

# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Rochester, Michigan

Volume 47 | Issue 6 | September 15, 2021

## 9/11 Retrospective

Center for Civic Engagement hosts panel looking back at the day that changed everything

Page 3



### OU REMEMBERS

20 years later OU community shares memories of Sept. 11, 2001

PAGE 5

### PEOPLE OF OU

Two more stunning profiles in our new feature series

PAGE 11

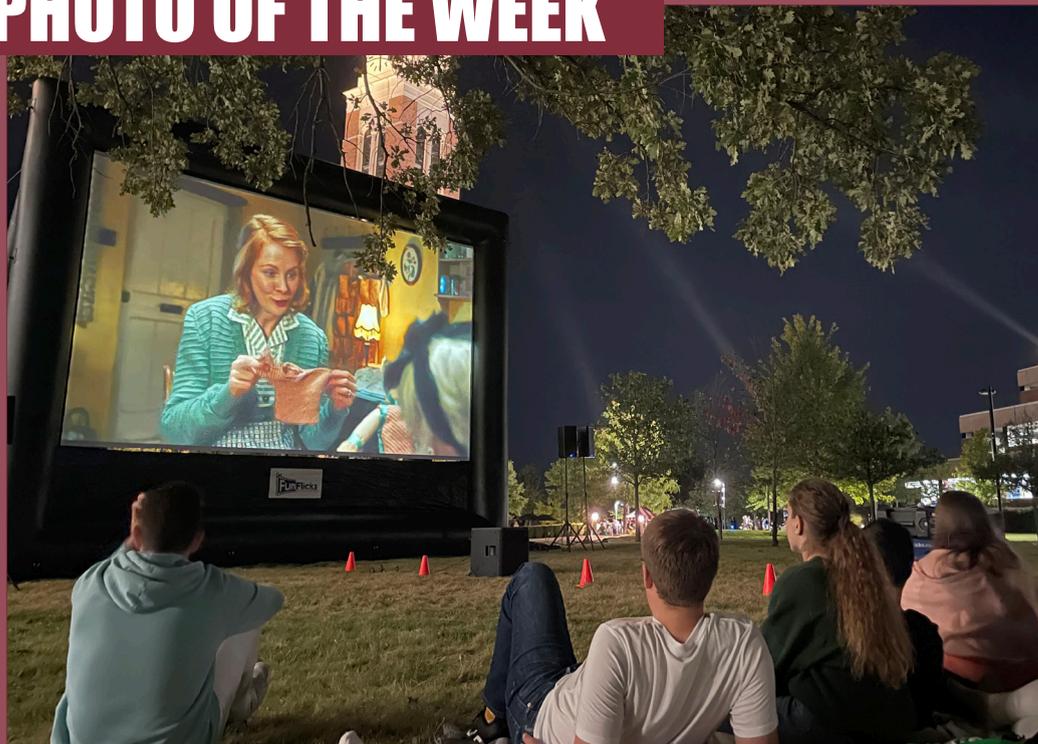
### MASTODONS DOWN

Men's soccer dominates the pitch against Purdue Fort Wayne

PAGE 15

# THIS WEEK

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



**MOVIE NIGHT AT OU** Students gathered together outside of Elliott Tower last Saturday night for a socially distanced Midnight Block Party.  
SOPHIE HUME / PHOTOGRAPHER

# THE OAKLAND POST

## EDITORIAL BOARD

**Jeff Thomas**  
Editor-in-Chief  
jdthomas2@oakland.edu

**Lauren Reid**  
Content Editor  
lrreid@oakland.edu

**Bridget Janis**  
Managing Editor  
bridgetjanis@oakland.edu

## EDITORS

**Sophie Hume** Photo Editor  
sophiahume@oakland.edu

**Matthew Scheidel** Sports Editor  
mscheidel@oakland.edu

**Gabrielle Abdelmessih** Campus Editor  
gabdelmessih@oakland.edu

**Sarah Gudenau** Features Editor  
sgudenau@oakland.edu

## COPY & VISUAL

**Jennifer Wood** Graphic Designer  
**Megan Parker** Graphic Designer  
**Carolina Alonso** Graphic Designer  
**Elizabeth Foster** Graphic Designer

**Noora Neiroukh** Photographer  
**Maggie Willard** Photographer  
**Ayman Ishimwe** Photographer  
**Anna Drumm** Photographer

## DISTRIBUTION

**Erika Beechie** Distribution Director  
erikabeechie@oakland.edu

**Ryleigh Gotts** Distributor  
**Katie Reid** Distributor  
**Jillian Wood** Distributor

## REPORTERS

**Tanner Trafelet** Senior Reporter  
**Rachel Yim** Senior Reporter  
**D'Juanna Lester** Senior Reporter  
**Allie Piche** Senior Reporter  
**Myth Parks** Senior Reporter  
**Christian Tate** Sports Reporter  
**Brittany Kearfott** Sports Reporter

## ADVERTISING

**Tori Coker** Marketing Director  
Toricoker@oakland.edu  
**Madeline Parker** Ads Director  
mparker@oakland.edu  
248.370.4269  
**Megan Dull** Ads Assistant

## ADVISING

**Garry Gilbert** Editorial Adviser  
ggilber@oakland.edu  
248.370.2105  
**Don Ritenburgh** Business Adviser  
ritenbur@oakland.edu  
248.370.2533



**4 CHICKEN HOT SPOT**  
Students rush to try OC's new chicken place, how's the food?  
Photo/Maggie Willard



**10 LEARNING TO BE A POET**  
Peter Markus tells truth, gives fiction a rest in new collection of poetry about his father.  
Photo/Oakland University



**14 STRUGGLE ON THE PITCH**  
Women's soccer battled MSU in tough loss at home.  
Photo/Maggie Willard

**VOTE AND CONNECT AT:**  
[oaklandpostonline.com](http://oaklandpostonline.com)

## POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO EAT AT IN THE OAKLAND CENTER?

- A) PANDA EXPRESS
- B) SLIM CHICKENS
- C) SUBWAY
- D) THE HALAL SHACK

## LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHICH CAMPUS BUILDING HAS THE BEST CLASSROOMS?



**CORRECTIONS CORNER:** In a previous issue, we referred to student Joey Colby as "Justin Colby", 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).

# CCE hosts “9/11: Twenty Years Later” discussion

**LAUREN REID**  
Content Editor

20 years after the tragic and life-altering terrorist attacks that took place on September 11, 2001, the Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) at Oakland University hosted “9/11: Twenty Years Later” on Thursday, Sept. 9. The panel discussion was moderated by Fox 2 News anchor Roop Raj, with U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin and former U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers offering their insight.

The night began with a welcome from CCE Director and Professor of Political Science, David Dulio — followed by a message from President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz.

“As you know, the CCE has titled this event: toward a more perfect union,” Pescovitz said. “As I thought about this, I realized many of our students weren’t even alive 20 years ago — when 9/11 happened. I do think this will be a very important evening as we discuss what happened on 9/11.”

Prior to the panel discussion start, Professor Dulio touched on civil discourse.

“This conversation takes place at a time of great political polarization, everyone knows that,” he said. “But let’s remember — in the wake of 9/11 — our nation was united. You may not agree with everything our guests say, but that doesn’t mean they’re the enemy.”

To begin the discussion, Raj asked both Rep. Slotkin and former Rep. Rogers where they were on 9/11, and what they can remember about that day.

Rep. Slotkin mentioned she was in New York City on her second day of graduate school. She walked out and a colleague of hers mentioned a



PHOTO BY AYMAN ISHIMWE  
U.S. Rep Elissa Slotkin, former U.S. Rep Mike Rogers and Fox 2 News anchor Roop Raj at the 9/11: Twenty Years Later panel discussion on Sept. 9.

plane had hit the World Trade Center.

“At Columbia, we huddled 400 students around one television — we were watching local TV and started [watching] people literally jumping from the buildings,” she said. “Then, we just started organizing. It was a moment that galvanized the students — we thought there’d be a lot of wounded, so we organized a blood drive and started donating blood, [volunteering at local hospitals]...It was an experience unlike any other and [it] ultimately changed my life.”

Further on in the panel, Raj asked the panelists what they learned amid 9/11, and how much better/

safer America is now. Rep. Rogers said he believes extremism will be a problem moving forward.

“Everywhere extremism can foster within the limits of freedom of movement, freedom to finance, freedom to recruit, freedom to train — we are in trouble,” he said. “Unfortunately, there are still spots in the world that do that.”

Rep. Rogers said we missed “the big sweep” leading up to 9/11.

“If you think about it, in 1993, this same terrorist organization hit the World Trade Center,” he said. “Their math wasn’t good — they tried to do it at the bottom. The same terrorist organization killed 200 people by attacking the U.S. Embassy in Kenya. In 2000, they attacked the U.S.S. Cole. So, they were committed to their path of trying to get to the U.S.”

Topics also spanned the Afghanistan withdrawal and changes in Homeland Security post 9/11. At the end of the event, questions were taken from the in-person audience and/or those watching from home.

Closing thoughts from both Rep. Slotkin and Rep. Rogers centered around coming together, and not looking at one another as enemies.

“We’re not going to all agree — we don’t,” Rep. Slotkin said. “When we start looking at a fellow American as an enemy, as someone we don’t have empathy for, we have a real problem. That empathy we felt for each other in the days and weeks after 9/11, we’re very far from that spirit. If we could figure out a way to harness that, and try to be decent, I think we’d go a long way.”

For more information on the CCE and upcoming events, visit their homepage on the OU website.

**YOU CAN FIND US ON**

**THE OAKLAND POST**

**VISIT US ONLINE**

[WWW.OAKLANDPOSTONLINE.COM](http://WWW.OAKLANDPOSTONLINE.COM)

## Slim Chickens is open in the OC, and we taste tested it for you

**LAUREN REID**  
Content Editor

**TORI COKER**  
Marketing Director

After Chick-fil-A's closure last September, there's a new place to get your chicken fix in the Pioneer Food Court: Slim Chickens. Founded in 2003, this is the chain's first Michigan location.

"We hope everyone is excited like we are," said Evol Gazzarato, Resident District Manager of Oakland University at Chartwells Higher Education Dining Services. "We put a lot of work into selecting the right opportunity to bring on campus, and we hope the students are as excited, receptive and enjoy it as much as we do."

The Slim Chickens ribbon cutting ceremony took place Tuesday, Sept. 2 — when various Chartwells and Oakland Center employees opened up the new vendor to the campus community.

According to their website, Slim Chickens mission is "to make the best hand-breaded chicken tenders using only the freshest ingredients, served in a friendly atmosphere where people can relax and feel at home."

The new chicken eatery sports a plethora of meal options — from chicken tenders, a crispy chicken sandwich to salad — and also offers milkshakes, macaroni and cheese and house made sauces including ranch, BBQ, honey mustard, buffalo, cayenne ranch and slim sauce.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

Slim Chickens is the newest addition to the Pioneer Food Court, officially opening on Tuesday, Sept. 7.

### Now, for the Taste Test

Our thoughts on the food were overwhelmingly positive. Selecting the basket of five tenders and fries, we were pleased to find both had a satisfying amount of crisp, pulling apart nicely without leaning too hard or soft.

For sauces, we weren't particularly wowed by the original Slim Sauce. Instead, cayenne ranch was our standout favorite, adding a slight kick to the standard ranch — which had a deliciously smooth, thin consistency itself that we were fans of as well.

The mac and cheese bowl is a can't-miss. Well cooked, thick and super creamy, its taste brought

to mind visions of a home-cooked meal rather than your usual fast food mac and cheese.

Finally, the menu marks the long-awaited introduction of milkshakes to campus — we sampled the chocolate, vanilla and strawberry and were smitten with each (and the boba-esque jumbo straws that come with them were just the cherry on top).

### Additional Student Thoughts

After we were chickened-out, we walked around the Oakland Center (OC) to get a general consensus of students' Slim Chickens opinions.

#### Shakera, Junior, Photography

"I like the fries the most — not enough salt on them [though] — you'll have to add more. The tenders are alright. They're fried well and they're coming apart easy, [but] there's just this underlying texture that feels weird to me. I miss the Chick-fil-A that was here. I do like that they have milkshakes [at Slim Chickens], though!"

#### Nick Krueger, Freshman, Undecided

"The seasoning on everything is just so delicious — it sets it apart from everything. It's good food!"

#### Nateda Her, Freshman, Business General Management

"I did not expect the fries to be this good — I think they're really good, fresh and crispy. Same with the chicken tenders. And the ranch is good, too! I think it all combines really well — I like Slim Chickens."

*Editor's Note: For full transparency, our meals were provided by Chartwells, but our opinions were not. The students we surveyed had purchased their own meals and were seated around the OC.*

## Decline in OU enrollment, expected \$17 million deficit

**D'JUANNA LESTER**  
Senior Reporter

A hot topic that has been brought up — especially with Oakland University professors' work stoppage last week — is the decline in OU enrollment. With the conflicts of last week, the student body and faculty are wondering where the university stands in terms of finance.

With the Sept. 20 deadline for enrolling, as well as adding and dropping classes, the university has not yet reported official enrollment data for fall of 2021.

"Enrollment across all institution types fell by 2.9% this past winter compared with last winter," said Vice President of Enrollment Management Dawn Aubry. "This has been the most challenging year for universities across the country, and Michigan is no exception. Many regional universities are reporting reductions in new admissions and returning undergraduate students for the fall 2021 semester."

This year has been tough on students and their families, and there is a lot that needs to be done to help them, "particularly among first-generation, low-income and underrepresented minorities who are continuing to struggle the most during the pandemic," according to Aubry.

Aubry also said that for community colleges, the numbers are even more alarming, dropping 11.3% in enrollment over the past year.

As for how much money OU has lost over the past

year, Aubry said, "Based on data from our finance and administration leaders, we expect there could be a \$17 million deficit. They base this estimate on COVID concerns, the lower number of high school graduates and competition among schools. We are hopeful and confident that Oakland University will continue to be the university of choice for transfer students, a traditional strong suit for enrollment."

So far, there have been no updates on how the two-day strike has impacted student retention, and Aubry said an important part of keeping students from transferring or dropping out of OU is for staff and faculty to re-engage them.

"Students want and need to feel connected and cared for," Aubry said. "When OU faculty and staff uphold their responsibility to provide academic, social and emotional support, the consistent and intentional connection with students can support engagement and prevent dropouts."

Their plan "Grizzlies Together Again" outlines the expectation for the fall semester in order to make campus safe for all students, faculty and staff. That plan includes a daily health screening process, a mask mandate and vaccination requirements.

OU has taken several steps toward recruiting new undergraduate students, including offering test optional admission, instituting scholarships award modifications, virtual orientation programs for the incoming class of 2021 in August and September and in-person campus tours in May.

"OU remains among the lowest-cost universities for entering first-year students," Aubry said.

Paying for university has been a serious problem throughout the pandemic. The university has distributed \$16.2 million in emergency funding that they received through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act for eligible students to help ease financial strains. There are also special automatic scholarships for transfer students, including the OU Frontline Workers Scholarship.

"We will continue to offer extraordinary support services to all students," Aubry said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Due to COVID-19, a lower number of high school graduates and competition among schools, OU has seen a decline in enrollment.

# 20 years later: what OU remembers from Sept. 11, 2001

**JEFF THOMAS**

*Editor-in-Chief*

Now, 20 years after Sept. 11, 2001 — we have arrived at a point where a lot of OU students either weren't alive or are too young to have any recollection of what it felt like that day. It was a deeply traumatic moment in U.S. history, one that certainly changed the course of our nation's history. Every year heartbreaking footage plays of planes hitting the towers and firefighters rushing in to save people. Seeing it broadcast live was a defining moment in many American lives.

In this article, members of the OU community share their memories from that day. The entry immediately following this paragraph is my own experience as a child in elementary school, subsequent entries are attributed accordingly.

I was seven-years-old on Sept. 11, 2001. I remember sitting in Mrs. Allen's second-grade class next to my best friends Mitch and Justin. In the middle of the morning, we packed up all the Lincoln Logs and craft supplies, we sat down at our desks and the teachers shut off all the lights. We spent the rest of the day with our heads down. Teachers were gathered out in the hallway with the custodian Mr. Stroup. They were speaking too quietly for any of us to hear. Every once-in-awhile Principal Reese would come by and talk with them for a minute. The final bell never rang, but eventually the buses showed up to take us all home. Principal Reese and the teachers walked each class out to the buses one by one. I got home and stepped off the bus with my little brother Jake. Our cousin Bev was there with our mom waiting at the end of our long driveway. They told us some bad guys showed up in New York.

**Roberta (Bobbi) Hayden, Office Assistant  
Office for Student Involvement**

I was sitting at work when our office heard that something had happened in New York, but we did not know what. Our office had no TVs and at that time, not everyone had the internet so it was hard to find out what was going on easily. My previous employer was located next to a Walmart so I ran over to purchase a small TV so we could get the news stations. When I arrived at Walmart, all you could hear was bits and pieces of conversation about what they thought was happening in New York. Everyone had a very sad and panicked look on his or her faces. I arrived at the electronics section to purchase a small TV and the department was very busy with other customers purchasing TVs and radios. I know it is hard to believe in the world of today that TVs and the internet were not so easily accessible. I ended up with a very small TV that was only viewed in black and white. I ran back over to work and plugged the TV in and we all huddled around it. By this time, both planes had hit both towers and my children's elementary school had given me a call to let me know that the school was on lock down. We all watched in horror as we waited for the news to give us more information. The news reporters were giving updates when all of sudden the "breaking news" interrupted and said that a third plane had hit the Pentagon. Some of us cried and hugged and others got on their cell phones to call loved ones. We all continued to watch in horror seeing pictures of the planes flying through the towers and hitting the Pentagon. Shortly after the plane hit the Pentagon,



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND.EDU

Twenty years after 9/11, the campus community is sharing what they remember from the day that changed everything.

our employer said we could all go home to be with our families. I phoned my children's school and they were starting to let the parents come and pick up their kids. I went and picked up my children and hugged them more than usual that day. It was a very sad and scary day not knowing if there were going to be more attacks and if so, where.

**Jessie L. Hurse Jr., Associate Dean of Students  
and Title IX Coordinator**

I remember that Tuesday morning. I had a pretty wild night the night before. I woke up really late for a 9:15 a.m. class I had at University of Michigan. I was running late, I rushed to prepare myself. My suite mate had on the TV at the time, he was watching ABC, Good Morning America. I remember walking out the door and literally watching the video of the plane hitting the first tower. In my mind, I thought it was a movie ... It looked like it was something that was done or created in a Michael Bay film ... I went to class not realizing what I had witnessed. When I got to class, I just remember the pale look on my calc teacher's face ... he was just frightened and terrified. He cancelled class and ran out crying and we were all wondering, "Whoa, what's going on?" And there was a young lady there who told us about the plane hitting the towers ... Once I was able to get back to my dorm room, my parents were calling me, telling me what was going on. They were really frantic and hoping that I would find a way to come back home. There were folks that were just panicking trying to get gas in and buy food, we really thought that there was a destruction that was about to take place in cities all over. It was a really terrifying moment to live in, but the one thing that always sticks with me to this day is how unified we became as Americans. I had never experienced anything like that since or before. Any of us that were American had this strong sense of pride and perseverance. I don't think the country has ever been that unified before in my lifetime. That's the one thing that will always kind of stick out to me about that day in particular in just seeing the aftermath of the buildings collapsing the dust that was spreading all over Ground Zero. The people walking out look like Walking Dead extras ... It's something that will

just stick to my core. Twenty years later, I can still remember it all so vividly.

**Chad Martinez, Director of Diversity, Equity  
and Inclusion and Title IX Coordinator**

I lived in St. Paul, Minnesota at the time, and I was driving to work. I was listening to the radio, and at the time, one of the towers had already been struck. But the way they are talking about it on the radio, I couldn't tell if it was an accident or what was happening. As soon as I pulled into my parking spot, the second plane hit. The people on the radio just freaked out, and we're like, "Another plane just hit the other tower. This has to be terrorism." And I just remember turning off my car in shock and then rushing into my office as fast as I could to find out what was going on and to get in front of a television ... And so I get in, and some of them already have the TV on in the office. And we're all just in front of it. And I worked in a tall building that saw airplanes go by all the time and it was disturbing at that moment to know what was going on. And then you see one report after another. The Pentagon had been struck, another plane had crashed in Pennsylvania and just ... it's hard to describe that kind of feeling. It was overwhelming at that time what was going on.

**Brian Bierley, Oakland University Director  
of Media Relations**

I went to my office at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak just like every other morning. Being in media relations, I usually listened to local radio news and scanned through the morning television news shows to see what the news of the day was going to be and if there was a tie-into something we were doing at the hospital. I heard a plane hit the World Trade Center on my radio, so I walked across the hall to my colleague's office and we turned on his TV to see what was happening, both of us thinking at that time it was a commuter plane since there have been other small planes to hit buildings in New York. To my surprise, while they were showing the first pictures of the first plane's impact, I saw the second plane come flying into the TV image and hit the other tower. Soon, our entire office team was huddled around the TV. **CONTINUED PAGE 6.**

## PAGE 5 CONTINUED

It was only then, after the second plane hit, that we all started realizing this was more than just an accident. From there, our focus turned to the Pentagon and then later to the flight that went down in rural Pennsylvania. We knew our country was under attack and no one knew how large of an attack this would be. Were we at risk in Michigan? Would we need to support other hospitals and prepare to take injured survivors at Beaumont? All of those thoughts went through our minds. And, like most Americans, I was glued to the TV to try and come to grips with what happened for the next several days. It is definitely one of those events where you remember where you were when something that life-altering happens. I also hope I never experience anything else like that again in my lifetime.

**Dr. Anita Hicks, Associate Director of Oakland Center, Director of Conferences.**

I was a flight attendant at the time. On the day of Sept. 11 I had just gotten back from a trip a few days before. I remember the day well, as I showed up to the airport and walked in the office around 8:30 a.m. to begin another day in the life of aviation. There was the regular banter and discussion on who was going where, fuel, clients, etc. when someone ran in the office and shouted “Turn on the tv, a plane just hit the tower in New York.” While we scrambled to find the remote, there was disbelief and horror as we watched everything unfold. Never really gathering full composure, but enough for the staff to think about where our airplanes and crew members were, as by then all planes in United States air space were grounded. This intensified for me as my sister who lived in NY at the time worked in the building right next door, so trying to get a hold of her was scary

and took a good part of the morning. I had many friends and co-workers in aviation and some in the air at the time so for me, knowing my job was being a flight attendant, it took a lot to get back comfortable on a plane.

**Sam Srauy, Associate Professor of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations**

My sister woke me up when the first plane hit. I remember groggily thinking it was a freak accident; my sister was angrily insisting I wake up and it wasn't an accident. Then the second tower fell—and then the Pentagon and Shanksville. That was the moment I no longer felt safe. Generally, growing up in the US felt like you won some international safety lottery. But that evaporated in a cloud of rubble and bits of paper, falling down like ugly snow covering faces streaked with tears and dread at Ground Zero. In my mind, I still see the faces on the television sets—the hopelessness. I don't think there was a dry eye across the country that day. Like others, I gathered with my family and close friends in places we felt comfortable. I think it was a local coffee shop, my friends and I frequented. We remarked about how eerie it was to see no airplanes in the sky and our collective horror when a few passed overhead. I remember thinking that the world has changed for us forever, and that things will never be “normal” again. Unfortunately, for many reasons we'd only come to understand years later, we were right. I still miss the world before that day.

**Garry Gilbert, Journalism Program Director**

I was executive editor of The Oakland Press, which was one of the state's best daily newspapers at the time. Beyond the shock of the morning's events, what I remember most is the reaction of the reporters and copy editors. People rushed to

our office, instinctively knowing they would be needed, understanding quickly this might be the biggest story of our careers. We produced an eight-page special edition that afternoon — our first since John F. Kennedy was assassinated in November 1963. The special edition was filled with dramatic photos and local reaction, printed and then handed out free in downtowns in Oakland County. Then we immediately turned our attention to the Wednesday morning edition. We knew readers were hungry for as much information as they could find. That was a terrible day for America, for much of the world. But I'm still proud of the way our staff came together that day.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OAKLAND POST'S ARCHIVES  
The cover of The Oakland Post from Sept. 12, 2001.

## Yang Xia's labs are doing a lot for the world of physics

**BRIDGET JANIS**

*Managing Editor*

Physics labs are a big part of Oakland University's research departments. Yang Xia, a distinguished Professor of Physics has been working hard within the walls of Hannah Hall to provide research about microscopic imaging.

Xia has many labs in the works at OU, he sees himself as a hands-on experimentalist.

“I like getting my hands dirty and doing things,” he said. “And by doing things the new way, hopefully we discover some interesting things along the way. Which will be useful and beneficial to biology and medicine.”

All the instruments Xia is using for his labs are physics based. The five main micro-imagine systems he uses through his labs have spatial resolutions. They can range from a fraction of  $\mu\text{m}$  to tens of  $\mu\text{m}$ .

“It's the new knowledge that can help us understand a disease better,” Xia said. “Hopefully either diagnostic techniques which can detect a disease early or help the design of the therapeutic exercise which slows down the disease or even stops the progression of the disease.”

Starting with Xia's  $\mu\text{MRI}$  lab, this provides an interface with clinical MRI machines. They do follow the same physics principles and use a strong magnetic field that interacts with protons in the body. The  $\mu\text{MRI}$  lab is to make images of tissue specimens.

Moving forward with his polarized light microscope (PLM) lab, which is two digital imaging systems. The first system is a thermoelectrically cooled Sensys camera. This part of the machine can help analyze binary images. The second system is a commercial Abrio system. This can help comprehend data from a CRI.

Xia has also worked with the same principles of clinical CTs in his  $\mu\text{CT}$  lab. This works similarly to a CT and has the same design features. It is used in the lab to develop more about the interface between cartilage and bone.

The students working on these labs with Xia are physics majors and have a lot of background knowledge in biology and medicine. Along with Xia, they work on papers and attend meetings to further people's knowledge about the labs they are working on.

Some of the other things Xia has going on is his lab about Mech testing, testing very small changes in mechanical properties.

The gadgets in Xia's labs contain many different kinds of mechanical and electrical parts. He also has access to outside facilities to help his labs run smoothly.

Xia and his students have also been working on a fourier-transform infrared imaging (FTIRI) lab. This creates the opportunity for chemical mapping capability to add into their research. There have been 16 journal papers published on his studies of the cartilage and its degradation

by using this machine.

“We tell everyone about our discoveries and what we see has been used and incorporated into clinical procedures in hospitals,” Xia said.

For more information on Xia and the work he has done check out his website at <https://sites.google.com/oakland.edu/xia/home/xialabfacilities?authuser=0>. All the information on his labs as well as presentations and research.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YANG XIA  
Member of Xia's lab is working in  $\mu\text{CT}$  lab.

# Looking Back on 9/11: Paper tigers no more

**TANNER TRAFELET**

Senior Reporter

On May 28, 1998, Osama Bin Laden conducted an interview with the ABC's John Miller and his interpreter. In this interview Bin Laden asserted that the United States (U.S.) was a "paper tiger" due to the lack of a direct military response to a succession of attacks centered on the bombing of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania by Bin Laden's Al-Qaeda terrorist group.

Fast forwarding three years would see the Al-Qaeda terrorist group conduct the 9/11 terrorist attacks. These attacks saw Al-Qaeda members hijack domestic American commercial airlines flights and subsequently fly two planes into the World Trade Center towers, one into the U.S. Pentagon and a third into a remote field in western Pennsylvania, killing 2,977 people.

News of the attacks rippled across the nation in a wave of television and radio news segments, with Oakland University students becoming cognizant of the horrid destruction as they rushed to their morning class sessions, according to the Oakland Post's archives.

Initial reactions from the students varied from shock and damaged frustration to inconvenience upon the sudden closure of campus. This closure of campus, the administration said, was done in order to protect the student body, faculty and all those who may come to OU's campus during this time of uncertainty.

"Our decision was made primarily for the safety of our students, faculty and staff," then University President Gary Russi said. "Until more concrete

information is available about the nature and scope of the terrorist attacks out east, we did not want to take any chances with the OU community."

In the days following the attack, classes resumed and a memorial service for the victims of the attack was held in the Gold Rooms of the Oakland Center. Things began to return to a tense sense of normality in the time following the attack, however, students increasingly began to describe concerns in regard to their physical safety.

After all, this terrorist attack constituted the largest attack on the continental U.S. since the surprise bombing of Pearl Harbor by imperial Japan during the Second World War. Students also began to develop opinions about how to react to the attacks and what the attack's implications could be in the broader international political system.

"I feel that this won't change the way we live," Carmela Franco, a sophomore studying engineering and chemistry told the Post in September of 2001. "Knowing our president [George W. Bush], he will blame all of the nations that haven't backed us up before, and this could be the beginning of World War III."

"It really won't change the way things work around here," said Chris Duemling, a sophomore studying sociology. "There will be one week of panic and then things will go back to the way they are unless someone uses this as an excuse for paranoia."

Many of OU's current students were not alive or were young children when 9/11 happened and have but a fleeting recollection of the attacks themselves. What students do remember is how the U.S. changed in response to terrorist attacks on U.S. soil.

Things such as the "Patriot Act," the Abu Ghraib blacksite prison and the long wait lines to undergo examination with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for domestic U.S. travel have been life-long aspects of protecting the American homeland for those born post-2000. Perhaps, once the dust finally settles, the U.S. may be able to prove that we are "Paper Tigers" no more.

"It was scary that this [9/11] happened," Erin Liebner, a junior studying English told the Post in 2001. "But the truly scary thing is what will happen next."



PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES  
The World Trade Center towers burn after being hit by two planes on September 11, 2001.

The Oakland Post

# NOW HIRING

## Reporters

TO APPLY EMAIL  
[EDITOR@OAKLANDPOSTONLINE.COM](mailto:EDITOR@OAKLANDPOSTONLINE.COM)



**1% CASH BACK ON ALL PURCHASES**  
LOW RATE FOR STUDENTS

Build credit while receiving cash back with the Platinum Plus Visa Credit Card from OU Credit Union.

Open your card today.

[oucreditunion.org](http://oucreditunion.org)

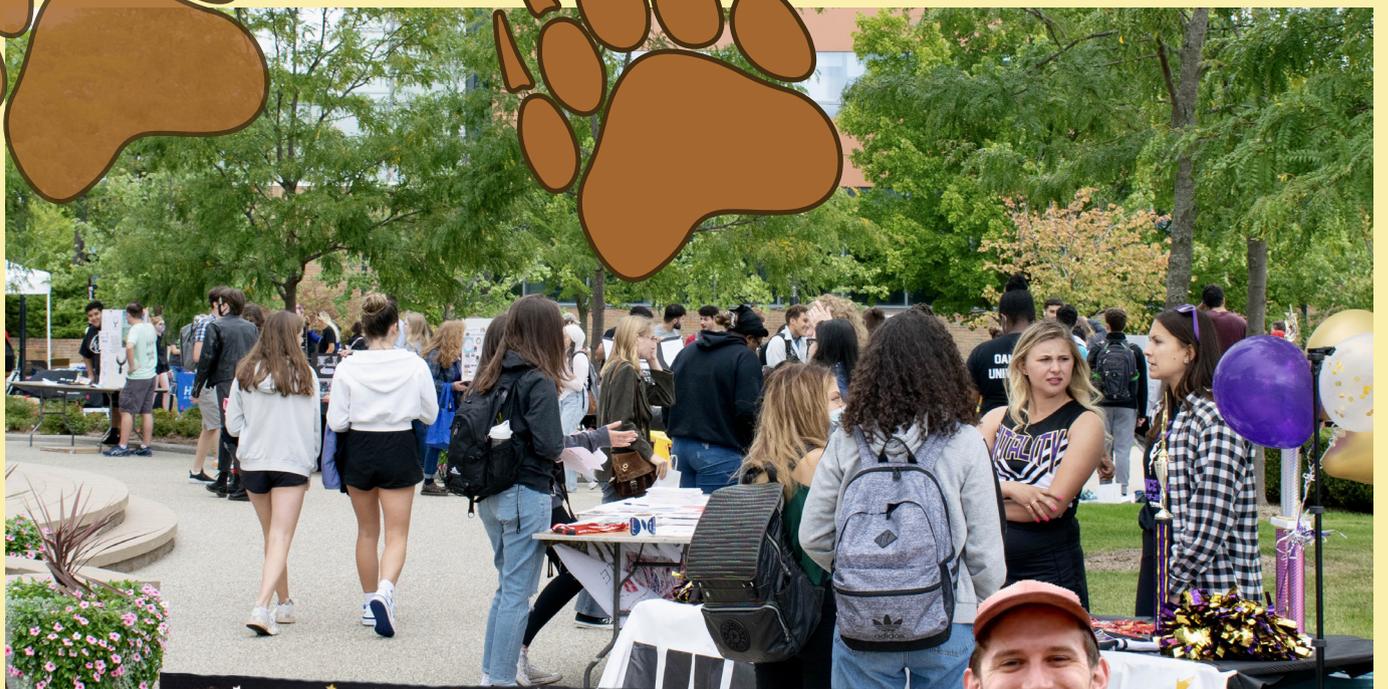
OU Credit Union Platinum Plus Visa cardholders will earn 1% cash back on all purchases. Cash back is not earned on tax payments, any unauthorized charges or transactions, cash advances, convenience checks, balance transfers, or fees of any kind. Account must be in good standing to redeem cash back. Returns result in the loss of cash back equal to the amount returned. Negative cash back will be given if returns or credits exceed purchases. Federally insured by NCUA.

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
Credit Union



# es new students to OU

Story by Rachel Yim  
Design by Bridget Janis  
Pictures by Noora Neiroukh  
and Maggie Willard



## Professor Peter Markus talks love, grief, family in new poetry book

**JEFF THOMAS**

*Editor-in-Chief*

Creative Writing Professor and award winning author Peter Markus has released his first collection of poetry entitled “When Our Fathers Return to Us as Birds.” The new book, published by Wayne State University Press as part of their “Made in Michigan Writer Series,” chronicles Markus’ experience caring for his dying father.

Reminiscent of Jack Gilbert, Marie Howe and Sharon Olds — with this collection, Markus brings the reader in and walks them through some of the darkest moments of his life. In doing so, he shines a light that both the living and the dead can see. This is our interview.

**Jeff Thomas:** This book revolves around the death and dying of your father. When did you begin working on these poems? Was it before or after your father passed away?

**Peter Markus:** My father’s health took a turn for the worse six years ago ... when he ended up losing the ability to walk and was bedridden for the final three years of his life. It was hard to see this ... As a way of honoring my father’s life ... Every morning I began my day by reading poetry and shortly thereafter my own poems started coming to me ... If anything, after he was gone, I found that I had now even more to say.

**JT:** As an author you’re known primarily for fiction like “We Make Mud” and “Bob, or Man on Boat.” What made poetry the right form for you to illuminate the experience of losing your father?

**PM:** It wasn’t a choice ... I woke up each day ... to this sentence that was constantly in



PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER MARKUS

OU Creative Writing Professor Peter Markus. His new book “When Our Fathers Return to Us as Birds” details the death and dying of his father.

my head: My father is dying in a house across the river. Or maybe: In a house across the river my father is dying. Or maybe this: Across the river my father is dying in a house. There’s always some other way to say it, but it ends up being the same thing. I couldn’t escape what was happening to my father ... I could have walked away, or turned away, but I chose to be present in his life and in his death and to look closer ... To make something up about it? That was out of the question. To invent something, to project a fiction onto what was going on, no way, no how ... I had to tell the truth and poetry was the way to do it.

**JT:** For a work as significant as this collection, what did the style shift from fiction to poetry mean to you as an author? Was it challenging?

**PM:** The shift in form or genre happened naturally and the only challenge was me seeing myself as a “poet” ... When you break any book down, for me, it’s all just pages, it’s all just sentences, it’s all just words on the page, though in this new book I paid less attention to language ... and more to telling the truth.

**JT:** As a whole, this collection is grounded in the tangible. What was it about taking grief and attaching it to the physical world around you that was so necessary for telling the stories in this collection?

**PM:** Nouns are good food ... I’m all about grounding, in this case, grief or love or suffering or the spiritual even through the ordinary language of this place that I call home and this place that I write about: the river, the mill, the fish, the trees, the birds, etc. ... I experienced my father and his death and my love for him through these words, all nouns: river, house, birds, among any number of others.

**JT:** In past works like “We Make Mud”, you’ve heavily fixated on words like father, mother and brother. How has your perception of the meaning of those words changed after experiencing the loss of your father?

**PM:** How can a word such as father or mother or brother or son NOT be charged with meaning? But also this: how to move beyond “my father” to make it be, as the title of this book says, “Our Fathers.” That’s what I am hoping takes place when a reader, a stranger to me, takes this book up into their hands and finds meaning in its pages. In the end, I’m not sure my relationship to such words has changed, but certainly these words are charged words.

**JT:** There’s humor and levity in these pages, but overall this collection is concerned with heavy topics like death and grieving. One poem that sticks out as going against that grain is “On My Daughter’s Twenty-Third Birthday.” Why was this poem, which is a retrospective about arriving as a father in your own right, important to include in this collection?

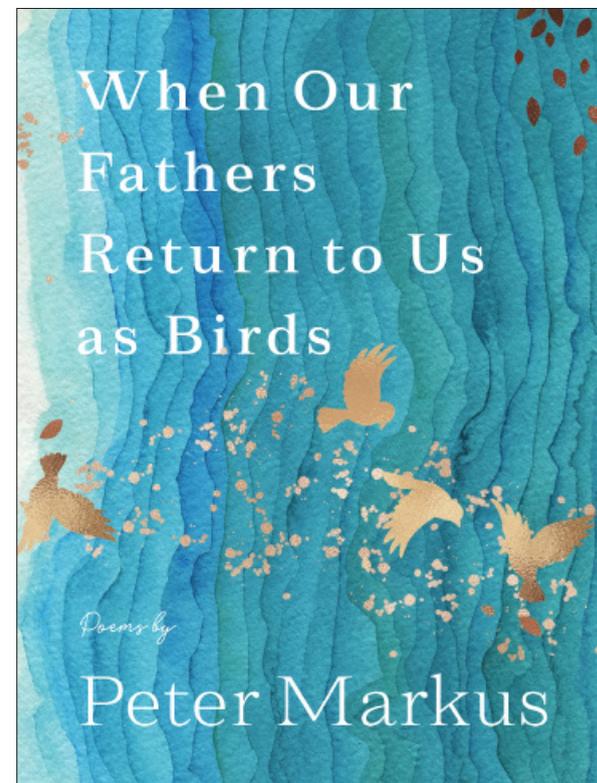


PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER MARKUS  
The cover of Peter Markus’ new collection of poetry, “When Our Fathers Return to Us as Birds.”

**PM:** That poem is important to me because of who it’s about — my daughter ... I relearned the power of the alphabet alongside my daughter saying her ABCs. That was over 25 years ago, I must say, but the lessons learned remain the same. Language, in short, shapes experience.

**JT:** What did you learn about your father while writing these poems?

**PM:** What I learned about my father is that he was just a man too ... When you see someone dying and in such a vulnerable state ... Things break down to the most basic elements of what it means to live and die ... I think these poems speak to that better than I can in this conversation.

**JT:** You made a point to be present during and witness firsthand tremendously difficult moments at the end of your father’s life. What do you think we gain when we choose not to look away?

**PM:** I think our most potent material, as writers, comes from those experiences that we might want to turn away from ... In the end, poetry and music and song, it’s all there to help us get through the day, to help us make sense, to give us something tangible to even hold. When I hold this book that bears my name on its spine, a name that is also my father’s name and also is the name of my son, I am holding a piece of my father.

# People of OU: woman of many talents Dr. Doris Plantus

**GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH**  
*Campus Editor*

Professor. Mother. Bilingual Author. Musician. Artist. Winemaker. Auto mechanic. Proud owner of two goats. Excellence in Teaching Award recipient. Woman of numerous talents.

These are just a few of the many ways one could describe Dr. Doris Plantus, a professor in the Department of English since 2009.

A single mother of two boys, Plantus worked hard to provide for her sons, making auto parts for GM in her garage for six cents apiece and taking a job cooking before she went back to school to earn her Ph.D. in English.

“Well, happily, after all of this struggle, I got my Ph.D. at age fifty and that’s where my career at Oakland [University] starts,” Plantus said.

Shortly after earning her doctorate, Plantus began teaching courses for the Department of English and Honors College. Bible as Literature, a course she created and continues to teach, has remained a popular student favorite. Plantus was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award in 2012.

Emphasizing interdisciplinary thinking

in all of her courses, Plantus encourages students to think — not feel — when exploring the contents of her class.

“My philosophy of teaching is teaching students how to think and not what to think. I never tell them, ‘This is the only way you must look at this.’ I expose them to all kinds of ideas, and encourage them to use their minds to think things through rather than feel their way through subjects, which I think is kind of a real characteristic of our contemporary times,” Plantus said.

“People always default to how they feel. And I think, it contributes to a lot of strife and misunderstanding and angry discourse because people are trying to express knowledge through their feelings, rather than learning how to think about something and then having the language skills to put it in the right context and perspective, with respect for history and philosophy and other cultures and other times so that it takes us out of our very, self-involved activities.”

Embracing her Romanian heritage, Plantus is the author of a novella titled “Sihastul” which was published in both English and Romanian. As a bilingual writer, Plantus has also translated Romanian literature to the

English language.

Outside of academia, Plantus plays six different instruments: the mandolin, accordion and hammered dulcimer to name a few. Using art to express her passion for life, she paints Eastern Orthodox iconography and makes sculptures using stones from all over the world.

Dabbling in culinary crafts, Plantus also loves to cook, make homemade sausage, as well as honor family traditions by vinifying an Eastern European wine derived from red grapes.

Happiest existing in a pastoral setting, Plantus shared that she takes care of two pygmy goats, Raphael and Theo, on her property.

“They’re just a delight, they follow me wherever I go, they get in my house, they do tricks...They keep me very humble because I have to get up at five in the morning and feed them and make sure they have hay. The loft in my garage is filled with 20 bales of hay and straw,” Plantus said.

“They’re quite interesting and they



PHOTO COURTESY OF DORIS PLANTUS  
Dr. Plantus has been a professor in the Department of English since 2009.

have a good life, and it gives me pause. It lets me reflect on the simplicity of life and what people used to have to do and still do that have animals.”

As a woman who promotes interdisciplinary thinking in the classroom, Dr. Plantus certainly approaches her life outside of OU in a multifaceted fashion as well.

“I really love life in all of its different aspects,” Plantus said.

# People of OU: Artist, Custodian Ruigen Cai

**SARAH GUDENAU**  
*Features Editor*

Artist Ruigen Cai has worked as a custodian at Oakland University for 18 years. Dedicated to the OU community and always focused on a project, Cai is now working toward the expansion of OU’s international exchange student program. Here’s his story.

Cai moved to the U.S. from his home in China in 1999. He started working as a custodian at OU where he spends most of his time.

When he’s not working, he has a hobby of oil painting. A talented artist, his first painting in 1976 titled “The Wonder of the Sea and Mountains” was featured in the Capital Art Museum in Beijing.

He’s recently picked up the paintbrush again in 2019. Cai dedicates his artwork to his friends and the people around him.

For example, when an old friend divorced her husband and her mental health was suffering, he painted “Walking Out of Loneliness.” “Nature and Life” was for a friend of Cai’s who enjoys deer hunting, and Cai painted “Offshore” for his boss when he retired — the work still hangs in a first floor office in O’Dowd Hall.

“These works are based on daily inspiration and life themes,” Cai said.

In addition to his love of artwork, Cai is passionate

about the expansion of OU’s international student program. In 2011, Cai wrote to the president of the university proposing his plan for expanding the program specifically for Chinese students as a potential solution to urgent funding issues.

“China is now the second largest economy in the world, and many Chinese student families are able to pay tuition and living expenses in the United States.

In recent years, due to the theft of new American technologies and being surpassed by China, the U.S. government has set higher thresholds for Chinese students’ visas, making many students who want to study in the U.S. unable to obtain visas. It is especially difficult to obtain visas for extremely high universities. Our OU is ranked a third-rate university in the United States by the Ministry of Education of China, so this is an excellent opportunity. It is not within the high threshold range of the visa office of the U.S. consulate, and it is easier to obtain a visa,” Cai said.

Due to the present decline in overall enrollment at OU and the projected revenue decline of more than \$17 million, Cai is once again suggesting his plan to the administration.

Despite his intention to retire from OU early next year, Cai is willing to stay and assist the school in recruiting Chinese students. He’s interested in setting up an international student

office in China and has even offered to use his Shanghai office to assist initially.

“I very much look forward to this proposal to help our university, especially when the virus pandemic is still high in the United States. The difficulties will not be resolved in a relatively long period of time.”

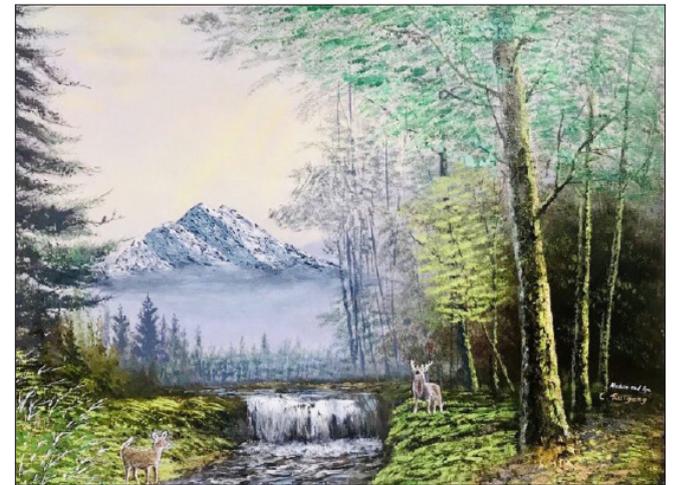


PHOTO COURTESY OF RUIGEN CAI  
An oil painting titled “Nature and Life.” Cai has worked as a custodian at OU for 18 years and plans to retire early next year.

# WXOU Main Stage headliner brings music to The Habitat

**TORI COKER**

*Marketing Director*

Folk band The Heartstrings Project has been carving out a meaningful place for themselves in the world through music and mindfulness since 2015. As the headliners of WXOU's 2021 Fall Main Stage event, they're ready to introduce themselves, their art and their message to the Oakland University community.

Formed by brothers Luke and Elias Wygodny in 2015, The Heartstrings Project was borne from the former's passion for songwriting and the latter's meditational expertise. The resulting safe space where they and other New York artists could all gather to forge community and find and express themselves eventually developed into the band that exists today.

"The intention was to explore what keeps our hearts in tune, and that can be through music, or art, or mindfulness, or [...] anything that gave someone an outlet to kind of tune themselves up and also tune into themselves," Elias Wygodny said. "Then it turned into us writing this music and continuing to write together."

Inspired by this purpose and eager to introduce such meaningful self-exploration through art into her own life, Broadway actress and fellow singer-songwriter Marina Pires made the group a trio in 2017.

"This was, for me, an incredible, beautiful opportunity to jump into their project and revisit the tuning that they had in mind for myself," Pires said. "I'm originally from Brazil, and my love of three-part harmony comes from the country music [there]. We started singing in three-part harmony together and it

just clicked — I thought, 'man, I would love to be a part of this collective and sing with these brothers for the rest of my life.'"

The band's debut album "shadow people" released in 2020, created without any knowledge of how its overarching themes — from facing fear and love in relationships to finding healing through feeling — would resonate so deeply amid the global pandemic.

"'shadow people' is that feeling when you're walking around and you feel almost like you're a robot and you don't feel like you're in control of yourself anymore, you're just going through the motions," Luke

Wygodny said. "The fact that [the release] happened in 2020 — [the album] has a different meaning to me now than it did when we wrote it a couple years ago."

Beyond this band, the trio are also expanding their presence in the school system through their educational program Heartstrings Kids. With an album on Spotify and a series of classes both virtual and in-person, the program consists of a "folk-mindfulness kids duo" performing original songs, meditations and more to help engage children within the aforementioned "heart-tuning" process.

"That's a huge premise behind our programming — using music and mindfulness and movement to help children learn about their emotions, each other, and how to be in the world," Elias Wygodny said.

Between extending their creative outreach through "shadow people" and Heartstrings Kids, the group has managed to find community even within such lonely times. They're now eager to see how this sense of unity expands their sound in person, with the time to perform live again finally upon them.

Members of the OU community are invited to take part in this celebration of music and mindfulness on Thursday, Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. when The Heartstrings Project takes the stage in OU's The Habitat in the basement of the Oakland Center.

"There's nothing better than being with people in the room and sharing stories in real time, feeling the energy of the space," Luke Wygodny said. "I think that's something that people can look forward to — to come hear us play music, but also to all be together in the same space and celebrate music together."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HEARTSTRINGS PROJECT  
From left to right: Luke Wygodny, Marina Pires and Elias Wygodny of The Heartstrings Project.

# Education in America: Reading the elephant in the room

**JOEY COLBY**

*Contributor*

If I told you that the majority of American adults would have significant difficulty reading the novel "Hatchet" by Gary Paulsen, would you believe me? I didn't believe it until I was shown a 2020 study from the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy. The study stated that 54% of Americans aged 16 to 74 read at below a sixth grade level.

A sixth grade reading level as determined by the gold standard metric in reading comprehension would be considered "conversational English for consumers." This metric is known as the Flesch-Kincaid reading scale. The metric was developed for the U.S. Navy in 1975 and is the U.S. Military standard in testing reading comprehension and ability. The Flesch-Kincaid reading scale is commonly used and found in word processing software such as Microsoft Office.

While longboarding around campus, I took the time to bring this statistic up in casual conversation with students at Oakland University. I asked what they felt created this lack of reading proficiency for the majority of American adults. Responses varied, but circled back to the public school system. The lack of funding, poor administration, teacher unions, focus on

standardized tests and inequality in school districts were common answers. One cynic who wished to be anonymous responded with "Well, Americans are just dumb."

The torrent of different responses made it clear that the answer is complex. If there is a solution to this problem, it is multifaceted. Addressing the funding disparities in school districts is likely to assist in alleviating some of the problems with reading proficiency. It will not solve the lack of reading proficiency for the majority of adults, though.

The low reading proficiency for the majority of American adults has long reaching effects. The inability to discern misinformation from information. The incapacity to comprehend the biases in multinational cable news. The citations of anecdotal medical evidence being purveyed as fact. The fervent anti-intellectual movement has lodged itself around science and climate change denial.

A significant question I asked myself was how are reading proficiency and health outcomes linked. The term health literacy came up in my Google search.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) states on their website;

"The U.S. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) defines health literacy as "the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and

understand basic health information needed to make appropriate health decisions."

The American Medical Association (AMA) recommends that educational material involving health be written at or below a sixth grade level. Study after study will show the well documented link between low healthcare literacy and negative health outcomes.

In short, it is inarguable that many Americans are suffering economically and medically due to how linked health literacy and reading proficiency are.

I went into one of the Discord servers for Oakland University and asked students in the General Channel, "what is healthcare literacy, in your own words, just tell me uwu."

One of the moderators, a student who uses the handle Rouleaux, responded stating "When you know how your insurance works."

Another student under the handle of Brandon B The English Dude stated "going on a limb I'd assume it means you can have a fluent conversation about healthcare and mostly be able to discuss, read, or talk about it without being completely lost."

Both answers are correct. Being able to understand how your health insurance works and being able to have a fluent conversation with your medical practitioner are essential aspects of healthcare literacy. Unfortunately, a

significant population of Americans lack the ability to do this. The pandemic continues to strain and burden an already heavily stressed healthcare system.

There isn't a simple solution to addressing the low levels of reading proficiency and health literacy. Bringing awareness to the elephant in the room is the first step to fixing this American tragedy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM  
Low reading proficiency has reaching effects, such as the incapacity to comprehend bias & discern misinformation.

# James Wan returns to horror films with ‘Malignant’

**BRIDGET JANIS**

*Managing Editor*

Horror movies have just not been hitting that much lately - it's been hard for any film to come out on top. "Malignant" is bringing back that horror movie hype many have been needing.

The film was for sure a jaw dropping film, as there were so many plot twists presented.

The film follows Madison (Annabelle Wallis) as she experiences a sort of paralyzed feeling in which she sees a different version of life where she watches people die from a serial killer.

She comes with a horrific past, and Gabriel was a big part of it, which she tried to forget. She lives her days being such in a dream world, watching as Gabriel goes on a killing spree.

As cops investigate what is actually going on, Madison tries to lend a helping hand, but no one's really listening.

To solve the case, we have to look into why Madison is experiencing these things and what kind of past she actually holds.

When I first saw the trailer for this film I believed it was going to be a supernatural, "Conjuring" type movie. That was a valid thought as James Wan is the director, but this film had a lot of misleading resolutions that could have been it. Wan, known for "The Conjuring," "Insidious" and "Saw" took a different approach to this film.

While I am a big fan of Wan and will always see every movie he makes, this one was interesting because the plot was kind of ridiculous — but in

a good way. It's a completely peculiar plot, and definitely something audiences have not seen before.

"Saw" was very bold of Wan, and "Malignant" is the same way. The creativity alone is astonishing — he provided so many plot twists in one film to always keep the audience interested. Wan deserves to be making horror movies.

It started out basic and kinda dragged on, but once the audience started to catch on, and the plot was developed more, it had an effect on the viewers. Wan truly had us in the first half.

Viewers were impressed with the course the plot took, and while it took a while to get there, it was the perfect timing for everything to be revealed. The over the top writing was well done and nothing about the film was too corny or stereotypical.

The film will stand out for it's great twist and crazy ideas — the overall production was well put together for the most part. Only some sections were poorly executed. But, there was this sense of moving forward with the characters as things were revealed. There was a doctor and old films from the past show during parts of the movie and I really enjoyed those scenes.

There are some critiques to the film, like why there were so many random bursts of music? It almost ruined the mood sometimes. There were dramatic parts that all of a sudden had upbeat music.

Some aspects didn't make sense but they had to be careful to not reveal too much, so that the plot twists were still surprising.

"Malignant" is for people who love a messed up kind of horror and thriller film. Any horror fans not seeing this movie are missing out on the crazy things

that go on in Wan's head.

Audiences are definitely left with the feeling of: "what did I just watch?"

**Rating: 4/5 stars**



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB.COM  
"Malignant" brings viewers the horror movie hype they've been missing.

# Fall 2021 highly anticipated YA book releases

**D'JUANNA LESTER**

*Senior Reporter*

With summer coming to a close, many young adult (YA) book lovers anticipate the fall 2021 releases. Fantasy fans are looking forward to many books coming out in September and October. Here's what fans are waiting for.

**"Defy the Night": Sept. 14**

From Brigid Kemmerer, author of the "Cursebreaker" trilogy, comes the first book in her new YA fantasy series. A kingdom is on the path of destruction with rebellion brewing against the unyielding royals when the sickness can no longer be contained. It's a story about a pair of princely brothers and apothecary apprentice Tessa Cade. Cade embarks on a journey when desperation leads to her sneaking into the palace to confront a king thrust into power after his parents' assassination.

**"White Smoke": Sept. 14**

This chilling thriller by Tiffany D. Jackson is a modern retelling of the classic "The Haunting of Hill House" story meets "Get Out." Here, a girl named Mari is running from her past and ends up moving to Cedarville with her blended family. The city has its secrets and voices only Mari can hear.

**"Dark Rise": Sept. 21**

This is the first book in a new series by C.S. Pacat where a boy named Will is on the run from the men who killed his mother. He is taken and forced

to adapt to a world with a war against the Dark as London is being terrorized by the Dark King's dramatic return.

**"This is Why we Lie": Sept. 21**

The mystery novel by Gabriella Lepore tells the story of Colleen O'Dell's body being discovered floating off the shore of her town. When Jenna's best friend becomes a suspect, she uncovers devious scandals inside Rookwood Reform School, where Adam is a student. The pair must do whatever it takes as secrets unravel.

**"Vespertine": Oct. 5**

This is a dark YA fantasy by "Sorcery of Thorns" author Margaret Rogerson. It follows main character Artemisia in training to be a Gray Sister, a cleanser of the deceased bodies in order to keep them from raising angry spirits, desperate for revenge. She goes on a journey to discover the mystery of saints and dark magic after awakening a revenant, a being that threatens to possess her.

**"Jade Fire Gold": Oct. 12**

A deep look into Chinese mythology by author June C.L. Tan, "Jade Fire Gold" tells the story of Ahn and Altan, two outcast characters who find a way to get what they want and need each other to do so. Altan is a lost heir who needs Ahn to help reclaim the throne, while Ahn needs Altan to help unlock her past and her confusing magical abilities. This book is perfect for fans of "The Bone Witch" and "We Hunt The Flame."

**"Our Violent Ends": Nov. 16**

Written by Chloe Gong, "Our Violent Ends" is the sequel to "These Violent Delights." The year is 1927, and Shanghai is near the brink of revolution. With rival gangs and twisted romance, this Romeo and Juliet retelling is sure to keep fans reeling until the very last page.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOODREADS.COM  
Many YA book lovers are anticipating fall releases such as "White Smoke".

## Women's soccer falls to MSU

**BRITTANY KEARFOTT**  
Sports Reporter

Women's soccer's match against Michigan State University (MSU) ended in an unfortunate shutout loss on Thursday, Sept. 9 at the Oakland Soccer Field.

This marks the Grizzlies fourth consecutive year losing to MSU. OU's women played well and fought hard — their teamwork and communication was on par. Ultimately, MSU played harder and more aggressive, resulting in their two goals on OU's women.

Grizz, The Golden Grizzlies and supporting Oakland University sports teams started off the game with a march accompanied by chants and cheers led by the Oakland University Dance Team starting at Elliot Tower and ending at the stands.

MSU started off aggressive, scoring their first goal less than four minutes into the game. While OU was able to hold them off from scoring more during the first half, MSU was able to slide their second goal in with less than two minutes remaining on the board before halftime.

This loss puts the team in a hard place with their overall record at 1-6 at this point in the normal season. The team performed 5-3-2 (win-loss-tie) in Horizon League's preseason. They were predicted to place third in preseason, but finished sixth.

The preseason was a conference-only season — meaning they played in fewer games than they would during their normal season. Based on preseason predictions and performances, the women's soccer team is currently down in their normal season's performance.

Midfielder/Forward Sami Lopez and Midfielder Karabo Dhlamini had two shots on goal during the game, unfortunately without any landing. Additionally, forward Jessica Shears had one shot on goal.

In a postgame interview with Head Coach Juan Pablo Favero curated by #GrizzVision, Favero praised the MSU girls and coaching staff.

"I don't like what we're going through, losing," he said. "But, I like where we are heading — I think these games will prepare us."



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD  
Midfielder Macey Wierenga trying to slip a defender against Michigan State on Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021.

Is this a peek into what is to come in the later season?

They were able to tilt the pitch after halftime, giving MSU a bigger run for their money with fewer shots on goal. Is this what we are to expect as they face off with other schools later in the season?

Favero mentioned the team needs to hunt for the ball and get more defensive. Fans alike have vocalized the same and compared MSU's defensive strength and ball possession as OU's weakness.

The interviewer asked about who makes the schedule — the team is facing teams such as MSU, Green Bay and Purdue. Favero blamed himself but reasoned.

"It was intentional," he said "We feel our team is ready for this kind of schedule. I don't think our record should be where it is at but we could have sat back. For us, we got a team that can play in this league. Our team has answered that call."

The Oakland University women's soccer team will be back on the pitch Sunday at 2 p.m. facing Kent State University at home.

## A closer look at Finn Jurak

**CHRISTIAN TATE**  
Sports Reporter

Born in Canberra, Australia, Oakland University's redshirt junior goalie Finn Jurak has made quite a name for himself as a player who knows what it takes to win.

In 2020, he played seven games for the Golden Grizzlies and notched a 5-1-1 record during those games. With a total of 21 saves and 10 goals allowed on the season, he was an efficient defensive anchor who did his job every night out there on the pitch.

He allowed an average of 1.38 goals per game while he was standing in the box, and was able to record a save percentage of 67% over his 650 minutes of play during the 2020 season. When asked what goes through his mind while he's playing on the field, Jurak had this to say:

"Before games I'm quite nervous, however, once I step on the pitch and cross that white line I just try to enjoy myself and focus on helping the team win."

2020 isn't the first time Jurak has shined on the pitch, however. He's been a star player for quite awhile now.

A four-time recipient of the Athlete of the Year award during his time in high school and two-time athlete of the year at Dickson College, Jurak has never been one to slouch on the field. During his time in the National First Grade Premier League, where he played for the club Belconnen United Blue Devils, Jurak helped the Canberra United Academy reach the Kanga Cup U18 Championship for two consecutive years in 2012 and 2013, and once again in 2015.

Individually, Jurak was awarded the 2017 First Grade Players Award, the Coach's Players Award and the Club Goalkeeper of the Year award, as well. He moved on to succeed on other teams and explore other ventures, which eventually landed him on the Oakland University men's soccer team — where he plays today.

During his 2020 season, in addition to the accomplishments already mentioned, Jurak helped to anchor the Golden Grizzlies' defense in two separate shutouts over both Robert Morris and Green Bay. He earned both Player and Defensive Player of the Week honors for his amazing defensive play in both of the

mentioned shutout games, and was named to the 2020-2021 United Soccer Coaches NCAA Division I Men's North Region second team.

When asked if he had any sports idols or someone that he modeled his style after, Jurak said:

"Growing up I was a field player and wanted to play like Ronaldo, then I became a goalkeeper and looked up to Neuer and Iker Casillas."

Manuel Neuer, goalkeeper and captain for both the Bundesliga club Bayern Munich and German National team, is considered one of the greatest goalkeepers in the history of the sport. Although he is retired, Casillas is also regarded as one of the greatest goalkeepers of all time — and there's no doubt Jurak has tried to emulate these two while he's out on the pitch.

When Jurak was asked about who or what team would be his dream opponent, he said: "it would have to be against Manchester United at Old Trafford."

Off the field, Jurak likes to do a variety of things.

"I like to swim at the beach, hang out with my mates and play guitar," he said.

Overall, Jurak is a spectacular soccer player and seems to be an even better person. Explosive and focused on the field, but down to earth and relaxed off, Finn Jurak is capable of leaving every team he faces in shambles, and he's only just getting started.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSE JUAREZ  
Finn Jurak lunging for a save on March 18, 2021 against Cleveland State.

# Men's soccer wins against the Mastodons

**CHRISTIAN TATE**

*Sports Reporter*

The Oakland University men's soccer team dominated with a 2-0 victory in their league opener against the Purdue Fort Wayne Mastodons, using a mix of both their offensive talent and stifling defensive efforts.

Both teams played with tremendous effort on both sides of the ball, leading to an exciting back and forth full of rough plays, exciting rallies and lots of whistles from the referees. With a combined 25 fouls called between the two teams and three yellow cards given out, this game was an all-out physical affair for the ages.

First things first, the offense in this game took center stage. Both teams were in incredible form as they were looking to score every time down the field, regardless of the defensive squad trying to stop them. Over the course of the game, there were a combined 26 shots on target for both teams — 11 for the Mastodons and 15 for the Golden Grizzlies.

The first of the two goals was scored by midfielder Ville Ahola, assisted by Noah Jensen 31 minutes into the game. Ahola had one shot throughout the entire game, and he definitely made it count by giving the Golden Grizzlies a lead they would hold for 52 minutes.

Mikey Ketteman would then score at the 83-minute

mark to seal the game away and notch the win. The Fort Wayne Mastodons were no slouches on offense either, but the difference maker for the game was Alessio Carbone.

Carbone, the goalie for the Golden Grizzlies, had two crucial saves that kept the Mastodons scoreless despite their best efforts. His goalkeeping played a vital part in the winning process, but he also helped by being a persistent focal point in the flow of both the offense and the defense — receiving and giving passes, setting up offensive pushes with his passing and ball placement and helping to direct traffic for his team.

Communication was a big factor in both the win and loss for both teams. The Golden Grizzlies had top tier communication all throughout the game, while the Mastodons seemed to struggle. Missed passes, calls for plays going unanswered and other avoidable mistakes plagued the Mastodons offensively and their defense suffered from the same mistakes.

Speaking of the defense, let's talk about the backbone of the game. There were two periods of scoreless play during this game. The first 30 minutes went off the clock without a score, followed by a 52 minute period of solid defensive play from both teams.

For those 52 minutes, the game was an evenly-matched affair that could have gone either way. Seemingly a war of attrition more than a test of

skill, the Mastodons simply fell first and allowed the game clinching score.

Overall, this game was a phenomenal showcase of teamwork and communication. It showed just how important it is for every player to be on the same page. It can make or break a team's chances of winning, and helped to propel the Grizzlies to a win.

The men's soccer team will return to the field on Tuesday, Sept. 14th to face off against the University



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN TATE  
Noah Jensen pushes the ball upfield against Purdue Fort Wayne last Saturday.

## 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.

Payment  
Due



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

# VIRTUAL FALL AND ENGINEERING/IT CAREER FAIRS

## Virtual Fall Career Fair

Tuesday, September 28

3 - 6 p.m. | Online via Handshake

Explore your potential in business, liberal arts, human resources, health sciences, natural sciences and nursing.

## Virtual Engineering and IT Career Fair

Wednesday, September 29

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Online via Handshake

Explore your potential in engineering, computer science, information technology and management information systems.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT

[oakland.joinhandshake.com/career\\_fairs](https://oakland.joinhandshake.com/career_fairs)

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

## CAREER SERVICES

North Foundation Hall, Room 154

[oakland.edu/careerservices](https://oakland.edu/careerservices) | (248) 370-3250 | [careers@oakland.edu](mailto:careers@oakland.edu)

Follow us on social!

@oucareers

