

# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

APRIL  
**10**  
2013



## JUST PASSIN' THE TIME

Students enjoy a weekend full of fun at Oakland University

**PAGES 10 & 11**

**CAMPUS** OUSC PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT SWORN IN **PAGE 5**

**SPORTS** OAKLAND AIKIDO CLUB KICKS BUTT **PAGE 12**

**LIFE** STUDENT OVERCOMES STUTTER **PAGE 17**

Students honored at BOT meeting  
**PAGE 8**

What happens when social media fails you  
**PAGE 20**

Looks like  
somebody's in  
the market for a  
**monocle.**



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# thisweek

April 10, 2013 // Volume 39 Issue 25



## on the web

See a slideshow of Tuesday's Free Food Festival — an event where students signed away their First Amendment rights in exchange for a free lunch.

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



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

**BLUDGERS, BROOMS AND GRIZZIES** // The Oakland University Quidditch Team, The Oakland Owls, practices between the Oakland Center and Kresge Library April 6. Contact president Yahawa Ashqua via email at [yzashaqu@oakland.edu](mailto:yzashaqu@oakland.edu) with any questions or to get involved with the team.

SEND US YOUR  
SUBMISSION FOR  
NEXT WEEK'S PHOTO OF  
THE WEEK AND BE ENTERED  
TO WIN TICKETS TO SEE  
BO BURNHAM LIVE  
AT THE ROYAL OAK  
MUSIC THEATRE  
APRIL 28!

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



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HAVING A (PIN)BALL  
The annual Michigan Pinball Expo attracted enthusiasts and students alike.



16

EAT 'EM UP, TIGERS  
Fans from all over Michigan met at Comerica Park for the Tigers' Opening Day.



18

DECKED OUT IN DENIM  
Students are breaking out the denim jackets as the temperatures slowly rise.

## POLL OF THE WEEK

Do you work a low minimum or low wage job?

- A Yes, I need to pay tuition and bills
- B Yes, but only over the summer
- C No, I'm on scholarship
- D No, my parents pay for everything

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

## LAST WEEK'S POLL

How do you help raise awareness about human rights issues like same-sex marriage?

- A) Volunteering for nonprofits  
6 votes | 7%
- B) Participating in peaceful protests  
1 vote | 3%
- C) Signing petitions  
6 votes | 20%
- D) I don't do anything  
121 votes | 70%

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### APRIL 10, 1962

Alfred G. Wilson, known at the time as "MSU-O's Father," passed away. He was buried three days later at Woodlawn Cemetery in Detroit.

### APRIL 12, 1979

Hearings began to determine if Oakland would shift to a three-credit system. The little-publicized hearings created controversy.

### APRIL 9, 2008

Physics professor Dr. Ashraf Farahat was denied re-entry into the United States after a brief trip to Canada. Students rallied to allow his passage.

## BY THE NUMBERS

MINIMUM WAGE EMPLOYMENT

\$7.25  
federal  
minimum wage

6%  
of women work  
minimum wage jobs

4%  
of men work  
minimum wage jobs

73.9  
million American workers  
had hourly jobs in 2011

25  
or younger — age of half of  
minimum wage employees

# Perspectives

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# Give Michigan more than the bare minimum

The U.S. minimum wage is currently \$7.25 an hour. A worker who clocks 40 hours a week for 52 weeks a year will make about \$15,080 — and that's before taxes.

To live comfortably, the average person needs \$20,194 between food, shelter and other basic life necessities, according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics.

It just doesn't add up.

Representative George Miller (D-Calif.) proposed the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013, which would have raised the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. House Republicans unanimously voted the proposal down. Six Democrats voted against it, while 184 voted for it.

Something needs to be done.

For the record, \$10.10 an hour would net the worker \$21,008 — just barely enough to meet the current cost of living.

In February's State of the Union Address, President Barack Obama proposed raising the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$9 an hour — still under the cost of living, but an improvement nonetheless.

While Miller's plan overshot this number, other proposals have been put in place to raise the minimum wage.

We urge Michigan to join the states raising their own minimum wage rather than waiting for the federal government to step in.

Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) said the minimum wage has lost 31 percent of its purchasing power since 1968, and pays 20 percent less than the poverty level.

Tipped employees have it worse, as their compensation of \$2.13 an hour has not increased in over 20 years.

New York decided not to wait for the federal government to step in. An agreement is in place that could potentially raise minimum wage to \$9 an hour by the start of 2016.

New Jersey may not be far behind, according to radio station New Jersey 101.5. If passed, New Jersey might raise its minimum wage to \$8.25 an hour, plus make annual increases based on inflation rates.

We urge Michigan to join the states raising their own minimum wage rather than waiting for the federal government to step in.

The National Low-Income

Housing Association found that to afford the average two-bedroom apartment of "fair market value," the renter would need to make \$30,713 a year, or about \$14.77 an hour full-time, according to Michigan Radio.

This is nearly double our current minimum wage. It would take two people both working full-time to sustain an apartment.

While Michigan's current minimum wage is \$7.40 an hour, 15 cents over the current federal minimum wage, this is not nearly enough to live on.

College students also have to worry about student loans.

The average Oakland University grad, with no scholarships, will be over \$40,000 in debt when they graduate.

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, the average starting salaries for graduating seniors has risen 3.4 percent over the past year to \$44,455.

At that rate, with the addition of the cost of living, it's going to take years to pay off student loans.

If you didn't go to college, well, good luck surviving in today's market.

*The staff editorial is written weekly by members of The Oakland Post's editorial board.*

### Corrections Corner

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please email editor@oaklandpostonline.com or call 248.370.2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

### Letters to the Editor

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



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**The Oakland Post** is always looking for fun and talented students to join our staff. Visit us in the basement of the Oakland Center or send a résumé, cover letter and clips to editor@oaklandpostonline.com to get involved.

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# Campus



NATALIE POPOVSKI/The Oakland Post

**LEFT:** Former Student Congress President Samantha Wolf swears Brandon Hanna in as OUSC president. **RIGHT:** Former OUSC Vice President Robbie Williford swears Jibran Ahmed into his new position as VP. Both Wolf and Williford will continue to work for OUSC as legislators.

## Hanna, Ahmed sworn into office

By Jon Davis  
Staff Intern

New Student Body President Brandon Hanna was sworn into Oakland University Student Congress April 8, alongside his running mate Jibran Ahmed and their new executive board.

The executive board is now made up of Student Activities Funding Board Chair Phillip Johnson, a sophomore and economics major.

The current Student Program Board Chair is Kalik Jones, a sophomore who is also the current Marketing Director for Student Video Productions.

Retaining her role as Legislative Affairs Director from the previous adminis-

stration is Michelle Alwardt, a senior majoring in political science.

Kathleen Peterson, a junior, will now serve as Multicultural Affairs Director.

The role of Financial Affairs Director will be filled by Katrina Stencel, a sophomore majoring in finance.

Ashley Monnticinlo, a sophomore double majoring in international affairs and criminal justice, will serve as Student Services Director.

Maria Arellano, a junior majoring in graphic design, will serve as Visual Communications Director.

Tim Brown, a sophomore majoring in vocal performance, will serve as Marketing Director.

Finally, the position of Adminis-

tration is Michelle Alwardt, a senior majoring in political science.

The meeting ended with Hanna's first report to his new board and legislators. In it he discusses his high hopes for the upcoming year and his confidence in his new executives.

"When choosing our board, we look for people who were going to go above and beyond the call of duty," Hanna said. "I have confidence in these people."

Ahmed also gave some words of encouragement to his new e-board and legislators.

"I am proud to be serving such a great and talented crowd of people," Ahmed said. "I am confident that they will take OUSC up top, to the next level."

## Student taken into custody after pre-trial hearing

By Natalie Popovski  
Campus Editor

Renna Douglas, an Oakland University student charged with one count of criminal sexual conduct in the third degree, was handcuffed and taken into custody April 1 after her pre-trial hearing at the Oakland County Circuit Court.

According to court documents, Douglas had a sexual relationship with a 15-year-old female between June and August 2012. The relationship took place while Douglas, 23, was coaching a lacrosse team at Lake Orion High School, according to court documents.

Douglas pled no contest to the original charges, and Judge Daniel P. O'Brien ac-

cepted her plea.

Douglas recently broke the conditions of her bond, according to a court document titled "People's Emergency Motion to Revoke Defendant's Bond Pursuant to MCR 6.106."

Prosecuting attorney Sara Pope-Starnes said they received notice March 27 that Douglas made threatening comments regarding the victim's father. As a result, police put extra surveillance on the victim's father's home and an order to monitor Douglas with a GPS tether was granted at the April 1 hearing.

Douglas also made contact with the victim, which is a violation of her \$15,000 personal bond, according to the People's Emergency Motion to Revoke Defendant's

Bond Pursuant to MCR 6.106.

According to the document, the victim's brother told his father that on March 9, he saw Douglas with his sister at his mother's apartment.

The victim told Oakland County Sheriff detectives they were together that day, have met two other times and have been communicating through a shared email account.

On March 20, the prosecution requested that the court revoke the defendant's bond, and her \$100,000 bail amount, which was later granted.

Douglas was arrested one day later.

### Commenting on the case

Defense attorney Cheryl Carpenter and prosecuting attorney, Jessica Cooper, declined to comment on the case at this time.

Douglas' sentencing is set for May 6 at 8:30 a.m., and criminal sexual conduct in the third degree is punishable with up to 15 years in prison.

## POLICE FILES

### iPhone 4S 16GB was stolen

A student stated she was at a party on campus from the night of April 5 to the morning of April 6. She was with a group of friends from the basketball team.

When the student tried to locate her phone in the morning, it was missing. At 12:45 a.m. the student tried to call her missing cell phone, but it was off. Her friends helped her search, but they could not find it.

After contacting Verizon to deactivate the iPhone, the student went to the Verizon store to see if there was any activity. A text message and phone call were sent to a Pontiac phone number at 1:34 a.m. There were no text messages or phone calls returned.

The iPhone is still missing.

### OUPD responded to a call on a reference to a possible fight

A student and her sister had been in an argument concerning the student's girlfriend. The argument escalated into a physical fight. The student's sister left campus just before the student's girlfriend entered the dorm.

The student and her girlfriend began to have an argument as well. It did not become a physical fight.

OUPD ordered the student and her girlfriend to end any further contact for the night. The RA said the hall director would be notified.

### OU police officers dispatched to West Vandenburg Hall for domestic assault

A male student wanted to enter into a female student's dorm because he had left his sweatpants inside. The student who lived in the dorm said he could only come if he returned some of her clothes.

The male student forced his way into the dorm, and the female student was pushed into the metal bed frame. She then kneed him in the groin and he left.

He returned with her clothing, and she gave him his sweatpants. He then left and did not return her clothing.

Officers arrested the male student, and he was transported to Oakland County Jail.

—Compiled by Haley Kotwicki,  
Copy Editor



Photo illustration by DYLAN DULBERG/The Oakland Post

# A free meal for your rights

By Dylan Dulberg  
Multimedia Editor

Hosted by The Honors College course HC 204 — Free Expression and the First Amendment — the First Amendment Free Food Festival occurred Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. between the Oakland Center and Bear Lake.

Any passing students were given access to Jimmy John's Sandwiches, Buddy's Pizza and Cold Stone Creamery ice cream on one condition: students had to sign away their First Amendment rights in order to eat any of the food available.

While some students decided no amount of food was worth their First Amendment rights, a much larger majority of students decided there really is such a thing as a free lunch.

1. Roaming around the event were volunteer enforcers of the oppressive regime. They could arrest attendees without the slightest provocation, simulating the environment in a dictatorship.

2. Another role volunteers could play was a dictator, who ordered around the enforcers and arbitrarily made rules and decisions. As a response to a particularly loud protestor from the Oakland University chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, Dictator (and Vice President of Student Affairs) Mary Beth Snyder rips their protest sign in half.

3. The third role a volunteer could play was a protestor. Colleen Bielman, a freshman majoring in music education, holds up a protest sign telling the story of Allison Krause, a protester at Kent State University who was killed by the Ohio National Guard for protesting.

4. Communication major Ashley Butala signs away her First Amendment rights.



name is ALLISON B. KRAUSE, and I'm and. On May 4, 1970 I joined the Kent State peacefully protest the Vietnam War. On the 4th day of t, members of the Ohio National Guard opened f e assembled students, killing me and 3 others W right to PEACEABLY ASSEM

3 VIOLATED, our peaceful protest turned a MASSACRE



# Helping and healing

*University offers Animal-Assisted Therapy Certificate Program, welcomes non-students*

By Kailee Mathias  
Multimedia Reporter

The Animal Assisted Therapy Certificate Program offers students an opportunity to examine the power of a human-animal bond.

The program was created in 2007 by Amy Johnson, special projects coordinator of the School of Nursing.

The courses are all offered online, but a couple of assignments involve meeting with members in the student's major.

"The fields of interest have broadened," said Marilyn Mouradjan, teacher of Populations in Animal Assisted Therapy. "Some go into substance abuse, or domestic abuse. It just depends on where their interests lie. Some have never done therapy, so I have this wide variety of students that learn from each other."

## AAT certificate program

The certificate program is completely accessible to everyone, and students do not necessarily have to go to Oakland University to enroll.

Students from other countries such as Germany, China, Japan, Israel, Mexico and Australia have taken advantage of the accessibility.

The program is split up into five separate modules.

Modules one and two are Intro to Animal Assisted Therapy and Psychology of AAT. Both courses are offered in the fall.

Modules three and four are Special Populations in AAT and Working with Animals. These courses will be offered in the winter semester, and the final course is offered the first half of spring semester. The final course counts as the capstone project.

Through this program, Johnson hopes to educate people on how to use animal assisted therapy properly for whatever field of interest they may have.

"It's more than just bringing a dog in the classroom. That's not therapy," Johnson said. "Say for example, you're in a reading program. The handler can take the student and the dog in a separate room to practice reading. The dog is non-judgmental and patient, which allows the kids to practice in a safe environment. That's one example of how it is applied therapeutically."

According to Cindy Sifonis, teacher

"YOU CAN'T TEACH SOMEONE TO FEEL EMPATHY, THEY HAVE TO FEEL IT. THERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN GET TO THE HEART OF A MATTER WITH A DOG YOU COULD NEVER GET ALONE"

Amy Johnson,  
Special Projects Coordinator  
of the School of Nursing

of Psychology of AAT, the program gives students a very firm foundation.

"After this course, they have the ability to start their own practice, or incorporate it into their practice," she said. "I think it's a really valuable certificate for them."

Although dogs are typically used, other animals can be used for therapy, as well.

"I encourage students to get out of the mindset of just using dogs," Mouradjan said. "The dogs are the favorite therapy animal, but there are certain populations that might be afraid of them. (It could be that it's) culturally unaccepted, for various reasons it might be easier to talk to a rabbit, ferret or a cat. Equine therapy, which involves using horses, is very big right now."

## Animal-human bond

Johnson has started her own AAT program called Teacher's Pet. Through this program Johnson has seen the power of the animal-human bond firsthand.

Teacher's Pet currently visits five at-risk youth schools.

Johnson feels the bond the youth make with their dogs allows them to open up on a new level.

"There are things discovered through this bond I would not be able to make them see as a therapist," Johnson said. "They have to experience it. That's what great about this kind of therapy, it's experiential. You can't teach someone to feel empathy, they have to feel it. There are ways you can get to the heart of a matter with a dog you could never get alone."

Contact Multimedia Reporter Kailee Mathias via email at [kmmathia@oakland.edu](mailto:kmmathia@oakland.edu)

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## Richard J. Burke Lecture in Philosophy, Religion and Society

Designed to tackle some of today's compelling issues — from war to religion to sexual ethics — the Richard J. Burke Lecture in Philosophy, Religion and Society sparks serious, thought-provoking discussions between scholars, students and the community.

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DR. JONATHAN LEAR  
discusses ...

### WISDOM WON FROM ILLNESS: THE PSYCHOANALYTIC GRASP OF HUMAN BEING

Thursday, April 18, 2013 | 7 p.m.  
Banquet Room A, Oakland Center

From its inception, psychoanalysis has claimed not merely to be an effective therapy for psychological suffering, but to shed light on the human condition. But what kind of insight does psychoanalysis offer? Dr. Lear will argue that psychoanalysis is not simply a means to an end — a cure for mental illness — but is itself a significant manifestation of human flourishing.

Reception to follow

JONATHAN LEAR is the John U. Nef Distinguished Service Professor in the Committee on Social Thought and in the Department of Philosophy at The University of Chicago. He trained in philosophy at Cambridge University and The Rockefeller University, where he received his Ph.D. in 1978. He works primarily on philosophical conceptions of the human psyche from Socrates to the present. He also trained as a psychoanalyst at the Western New England Institute for Psychoanalysis. His books include: *Radical Hope: Ethics in the Face of Cultural Devastation* (2006); *Aristotle and Logical Theory* (1980); *Aristotle: The Desire to Understand* (1998); *Love and its Place in Nature: A Philosophical Interpretation of Freudian Psychoanalysis* (1990); *Open Minded: Working out the Logic of the Soul* (1998); *Happiness, Death and the Remainer of Life* (2000); *Therapeutic Action: An Earnest Plea for Irony* (2003); and *Freud* (2005). His most recent book is *A Case for Irony* (Harvard University Press, 2011). He is a recipient of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Distinguished Achievement Award.

ABOUT RICHARD J. BURKE (1932-2012)

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



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## OU Day of Service

Monday, April 15 11am to 7pm

Register between North and South Foundation Hall

Spend an hour giving back to OU by beautifying our campus!

This all day service event is a great opportunity to celebrate Earth Day!

## 1st Annual Lavender Graduation Celebration

We hope you will join us as we celebrate the graduation of members of Oakland University's LGBTQIA & ally community among their peers.

Bachelors, masters, and doctoral graduates of Fall '12, Winter '13, Summer '13, and Fall '13 semesters are invited to participate.

April 16, 12 to 2pm Gold Room C, Oakland Center

Please fill out the form on [oakland.edu/gsc](http://oakland.edu/gsc) to attend.

# Adding options, awarding achievements

*Master's of Public Health degree passes, students recognized for achievement at Board of Trustees meeting*

By Dylan Dulberg  
and Nichole Seguin  
Multimedia Editor  
and Editor-in-Chief

**A** Master of Public Health degree was just one of the many topics discussed at the Oakland University Board of Trustees meeting April 3.

Other items up for discussion included the appointment of a distinguished professor, proposed ancillary budgets for the 2013-14 operational year, renovations to housing and on-campus amenities like the recreational center and the Oakland Center and the recognition of three student award winners.

## Master's of Public Health Degree passes

Presented by Academic Affairs, the Health Sciences Program and School of Health Sciences, a Master's Degree in Public Health was unanimously approved by the board.

Expected to start fall 2013, the program's mission is to "prepare graduate students to preserve, protect and promote the health of human populations through organized community efforts."

"I think healthcare is a growing and expanding need, so I support it fully," said Jayprakash Shah, a member of the BOT.

The degree will consist of 44 credits and students are expected to complete the degree in two years by carrying a normal course load.

## Seniors Eveslage, Hanif awarded Wilson Awards

OU senior Benjamin Eveslage, current BOT student liaison, was awarded the Alfred G. Wilson award for his contributions to Oakland during his three years at the university.

Eveslage was a leader in multiple student organizations on campus, including serving as OUSC President from 2011-12.

"Do you sleep?" said BOT Chairperson Michael Kramer to Eveslage. "You have an exemplary record. It's wonderful to be even associated with the university that is lucky enough to turn out a fine, fabulous person like you."

Subha Hanif, a senior pursuing a biology degree, was awarded the Matilda R. Wilson award for her commitment to campus life.

As a freshman, Hanif was the

only student in Michigan selected to attend a summer medical and dental educational program at the University of Virginia. She was also invited to speak at the American College of Emergency Physicians conference in Denver, Colo.

"We are honored to have had your presence and all of the honors that you have been part of," Kramer said. "I am very impressed."

The Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson awards are presented annually to a male and female senior who have maintained high academic standards as well as being highly involved in the campus community.

## Kristock awarded Human Relations Award

Nick Kristock, a graduating senior studying business administration, was awarded the OU Human Relations Award for his contributions to human relations at the university.

Kristock, a member of the OU soccer team, received the Summit League Academic All-Conference award in 2010, 2011 and 2012, was named a Golden Grizzlies Academic Award winner four times and while maintaining a 3.85 GPA

in the Honors College, he made the Dean's List every semester during his time at Oakland.

Kristock was also involved in the OUCARES Autism, Soccer Clinic, Meals on Wheels, Gigs for Goods and more.

The OU Human Relations Award is given annually to a graduating senior who has made outstanding contributions to intergroup understanding and conflict resolution at the university.

"It's a pleasure to know you, to have you here," Kramer said. "I'm hoping one of the three of you will invite me to the (presidential) inauguration, even when I'm an old guy."

## Slavin appointed as distinguished professor

Physics professor Andrei Slavin was appointed as a distinguished professor by Interim Provost Susan Awbrey for his "internationally acclaimed preeminence in scholarship."

Slavin, who obtained a Ph.D. in 1977 from Leningrad Polytechnic Institute, was recruited by Oakland as an assistant professor in 1991. He was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1994 and then to professor in 1998.

According to BOT documents, Slavin's research has been focused on "spintronics," a growing field of physics based on the intrinsic spin of the electron and its magnetic movements.

He has written five publications with over 100 citations and was awarded six grants totalling over \$3 million in funding to the university.

Slavin was elected as a fellow of the American Physical Society in 2010.

Slavin's appointment as distinguished professor includes a one-time salary stipend of \$2,500 plus an annual supplies and services allocation of \$1,500 for five years, all of which are paid for from the Provost's Discretionary Fund.

## Other items discussed

Samantha Wolf, current OUSC President, made a proposal to the BOT concerning the possibility of a future expansion to the Oakland Center.

"On behalf of students, I'm requesting that you (the BOT) consider the expansion of the Oakland Center for the future."

The next BOT meeting is scheduled to take place on June 17 in the Elliott Hall Auditorium.

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## Campus



### Michigan Pinball Expo on campus for fourth consecutive year

By Brian Johnston  
Chief Copy Editor

The Michigan Pinball Expo was on campus for the fourth consecutive year this past weekend.

The event, sponsored by Jersey Jack Pinball, featured more than 125 classic, new and custom pinball machines, as well as tournaments and keynote speakers.

"Everything's been great with OU," said show director John Kosmal of Rochester Hills. "I'm very happy with the facilities."

Many people from the surrounding area came to play, but the tournaments also drew players from other states and countries as far away as Holland, Italy and Germany, according to expo members Joe Said and Amanda Grabowski.

Pinball players competed in three classics tournaments, the Michigan State Open Championship,

Pinbrawl XII, Pin-Golf and the "Wizards in Training" tournament for younger players.

According to Grabowski, many of the international players were among the top in their countries.

Some of the newest pinball games were on display at the expo, including the upcoming "Wizard of Oz" machine by Jersey Jack Pinball and the new "Avengers" machine by Stern Pinball, Inc.

The event also brought custom one-of-a-kind machines like a custom "Duck Hunt" machine owned by Aaron Klumpp and the "Predator" machine by Skit-B Pinball.

Speakers included "Jersey" Jack Guarnieri, pinball artist Python Anghelo, pinball machine creator Steve Ritchie and members of Skit-B Pinball. Bobby Butara also put on "Pinball 101" and "Pinball 102" seminars, teaching first-time owners the basics of buying and maintaining a machine.

"We're doing great," Kosmal said. "This place is exploding right now. There's people everywhere."

Kosmal said his favorite machines were the "Tron: Legacy," "Avengers" and "Iron Man" games by Stern and the "Wizard of Oz" machine by Jersey Jack.

Contact Copy Editor Brian Johnston via email at [bgjohnst@oakland.edu](mailto:bgjohnst@oakland.edu) or follow him on Twitter @GreenAdder

**"EVERYTHING'S BEEN GREAT WITH OU. I'M VERY HAPPY WITH THE FACILITIES."**

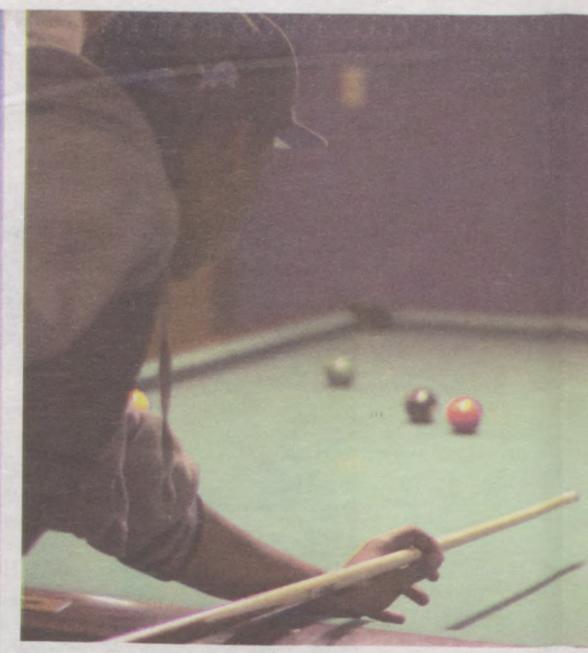
John Kosmal,  
Michigan Pinball Expo Director

### MICHIGAN PINBALL EXPO BY THE NUMBERS

**125** new, used and custom pinball machines

**3** classic tournaments

**4** years the expo has been held on campus



## Weekend a

By Dylan Dulberg /

*Students were offered the opportunity to compete and participate in a variety of events such as Greek Week, OU Siblings Week and the Greek Olympics.*



### Greek Olympics ends week of events

The Oakland University Greek Council held its annual Greek Week, themed 'Survivor.' The challenges included a dance competition between the fraternities and sororities, a cook-off, participation in the Relay for Life fundraiser and The Greek Olympics.

**ABOVE** The final event of Greek Week, the Greek Olympics, was held at the Upper Fields Saturday. In a wheelbarrow race, Kayley Meckstroth tries to keep up with the rest of the team during a tevello race on but a tumble stops Kayley Meckstroth in her tracks.

**RIGHT** Members of sorority Alpha Delta Phi and fraternities cheer on their dancers at the first event, a dance compo-

## OU hosts Siblings Weekend

The annual Siblings Weekend took place from Friday afternoon to Sunday morning. There were a multitude of events, including an inflatable carnival and Sibling Night at Bumpers Game Room.

**LEFT** Saturday night, Bumpers Game Room opened up for siblings night. The available activities included table tennis, pool, and foosball.

**RIGHT** One of the attractions at the inflatable carnival Saturday afternoon outside Vandenberg Hall was an inflatable slide.



## OU Rugby faces University of Michigan

At 2 p.m. Saturday, the Oakland University Rugby Team took on the team from the University of Michigan.

**RIGHT** #22 Adam Park, a senior health science major, tackles a Michigan player carrying the ball.



# at Grizzly's

*mg // Multimedia Editor*

*d the opportunity to watch  
variety of events April 5-7,  
OUCares Family Fun Day,  
ekend and OU Rugby.*



## OUCares hosts 8th annual Family Fun Day

At the Recreation Center on Saturday, OUCares hosted its annual Family Fun Day.

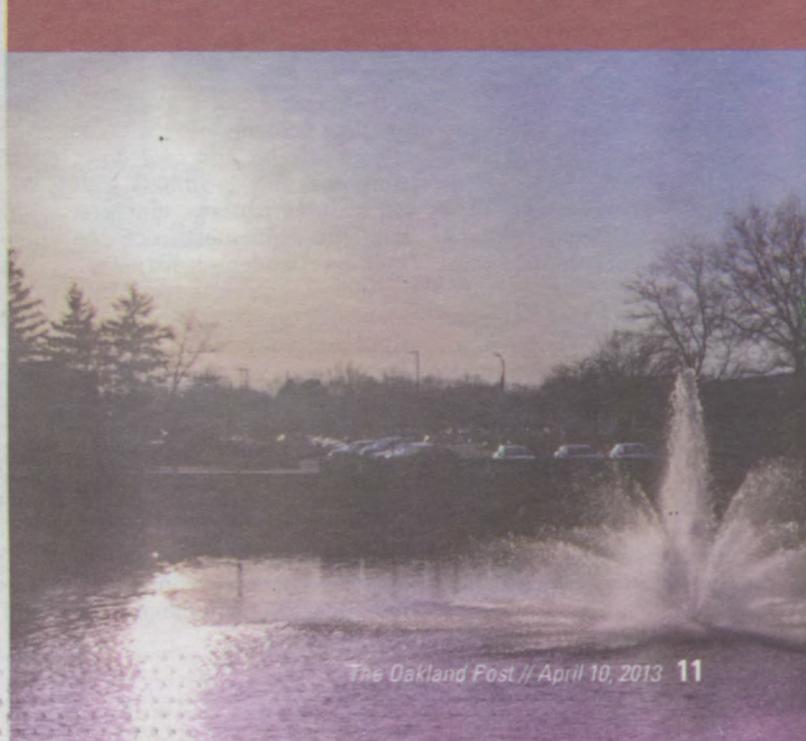
OUCares, or "OU Center for Autism, Research, Education, and Support," has been a part of Oakland University for almost 30 years and has hosted this event annually since 2005.

**LEFT** Amanda and Aaron Capaldi of Rochester pose with Mrs. Michigan 2013 Laura Zdravkovski.

For more information on OUCares, or how to get involved, visit their page on Oakland University's website, [bit.ly/WnokrB](http://bit.ly/WnokrB).

## Bear Lake thaws, fountain turned back on

**BELOW** For the first time since the beginning of winter, Bear Lake reached temperatures warm enough for the ice sheet to melt. In light of the increased temperature, Facilities Management decided to turn on one of the fountains.



## of events

annual Greek Week, ice competition if participation in a

week Olympics, was row race, Anna Porstrøth in her tracks.

fraternity Theta Chi competition.

# FINDING PEACE OF MIND

*Aikido teaches self-defense, strengthens mental health*

By Lilly Reid  
Staff Reporter

Oakland University offers a variety of unique club sports for students to try, including the Aikido Club. This unique form of martial arts brings its own style.

Aikido is a Japanese martial art used mainly for defense. Since aikido focuses on gravity and energy and not the use of muscle, it allows even the tiniest defender to take down an opponent.

"Practicing aikido isn't hard on the body," senior Betsy Hagan said. "It is truly something anyone can do."

Hagan has been practicing aikido for 13 years. She uses her skills to better herself and the other students. Martial arts can be broken down into two main categories — hard and soft.

Hard arts like karate are used more for damage and attack purposes. Aikido, on the other hand, falls into the soft category, being used as defense.

"Aikido can be seen as a way to counter jujitsu," Hagan said. "The point is to take the energy and reuse it towards your opponent."

## In the beginning

The club was founded at Oakland in 1997 by Sensei Deric Wilkins, who still teaches and runs the club today. Wilkins, who has practiced aikido since he was 10, offers his knowledgeable background to his students.

The club has eight students, with four to five showing up on any given night.

"About half of our students attend Oakland currently," Hagan said. "We like to welcome anyone who comes through our door."

Many students remain with the club even after graduating from the university.



LILLY REID/The Oakland Post

Participating in the Aikido Club benefits fitness and mental health. It can provide stress relief while improving balance and coordination.

"I love that we're able to retain people after they leave Oakland," Hagan said. "It keeps the group strong and connected."

## The basics

Many students use aikido as a way to relax and cool down from the day. Beginners start off learning patterns, mid-level students learn mechanics and high-level students learn flow.

Aikido is known as a social art, allowing the students to switch roles and converse while practicing.

"We like to use this atmosphere as a way to relax and focus," Wilkins said.

## Body and mind

Aikido is much more than a workout. The techniques that are learned can be applied to everyday life. Most find things to be

much simpler when their body is working at its full movement potential. Aikido also offers other benefits such as stress relief and improved balance and coordination.

"When we bow in, we bring ourselves into a certain mindset," Wilkins said. "Once we're finished, we bow out and go back into the 'real world'."

Aikido offers its own mental benefits as well.

"I find myself to be successful in my ability to be receptive," Hagan said. "My situational awareness has definitely developed through my years of training."

By combining mindset together with the technical aspects, a student can get the full experience of aikido.

"This art forces you to get a good grasp on how you move and feel," Hagan said. "It allows

you to make distinctions between strength and force versus timing and gravity."

## Real world experience

Besides having its mental and physical advantages, aikido offers many things to take into the real world, including how to interact with others. Nick McIntyre, an OU graduate, still actively participates in the club.

"I feel like practicing aikido gives me a good understanding of conflict," McIntyre said. "I take what I learn here and apply it to life lessons I go through."

The club plans to put on a self-defense class for women in the dorms in the fall. The class will teach women basic aikido skills they can use.

Contact Staff Reporter Lilly Reid via email at lareid@oakland.edu

## TO LEARN MORE

Interested in the aikido club? Whether you'd like to join or just learn more about the martial art, contact Sensei Deric Wilkins at deric.wilkins@yahoo.com or go to the Rec Center for more information.

# AROUND THE DIAMOND

Grizzlies baseball and softball roundup from April 3-7

## BASEBALL

### April 3

In Oakland's first home game of the season, the Grizzlies cruised to a 14-2 victory over Olivet College. Freshman shortstop Mike Brosseau had four RBI and freshman Brett Impemba went 2-3 with two RBI in the designated hitter's role.

Junior left-hander Jason Hager earned the victory after throwing one inning of relief, striking out one and giving up a hit. The Grizzlies scored 11 runs in the fourth and fifth inning combined.

### April 5 – Game 1

The Grizzlies opened up Summit League play with a 5-1 win against Western Illinois at Alfred D. Boyer Stadium in Macomb, Illinois. It was the first game of a doubleheader.

Senior infielder Mike Carson went 2-4 with a home run and two RBI while sophomore outfielder Trent Drumheller went 2-3 with a walk.

Hager recorded his second win in as many games after giving up one run in seven innings and striking out four.

### April 5 – Game 2

Oakland completed the doubleheader sweep with another victory against Western Illinois, defeating their Summit League rival 4-2.

Brosseau went 3-3 with one RBI and a walk. Sophomore right fielder Robby Enslen was 2-4 with one RBI. Sophomore right-hander Jake Paulson walked away with the win after giving up no runs on three hits in eight innings of work. He struck out six with no walks.

The Grizzlies had a three-run second inning with one RBI from freshman catcher Drew Bechtel, senior left fielder Todd Dunham and Brosseau each.

### April 7 – Game 1

Oakland's four-game winning streak was snapped after a 7-0 loss to Omaha at Ballpark at Boys Town in Omaha.

Junior right-hander Tim Koons recorded the loss after giving up six runs in 5.1 innings pitched, striking out two and walking one batter. For Omaha, senior right-hander Matt Tew went seven innings, giving up just one hit and striking out seven.

The lone Oakland hit came courtesy of Carson in the fifth inning when he singled to left field.

### April 7 – Game 2

Omaha swept the doubleheader with a 7-4 victory over Oakland Sunday. Freshman right-hander Lucas Scocchia recorded the loss after giving up five runs (three earned) on seven hits in three innings.

Oakland was not quiet on the base paths, finishing with a total of 11 hits. Dunham and Enslen had three knocks each while sophomore infielder Spencer Marentette went 2-3.

## SOFTBALL

### April 5 – Game 1

The Grizzlies took the first game of a doubleheader after defeating IUPUI 5-1 at IUPUI Softball Field in Indianapolis. Freshman Erin Kownacki earned the victory, throwing seven innings and giving up one run on four hits.

Senior infielder Erin Galloway and freshman infielder Sarah Hartley each went 2-4 to contribute to Oakland's nine hits for the game. Junior outfielder Whitney Weston knocked in two runs with a single to center field in the sixth inning.

### April 5 – Game 2

IUPUI avoided the doubleheader sweep with a 6-1 win over Oakland. Freshman Laura Pond recorded the loss after giving up four runs on six hits in 5.1 innings of work. She struck out five and walked a batter.

The Grizzlies finished with five hits in the game and the lone run came unearned in the fourth inning after Galloway scored on a fielding error.

### April 6

Oakland dropped the final game of the series with a 3-2 loss to IUPUI. Kownacki gave up three runs, all unearned, in six innings. She struck out five and gave up seven hits.

The Grizzlies scored both of their runs in the second inning, where they held a temporary 2-0 lead. IUPUI answered back in the second, scoring three runs on three hits.

— Compiled by Lindsay Beaver,  
Sports Editor

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Photo courtesy of Breanna Peabody

Peabody (LEFT) redshirted her 2011 indoor season and 2012 outdoor season. As a fifth-year senior, her extra training prepared her to come back strong for the 2013 season.

# LEAPING TO NEW HEIGHTS

*Student Breanna Peabody seeks to become first woman's hurdler to make NCAA Pre-Nationals*

By Mike Horan  
Staff Reporter

**W**hen Brittni Hutton transferred from Western Michigan University and saw her new Oakland University teammate and roommate Breanna Peabody race for the first time, she knew there was something special about her.

"The first time I saw her race, I was at an indoor meet at Macomb and she took off," Hutton said. "She just dominated. I was like, 'Damn, that's my roommate.'"

### Aiming for history

Now a fifth-year senior, Peabody will try to become the first Oakland University woman hurdler to make it to the NCAA Preliminary Nationals.

"It's my last year, so I really want to give it my all," Peabody said. "I've been working hard in practices, trying to push myself. I'm just working my way to making it Pre-Nationals."

### Coming back strong

Peabody redshirted her 2011 indoor season and 2012 outdoor season after consulting with Oakland head coach Paul Rice to help reach her goal of making it to Pre-Nationals.

"Having a redshirt season to train without the pressure of competition, you can get a little more structured training in because you're not trying to fit races in at the same time," Rice said. "I think last year, especially for outdoor

"The first time I saw her race, I was at an indoor meet at Macomb and she took off. She just dominated. I was like, 'Damn, that's my roommate.'"

Brittni Hutton,  
Senior, Track and Field Athlete

season, you saw it worked really well because she came back so strong during indoors this year and right now she's as far along as she's ever been."

Peabody agreed, but found difficulties along the way.

"In the offseason I just tried to focus on what I needed to fix in hurdle form, working on techniques and just keeping my mind focused," she said. "I went to most of the practices. We're allowed to practice with the team, we just couldn't travel with the team. That was kind of hard because I wanted to go to see them race, but I just kept my mental focus on individually."

### At the end

Peabody is off to a strong start to her final season, finishing fourth in her heat in the 400 meter hurdles and first in her heat in the 100 meter hurdles at the Ra-

leigh Relays. She won the 400 meter hurdles in a dual meet at Detroit Mercy.

Hutton believes there is little holding her teammate back from reaching her goal.

"I think it's very possible. I know she's capable of doing it, she has to have the confidence, she has to keep heart, determination and confidence going for her," she said. "She has everything lined up. She just has to take it one day at a time and when it comes time to race, take that deep breath and go when the gun goes off."

Peabody and the Oakland track team will compete next at the Sienna Heights Invite on April 13.

Contact Staff Reporter Mike Horan via email at [mhoran2@oakland.edu](mailto:mhoran2@oakland.edu)

### FAST FACTS

■ Peabody holds the Oakland record for the 400-meter hurdle at the 2010 outdoor league championship meet.

■ Finished fourth in her heat in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 1:02.43 at the Raleigh Relays in North Carolina March 30.

# Opening Day



1



2



3



4



5

*Weekend festivities for Opening Day bring food and fun to Comerica Park*

By Allen Jordan and Stephanie Sokol  
Staff Reporter and Local Editor

**B**aseball returned to Tiger town last weekend as the Tigers kicked off their home schedule for the year with Opening Day weekend against the Yankees.

This year's Opening Day set a record for attendance with 45,051 showing up to watch the home team defeat the Yankees Friday afternoon en route to taking two of three games in the series.

Comerica Park's gates opened at 10:30 a.m., but the festivities began in the morning, with patrons arriving as early as 9 a.m. to see the defending American League champions kick off yet another potential World Series run.

With music at full blast, ticket scalpers in full swing and cold drinks flowing, attendees took advantage of the 50 degree afternoon.

Opening Day included an annual Block Party, open to all fans.

Activities including pitching games, food stands from local favorites such as Redsmoke Barbecue and outside televisions were set up for those outside the stadium.

**1.** With a record number of 45,501 fans in the stands, the Tigers won with a score 8-3.

**2.** People wait outside to enter Comerica Park for the Opening Day game. Those not attending the game had access to various activities around the ball park.

**3.** A fan tries his hand at throwing a fastball at the pitching exhibit. Outside activities were free for everyone.

**4.** Vendors served traditional festival foods like ribs, hot dogs and elephant ears. People hung out outside tailgating, or buying food, to celebrate the game.

**5.** Center fielder Austin Jackson waits to take off on the pitch by Yankees pitcher Phil Hughes. The Tigers also won in Saturday's game, with a score of 8-4.

### LOCAL BRIEFS

#### Hometown Hustle registration open for 5K and Fun Run

Registration is now open for the eighth annual Hometown Hustle. The 5K race and Fun Run/Walk takes place May 11. The route sends runners through Rochester neighborhoods and over the Paint Creek and Clinton River Trails in Rochester Municipal Park. Families of five sign up for \$50, while individuals pay \$20 or \$10 K-12 for students. Registration is available at [www.rochester.k12.mi.us/pages/95810/hometown-hustle-2013](http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us/pages/95810/hometown-hustle-2013) or [www.runnichigan.com](http://www.runnichigan.com).

#### M-53 closed at 34 mile

Michigan highway M-53 is now closed from Ebeling to 34 Mile Road, as construction begins between 34 Mile and Bordman Rd. in Bruce Township. Utility work will be done, in addition to adding turn signals. The project will cost \$15 million and will reconstruct four miles of the highway. Traffic will be detoured during the duration of the construction.

#### Caribou Coffee to close April 14

With 168 locations closing, Caribou Coffee at 1416 Walton Blvd. will be among other coffee shops going out of business April 14 at noon. It is not yet decided whether the 3224 Walton location will be closed, but Caribou is looking to leave Michigan completely. Around 80 are being closed that day and 88 will be converted to Peet's coffee.

#### Pint-sized heroes blood education program to be hosted in Rochester

Baldwin Elementary's Girl Scout Troop #42513 will be hosting a blood drive and education program April 26, from 1 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. to help them earn a project badge. The event will be held at St. Phillip's Episcopal Church. It will educate children about blood donation and the American Red Cross. For more information, visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use the code "stphillip."

#### Dog Days of Spring Programs at Edsel & Eleanor Ford's House

Dog-inspired photography exhibits and programs will be hosted at Edsel & Eleanor Ford's House in Grosse Pointe Shores, April 6-22. Events include dog walks near the lake in addition to dog food cooking lessons. Dog-inspired events have been hosted at the house since 1978. The Nature

of Dogs Exhibit photography features photos of 175 different breeds, while Dog Days of Spring includes but is not limited to Sunday Walks at Ford House, Canine Cuisine: Healthy Treats for your best friend, Bring Out the Good in Your Dog, Pewabic Pooches, Banfield Presents: Dental Hygiene for your dog and Adopt-a-Pet Day among the schedule. For more information or to buy tickets, visit [www.ford-house.org](http://www.ford-house.org)

#### Child Abuse Awareness Month Wristbands to be sold

In honor of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Big Family of Michigan is selling blue wristbands to raise awareness. The organization works to improve lives for at-risk children. The \$3 wristbands read "Child Abuse Awareness." All proceeds go to Big Family's Love Pack Program. For more information, email [jangelfun@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jangelfun@sbcglobal.net) or visit [www.bigfamilyofmichigan.org](http://www.bigfamilyofmichigan.org)

#### 36th Annual Leader Dog Spring Carnival hosted by Lion's Club

The Rochester Lion's Club is hosting the 36th annual Leader Dog Spring Carnival from May 2 to 12 in the Kmart parking lot at Avon and Rochester roads. Proceeds go to Leader Dogs for the Blind. A variety of rides are available, including an LED-lit ferris wheel. The event runs Monday-Thursday 4-10:30 p.m., Friday 4-11 p.m., Saturday Noon-11 p.m. and Sunday 1-11 p.m. For more information about the organization, visit [www.leaderdog.org](http://www.leaderdog.org)

#### Inkster women, 113, named oldest living American

Jeralean Talley, 113, of Inkster was recently named the oldest living American. She is the third oldest living person in world, according to the Gerontology Research Group. Talley drinks black coffee with a little sugar each morning, doesn't eat cheese and thinks people should live by "treat others the way you want to be treated," according to an article in USA Today. Born in Georgia, Talley moved to Michigan in 1935. She is declared a supercentenarian. Scientists said her long life is due to genes, rather than lifestyle or diet, according to USA Today.

— Compiled by Stephanie Sokol,  
Local Editor

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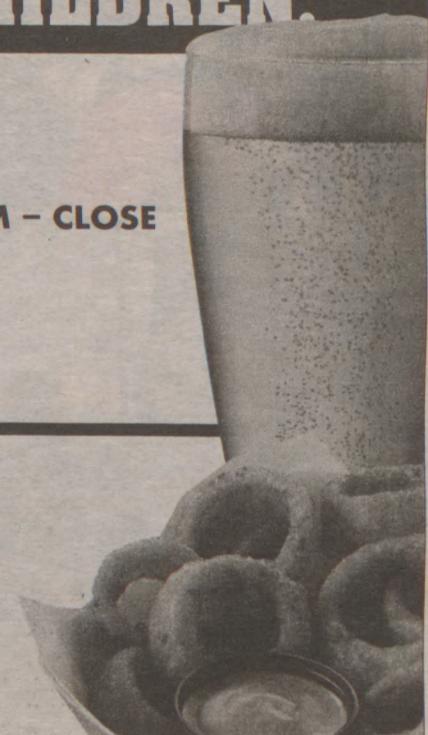
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# Spreading awareness

*OU student takes on challenge to educate others about stuttering, blogs about experience*

By Shannon Coughlin  
*Life Editor*

Oakland University student Cameron Francek has been introducing himself to at least one new person every day for the past two months.

"I'm Cameron and I'm a person who stutters," he'll say.

He's taken on a personal project to talk to people about stuttering, spreading awareness in the process then blogging about the experience on his site [www.100stutterProject.blogspot.com](http://www.100stutterProject.blogspot.com).

Francek, a post-bachelor student studying actuarial science, said it felt like the right time to take on his project.

From complete strangers to classmates and coworkers to friends who don't know much about stuttering, Francek is trying to open up communication about the topic.

"If I'm not open about it, and I'm quiet, I think it's hard for others to ask about it," he said.

## Outgrowing insecurity

Francek said it was more difficult in high school, and many people who stutter are teased or have an especially hard time during their younger years. As he's gotten older, though, coping with stuttering has gotten easier.

"There are those times in high school when all people are insecure about things," he said. "After I got out of high school and in college, I just kind of stopped caring about a lot of it."

Francek got his bachelor's degree in speech pathology from Michigan State University before studying at Oakland.

"Coming from a school like MSU to a place like Oakland, I think it is a little harder to engage with people because it's a commuter school," Francek said.

One of Francek's personal challenges is talking to his teachers, because it's most stressful talking to people

"IT'S ALWAYS HARD TALKING TO PEERS ABOUT IT BECAUSE YOU ARE TRYING TO IMPRESS PEOPLE IN SCHOOL, AND YOU DON'T WANT THEM TO THINK YOU AREN'T INTELLIGENT."

Cameron Francek,  
Post-bachelor student

he's trying to impress. And he wants his classmates to understand what's happening if he does stutter in class.

"It is always hard talking to peers about it because you are trying to impress people in school, and you don't want them to think you aren't intelligent," he said. "That's why it's so important for me to educate them."

## Setting the record straight

People who have never been exposed to stuttering have asked Francek if he has Tourette's syndrome or jumped to other conclusions.

"I want to be sure they understand exactly what it is," he said.

An important point Francek always tries to stress is that stuttering is only a small part of who he is.

"It's not 'I have a stutter,' it's not 'I'm a stutterer,' it's 'I'm a person who stutters,'" he said.

Stuttering is not triggered by stress or nerves or lack of preparation, contrary to what many believe.

"I think a lot has to do with attitude, a lot has to do with how people are educated about it," he said.

Francek said people at his work have been supportive and continue to ask about the project.

"I think I hadn't ever told them, but I'm sure people can tell," Francek said. "I think it's kind of naïve to think that I can hide it."

He attempted the project a couple of years ago but stopped eight days in. This time around, he was in a better



Student Cameron Francek wanted to confront his stuttering insecurities. He is introducing himself to new people for 100 days and educating them about stuttering.

place and has been successful.

"I'm not sure what came over me but it's just one of those things where I said, 'I have to do this,'" he said.

He gives everyone he talks to a link to his blog and a small sheet of paper explaining several common misconceptions about stuttering.

"After people understand I'm not asking really for anything, they're pretty cool about it."

## Being a positive influence

Once a month, Francek meets with a support group in Royal Oak.

"There are a lot of people who stutter who are still scared about things, and they don't enjoy talking about it, and they try to hide it," Francek said.

Bernie Weiner, support group peer and former National Stuttering Association chapter leader, said Francek's project is unique.

"We have a lot of people in our support group who advertise their stuttering, but not to that extent," Weiner said. "It takes a lot of courage to do what Cameron's doing."

In the first half of his project, his blog has had over 2,000 views.

"I didn't know how it'd go, but all the people I've talked to have been extremely positive, and I've heard from a ton of people that stutter how happy they are that I'm doing it," he said.

Francek said it's been rewarding to be able to better inform friends who have never been comfortable enough to ask about stuttering.

"People respect what I'm hoping to do, and then in turn they feel comfortable expressing their questions or concerns or their challenges as well," Francek said.

Francek will present about his experience at the NSA's conference in Arizona this year.

"When you put yourself out there, I think people appreciate that," he said.

At the annual conference, he hopes to inspire other people who stutter to face their insecurities.

"I think any time you take on a challenge that you weren't positive you can accomplish, you do end up learning things about yourself," he said.

Photo courtesy of Cameron Francek



## DROP DEAD DENIM

*Jean jackets a fashion staple for springtime*

By Lilly Reid  
Staff Reporter

With the weather warming up, students have brought back their spring wardrobes, including one fashion staple: denim jackets.

Denim, generally known for its use in jeans, is moving its way on up. Literally.

A classic denim jacket has unique perks, including button style and pockets and it is worn for style or warmth. Some include snaps, allowing the wearer to decide how much to reveal.

With the spring weather being so unpredictable, a denim jacket can be a savior.

"Denim, no matter the color,"

senior Kervin Browner II said.

"Always keep it denim for the spring season."

While men and women both wear the jackets, each gender has a distinct style. Men tend to go for function, wearing the classic straight-fitting jacket. Women, on the other hand, tend to wear cropped or fitted jackets used more for fashion.

Like denim jeans, jackets come in a variety of washes.

Medium-washed jackets are the most common. It can be paired with a variety of things, including jeans and even dresses.

Darker washes tend to be worn in the fall, while light washes are usually found in the summer time.



KAILEE MATHIAS/The Oakland Post

# Puzzles



Answers are available online at  
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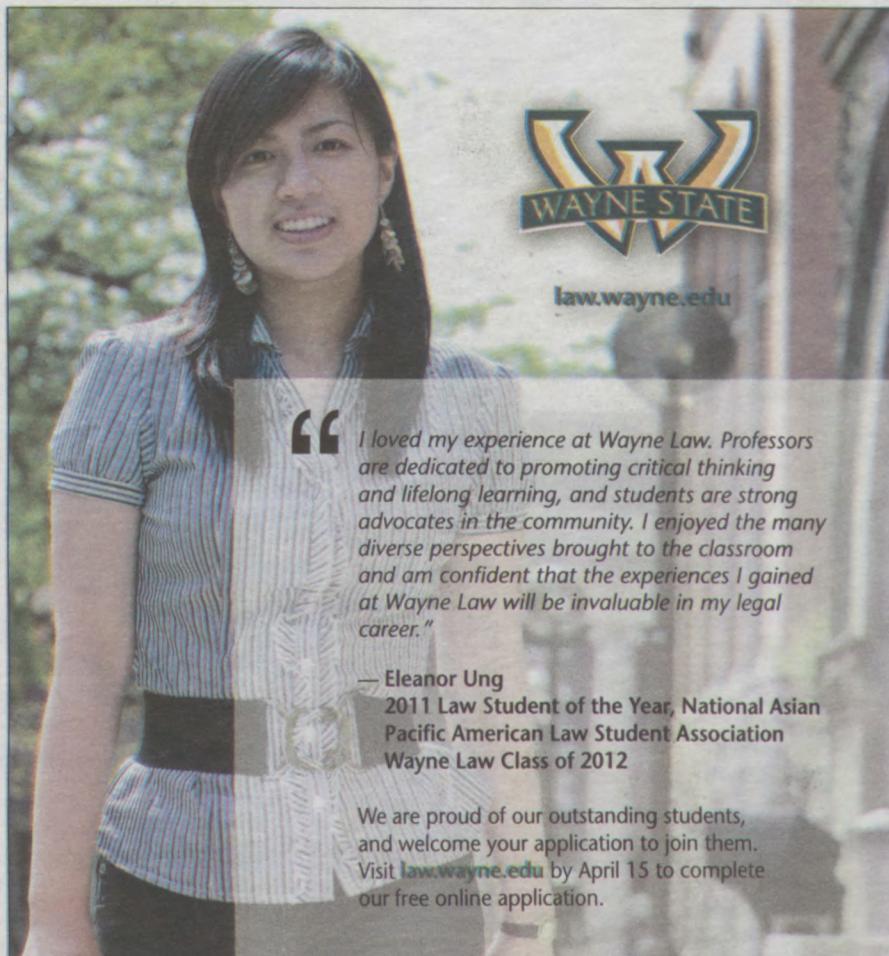
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The Oakland Post is not responsible if you fail your classes because of these puzzles. We think they're addicting, too.



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# Mouthing Off

The views expressed in Mouthing Off do not necessarily represent those of The Oakland Post.

# Tweet me from myself

By Nichole Seguin  
Editor-in-Chief/Social Media Addict

Two weeks ago, my life on the Internet came to a screeching halt.

Twitter suspended my account.

Gone were the days of retweets and direct messages. My thoughts, once perfectly trained to think in 140 characters or less, were left to wander. And I was left to find my news the old-fashioned way.

Since I don't have TV, Twitter is where I go first to get the information I need. Everything is organized and content is easy to find.

You can bet that without my instant stream of news, I was going crazy.

Day one was okay. At first, I was in shock. What on Earth could I have done to get my account suspended? Did I tweet too much? Did I post too many photos of Ryan Gosling and Zac Efron? Was I using too many hashtags? I didn't believe I was. Maybe I retweeted too many photos of cute animals, but what's wrong

with that? I was at a complete loss.

I sent Twitter my support ticket (their name, not mine) and waited patiently for the workers at Twitter's ironically-named ZenDesk to give me my account back.

By day five, I still hadn't heard anything, so I was left to find alternate ways to spend my time. I frequently used my Pinterest, Foursquare, Instagram and Tumblr. I messaged my friends non-stop via iMessage. I read every story I could find on BuzzFeed and watched an entire season of "How I Met Your Mother" on Netflix. I was doing anything and everything I could think of to keep myself occupied. I was on a downward spiral.

Around day seven is when the nightmares began. I dreamt my account was suspended because someone thought I was a spy and that I was poaching dolphins. (Don't judge.)

By day 10, with no word from anyone, I started to panic. I'm graduating April 27 and currently looking for a job. What if potential employers Googled my name and found out my



SATIRE

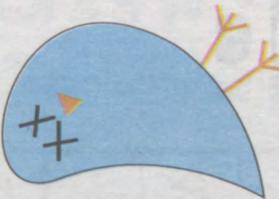


Photo illustration by DYLAN DULBERG/  
The Oakland Post

Editor-in-Chief Nichole Seguin checks Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Gmail and LinkedIn. Simultaneously.

account is suspended? Would they think any less of me?

When I hit the two-week mark, I decided to make a new account. I had to do something. The 500 followers I've gained over the last five years would follow me again, right? Eh.

And then, by some miracle, I received an email from Twitter 15 days after my suspension.

"Twitter has automated systems that find and remove multiple auto-

mated spam accounts in bulk. Unfortunately, it looks like your account got caught up in one of these spam groups by mistake. I've restored your account; sorry for the inconvenience."

PHEW. I have my life back again.

Email Editor-in-Chief Nichole Seguin at [naseguin@oakland.edu](mailto:naseguin@oakland.edu). Follow her on Twitter or on Instagram or on Pinterest or Foursquare or on LinkedIn: [@naseguin](https://www.linkedin.com/in/naseguin)

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