

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

Music, Theatre and Dance



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News and updates from Music, Theatre and Dance

For information about our upcoming performances visit the [MTD homepage](#) on the Oakland University website.

Working in the Arts: Dr Ellen Peck receives a Fulbright Scholarship





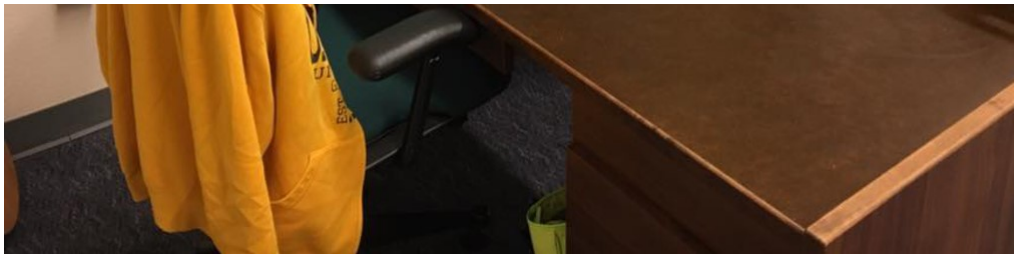
Alumna **Ellen Peck** (BA '95), associate professor of theatre at Jacksonville State University in Alabama, is spending the current academic year researching and teaching at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University in Romania as a Fulbright Scholar.

Peck, who grew up in Bloomfield Hills where her parents still live, and attended Mercy High School in Farmington Hills, originally planned to be a musical theatre major, but she was encouraged by OU faculty to shift her focus to behind the scenes. They saw her strengths, and recognized she would be great on a production team. "At first I was devastated," said Peck, "but I began to see I really did have skills. **Susan Barrett**, the design professor at that time, encouraged me to go into lighting. When I graduated I had the option of both lighting and stage managing. I ended up going into stage management because I enjoyed being close to the show."

[Read more](#)

Working in the Arts: November 2016 Alumni News





Maria (Suvak) Turchyn (BM '16) has just launched her teaching career. She accepted a position teaching elementary general music at Roy Elementary in Roy, WA. Turchyn wrote, "I'm so grateful for the mentors I've had supporting me during this process." Although she's on the other side of the country, Turchyn took her Grizzly memorabilia with her, as you can see in this photo.

Emily Maas (BM '16) also began her first teaching job this fall. She accepted a position at University Prep Science and Math School in Detroit as their high school music teacher. Mass wrote on her social media page, " I will be teaching guitar, piano, general music and composition in a technology driven setting, which I am excited for. Thanks to all who helped me get to this point. First year of teaching let's go!"

[Read more](#)

[There's More to Theatre Than Mainstage](#)



At OU, not every theatre student is involved in the program's five annual mainstage shows, but they all have the opportunity to work on at least one production every semester by participating in a Second Stage production. Performers, designers and technicians can be hands-on even in their first semester, which is not always the case in a larger, less student-centered program.

By November and December the work is done and the students are ready. The show the public sees may not be as complex as a mainstage production, but the faculty never loses sight of the fact that presenting before an audience is essential to our students' growth as artists. However, these productions are about more than stage time. Working on a Second Stage show has specific educational benefits that allow students to develop their skills.

[Read more](#)

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Oakland University
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