain from joining the club — Schulze states the friendships made play a big role.

"I've known a lot of people in the club who are very introverted, people who wouldn't go out of their way to talk to people," Schulze said. "We also have a lot of very extroverted people on the team,

and they've both made a lot of really great friends."

The club offers the ability for students to get out and get fit. Throughout COVID-19, it has been difficult for students to get moving, Ferdig mentioned. The club also allows people to continue their dream within the sport of tennis.

Ferdig also emphasizes the welcoming environment the Tennis Club offers. However, it is important to know that no one takes themselves too seriously, as it is for fun at the end of the day.

"It's probably the most welcoming environment on campus," Ferdig said. "I would argue that it's probably one of the more welcoming clubs you could do. People who come to practice, even if you're really good, say you're the best person on the team, nobody takes themselves that seriously. We understand it's for fun."

There are two parts of the club: the recreational team for anyone who wants to join, and the competitive team for the more serious players (requires a tryout). The competitive team travels to compete against other school clubs. As of now, The Tennis Club is only accepting students looking to try out for the travel team due to court and financial restrictions. However, when the weather consistently clears up and the club begins to play outside, anyone who is a member will be able to participate.

Students interested in learning more about The Tennis Club should contact oakclubtennis@gmail.com or visit their GrizzOrgs page.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TENNIS CLUB AT OU ON FACEBOOK  
The Oakland University Tennis Club at Grand Valley State University in October.



# Dr. Roy Elturk discusses the importance of good oral health

**GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH**

*Campus Editor*

Oral health is an important component of overall health. I spoke to Dr. Roy Elturk, who earned his undergraduate and Doctor in Dental Surgery from the University of Detroit Mercy and completed a residency program at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. Dr. Elturk is the owner of Bright Side Dental - Southfield, and is a general dentist who has been practicing for over fourteen years.

**Q: What are the major considerations that college students should be aware of when it comes to oral health?**

**A:** First and foremost, when it does to your oral health, there are definitely some behaviors that increase the risk for oral cancers. The obvious things to avoid are tobacco products, alcohol, and vape products. HPV is also a consideration when it comes to oral cancers, so it is important to practice safe sex and certainly HPV vaccination is a plus.

**Q: Can you elaborate more on the consumption of alcohol tobacco and vape products and their role in the increased risk for oral cancers?**

**A:** Certainly alcohol and tobacco individually can increase the risk for some oral cancers. However, it had been found that when it comes to alcohol and tobacco, 1+1 does not necessarily equal 2. The combined use of alcohol and tobacco products sharply raises the potential for oral cancers to arise much more than each of those products do individually. And although there is limited research on the effects of vaping on the oral cavity, I've personally seen significant increase in dental caries (Editor's Note: Cavities) and inflammatory lesions in the soft tissues of the mouth.

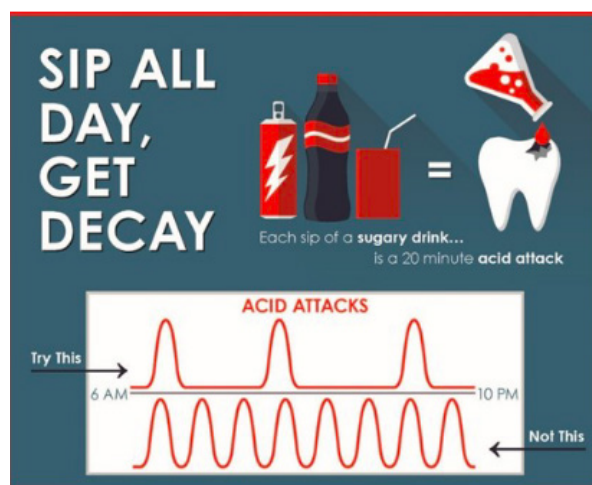


PHOTO COURTESY OF ORAL HEALTH KANSAS  
Infographic showing what sugary drinks do to your oral health.

**Q: We all know that sugar is bad for your teeth, but can you describe the reason why?**

**A:** What most people don't realize, is that dental caries is basically an infectious disease. The bacteria that causes cavities is transmitted from one person to another through saliva. Usually, this transmission takes place at a very early age between parent/caregiver and child. *Streptococcus mutans* is the main bacteria involved in the formation of cavities. It "eats" sugar and releases acid as its waste product. Once the bacteria becomes part of your normal microbial flora, it doesn't leave. But, you can take a three-pronged approach to control it. First and foremost, brushing and flossing prevents these bacteria from forming layers on your teeth which can greatly increase the amount of acid produced, therefore pitting the tooth and causing a cavity. Secondly, you can starve the bacteria by limiting the duration of time that it is in contact with sugar in your mouth. It takes approximately 12 minutes for the bacteria to create enough acid to lower the pH of your mouth once in contact with sugar. It is important to limit the time that sugar is in contact with your teeth. A few years back, the American Dental Association came up with an ad slogan, "Sip all day, get decay," and it really is accurate. Finally, one can take steps to harden tooth structure and make it more resilient to the effects of acid production. As an adult, this takes place primarily through exposure to topical fluoride. Most people get this through fluoridated toothpaste. However, there are several over-the-counter fluoridated mouth rinses that can also aid in the protection of your teeth. In severe cases, your dentist may prescribe a higher fluoride content toothpaste as needed.

**Q: My dentist often says the mouth is the window to systemic health. How is that so?**

**A:** Surprisingly, many systemic and serious diseases have their first signs and symptoms in the oral cavity. Some cancers, diabetes, and digestive conditions, in their formative stages, can lead to bad breath. There's also a very strong link between periodontal disease, an inflammatory disease of the gum and supporting tissues, with heart disease. While some of these conditions have a genetic component to them, there are certainly some steps that should be taken to help promote an overall decrease in inflammation in the mouth. Routine dental care is a must, in addition to a strident home care regimen. Ideally, you should brush for 2 minutes three times daily, and floss once a day.

**Q: Are there any over-the-counter products that one should avoid?**

**A:** Contrary to Dr. TikTok, the use of charcoal as a tooth whitening agent should be avoided. As with all other health and beauty products, there



PHOTO COURTESY OF GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH  
Campus Editor and Columnist, Gabrielle Abdelmessih

is no FDA regulation for the safety and efficacy of these products. The abrasive nature of these products may in fact whiten your teeth but at the expense of removing protective enamel—which does not regenerate. Once you lose it, it's gone forever.

**Q: How has the pandemic affected people's oral health?**

**A:** On a basic level, during the mandated shutdown, people weren't able to receive routine, elective care, which has led to more serious issues. Also, the stress of what we've all endured has led many more people to clench and grind their teeth subconsciously, also known as bruxism. In my practice, I have seen many more signs of wear and fractured teeth in these last two years than I have ever seen previously. Your dentist will be able to notice these signs at your routine examination visits and may recommend a bite guard to help prevent this condition.

**Q: Is there anything else you think college students should know about their oral health?**

**A:** College can be a stressful, difficult time. It certainly was for me. The important thing to remember is that the teeth you have in college, are the teeth you are designed to have for the rest of your life. Treat them well when you're young, and they will treat you well when you're old. Drink lots of water, minimize the duration of time that sugar is in contact with your teeth, (That's for all the coffee and soda connoisseurs), and brush and floss regularly.



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# Richard J. Burke Lecture

## in Philosophy, Religion and Society

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**ELIZABETH ANDERSON**

discusses

### What Should the Work Ethic Mean for Us Today?

**March 24, 2022 | 7–9 p.m.**

Oakland Center, Banquet Room A

The work ethic was invented by Puritan theologians nearly 400 years ago. From the start, it contained contradictory ideas: one rationalizing the subjection of workers to drudgery for maximum profit; the other honoring workers for advancing human welfare and calling for their dignified and equitable treatment. Both ideas were developed and institutionalized over time in the U.S. and Europe, leaving a contradictory legacy for us today. I show how the neglected second work ethic tradition can be revived and updated for 21st-century American workers.



*Photo by David Paterson*

**ELIZABETH ANDERSON**

is Max Shaye Professor of Public Philosophy and John Dewey Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She is the author of *Value in Ethics and Economics*

(Harvard University Press, 1993), *The Imperative of Integration* (Princeton UP, 2010), and *Private Government: How Employers Rule Our Lives (And Why We Don't Talk About It)* (Princeton UP, 2017) and numerous, widely reprinted articles in journals of philosophy, law, and economics. She designed University of Michigan's Philosophy, Politics, and Economics program, and was its founding director. She is a 2019 MacArthur Fellow; she was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2008; she was named One the World's top 50 Thinkers by *Prospect* magazine in 2020; and she was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2020.

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#### ABOUT RICHARD J. BURKE (1932-2012)

As the first faculty member hired at Oakland University, Richard Burke watched OU evolve from promising beginnings to a present day filled with possibility. To help bring those possibilities to fruition, he established the annual Richard J. Burke Lecture in Philosophy, Religion and Society.



# DCEU's 'Peacemaker' stuns with humor and action

JOE ZERILLI  
Senior Reporter

## \*Spoiler Warning\*

"Peacemaker" may just be the best live-action comic book show that I've seen in recent history, if not at all. I was genuinely surprised with how much I enjoyed watching this show and not once did I feel bored while watching it.

Don't get me wrong, I thoroughly enjoyed most of the rivaling Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) TV shows, but something about "Peacemaker" brought out that childhood giddy in me despite the show being rated TV-MA. The DC Extended Universe (DCEU) show is not for the faint of heart as it can get extremely gory and has a lot of crude humor.

Director James Gunn started his comic book writing career in 2014 when he wrote "Guardians of the Galaxy" for the MCU and more recently "The Suicide Squad" in 2021. "The Suicide Squad" is also the precursor to the show "Peacemaker," with the show starting immediately after the epic conclusion to the movie.

Peacemaker — played by John Cena — is a "hero" who stops at nothing to bring peace to the world. After the events of "The Suicide Squad," he has returned home to rest but gets immediately sucked back into helping Amanda Waller — Viola Davis — with "Project Butterfly."

The amply named Project Butterfly is very on the nose — the group must destroy alien butterflies who

find a host and enhance their strength. In order to stop them, Peacemaker teams up with a ragtag team called A.R.G.U.S. to bring them down and redeem himself once and for all.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB  
DC Extended Universe's "Peacemaker" by Director James Gunn.

The power of friendship is a common theme in not just this show but a lot of James Gunn's shows. The group starts off with their differences but in

the end they end up being like a family, something Peacemaker was missing his whole life.

Throughout the show's eight episodes, we slowly see the progression of how dangerous these butterflies can be, with the show really ramping up in episode six. The detective tracking Peacemaker unleashes a horde of butterflies to create a new army while Peacemaker's dad — known as the White Dragon — leads a group of fascists in town to find his son.

The group led by White Dragon are awful people and I do recommend in episode seven to turn on closed captioning to see how they name the group of racists. Gunn took liberties with the names and it was a nice touch for anyone who may have suspected that Gunn supports these ideals.

The A.R.G.U.S. squad is nothing special on their own, but Gunn does a spectacular job of making the viewers believe in each of these characters and view them as heroes in some twisted way. The viewer can see the growth of the group in each episode, a nice touch considering some superheroes are pretty static in their beliefs.

Gunn definitely found his expertise with this show — he seems to do a much better job of holding the suspense by delaying it with his humor and character-building. The plot is full of twists and turns, and while some may find the show to be too much, I think if you're even slightly into superheroes it is well worth the watch.

**Rating: 4.2/5 stars**

# 'Inventing Anna': Netflix's new scheme queen

LETICIA CEZÁRIO SANTOS  
Ads Assistant

"This whole story is completely true. Except for all the parts that are totally made up." If you, just like me, love a good docuseries — get ready because there's a new story for you to jump into.

Based on an (almost) true story, acclaimed producer and screenwriter Shonda Rhimes attacks again and gives us one more show to binge-watch up to the end. On Feb. 11, Shondaland and Netflix launched "Inventing Anna." This nine-episode series introduces many remarkable characters, but Anna Delvey/Sorokin (played by Julia Garner) and Vivian Kent (Anna Chlumsky playing Jessica Pressler) are the ones that shine through — and the ones you should really pay attention to.

"Inventing Anna" takes viewers through a process of investigative reporting and writing, in addition to a court trial and the entire construction of what the name Anna Delvey became. Just as the series shows, this new production is based on a 2018 New York magazine article by Jessica Pressler, the same author of the article that inspired Jennifer Lopez's 2019 film: "Hustlers."

Each episode gives details that can either make everything clearer, or just cause even more confusion. The episodes are organized to cover each character's point of view, which gives viewers many sides of the same story.

Anna Delvey climbs through New York's uppermost elite as the new German Heiress that came to make business. She has one goal: to become known through her art foundation, which she names "The Anna Delvey Foundation."

Anna makes you love and hate her in the same proportion. Even if she used her talents wrong, it's clear she was truly gifted with many talents — all of which are portrayed on-screen throughout the show.

Anna fights for her space among many New York men as she beautifully builds a business plan for her foundation. The first episode gives you an unbeatable, strong, arrogant, crazy and unstable version of Anna. The last gives you a lost, vulnerable girl, but still unpredictable and dangerously smart. Anna is the type of villain that has you doubting if she is truly that bad.

I won't give any spoilers — because this show is worth watching — but as the story progresses, it is noticeable something is off. One thing, we are sure, is this series exposes more than

a scheme. It provides a list of thought-provoking concepts to dive into.

"Inventing Anna" is about women in business, social class equality, inequality, the social media phenomenon, maternity and career, psychological disorders, ethics in law and journalism, but it is also about friendships, dreams, romance, drama and more.

Many news outlets, such as the New York Times and Time Magazine, wrote about Shonda's newest piece of art.

The New York Times argued reporting is portrayed less ethically than it should have been in the series. But controversial coverage was expected from this production, just as the real story got at the time it happened. The real Anna Sorokin (her real name) was accused of stealing from banks, hotels and many individuals — as much as \$200,000.00. She was convicted on one count of attempted grand larceny, three counts of grand larceny and four counts of theft services in 2019. Anna Sorokin is currently in an ICE detention center after serving some years in prison.

To reiterate — "this whole story is completely true. Except for all the parts that are totally made up."

Have fun finding out what is true and what is not. Trust me, it's almost an impossible task. But I'll give you a hint — the Instagram account used on

the few last episodes of the series, IS actually real, and you can check it out at @Annadelveycourtlooks.

I'd also like to point out — this series is one of the most accurate casts I've ever seen. The series' cast and real-life counterparts shared surprisingly similarities of traits, which makes you dive even deeper into this crazy story.

"Inventing Anna" is for sure a 5/5. Congrats Shonda, you did it again!



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB  
'Inventing Anna' follows Anna Delvey and her art foundation. It's available on Netflix.



# Women's basketball advance to tournament quarterfinals

**BROCK HEILIG**

*Sports Reporter*

The Oakland women's basketball team defeated the Wright State Raiders in the first round of the Horizon League Tournament at the O'rena on Tuesday night by a score of 54-45.

Oakland jumped out to an early lead and never looked back, ultimately propelling it to a quarterfinal appearance.



PHOTO BY STANLEY TU  
Breanne Beatty notched 11 points, good for second on the team Tuesday night.

The two teams battled back and forth in the first quarter. Neither team registered a lead of more than five through the game's first 10 minutes.

After the first quarter, the Grizzlies held onto a slim three-point lead. Breanne Beatty led the way for Oakland with seven first quarter points.

Aaliyah McQueen and Lamariyee Williams each added three points and Kendall Folley and Brianna Breedy each added two points as well.

Neither team could find the bottom of the net to begin the second quarter. The teams shot a combined 0-17 from the floor before the first points of the quarter were scored with just 4:15 remaining in the first half.

As scoring continued to be scarce, perhaps the most intriguing moment of the second quarter happened with just 44 seconds remaining when Beatty and Wright State's Diamond Stokes were each issued technical fouls in a small scuffle.

The teams combined to score just 16 points in the second quarter on 7-30 shooting. Ultimately Oakland headed to the locker room with a 26-21 lead over the Horizon League's No. 10 seed.

Oakland began to stretch its lead in the third quarter behind strong performances from a slew of Grizzlies. Oakland led by as many as 11 in the third quarter, but the Raiders were able to cut the lead back to five at the end of the third quarter.

The Grizzlies continued to hold off the Raiders in the fourth quarter. Five different Grizzlies made contributions in the scoring column to maintain a

comfortable lead over the Raiders and the game was coming to a close.

Williams had her best game in a Grizzlies uniform, notching a career high in points [16] and rebounds [10].

Beatty was the team's second leading scorer with 11 points. She also added seven rebounds and five assists.

Folley, Breedy, McQueen, Kayla Luchenbach, Breanna Perry and Sydney Gouard all made scoring contributions for the Grizzlies as well.

The Grizzlies move on to the tournament quarterfinals to face the Youngstown State Penguins.

Youngstown State, which has earned the No. 2 seed in the league tournament, will host the seventh-seeded Grizzlies.

The Penguins have acquired a 23-5 overall record this season, as well as an 18-4 league record.

The Grizzlies last traveled to Youngstown on Sunday, Jan. 30 when they knocked off the then-17-2 Penguins in a thrilling 56-52 victory.

Oakland has played its last game at the O'rena this season. Should the Grizzlies defeat the Penguins, they will make a trip to Indianapolis, Indiana to try to punch their ticket to the NCAA Tournament.

The Grizzlies have a quick turnaround between games. Their second round matchup with the Penguins will tip off just less than 48 hours after the conclusion of their first round victory over Wright State. The game is set to tip off at 7 p.m. on Thursday night.

# Women's basketball punches ticket to Indianapolis

**BROCK HEILIG**

*Sports Reporter*

The Oakland women's basketball team defeated the Youngstown State Penguins in the Horizon League quarterfinals on Thursday night, 63-52 at the Beeghly Center.

The seventh-seeded Grizzlies knocked off the second-seeded Penguins for the second time this season to advance to the Horizon League Tournament semifinals in Indianapolis.

The teams traded buckets throughout the first quarter. Neither squad could muster much of an advantage.

Brianna Breedy got things started early with the first basket of the game, followed by an assist on a Kayla Luchenbach layup.

The rest of Oakland's starters got involved throughout the rest of the quarter, and each of the five starters recorded two points in the first 10 minutes. Lamariyee Williams added three off the bench for the Grizzlies, who trailed by four after the first quarter.

Breanne Beatty came alive in the second quarter. The 5-foot-8 junior guard caught fire from deep, connecting on three 3-point shots and a mid-range jumper before the second quarter media timeout.

Beatty nearly single-handedly put the Grizzlies back in front, 27-26, with 4:19 to play in the first half.

Sydney Gouard and Breanna Perry each added buckets late in the second half to keep the Grizzlies in front, 32-30, going into halftime.

Beatty led the way for the Grizzlies in the first half with 13 points on 5-7 shooting and 3-4 from distance.

Both offenses went stagnant to begin the second half. Youngstown State's Lilly Ritz connected on three layups early to give the Penguins a slight advantage, but a pair of Kahlaijah Dean free throws gave the lead back to the Grizzlies before the media timeout.

Ritz continued to carry the Penguins on her back. The 6-foot-1 senior scored all 12 of Youngstown State's third quarter points.



PHOTO BY STANLEY TU  
The Oakland women's basketball team is headed to the Horizon League semifinals for the first time in program history.

However, the Grizzlies were able to maintain their lead, much in part to a pair of 3-pointers from Dean and Kennedie Montue. Oakland led, 46-42

heading into the fourth quarter.

Dean took a page out of Ritz's book in the fourth quarter. The senior guard put the Grizzlies on her back, scoring all seven of Oakland's points before the media timeout. The Grizzlies led 53-47 with just 4:45 to play in the game.

Oakland's stifling defense down the stretch helped stave off the Penguins. The heroic effort of Ritz came up short as the Grizzlies punched their ticket to Indianapolis.

Dean's monstrous 17-point second half led the Grizzlies to the upset victory. Beatty cooled down after her 3-point clinic in the second quarter, but still added 14 points of her own for Oakland.

Just days removed from their first Horizon League Tournament win since 2018, the Grizzlies have now won two win-or-go-home games in a row to keep their season alive.

Oakland will now head to Indianapolis, just two wins away from going dancing for the first time since 2006.

The Grizzlies will take on top-seeded IUPUI in the semifinal. The Jaguars are 22-4 on the season, and defeated eighth-seeded Robert Morris by 31 points to advance to the semifinal.

Oakland and IUPUI have met twice this season, with the Jaguars getting the best of the Grizzlies in both matchups.

The semifinal matchup between the Grizzlies and Jaguars is set to tip off at 12 p.m. on Monday, March 7 at Indiana Farmers Coliseum.



# Men's basketball survives first-round scare from IUPUI

**MATTHEW SCHEIDEL**

*Sports Editor*

The Oakland University men's basketball team defeated the IUPUI Jaguars 69-58 in the first round of the Horizon League tournament Tuesday March 1, at the O'rena.

The Jaguars came into this game with just five available players. Trey Townsend got the start in this one for the Golden Grizzlies despite a sprained ankle.

There wasn't a lot of scoring early on, as both teams struggled with shooting and turnovers. IUPUI, who averaged just over 52 points per game in the regular season, didn't score until the 16:21 mark in the first half.

Townsend hit a bucket on an and-one followed by a Blake Lampman 3-pointer from the left wing. Oakland led 6-2 at the first media timeout.

Both teams continued to struggle offensively, with the Jaguars shooting a paltry 12.5% at the second media timeout of the half. The Golden Grizzlies weren't faring much better at 33.3%.

Lampman hit another 3-pointer of the timeout, and IUPUI's Nathan McClure would snap a scoring drought of over five minutes for the Jaguars with a 3-pointer of his own.

This seemingly got both offenses going. Oakland led 20-11 with 7:14 left in the first half.

Oakland's poor shooting kept the Jaguars in the game. They shot just 25% from beyond the arc in the first half, and 38.5% overall.

The Golden Grizzlies, a 23.5 point favorite coming

in, led by just a five, 26-21 at the half.

Oakland's shooting woes carried over into the second half as IUPUI kept hanging around. Just when it felt like they were finally getting some separation, a turnover or a small IUPUI run would keep things close.

The Golden Grizzlies finally started to pull away around the seven-minute mark, with Jamal Cain scoring five straight points to give them their largest lead of the game at 15 points.

That lead would extend even further. A Jalen Moore layup and an Osei Price breakaway one-handed jam pushed the lead to as much as 18.

The Golden Grizzlies were finally able to put this



PHOTO BY STANLEY TU

Osei Price put up five points in 19 minutes of action

game away in the final minutes. They won by a final score of 69-58.

Cain led the team in scoring with 17 points, with Moore adding 16 and Lampman putting up 14.

Head Coach Greg Kampe said after the game that he was "happy to get a win."

"We're a 20-win team [now]," Kampe said. "If you look at our roster, we've got nine kids with freshman eligibility. That bodes well for the future."

Kampe gave credit to IUPUI for playing as well as they did given the circumstances.

"You gotta give [IUPUI Head Coach] Matt Crenshaw a lot of credit," Kampe said. "I've talked about him during the course of the year a couple of times, and that's unbelievable, the hand that he got dealt and he's played it as good as you can play—and those kids played their hearts out. They played loose, free and like they had nothing to lose. And they thought they could win."

Kampe said he hasn't thought about the next game because of all the crazy things that has happened to the team in the conference tournament over the years.

"You look at the last [several] years, you can't sit there and think 'oh we're gonna win this game,'" he said. "It's why March is the greatest month of the year if you're a basketball person. And I've been a basketball person for about 50 some years. I haven't even thought about [the next opponent]. My whole thought process 'how are we one point ahead one when tonight ends?'"

The Golden Grizzlies will travel to Dayton, Ohio to take on the Wright State Raiders in the Horizon League Quarterfinals on Thursday, March 3.

## Men's basketball's season ends in Horizon League quarterfinals

**MATTHEW SCHEIDEL**

*Sports Editor*

The Oakland University men's basketball team saw their season come to an end last Thursday, losing to the Wright State Raiders 75-63 in the Horizon League quarterfinals at the Nutter Center in Dayton, Ohio.

Another blown second half lead led to the Golden Grizzlies' downfall.

Both teams traded baskets to start the game. Micah Parrish got the Golden Grizzlies on the board with a 3-pointer from the left wing as the Golden Grizzlies trailed 7-5 at the first media timeout.

The Raiders would go cold from the floor from here, missing 11 shots in a row at one point. Oakland, meanwhile, would run an efficient offense, going 5-7 from the field in that same stretch.

That hot shooting continued, with the Golden Grizzlies scoring on 13 of 14 possessions at one point. They held a 27-18 lead with seven minutes left in the first half.

Jamal Cain played like the Horizon League Co-Player of the Year that he is in the first half, notching a double-double [13 points, 13 rebounds].

Wright State started finding their footing from beyond the arc late in the half, hitting 3-4 down the stretch. Oakland however was just 1-9 from 3 in the first half, but still held a decent lead at the half, 36-28.

The story from here was could the Golden Grizzlies

hold on to this lead? They had held a double-digit lead in the second half in several of their losses down the stretch during the regular season.

They got off to a good start in the second half. Cain continued to be a force as a shooter and on the glass, as the Golden Grizzlies led 44-32 at the under-16 timeout.

Wright State would start to figure things out from



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

The Oakland men's basketball team's season is over after a 75-63 loss to Wright State in the Horizon League tournament quarterfinals.

here. They hit a few shots in a row to get the crowd back into it.

They started shooting fewer 3-pointers and started going to the rack, and it led to results. They would go on a huge run, scoring 20 unanswered points to take a seven-point lead.

It was just a total collapse from the Golden Grizzlies in all facets of the game. They couldn't get any stops and stopped making shots.

They also got into foul trouble. Cain fouled out with 6:44 left in the game with 17 points and 15 rebounds.

It was all Wright State from there. They dominated the game from the under-12 timeout onward.

Oakland shot 51.9% in the first half, but shot just 30.8% in the second half. Conversely, Wright State shot 31.3% in the first half, but that number soared to 51.6% in the second half.

This season didn't end the way Head Coach Greg Kampe expected.

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

The Golden Grizzlies finish the season with a record of 20-12, 12-8 in the Horizon League. They will now turn their attention to the offseason.



## Men's basketball ends regular season on high note against CSV

**CHRISTIAN TATE**

*Sports Reporter*

In the final game before the Horizon League tournament begins, the Golden Grizzlies showed more flashes of the dominance they've displayed for the majority of the season in a gritty 65-57 Senior day win over the Cleveland State Vikings on Saturday at the O'rena.

The first half started off with a series of knotted up scores, as both teams struggled to secure and hold onto a lead early on in the game. The Vikings eventually found themselves pulling away with a slight lead near the 12-minute mark, with the score being held at 15-9 in their favor.

The Golden Grizzlies continued to trail by multiple possessions until the game reached the 10-minute mark, where they successfully got the Vikings' lead down to one possession with the score sat at 17-15.

The Vikings recollected themselves, and regained possession of their earlier four-point lead with a solid jumper just outside the paint. This effort did not deter the Golden Grizzlies though, as they kept pounding away at the lead until they reached a tie at 24-24 in the four-minute mark of the first half.

Following the tie, the Vikings captured the lead back with a three-point shot, making the score 27-24. Undeterred yet again, the Golden Grizzlies not only tied the game yet again [this time on the back of a Blake Lampman 3-pointer], but ended up going

into the halftime break with a three point lead after a Micah Parrish 3-pointer that pushed the lead to 30-27.

Immediately coming out of the half, the Vikings tied up the game at 30 points a piece with a 3-point shot before taking a two-point lead. This lead would extend to five points before the Grizzlies could respond.

The Golden Grizzlies immediately went to work



PHOTO BY STANLEY TU  
Micah Parrish goes for a layup against Cleveland State on Feb. 26.

dismantling the Vikings' lead following two made free throws from Parrish. The game reached a tied score at 37-37 during the 13-minute mark of the second half before one more free throw captured the lead for the Grizzlies.

The two teams then began trading the lead back and forth, after both teams immediately hit back-to-back 3-point shots. The Golden Grizzlies, after minutes of back-and-forth, established a multi-possession lead during the nine-minute mark of the half.

The Grizzlies continued to extend this lead, with the peak of the lead reaching 10 before the Vikings could respond to the scoring barrage. Free throw after free throw, shot after shot, the Grizzlies continued to push forward while leaving the Vikings in the dust.

By the time the Vikings did start scoring again, it was already too late as the Golden Grizzlies were allowed to build a lead too big to surmount. The final buzzer of the game sounded and named the Golden Grizzlies as the victor, with the final score sitting at 65-57.

With this win, the Golden Grizzlies secured their 19th win of the season and will now look forward to taking this momentum into the opening round of the Horizon League Tournament, where they will be the No. 5 seed. The next time the Golden Grizzlies will return to the court, on Tuesday, March 1 at 8 p.m., they will be fighting for their opportunity to claim the Horizon League Trophy and a spot in the NCAA men's tournament.

## OU Figure Skating Club competes against 22 schools in 2022

**BRIDGET JANIS**

*Managing Editor*

The OU Figure Skating Club at Oakland University is a group of girls that compete in competitions at a collegiate level, while also continuing their love for ice skating in their college years.

The team currently has 11 girls — they all practice together twice a month at the Onyx Synchronized Skating rink in Rochester. The girls are also expected to have individual practice time during the week.

"[At group practices] we'll pretty much run through some of our events that we have, mainly our dances," Kameryn Everett, a senior on the OU Figure Skating Club, said. "We have a former team member who comes to the practices [and] helps us out with our dances, which is really nice."

Each year the team competes in three competitions in the Midwest. This year so far they competed at Trine University for the Thunder Country Classic and at Western Michigan University for the Bronco Cup. They still have one more competition coming up in the beginning of March at Miami University of Ohio: the Red Brick Classic.

These competitions help determine what teams make it to nationals, using the top two placing out of the three competitions to serve as their ranking. Each year the team has been very close coming in fifth place overall, but only the top four teams go to nationals.

Oakland University has also hosted two competitions within the past four years in 2019 and 2020. When hosting, the Figure Skating Club is expected to set up the event and recruit announcers.

"I will say Onyx and Royal Oak volunteer so that we could focus on skating while making sure we run

an amazing competition and then all of our parents helped out too," Harley Martinez, a senior on the OU Figure Skating Club, said. "It's just amazing to have that support."

During competitions, the team wakes up early to get to the locations and kick off the day's events. The events are individual events that get scored collectively as a team. At each competition, there are about 20-30 starts for events, where OU will have multiple girls starting for multiple events.

The events at the competitions are all different — varying from length requirements, difficulty of levels, requiring jumps and spins or not requiring them. The team has skaters that qualify for each category, making

it easier to get a teammate to start for that event.

The club competes against about 22 other schools during competitions. There are also different rankings of skaters — from beginner, pre-preliminary, permiminary, pre-juvenile, juvenile, intermediate, novice, junior and senior.

"Everyone's so supportive, especially competing against the other teams," Anna Vollmer, a member of the OU Figure Skating Club said. "Everyone is just so kind and nice to each other and there's not really any rivalry with others. It's just a friendly environment."

Fundraising is a huge part of this club, as they have to pay for rink time and to attend the competitions they do. For the past few years their main fundraiser has been selling sheets with Cloud Nine.

"Fundraising is a really big part because, you know, we're all college students, and we have to pay for these competitions," Martinez said. "We're just fundraising as much as we possibly can to keep our costs down for skaters."

To join the club, members need to be a part of U.S Figure Skating and then once in contact with the coach, Candace LaFerle, she will decide which level the skater will be able to compete in.

This year the team is really hoping to make it to Nationals in April at Adrian College, after placing sixth in the Bronco Cup and eighth at the Trine Country Classic. If they place well in their final competition next month, they might just make it.

"That would mean the absolute world to us to make nationals, I've seen too many tears about being so close to not making it," Martinez said. "It's similar to all the competitions, but they're just competing with people all over the nation and it honestly would just be such an amazing experience for all of us as a club and for us as skaters."



PHOTO COURTESY OF FIGURE SKATING CLUB ON FACEBOOK  
The 2021-2022 Oakland University Figure Skating Team.



# Track and Field finishes third at Horizon League Championships

**CHRISTIAN TATE**

*Sports Reporter*

During the Horizon League Indoor Track and Field Championships, held in Youngstown, Ohio on Feb. 26-27, both the women's and men's Golden Grizzlies track and field teams turned in admirable performances to capture podium finishes at the end of the weekend. Both teams finished third behind the Milwaukee Panthers and the champion Youngstown State Penguins.

On day one alone, two Golden Grizzlies' competitors set brand new school records on the grounds of the Youngstown Campus. Freshman Ellie Voetberg crossed the finish line just nine seconds short of the first spot, finishing third in the Women's 5000-meter run with a time of 17 minutes, 10 seconds.

Then, Junior Connor Goetz finished one place shy of the top spot, taking home second place in the Men's 5000-meter run. His time of 14:18 set both a new personal record and the aforementioned school record [a record which he also previously held].

In the field portion of the first day, Gabriell Cyriax also turned in a solid performance, throwing good enough for third place with a distance of 17.07 meters while Rose Philogene captured fourth place with a respectable mark of 5.63 meters in the Women's Long Jump.

The second of school records to be broken came during the preliminary race of the Men's 400-meter run, as Senior Jimmie Williams absolutely destroyed his previously set record by finishing first with a run time of 46.72 seconds. After the first day, the Golden Grizzlies men's and women's teams sat at fourth and third place respectively.

From the start of the second day, Jimmie Williams and the Golden Grizzlies immediately set themselves apart from the crowd with their record-breaking performances on Sunday. Multiple athletes broke school, Horizon League, and Youngstown State facility records with their times.

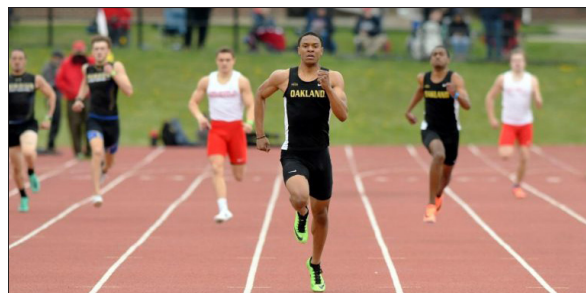


PHOTO BY JOSE JUAREZ

Jimmie Williams (front and center) is headed to the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships after his record-setting performance. Photo courtesy of OU Athletics.

The day started with great performances from Azsah Bradley, Payton Sabourin, and Rose Philogene in their respective competitions, as Bradley placed third and fifth in both the Women's 60m and 200m dash with respective times of 7.54 and 25.03 seconds, Sabourin placed fourth in the Women's 400-meter with a time of 56.73 seconds and Philogene captured a third-place finish in the Women's 60-meter Hurdles with a time of 8.58 seconds.

Then came Jimmie Williams' record breaking performance in the Men's 200, where he set the Oakland, Horizon League and facility record with a time of 21.28 seconds. He then proceeded to double and break another school record in the Men's 400 with a time of 46.54 seconds.

Madi Leigh and Ashley Quinn captured second and third place finishes in the Women's 800 run with times of 2:12.49 and 2:12.75 seconds respectively, while Ellie Voetberg placed third in the Women's 3000-meter run with a time of 9:57.

Voetberg then doubled, competing and winning third place in the Women's 5000 with a time of 17:10.14. Then, William Harrell and Terrance Brooks Jr. ran a nearly identical race in the Men's 800 after posting times of 1:54.10 1:54.30, respectively.

Connor Goetz then came in and improved upon his first day performance, with a first place victory in the Men's 3000 as he posted a time of 4:09.11. Then came the final record-setting event for the Golden Grizzlies, as the Men's 4x400m Relay team [consisting of Ray Braziel, Justin Kudera, Gabriel Singh and Jimmie Williams broke three records with their time of 3:10.82.

Williams was named Championship Outstanding Performer for the men, while Voetberg was named Freshman of the Year for the women. Williams will be headed to the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships thanks to his outstanding 400 time.

All in all, both Golden Grizzlies teams finished third in the Horizon League Rankings, sitting just behind the Milwaukee Panthers and the hosting Youngstown State Penguins, with all-around amazing and record-breaking performances from everyone involved.



## NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2022-2023 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

***EIC is responsible for the management and production of the Oakland Post and reports to a board of directors.***

Responsibilities include:

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Applicants can send resume, cover letter and work samples to Editorial Adviser Garry Gilbert at [gjgilber@oakland.edu](mailto:gjgilber@oakland.edu)

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## Men's basketball drops third straight home game to Purdue-Fort Wayne

**REECE TAYLOR**

*Sports Reporter*

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team falls to the Purdue-Fort Wayne Mastodons 81-70 at the O'rena on Thursday.

The Golden Grizzlies, who dropped two straight games going into the matchup, looked to rebound against a red-hot Mastodons team, who won seven straight and cement themselves in the top two seeds heading into the Horizon League tournament. Oakland looked to catapult into the top four, which would give them the advantage they need to advance in the tournament.

In the first half, Oakland started off strong, jumping to an 18-10 lead, before Fort Wayne locked in defensively and limited the Golden Grizzlies to 13 points in the final 13 minutes of the period. Even with the defense Fort Wayne applied, Oakland played to their strength, leading both teams in points off of turnovers, 14-4, and point in the paint, 24-18, but Fort Wayne's efficient shooting and excellent rebounding in the first half kept Oakland at bay, and they closed the half 40-31, Fort Wayne's favor.

In the second half, the Golden Grizzlies played their best half, scoring 39 points, shooting 40% from three, and outrebounding Fort Wayne 17-11. But Oakland couldn't gain momentum against the sharpshooting rival. Oakland scrapped and dove for loose balls

and played through contact, but the Mastodons had an answer for every big Oakland shot, responding with a barrage of threes at a 53% clip. Nearly every run the Golden Grizzlies made was answered for, and, despite their best effort, fell to the Mastodons 81-70.

"I think they played as hard as they could," Head Coach Greg Kampe said, discussing Oakland's effort on the court. "I think they panicked a little bit, and other than Alabama, nobody's done that to us."

The loss likely takes the Golden Grizzlies out of contention for top-4 seed in the Horizon League tournament, meaning they won't have a home game.

Despite their loss, Oakland deserves a lot of credit, playing through a number of hard fouls. Forward Trey Townsend, who was bothered by a sprained ankle, pushed to play in the game, but the injury clearly affected him, as he went 0-3 from the field and had no rebounds, which is highly out of character for the amazing talent.

Oakland's Jalen Moore and Micah Parrish led the team in scoring with 19 and 18 respectively, and Jamal Cain added a double-double with 12 points and 14 rebounds.

Oakland will play its final regular-season game on Saturday, Feb. 26 against the top-seeded Cleveland State Vikings, who fell to the University of Detroit Mercy before coming to the O'rena. Oakland looks to regain momentum against the Vikings, who they beat earlier this season. Unfortunately, they will likely be

without Townsend for the game.

As the regular season comes to a close, the Golden Grizzlies find themselves in a time of opportunity. The Golden Grizzlies can regain composure and momentum in their final game as long as they focus on what's in front of them.



PHOTO BY AMELIA OSADCHUK  
Micah Parrish was second on the team in scoring with 18 points Thursday night.

## 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.



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