

# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 47 | Issue 3 | July 28, 2021

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**BASKING IN THE SUN** Elliott Tower overlooking the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine on a beautiful summer day.  
NOORA NEIROUKH / PHOTOGRAPHER

# THE OAKLAND POST

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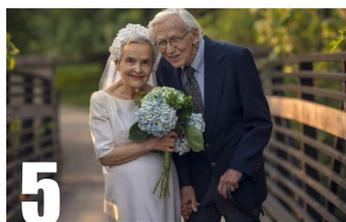
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## POLL OF THE WEEK

FAVORITE SOCIAL MEDIA APP TO WASTE TIME ON THIS SUMMER?

- A) SNAPCHAT
- B) TWITTER
- C) TIKTOK
- D) INSTAGRAM

## LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHICH SUMMER MUSIC RELEASE ARE YOU MOST EXCITED FOR?

26%

A) BILLIE EILISH

20%

B) TYLER, THE CREATOR

26%

C) LORDE

28%

D) OTHER

**CORRECTIONS CORNER:** In our previous issue, we referred to the Oakland United Student Workers Coalition (OUSWC) as the Oakland University Student Workers Coalition, which is incorrect.

The Oakland Post corrects all known errors of fact. If you know of an error, please email [editor@oaklandpostonline.com](mailto:editor@oaklandpostonline.com).

# President Pescovitz talks COVID-19 cases, vaccinations



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DETROIT FREE PRESS  
Oakland University President Ora Pescovitz

**JEFF THOMAS**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Just a few weeks away from OU's welcome week and what will hopefully be a triumphant return to campus normalcy following the tremendously difficult 2020-2021 school year, troubling trends have emerged with the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the month of July, COVID-19 cases surged across the country. In Michigan alone, 2,323 new cases and 35 new deaths were reported last week.

The university has been proactive and successful in the containment of the virus compared to other public universities in Michigan. This is due in large part to the leadership of President Ora Pescovitz. A former medical practitioner, her response to COVID-19 has been driven by a commitment to community wellness through observance of CDC guidelines and making the COVID-19 vaccine available to the campus community.

"Oakland University, which has been a leader in so many other ways, can be a leader here too," Pescovitz said. "I want

us to be a leader in protecting others ... It's what you do when you get immunized [you] protect everyone around you ... If we could get to over 90% [on-campus vaccination rate], that would make Oakland, a real leader among universities. It would demonstrate our commitment to protecting our community. Not just our university community, but our local community."

This recent wave of the virus is being largely attributed to a steep decline in vaccination rates from June onward. With a minimum 70% vaccination rate required for herd immunity, Michigan currently sits at 48.7% of adults fully vaccinated, Oakland county exceeding that mark at 55% inoculation rate and Macomb county lagging slightly behind at 46.5%.

Healthcare officials are also concerned about the increased prominence of the more contagious Delta Variant, the belief based on current projections being that the variant will drive an increase in cases and deaths until mid-October or so. Officials note that the best protection against the variant is to get vaccinated, and that individuals who aren't vaccinated should maintain protocols like facemasks and social distancing.

Back in March, the university revealed an ambitious plan for a return to campus in the fall that included in-person instruction and up to 80% capacity in campus facilities and the resident halls. The plan relied heavily on members

of the campus community becoming vaccinated against COVID-19. Slowing vaccination rates and spread of the Delta Variant are concerns heading into the fall.

"I am concerned about cases rising, nationally and potentially locally," Pescovitz said. "And what we know about those cases rising is that most of them ... are in individuals who have not been vaccinated ... When we think about social responsibility ... The single most important thing that any one of us can do is to get vaccinated, because it not only protects you as a person, but it protects everyone around you. And we have vulnerable people ... That subset of people are those individuals who might be immunosuppressed or have had some other risk factors. They are at increased risk when there is the spread of the Delta variant ... So again, there really is a solution to this. It's not like we have to guess what the solution is. We know what it is. And that is vaccination. It really is incumbent upon each person to take personal responsibility."

In accordance with CDC guidelines, the policy on campus this summer has been no facemasks for students who are fully vaccinated. Pescovitz encourages students to register that they've been vaccinated with Graham Health Center. GHC is offering vaccinations via walk-in, and scheduling appointments for Thursday, July 29, Monday, August 2, Thursday, August 5 and Friday, August 6, with future dates still to be announced.

**THE OP**

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# Beaumont, Spectrum Merger: For Michigan, by Michigan

**GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH**  
*Campus Editor*

Two of the largest health systems in Michigan, Southfield-based Beaumont Health and Grand Rapids-based Spectrum Health, recently announced they have signed a letter of intent (LOI) to explore merging the two health systems, resulting in the creation of a new one that is for Michigan, by Michigan.

In a Beaumont press release, Beaumont Health Board chair Julie Fream said, “As health care continues to evolve, there are a number of factors that proactive health systems must consider as they plan for the future. Beaumont Health has found a great Michigan partner in Spectrum Health, and together, we are uniquely positioned for success. As a new organization, we will provide Michiganders an enhanced, high-quality health care and coverage network built for them.”

The LOI also highlighted goals that Beaumont Health and Spectrum Health have for the merger, which include improving health and health equity, enhancing the consumer experience, improving health care quality, making health care more affordable for the communities they serve and ensuring the voices of team members and physicians are heard.

If the merger occurs, the newly created organization will operate 22 hospitals and 305 outpatient locations, with more than 64,000 team members, including more than 7,500 affiliated, independent and employed physicians, more than 3,000 affiliated, independent and employed Advanced Practice Providers and more than 15,000 nurses, according to the Beaumont press release. Additionally, dual headquarters will be operated in Southfield and Grand Rapids, with President & CEO and senior executive leadership team spending time in both locations.

“Our organizations share complementary strengths in areas such as quality and have similar missions, visions and values,” Beaumont Health President & CEO John Fox said in the press release. “We also both have deep relationships in our communities that are built upon providing excellent care and service. Together, we can leverage both of our strengths to further our focus on providing exceptional care for our communities.”

It is important to point out that discussions surrounding the merger are ongoing and that there will be no immediate changes occurring in both systems. Beaumont Health and Spectrum Health plan on completing the process by the fall.

Dr. Duane Mezwa, dean of the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, shared his perspective on what the potential merger could mean for OUWB.

“I think that in three different

areas there are going to be potential opportunities [for OUWB] should the merge happen: education, research, and philanthropy,” Mezwa said. “I think in those three areas we certainly have possibilities for new opportunities and growth.”

Dr. Mezwa discussed potential enhanced opportunities for OUWB students to learn from the strong expertise that Spectrum Health has in surgical subspecialties, the Fred and Lena Meijer Heart Center, bone marrow transplants, as well as CAR-T therapy. He also underscored the combined possibility of Beaumont Health and Spectrum in strengthening research opportunities and applying for grants, as well as in expanding philanthropic efforts.

“I see this as a tremendous future opportunity,” Mezwa said.

For more information and updates regarding the merger, please visit <https://formichiganbymichigan.org/>

## THE OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES

Oakland Post archives include most issues of the Oakland Post- the second issue ever printed Nov. 3, 1959 to current publications April 14,

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- Attribute past articles.

Whether you're using someone's quote or a portion of a past article, you have to attribute the article and person quoted.

- Use past information fairly.

Do not use past political incorrectness as clickbait. It is fine to have commentary about how the Oakland Post has evolved, but do not disparage someone or their article based on past ignorance without talking to them first. Without talking to them, the article cannot be fair because their language and views may have changed.

# Student shares experience studying abroad in Costa Rica

**SARAH GUDENAU**  
*Graphic Designer*

Junior Dakota Zehler is on a two-month long study abroad trip to Costa Rica, which began on June 30 and will end on Aug. 7. Part of Oakland University's Business Honors program, he studies economics and has a minor in Spanish.

Zehler attends what was previously the University of Georgia's campus in San Luis de Monteverde, which is now run by the Council for International Education Exchange (CIEE). This summer he has three classes: Tropical Ecology, Humans in the Tropics and Spanish, as well as an independent research project about the economic efficiency of different systems of leaf cutter ants.

With his classes, Zehler has had the opportunity to explore different ecosystems of the biologically diverse country. His class took three trips to different ecosystems to record species at various biological stations or reserves.

The Humans in the Tropics class includes trips off-campus to meet people in the professional field and see different forms of sustainability. One visit, for example, was to a small local coffee farmer to learn about his process and how it varies from large-scale plantations.

The trip has also been an opportunity for Zehler to immerse himself in Spanish. While Tropical Ecology and Humans in the Tropics are taught in English, Zehler's Spanish class is entirely in the language and many of the professionals they meet speak Spanish, though there is a translator on their trips.

Currently, toward the end of the program, students

are focusing on their independent research projects, so Zehler spends his mornings collecting data.

"It's been really nice, especially for me, not having a huge science background at all. I've been able to slowly work into the process, and then the last month has been just going out and doing it, which has been really enjoyable."

Zehler has learned that ecology is a field of interest for him. As for his plans post-graduation, he is still contemplating going to law school for environmental law or obtaining a Master's degree in sustainable development.

"My dream job scenario would be working in the UN, with some extent toward sustainable development," Zehler said.

Zehler plans to study abroad again. He'd like to travel to Spain next spring.

"I think the biggest thing that I've kind of learned with my experience of study abroad is how affordable it is," Zehler said.

"I think for what I'm getting out of it, the costs are definitely worth it, and it's not a huge difference in price, especially when taking into account financial aid and scholarships, which I was lucky enough to get through the International Education Office."

To cover the costs of studying abroad, students may be eligible for OU and external scholarships.

"We give about \$45,000 a year just in scholarships that are dedicated exclusively to the study abroad program. We received a very generous grant from the Oakland University credit union — they're establishing a million dollar fund for study abroad scholarships that will be fully funded as of next year, so that will

be approximately an additional \$45,000 per year," said Alex Zimmerman, director of international education.

Besides financial aid resources, the office also has advisors that can help students find the right programs, plan their trips and complete the online applications.

To any student who is considering studying abroad but feels apprehensive, Zehler says: "Traveling to a new living environment is always going to give you some level of anxiety because it's new, but the best thing that you can do for yourself is to have more experiences because it makes you a more understanding and knowledgeable person."



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAKOTA ZEHLER  
Zehler crossing a bridge in Costa Rica.

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# Faculty contract negotiations nearing deadline



PHOTO COURTESY OF AYMAN ISHIMWE  
As Oakland University continues to grow and expand, the new faculty agreement will impact student-professor relations for years to come.

## JEFF THOMAS

*Editor-in-Chief*

On July 22, the OU chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) made a major motion in the ongoing faculty contract negotiations by bringing forth specific proposals including a 3.5% increase in salaries, paid parental leave, increased research fellowships and better benefits for special lecturers. As of writing, the administration has not responded to these proposals.

In August of 2020, amid the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, OU and the OU chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) agreed to a one-year extension of the 2015-2020 faculty agreement. That extension is set to expire at midnight on August 14, the administration and faculty have been engaged in negotiations since May to reach a new deal before then.

Assistant Vice President of Academic Human Resources Joi Cunningham is leading the administration during these negotiations. She was approached by ThePost but respectfully declined to give an interview while negotiations were still ongoing. Cunningham did however provide the following statement.

“Through these faculty negotiations, we are working towards maximizing student success and maximizing the best return on their tuition dollars,” Cunningham said. “All of our proposals and responses to AAUP proposals are made with these concepts in mind and in light of the challenging budgetary

times being encountered. We recognize that what we do is largely due to the talented faculty we have, and we value their contributions. Our goal is to obtain a contract that is both fair and in the best interests of the faculty, our students, the university and our community at-large.”

The general feeling heading into negotiations is that last year everyone understood the gravity of the COVID-19 pandemic and compromised for the best of the university by extending the old contract, but now it’s time to get the right deal done for the future.

“[Last year] we and the administration wanted to spend all of our energy doing the best we could in terms of figuring out how to make the university functional during [COVID-19],” President of the OU chapter of the AAUP and Associate Professor of History Karen Miller said. “All of us understood that ... there were going to be at least semi-permanent changes made to the way we teach and the way students think about school ... We were satisfied with the old contract in the sense that there were things that we disagreed with, and I’m sure there were things that the administration wanted to change, but they really paled in comparison to the larger concern — the immediacy of [COVID-19].”

A baseline for negotiations was established throughout May and June, with both sides agreeing to 18 articles from the prior contract being placed into the new agreement. Miller explains agreements early on in the bargaining process.

“We figure out first what we can agree about,” Miller said. “We go through

article by article and talk about, yes, this one’s fine, nothing has to be changed ... So all of that stuff gets signed off at the beginning. And so they tend to be non-controversial things that have been in the contract for ages ... things that really have not created any kind of friction with the administration.”

From that initial point of agreement the two sides presented their concerns on non-economic issues like faculty wanting updated language concerning pronouns and expansion of groups protected from discrimination, as well as economic issues like improving processes for collection of dues, receiving backpay, workload policies and hiring.

The recurring theme between the two sides during this period was the AAUP wanting increased specificity in the language of the agreement and the administration working toward “eliminating some undue complexities in the contract.” Basically each side posturing for what they deem to be necessary changes to language in the articles. Miller shed light on some faculty language concerns.

“For example, the questions of faculty dismissal ... There actually is language in the contract that pretty specifically says how that happens. And [we] know what the process is, and that its language pretty much adheres to state and federal law about how you dismiss somebody,” Miller said. “But we’ve had two occasions in the last [decade] where faculty have been removed from campus [without] using those procedures. And so there has been this ongoing debate about what triggers the decision not to use the established procedures. And so we want that very explicit.”

Events at the end of June and beginning of July created some friction in negotiations. This was mainly due to the Board of Trustees approving a new budget and increased tuition. The AAUP criticized a single-year expenditure in the budget of \$6,942,893 to replenish the university’s reserve funds, saying in their July 13 bargaining report “It is our understanding that the decision to return this full amount to reserves in a single year, rather than

using it for current needs, constitutes just that, a choice made by Oakland.”

The AAUP wants this new contract to reflect and acknowledge their commitment and sacrifice for the university during the pandemic. The union argues that proposals like increased salaries, specifically market adjustments to make salaries more competitive, contribute to overall wellbeing of the university.

“We have a lot of data that indicates that we get paid less and have lower compensation, then people at equivalent universities,” Miller said. “We believe that we can recruit strong nationally acknowledged faculty, particularly young faculty ... which is, in many respects, the benchmark that you want ... We lose what we think are a significant number of faculty who go to other universities for more money ... it’s hard to convince somebody ‘yeah, I know that this other school that you’ve applied to ... they’re offering this colossally higher salary, but you should come to Oakland anyway.’”

While the goal and expectation is to come to an agreement before the August 14 expiration date, that isn’t exactly a hard deadline for negotiations.

“I can tell you what has happened in the past ... if everybody was kind of happy and copacetic, you could start saying we’ll extend the contract for a week. Or we’ll extend it for 10 days, or we’ll extend it to our next meeting, and so forth,” Miller said. “As long as both sides feel that we’re making progress, there shouldn’t be a problem in terms of extending it, if we only need, you know, until the 25th of August or something like that ... by August the 31st, that can become semi-unpredictable terrain at that point, because Michigan labor law ... It’s hard for me to predict. So we’ll just figure it out. And hopefully, we will focus on, we all have to live together, let’s live together happily.”

Anyone who wants more information on the contract negotiations can find the AAUP summary of bargaining sessions at <http://oaklandaaup.org/BargainingDiary.asp> and the administration’s summary at <https://www.oakland.edu/provost/negotiations/>.

## Bob and Jane Eberwein Celebrate 50th Anniversary



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARLA MICHELE MUST

Retired OU English faculty Bob & Jane Eberwein celebrate 50 years of marriage.

**LAUREN REID**  
Content Editor

They taught at OU for 38 years — Bob focusing on 18th Century Literature, serving as chair of the English Department and eventually pioneering the Film program, and Jane leaning more toward American Literature, creating an American Studies concentration and working in the Provost's office.

Working alongside one another in an English department that was referred to as the “most harmonious department” at the time, Bob and Jane Eberwein began dating in November of 1970 after developing a friendship, and tied the knot on July 10th, 1971.

“We were among six new hires in the English department [in 1969],” Jane said. “We were introduced in the Oakland Room in the Oakland Center by one of our colleagues — we both remember that day having gone over for coffee.”

The now couple worked down the hall from one another in Wilson Hall. Bob would even look after the plants in Jane's office and once they began dating, it only took a few weeks for him to propose.

Having their wedding reception at the clubhouse on Meadowbrook Estate seemed the perfect venue selection, and Jane mentioned the event was “very much an Oakland University production.”

“It was just so beautiful — the estate and grounds,” Jane said. “A lot of Oakland faculty members were part of the scene.”

Around the time Bob and Jane began working at OU, campus was certainly smaller, but they've been able to watch it grow over the years.

Circa 1969, North and South

Foundation were on campus, along with Dodge Hall, Hannah Hall, Kresge Library, among a number of residence halls. The couple watched the additions of Varner Hall, O'Dowd Hall and others as OU continued to flourish.

Bob and Jane retired in 2007, having made quite the impact on campus. The people they met at OU were the highlight of their nearly 40 years as faculty.

“Some of the students are still our lifetime friends,” Jane said sincerely. “We're very fortunate that way — these people have been the most important to us.”

As they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year, Bob and Jane's neighbor and Master Portrait Artist, Marla Michele Must, was inspired to photograph the couple.

“I've lived across the street from them for ten years, and they're just so endearing,” she said. “The way they take care of each other and walk arm-in-arm around the neighborhood every day — they're a very special couple.”

After all their years together, Bob and Jane continue to support, encourage, and love one another — and it all began right here on OU's campus.

“Jane's just so loveable,” Bob said. “She's the smartest human being I've ever met — everything she says is wonderful.”

When photographing Bob & Jane, Must admired their natural connection. Capturing the moment was easy, since “all [she] had to do was ask that they look in each other's eyes.”

“As soon as they gaze into each other's eyes you can see just how natural, beautiful and true their connection is — how much love they have for one another,” she said.

In the end, Bob had one main piece of marital advice: “marry the right person,” he said. It seems they've certainly done just that.



## Professor Barbara Oakley named highly influential

**AUTUMN PAGE**  
Marketing Director

Oakland University Professor Barbara Oakley has been named as a ‘highly influential woman in engineering’ by Academicinfluence.com.

Oakley first came to OU as a masters and doctorate student in 1995. Three years later, in 1998, she was brought on staff in the Electrical Engineering Department.

“I was hired as a 10-year track faculty and taught in the electrical engineering department. Eventually [I] moved over to the Industrial and Systems Engineering Department,” she said.

With her time at OU, she has written many books and articles on topics ranging from science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to learning practices.

“I had written a number of books on learning math and science — kind of what goes on in the brain and how can you be the most effective. I co-edited a book called ‘Pathological Altruism’ and my latest book just came out last month called ‘Uncommon Sense,’” Oakley said.

Most notably, her book “A Mind for Numbers: How to Excel at Math and Science (Even if You Flunked Algebra)” was published with Penguin Random House.

“On the field, for example, if you're trying to be successful as a coder or an engineering student or whatever you might be studying along those lines, ‘Mind for Numbers’ became that book,” Oakley said. “No one thought it would ever do anything but it's sold over a million copies worldwide.”

The topics from her book are seen in “Learning How To Learn: Powerful mental tools to help you master tough subjects.” This course was co-created and taught by her and is available on Coursera. Enrollment is available anytime for the course and it's asynchronous, meaning there's no meetings/meeting times.

Oakley has written op-eds for major outlets like The Wallstreet Journal and The New York Times. When she's not doing all of that, she's traveling the world speaking.

“I speak about insights relating to learning that are quite different from the insights that are commonly provided by educators and psychologists because these grow from no science. I often speak about how to learn well, to speak about teaching and novel insights on teaching from a neuroscientific perspective,” Oakley said.

In February 2021, Oakley and her



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Professor Barbara Oakley's hard work and dedication have earned her notoriety as an influential voice in the world of Engineering.

team applied for the distinguished title, now Oakley has been named as a highly influential woman in the field of engineering.

“I have friends who, I think, look out for my fair sometimes better than I do, but they were like ‘it would be very good if you were to go up for distinguished.’ Me and my team forwarded the nomination package and lo and behold, to my happy shock, it was approved,” Oakley said.

The list of 35 women selected range from “pioneers in engineering sub-disciplines like computer science and electrical engineering to the newest generation of revolutionary thinkers in areas like nano-medicine and nuclear power,” according to Academicinfluence.com.

“Engineering has a reputation as a mostly male profession,” said Dr. Jed Macosko, academic director of AcademicInfluence.com and professor of physics at Wake Forest University, in an OU press release. . “We want to set the record straight and let more people know that women engineers are not only growing in number; but are also driving the field forward in new and creative ways. They bring innovative thinking and bold solutions that make their professions better; and more people need to know who they are and see why they are the vanguard of a new era in engineering.”

Oakley believes that the STEM field should have more women and that what she's working on is truly important. She finds that whatever happens because of her work, given the title of a highly influential woman, helps give her work more impact.

“It's of less importance to me than actually having an impact in helping students and people lead better lives,” Oakley said.

# OU presents Six Fridays at Six, a



Six Fridays at Six, a summer carillon concert series started July 9 and goes through Aug. 13 at 6 p.m. every Friday at Oakland University's Elliott Tower.

The free event welcomes guests to bring lawn chairs and blankets and sit on the grounds surrounding the tower. Listeners enjoy about an hour-long set of songs ranging from Baroque pieces to jazz to popular transcriptions that vary every Friday, each chosen by the recognized carillonneur of that day's performance.

Performers include(d): Helen Hofmeister from Grand Rapids, Michigan on July 9; Sue Bergren from Naperville, Illinois on July 16. John Widmann from the City of Frederick, Maryland on July 23. Keiran Cantilina from Cleveland, Ohio on July 30. Julie Ford from Detroit, Michigan on Aug. 6. and Dennis Curry from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan on Aug. 13.

Ford and Curry's performances will include memorial pieces in honor of Michigan State University carillonneur and member of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America Ray McClellan who died on April 30.

Hofmeister, minister of music at Westminster Presbyterian Church, kicked off the series with Isaac Albéniz's "Leyenda" and finished with a variety of arrangements including Russian folk songs and "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

"The pieces that I played on the program at Oakland are all compositions by my carillon teacher, Albert Gerken," Hofmeister said. "Because of COVID-19 and limited access to the instrument over the past 16 months, I performed only pieces that I knew already. When I have easy access to the instrument, I learn new music every year for inclusion in recitals."



# Summer Carillon Concert series

The concert series's outdoor venue was conducive to COVID-19 safety protocol.

"I think this is an original social distancing instrument," said Dennis Curry, Oakland University carillonneur and applied instructor.

The over 500 year-old carillon instrument started in the low countries of the Netherlands and Belgium. Clock towers were built in town halls where markets would gather or in the tallest steeple of churches. The bell-ringer would watch the phases of the sun and ring the bell to announce the time or the start of the market.

The towers also functioned as a warning system and civil defense device. If there was a fire, bells could be used to summon the fire brigade, or if there was an invasion, the bells could communicate to the townspeople to take cover.

"I guess civil pride got in play somewhere because the

next town said, 'I want to have a bigger tower and more bells' so the towers kept getting taller and taller," Curry said. "It became a form of entertainment as well. Carillonneurs would play for market days, special holidays, feast days and religious holidays."

Along with Six Fridays at Six, there are more opportunities to hear carillon performances. Curry plays in Elliott Tower every Friday at noon for a half-hour.

Elliott Tower's carillon, one of 14 in Michigan, has 49 bells. Donated by Nancy and Hugh Elliott in 2013, the carillon is the last from a 350 year-old bellfoundry in the Netherlands, Petit and Fritzen.

Oakland University also has a practice carillon located in O'Dowd Hall and interested students can take a class taught by Curry.

For more information, visit [oakland.edu/elliott-tower](http://oakland.edu/elliott-tower).

Story by  
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## OUSB supports local immigrants and families by teaching anatomy

**RACHEL YIM**  
Staff Reporter

While immigrant populations including Hispanic and Latino groups are rapidly growing especially in Michigan, policies for these immigrants don't seem to respond to their needs just yet.

To support local immigrants and their families, six students from the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUSB) volunteered as part of the Hispanic Newcomer Outreach Summer Anatomy program (HNO) at a community camp, hosted by Pontiac-based La Casa Amiga, a nonprofit community service for immigrants.

As a collaborative effort between OUSB and Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, the HNO Summer Anatomy program was launched in 2016 and aims to engage with the Hispanic/Latinx local community surrounding OUSB, encourage children to make health-conscious decisions, and promote diversity in medicine by inspiring the children to pursue a career in medicine.

This year, the program included a total of six sessions, each covering different organ systems in the human body. Anatomy is known to be one of the toughest subjects many college students struggle with. Teaching children anatomy can be even more challenging.

To accommodate the difficulties, Eli Tukel and Brandon Prentice, coordinators for the HNO program, came up with an idea of implementing visual and kinesthetic learning techniques to teach the children about each topic within the subject. Each session included showing the children models of different organs to provide them a visual representation and activities that show them the function of the organs.

In addition to Santos, Tukel and Prentice, the volunteers from OUSB were second-year (M2) medical students Mackenzie Schimidt, Daeun Jeong and Nick Ludka. Each student shared the knowledge of each organ system.

"I was amazed at how much they did remember and it was great to know that what we were doing was making a difference," Andrew Santos, incoming second-year medical student at OUSB, said. "It also made me feel great to share what I am learning in medical school with people from my community."

Santos who is also the president of the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) shared his thoughts on the health disparities immigrants are affected by.

"I would like to see more representation of Hispanic/Latinx people in medicine and more programs that go into communities of need to promote change," he said. "I think the HNO Summer Anatomy program accomplishes both of these goals. It exposes a career in medicine to a community that traditionally does not have the opportunity to learn about it. Additionally, the program promotes health literacy within the community by teaching them the negative impacts of poor diet and the importance of making health-conscious decisions."

As he continues his career in medicine, Santos plans to be a part of similar programs and aid in mentoring the next generation of Latinx physicians.

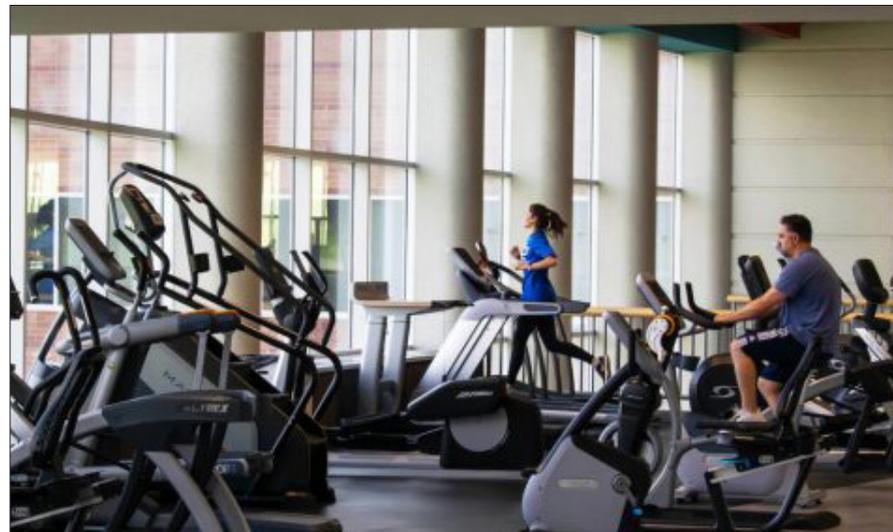
"Eventually, the mentor role evolves because they become more of a role model," Claudio Cortes, assistant professor of immunology at OUSB and the faculty coordinator of the HNO program, said in an interview with OUSB Communications and Marketing. "Many of the kids now say they want to be a doctor."

By sharing practical and essential knowledge, OUSB-HNO Summer Anatomy Program endeavors to provide the equity of opportunity in education to underserved groups of people in the community.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HNO  
HNO members teaching local immigrants and families anatomy

## OU's rec center is inviting students back



MAGGIE WILLARD | PHOTOGRAPHER

Students working out at OU's rec center.

The center is open to members of the campus community.

**BRIDGET JANIS**  
Features Editor

Fitness at Oakland University allows students to get more in contact with their physical selves, but the Recreation Center is striving to go even further than just the physical aspects of working out and connect the mental part as well.

A new gym opened in August 2019 and was only available for a semester and a half before the pandemic of COVID-19 broke out, causing the rec center to close its doors.

"It's kind of like a workout circuit, it's like a full body circuit platform," Hailey Forbes, Fitness Program & Services Coordinator said. "If you actually go on to the court you're able to see that there's different stations. There's a core station, there's lunge, squat and push and pull, there's seven stations total."

The new fitness court, the Priority Health Fitness Court is located outside in front of the rec, so community members often find themselves using it because of how accessible it was.

"The court is open to anyone, community people can use it, Oakland people can use it, it doesn't matter," Becky Lewis, Associate Director of University Recreation and Well-being said. "They're welcome to do their own workout on it, a body weight work out, or they can use the fitness court app on their phone."

The fitness court app allows access to sample workouts and different ways to use the machines.

The rec center will also be hosting group exercise classes, which will be separate from the app for the community to get more involved in. This group exercise can offer more in person examples and

motivation for the workouts. The schedule for those classes are to be announced closer to the fall semester.

"Mental health, I think is the key component to people's overall health," Lewis said. "When your mental health is in check, your physical health is easier to get into check, even your social and spiritual health, everything plays together."

Lewis sees a connection within students' mental and physical health within their school work as well and is looking forward to having students back this fall.

For students that are not able or ready to come back to the in person gym setting, OU will continue to offer online components to get students as engaged as they can.

The rec center will be using their instagram, @ourecwell to their benefit for "tasty tuesdays" to show students health snack or meal options they can easily do within their apartment or dorm.

"Here at the rec in general, we really push working out and staying active, it's fun, and working out and having that community can build your mental health," Forbes said.

Cleaning procedures are still in check, while there are plenty of cleaning stations throughout the gym for users to be cleaning their machines before and after use. Also, if people coming in feel most comfortable still wearing a mask they are allowed to.

Oakland students interested in attending any classes at the rec center or using the new fitness court have free access by bringing their Grizzly ID to the front desk to sign in. Also, benefit eligible employees have free access. As for community members there are plans of one, four, or 12 months to subscribe to the fitness center.

# President Moise’s assassination adds to Haitian instability

**Tanner Trafelet**  
Staff Reporter

As reported by the Associated Press, former Haitian President Jovenel Moise was assassinated in his private residence on July 7, 2021. This killing is a brutal reminder of the political instability that continues to plague Haiti. Moise was shot dead in his home by a group of highly trained and heavily armed individuals containing ex-members of Colombian Special Forces, whose motives and backing are still unclear at this time.

However, the Miami based private security firm ‘CTU Security’ has come under investigation. Both the Haitian and United States’ government are looking into Miami for furnishing travel funds for the Colombians allegedly involved that allowed them to enter Haiti.

Moise’s administration had long been in an unstable position, due to wars between gangs that rival the Haitian government in violent capacity and political influence, allegations of corruption made against the Moise government’s ‘petrocaribe’ involvement, and the executive branch’s dissolution of parliament in 2015.

Alan Epstein, special instructor of Political Science at Oakland University, thoroughly understands the nuances of the political tension that Moise’s administration experienced.

“He [Moise] was elected with a very small base of support, about 18 percent of the eligible electorate voted for him. Moise won with less than 600,000 votes, which was less than his predecessor, whose vote count was the lowest [in Haitian history] at the time. He wasn’t very popular to begin with, and became less so as he began to govern,” Epstein said. “What really tipped the balance [of Haitian political instability] was Venezuela’s ‘petrocaribe’ policy.”

Epstein went on to detail how Haiti entered into the ‘petrocaribe’ program for the purchase of Venezuelan oil. ‘Petrocaribe’ stipulated that oil could be purchased by members of the agreement with varying degrees of upfront payment, and a deferred payment program for the remaining balance of the purchase, allowing poorer nations such as Haiti to pay for their fuel purchases over time. Haiti’s citizens rely on fossil fuels such as Venezuelan oil for light and transportation, as demand for such cheap and readily available fuel is exacerbated by Haiti’s underdeveloped energy infrastructure.

“Under Moise, it was discovered in an audit that occurred a year after he took office, that two billion dollars was missing [from the Petrocaribe fuel purchase fund]. This amount represented about 25 percent of the Haitian economy, and the Haitian people were outraged,” Epstein said. “They didn’t blame President Moise for

all of this, but he was connected to it because, they found that before he became president that he may have been involved in the misappropriation of these [fuel purchase] funds. Moise’s administration did not do very much to figure out what was going on, to fix it, and get to the bottom of it.”

On top of this political chaos, the people of Haiti endure raging gang wars that have further engulfed the nation following the fracture of the national government. While organized crime in Haiti has been a recurring aspect of Haitian life, these criminal organizations have pounced at the opportunity to grab power in absence of a unified national government to direct the nation’s security forces.

“Most of the country today is under the control of gangs. They are heavily armed, they can outgun the Haitian military and police, and they control the ports and roads, which allows them to block and control food and other necessities coming into areas. This hurts people’s standards of living and the economy. It’s a mess,” Epstein asserted. “Haiti is a very lawless place, but the people believe in the law. They believe in the constitution, once violated they are very upset because they look at this [the constitution] as something that should really protect them, even though oftentimes it doesn’t, but they want it to.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF NBC NEWS  
Jovenel Moise, president of Haiti, who was assassinated earlier this month. His murderers are unknown at this time.

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# ‘Fear Street’ trilogy needed better casting

**BRIDGET JANIS**  
Features Editor

“Fear Street” is the new Netflix trilogy that has been trending this month. These movies are based on the books “Fear Street” by R.L. Stine, which are the grown versions of “Goosebumps.”

The three movies all connect by exploring different years of the tragic events that keep happening in the run down town of Shadyside, where over 300 year’s worth of brutal murders have occurred while neighboring Sunnyville stands by in their seemingly perfect world.

A witch’s curse has tormented the town for as long as anyone can remember and seems to be to blame for all the serial killers that have happened to the town. No one knows the connection or has even tried to solve the case until Deena (Kiana Madeira) and her friends are trying to save her ex-girlfriend, Sam (Olivia Scott Welch), from becoming another victim of the witch’s curse.

The second film sees Deena trying to go back in time to find the only other person that has survived the witch’s curse, C. Berman (Gillian Jacobs and Sadie Sink). So they travel back to Berman’s years at a summer camp in 1978 when a serial axe killer was cursed.

The third film takes Deena and the gang all back to when it started in 1666, where Deena becomes the witch, Sarah Fier, and sees how things actually went down. The film then returns back to current time to wrap everything together, giving the audience the closure they needed after that unexpected plot twist.

While trying to save Sam, Deena will have to face the past serial killers from the witch’s curse as they will hunt her down to stop her from finding out the truth and restoring Shadyside.

The script was cheesy and the acting varied so much within the characters. I will never forgive the third film for providing the worst accents I’ve ever heard. The main character should not have been played by Madeira as she was the main reason the script felt so cheesy in the first place. Sink did so well in the second film, I almost wish there was a change of casting and she was shown more.

The visuals throughout all three movies were well done and it was easily distinguishable which year we were in for each part of each film. While there were the variations due to the decade differences there were still many constancies within the cinematography.

The lighting was dim for most of the three films. Which in a lot of cases I

would complain about not being able to see what’s happening well throughout the scenes, but for these films it was well done because the dimness always had pieces of light making it easy to follow even in the dark.

Now moving on to the plot, it was simply just a good idea. I loved the connections through decades. I did prefer this into a trilogy over a limited series because it made more scene for the films to be broken up into years the way they were.

You can tell there is a lot of influence from Stephen King, as he’s mentioned a lot throughout and there are a lot of signs pointing to “Carrie” and “It” references. Also, there is a similar action as “It Follows” being presented as the “dead” killers walk towards their pray in both films.

The movies are fast paced, so they were very entertaining to watch. The second film was the best one, the summer camp setting was just amazing. I am usually one to see plot twists from a mile away, but I truly didn’t see this one till much later in the films, I was impressed by that.

Overall, great movies, loved the layouts of the film just wished the other two films lived up to the second film and the casting is what truly

ruined it for me. The plot was better than the actual films.

**Fear Street 1994: 3 out of 5**

**Fear Street 1978: 4 out of 5**

**Fear Street 1666: 2.5 out of 5**



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB.COM  
The spooky poster for Netflix’s trilogy “Fear Street.”

## HBO Max’s ‘Gossip Girl’ reboot: You know you don’t love it

**GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH**  
Campus Editor

Hey, Upper East Siders... or should I say Golden Grizzlies.

Gossip Girl — not — here, but that doesn’t mean I can’t share my thoughts on the scandalous lives of Manhattan’s elite in the HBO Max reboot of the popular television show, “Gossip Girl,” which has quickly become the most-watched original series ever on the platform.

Bringing a new set of friends and their drama to the steps of The Met, the series focuses on the queen bee of Constance Billard — Instagram influencer Julien — and her estranged half-sister Zoya, a middle-class newcomer to the prep school scene. Their complicated relationship brings out the rivalry, jealousy and power struggles undoubtedly familiar to the Upper East Side. Think Serena and Blair from the original, but with a far more confusing twist.

In the first two episodes, viewers are also introduced to Julien’s fashion-savvy posse and unofficial social media managers Monet and Luna, champagne socialist Obie, bickering couple Aki

and Audrey and lothario Max. I hope my choice in descriptions leads you to decipher who resembles whom from the original. The cast is more diverse from the perspectives of race and sexual identity in comparison to the original and following the tenets of just about every series on HBO, let’s just say things certainly get steamy...very steamy.

Unlike the original series, viewers also get an in-depth behind-the-scenes perspective from the teachers of Constance Billard and St. Jude’s. Tired of dealing with disrespectful students and being silenced by admonitory phone calls from powerful parents, they decide to take matters into their own hands. What they do becomes less and less about inspiring the next Kennedy or Obama and more and more about gaining the same leverage and toxic power that their students hold over them.

Gossip Girl is also revealed in the first episode, but her identity is a secret I’ll never tell — not in this review, anyway. Her newfound presence on Instagram forces everyone to be on their best — or worst — behavior. After all, you never know who’s watching, and no one likes their dirty laundry aired. These characters

will do whatever it takes to stay on top.

The original series, which aired on CW and is based on the books by Cecily von Ziegesar, ended a little less than a decade ago but still has a loyal fan base, which begs the following question: Is the reboot better than the original? No, but it does satiate the desire for nostalgia that fans have been craving for so long.

Hearing Kristen Bell’s quintessential voice-overs and seeing students attired in their school uniforms that aren’t really school uniforms walk the hallowed halls of Constance Billard and St. Jude’s and partake in the most opulent of indulgences brought back many fond memories of television bliss, but maybe they should have stayed fond memories.

As someone who loved the intelligent and often catty dialogue full of references to classic films and books in the original series, I found the dialogue as well as acting in the reboot to be quite dull. Sure, there were some zingers here and there, but the old cast had a spark and scintillating wit that the new cast is simply lacking. Also, am I supposed to believe a multi-millionaire teenage girl born into privilege like Julien would pose as a social media influencer, seek

sponsorship deals and use the phrase #GirlsJustWannaHaveSun? I don’t think so. The reboot further solidified that there is no queen bee like Queen B.

What’s unique about the reboot is you can actually follow the accounts of Gossip Girl and the fictional characters themselves on Instagram. It is a clever marketing tactic that definitely enhances the viewing experience. I also give the fashion selection and series soundtrack a solid 10/10 and felt like they were the same quality, if not better than what was showcased in the original series.

Going forward, only one episode will be released a week which allows viewers to build up anticipation and savor the moment, but it is kind of ironic that one can’t binge a show about rich kids who can get anything they want when they want it.

With all of this being said, I obviously favor the original over the reboot. However, future episodes might change my mind. But for now...

To the O.G. Gossip Girl: Three words. Eight letters. I said it then, and I’ll say it now. I’m yours.

xoxo, G

**Rating: 3.5/5**

# Neurodiversity representation needs to amplified in the media

**D'JUANNA LESTER**

*Staff Reporter*

Diversity is very important to me, as someone who hasn't always seen themselves in the entertainment industry. Everyone deserves to watch a movie or a show and see themselves. But not just as a token diversity point, but as a full, fleshed out character that the audience can be inspired by. In order to learn more about diversity in the entertainment industry, we have to take a step back and look at what is considered "diverse."

Historically, most forms of representation have been what we've seen in power; straight, white and able-bodied men. For marginalized groups, it's been a battle to not only get mainstream media representation, but accurate representation.

"[Diversity is] a representation of people who aren't a part of the hegemony; people in power historically," Bridget Kies, Assistant Professor of Cinema Studies at OU said. "The US is changing, and everyone needs to have that opportunity to watch something and see themselves reflected on the screen."

Earlier this year, "Music," produced by Australian singer Sia, was supposed to be this grand representation for the autistic community. This is a community with very little representation, and when it is represented it contains a lot of stereotypes. Sia being neurotypical and refusing to listen to autistic people led to the movie flopping. It currently has a score of 8% on Rotten Tomatoes.

Similar problems occur with Netflix's "Atypical," harmful stereotypes and a neurodivergent character portrayed by a neurotypical actor. Some of the use of comedy in "Atypical" creates a mockery of serious moments. There are so many autistic actors out there that could play these roles, that could allow for more accurate portrayal. Hollywood just hasn't been giving them the chance.

In contrast, Hulu has seemed to tackle autism better with more accurate representation. "Everything's Going to Be Okay" stars Kayla Cormer, an autistic actor playing an



PHOTO COURTESY D'JUANNA LESTER  
Oakland Post Reporter D'Juanna Lester

autistic character. The show has been well received by the community, and the success opens up doors to do more. Her performance is authentic, whereas Maddie Ziegler's in "Music" felt forced. Cromer comes with background knowledge of what it's like to be an autistic teenager.

People that are actually in these marginalized communities need to be on and behind the screen. Without them, people may not know what they're talking about and adding in whatever stereotypes they want, and calling it diversity. They can market these shows as accurate representation, while people who relate to these experiences, once again get the short end of the stick.

"There is a need for more diversity with current movements, and people with lived experiences can bring that," Kies says. "Having more of them behind the screen can change those problematic story lines and stereotypes."

Different communities need to see themselves represented properly, and there's not a singular life experience for these groups. This means that we need more and different scenarios, so it's not just one example on screen being portrayed as representation of an entire group.

# Five essential tracks for your end-of-summer playlist

**TORI COKER**

*Contributor*

Summer's officially winding to a close. We're getting closer to fall semester everyday: closer to that final wave of wind through your hair on a road trip, closer to that final footprint in the sand, closer to the last sunset you'll get to appreciate fully without the lingering stress of uncompleted homework hiding not-so-quietly in the back of your mind.

To soften the blow of these fast-approaching deadlines, I've combed through some of my favorite releases from this summer to offer up five essential tracks for an electric end-of-summer playlist.

Hippo Campus, "Bad Dream Baby"

This group has quickly proven themselves pros at alt/indie-rock over the past few years — and their latest single is proof they have no intention of slowing down. Utilizing a springy melody to contrast the drawling vocal and playfully dark lyricism, "Bad Dream Baby" sums the lead singer's life struggles up into one hell of a catchy bad dream.

On top of being completely infectious and a total shoo-in for my own personal top five come Spotify Wrapped season, it has an entire half verse dedicated to the #FreeBritney situation — so if I haven't convinced you so far, there's that.

Bleachers, "How Dare You Want More"

In the midst of producing for all your favorite ladies in pop, Jack Antonoff has somehow found time to devote to his own project. Bleachers' third studio album — and the latest track released from the upcoming LP — is perhaps the best yet.

Capturing the insecurity associated with taking any leap toward what you want, Antonoff makes confronting the voice in your mind that claims you're undeserving, sound easy and bright. From the Vampire Weekend-esque riff sparkling in the background to the glorious sax that has become one of this act's signatures, even your bluest self would struggle fighting the blinding hope this track sparks in your chest.

Lorde, "Solar Power"

While the reaction to Lorde's long-awaited return has been mixed, I wanted to give "Solar Power" its flowers for the way it sneaks up on you when the timing's just right. With a sound that calls back to George Michael's "Freedom! '90" — to a degree some call too much (to which I say there's no such thing) — Lorde's warm, intimate melodies are best received beneath the setting sun, where

you can truly appreciate her invitation to romanticize the warm weather.

When the delightful outro bursts through in all its harmonic glory, you'll find yourself transported right to that beach from the music video, reliving the pure adoration for summertime some of us haven't felt quite as strongly since we were kids.

Doja Cat ft. SZA, "Kiss Me More"

I know you've all heard this song. There's no need for me to elaborate on how flawless it is. But, it is truly one of those once-in-a-blue-moon mainstream radio hits that never gets the slightest bit old or loses its magic for me no matter how often I hear it, so it had to be here.

"Kiss Me More" is undoubtedly the song of the summer this year — the world is simply wrapped right around Doja and SZA's uber-talented fingers, and rightfully so.

WILLOW, "Gaslight"

The Travis Barker young alt-rock wave has officially hit its peak with this unstoppable artist's new album "lately I feel EVERYTHING", and I honestly couldn't recommend any song on this record enough. Since you've undoubtedly already heard the magnificent "t r a n s p a r e n t s o u l" all over TikTok, consider this your nudge to give "Gaslight" a listen, too, if nothing else from the release.

It's a brief but exhilarating glimpse at what makes this album and artist truly special, with her threading of wholly resonating pop melodies atop nostalgic alt-rock instrumentals leaving you momentarily unsure of which summer you're bidding farewell to exactly, in the best way.

So there you have it — an extra, musical dose of electricity to wrap your summer up right.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TORI COKER  
Oakland Post Reporter Tori Coker.

# Scandal, talent exodus: the steady decline of ESPN

**JEFF THOMAS**

*Editor-in-Chief*

Shocking audio leaked earlier this month of prominent on-air ESPN personality Rachel Nichols attacking fellow broadcaster Maria Taylor, claiming Taylor only had her spot on NBA Countdown because she was black and ESPN has diversity issues. The scandal following the leak led to Nichols being removed from NBA playoff broadcasts and Taylor leaving ESPN for NBC Sports.

The clip of Nichols venting to an ESPN higher-up about losing her spot to Taylor was recorded secretly and leaked, which to be fair, is an issue of privacy. I want to stress that the purpose of this article isn't to condemn any one individual at ESPN. The larger issue here is the workplace culture of our largest sports news network, especially when it comes to racial sensitivity and diversity.

Which brings us to the current face of ESPN, Stephen A. Smith. A perennial workhorse and force of nature on broadcasts, his personality and charisma are usually more than enough to compensate for the station's dull programming, but Smith also suffers from chronic flare ups of foot-in-mouth disease.

Smith's two-decade-long career with

ESPN has seen alarmingly bad takes on major issues. Perhaps most prominently his comments on the Ray Rice scandal, where he blamed Rice's fiancée Janay for instigating the domestic violence that occurred in the infamous elevator security video.

His latest public-apology-worthy comments were xenophobic remarks made about MLB star Shohei Ohtani. Smith criticized the Japanese-born Ohtani for his use of an interpreter during interviews and argued that non-English speaking stars are one of baseball's popularity issues. The diatribe was exceptionally tasteless considering recent increases in racially motivated violence, particularly against Asian Americans.

Now ESPN is not wholly responsible for what comes out of Smith's mouth, and they have punished him before for outrageous remarks, but recurring issues with the company's biggest star does call into question how serious ESPN takes issues like racial sensitivity.

Inflammatory takes have become more common on ESPN's programming over the past several years. As is the general trend with 24-hour cable news media, ESPN has shifted away from earnest reporting and nuanced commentary and are instead relying on clickbait on-air

antics and access to prominent individuals to maintain viewership.

Access-journalism is important to note here because it's obvious that ESPN has been compromised as a news source due to their broadcast partnerships with enormous entities like the NFL and UFC. Among other things, the news station has been notoriously soft on NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell over issues like player health and wellness and the league's response to Colin Kaepernick. Similarly, the station has given a pass to UFC President Dana White by toning down coverage of the promotion's exploitation of fighters, recently letting top MMA journalist Ariel Helwani go because White didn't like his coverage of the league.

Helwani's exit was unfortunate, but not uncommon. Retaliation is the trend within ESPN's hierarchy. When the company or their broadcast partners believe a prominent on-air personality has spoken out of turn, that journalist is reassigned and eventually let go. The optics of this are not good, especially when you consider that a lot of the talent being driven out are people of color. Taylor and Helwani obviously, but a litany of other prominent voices including Jemele Hill, Michael Smith and Dan Le Batard have all received the boot.

This practice of retaliation not only

creates a toxic workplace, but it's also weakened ESPN's on-air product. The aforementioned exit of people of color has hurt the network, and certainly the network's credibility. Combine that with the untimely deaths of broadcasters Stuart Scott and John Saunders, as well as the exodus of white talent like Bill Simmons, Ryen Russillo and Kenny Mayne, and it's no wonder much of the network's programming is near unwatchable.

ESPN has a diversity problem, problems with diversity in leadership and diversity in thought and opinions on issues that are vitally important to the times we're living in. The company has cultivated a workplace that doesn't encourage innovation and actively punishes talent for doing their jobs. There's no reason two talented women like Taylor and Nichols should have to battle over one spot, and there's no reason journalists like Helwani and Hill should be ousted for doing their jobs as journalists.

What we are seeing is that ESPN isn't too big to fail, that they're actively failing because of how big they are. Compromised by TV deals and stale leadership, they're too big to be proactive, too big to stand with their broadcasters and too big to meet the times we're living in.

## So the Tigers rebuild is over? We'll see about that

**MATTHEW SCHEIDEL**

*Sports Editor*

On May 7, the Detroit Tigers were 9-24. It looked like they were headed for another 100-loss season. For a team that had been rebuilding for the better part of five years, this was certainly disappointing.

Fast forward to July 22, and the Tigers had won their seventh consecutive game, matching their season win total from 2019 with 47.

Manager A.J. Hinch is willing to do anything to scratch some runs across — including bunting and stealing bases — tactics long thought to be outdated. They are a fun team to watch.

Recently, General Manager Al Avila talked to reporters about the team's philosophy ahead of the July 30 trade deadline.

"We like our young players. We're trying to bring in more talented players. And really, that's where we're at right now," Avila said. "We're trying to get better. We're not rebuilding anymore. We're building."

The rebuild is over, you say?

Look, I'm as thrilled as anybody that the Tigers are playing good baseball. This is the most fun team they've had since at least 2014. But, I'm not ready to call this rebuild over.

This rebuild does not end until owner and CEO Christopher Ilitch spends money in free agency.

Good, contending teams spend money on quality players in free agency. They don't pick from the bargain bin for the Jose Ureñas and Nomar Mazaras of

the world. They actively try to field a competitive team year after year.

Ilitch has shown no interest in the Tigers since taking over control of the team after his father Mike's passing in 2017. It seems as though the only reason he owns the team is to make a profit.

The Tigers have had a tough time putting butts in the seats since Comerica Park opened back up at full capacity on June 1. Attendance has been hovering around 10,000-15,000 for the most part except for one game: July 17 against the Minnesota Twins.

It was the second game of a doubleheader. The night was heavily promoted as a "Summer Baseball Bash," which included select tickets that only cost \$5.

That night was electric. Just watching the game on TV, you could feel the atmosphere at the ballpark. The best part was all 31,000 fans were treated to a Tigers walk off win. Just imagine that kind of atmosphere every night. Oh that's right, you don't have to.

From 2006-2014, when the Tigers were a consistent threat in the American League — fans showed up in droves. The team regularly crossed the 3,000,000 mark in attendance. Why? Because the team was good.

GM Dave Dombrowski and owner Mike Ilitch were on the same page: win a World Series, no matter the cost. They would leave a dump truck full of money on the doorsteps of guys like Prince Fielder and Victor Martinez, and make blockbuster trades for Miguel Cabrera, Max Scherzer and David Price.

Fans care when your team is good — they don't want to pay major league prices to see minor league quality.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DETROIT FREE PRESS  
Al Avila, Detroit Tigers General Manager.

That's been proven time and time again.

Although, Avila has had some good luck recently. Outfielder and rule 5 pick Akil Baddoo, catcher Eric Haase and infielder Jonathan Schoop have been key contributors to the team this season as budget signings.

But that's not going to cut it. He needs some actual financial support from ownership if they truly want to end this rebuild. The ball's in your court, Mr. Ilitch.

# Athletics announces new Varsity Golf Training Facility

**MATTHEW SCHEIDEL**  
*Sports Editor*

The Oakland University Athletics department revealed plans for a new Varsity Golf Training Facility last month.

According to a press release, the new state-of-the-art facility will feature a putting and chipping green, in addition to driving range bays and a team room with a nutrition station. Both men's and women's locker rooms will be on-site. The facility will also include head coach offices and a team lounge.

"This golf facility will be an amazing addition for our golf programs," Women's Head Golf Coach Alyssa Gaudio-Guss said in the press release. "The facility will allow our student-athletes the ability to practice year-round with state-of-the-art technology. We will be able to work on our short game skills and come out in the spring ready to play. We are excited to add to our already great golf courses and have all the resources at our fingertips."

Associate Athletic Director for Development, Ben Fielder, said this project was "a few years" in the making.

"Both head coaches, Nick (Pumford) and Alyssa (Gaudio-Guss), had brought

this up as a space that was really needed for them to get the golf program to the next level," Fielder said. "I've been in athletics for two years now, and when I came in we were talking about this new facility. [We've since] identified some key donors to get behind it and now we're at the [point] where we've identified the construction team and the architecture team to start moving forward with the project."

Fielder said the donors have raised \$2.4 million toward the facility.

"We're entering into the last stretch of — what I would call — our final phase of fundraising to get to the final dollar amount that we're anticipating the building to be at. [That's] really not even known yet," Fielder said. "The construction company is currently surveying to figure out the exact location of the new facility. We know it will be out with the golf courses, somewhere in that proximity, but they're trying to figure out the exact location and finalize those details."

Fielder mentioned there will be a substantial expense figured in configuring the terrain.

"Once they're able to finalize those (location) details, we can have a better



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS  
Concept art for the new Varsity Golf Training Facility.

idea of what the cost of building will be," Fielder said. "There's going to be quite a bit of expense potentially in just moving the land around to get a flat state to put the facility in."

Men's Head Golf Coach, Nick Pumford, said he "couldn't be more excited" about the facility.

"This facility is going to be a game changer for our current and future student athletes and hopefully put our program into national contention," Pumford said.

"This could not have been possible without our supporters and the golf alumni who paved the way."

Once they break ground, Fielder expects the project to take 18 months to two years.

"The next phase for us is to bring it before the Board of Trustees," Fielder said. "[We're hoping to do that] in either November or December and then potentially break ground early in the spring next year."

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# Swimming and Diving receives Scholar All-America honors

**MATTHEW SCHEIDEL**  
*Sports Editor*

The College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) has selected the Oakland University men's and women's swimming and diving teams for Scholar All-America honors for their efforts in the classroom last semester, according to a press release.

"It's quite an honor," said Swimming and Diving Head Coach Pete Hovland. "It's something the team continues to strive to do. It's something they take a lot of pride in. They work extremely hard in the pool, and everybody knows that — they've been highly successful, but I think what goes under the radar sometimes is how hard they work in the classroom. We have some truly outstanding student athletes, not just in the swimming and diving program, but in the entire athletic department."

Founded in 1922, the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America (CSCAA), is the nation's first organization of college coaches. The mission of the CSCAA is to advance the sport of swimming and diving with coaches at the epicenter of leadership, advocacy and professional development.

Hovland also talked about the importance of academics for his student athletes.

"There's very, very few in our sport that can make a profession out of swimming — unless you want to go into coaching like I have or you're fortunate enough to be in that 1% of the best swimmers in the world — so they can turn pro and make money that way," Hovland said. "It's definitely something that needs to be their priority, and they need to work at it and spend as much time — if not more — on that than they do in the pool. I think the results on an annual basis, and over the four or five decades I've been here, prove that."

In addition to the program being recognized, seven swimmers were recognized by the CSCAA for their individual academic excellence. Those swimmers include: Christian Bart — Honorable Mention (Criminal Justice), Mack Flowers — Honorable Mention (Mathematics), Ryan Geheb — Honorable Mention (Computer Science), Marko Khotynetskyi — Honorable Mention (Business Administration) and on the women's side, Taylor Bailey — Honorable Mention (Health Science and Human Performance), Susan LaGrand — first team (Pre-Medicine), and Sydney McDowell —



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
The OU swimming and diving program received Scholar All-America honors.

Honorable Mention (Biomedical Science).

The award recognizes students who achieved a grade-point average of 3.50 or higher, and who were invited to compete at their respective national championship.

Hovland mentioned one thing that often gets overlooked is that most student athletes are precisely that: students that just so happen to be athletes.

"You look at athletic departments across the country, and you look at the

average grade-point average that athletic departments have versus the normal student body, and it's not even close," Hovland said. "You can do that in just about every school in the country. So, I think the good news gets lost in the shuffle sometimes — and it's unfortunate — but college athletics really plays a key role in the success of a lot of students across the gamut of colleges throughout the United States."

## FALL 2021 PAYMENT DUE DATE

**OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S FALL PAYMENT DUE DATE: AUGUST 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.

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