

PRESIDENT PESCOVITZ

Weeks stand between Pescovitz
and Oakland's seventh presidency
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OU soccer player helps kids in Liberia
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ontheweb

The new Southern Housing Complex will bring many new changes to residential life. PHOTO / Shelby Tankersley
www.oaklandpostonline.com

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PHOTO OF THE MONTH

BLOCKED OFF// The construction of the Oakland Center and Southern Housing Complex have made for a smaller-feeling campus. Large areas of the buildings and sidewalks are blocked off. Summer students are finding the quickest ways to maneuver without going through the OC. *SHELBY TANKERSLEY // The Oakland Post*

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POLL OF THE MONTH

How would you describe your summer so far?

- A** Netflix and naps
- B** Working for the man
- C** Eating, sleeping and crying
- D** Full of EXPENSIVE vacations

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LAST ISSUE'S POLL

Which presidential candidate do you prefer?

A) Carl Camden

33 votes | 13%

B) Ora Hirsch Pescovitz

210 votes | 52%

C) Jean Ann Miller

99 votes | 24%

D) George Hynd

63 votes | 16%

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

June 11, 1990

Summer tuition was hiked by 6.03 percent for the 1990-1991 academic year. This increase was approved by all but one Board of Trustees member. The one who voted against the increase feared it would hamper summer enrollment.

June 11, 2003

The BOT voted to increase tuition by 9.91 percent. This decision came a month after trustee Henry Baskin told the administration to come back with a figure under 12 percent, which was their original proposition.

June 26, 2013

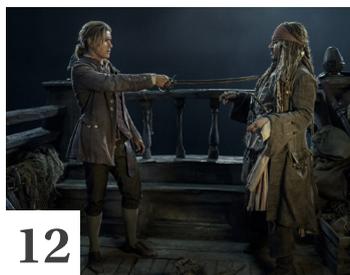
The BOT increased tuition by 3.75 percent. Trustees expressed concerns over lack of state funding.



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LGBT PRIDE MONTH ARRIVES

The Gay Straight Alliance is spending June volunteering at Ferndale and Motor City Pride. PHOTO / Shelby Tankersley



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NEW PIRATES MOVIE SINKS

Despite success in the box office, "Dead Men Tell No Tales" fails to meet the expectations of long-time "Pirates" fans. PHOTO / IMDb



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KAMPE CLAIMS FAME

Oakland University's longtime Men's Basketball coach gets invited to the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame. PHOTO / Nowshin Chowdhury

BY THE NUMBERS

PRIDE MONTH

9 in 10

LGBT youth are out to their closest friends

73%

of LGBT youth are more open online than they are in everyday life

64%

of LGBT high school students are out to their classmates

42%

of LGBT young people do not feel accepted by their hometown community



Nicole Morsfield / The Oakland Post

The Board of Trustees voted on arts, athletics and tuition at its meeting on June 5 in Elliott Hall

Board of Trustees ups tuition

Shelby Tankersley
Editor-in-Chief

The Oakland University Board of Trustees voted on a slew of things during its Monday, June 5 meeting. Among the topics were adding a bachelor of piano performance and pedagogy, a bachelor of dance education and performance, Athletics' budget for the coming fiscal year and another raise in tuition starting in 2018.

Tuition raise

The vast majority of OU's funding, like many Michigan schools, comes from tuition dollars. Currently, OU gives most of its state appropriation money to students through financial aid. OU also receives less state money per student than any other public university in Michigan.

The BOT pressed that money is needed to increase the size of buildings and hire more staff and faculty.

As enrollment is expected to be down in the fall of 2018, the BOT proposed a 3.74 percent raise in tuition for this academic year. The raise was unanimously approved. However, the increase is not due to the current construction projects such as the Oakland Center expansion.

The BOT also approved the addition of 15 new faculty positions and added staff positions. This will help combat OU's position as Michigan's university with the highest student-to-faculty ratio.

Bachelor programs

The Bachelor of piano performance and pedagogy and Bachelor of dance education in performance will allow students to study those arts with the pursuit of teaching when they leave college.

Dance education is currently offered as a minor but students cannot major in it. It must be paired with a major such as English, math or history that is universally transferable.

James Lentini, senior vice president for academic

affairs and provost, said adding the programs would add very few classes and therefore not cost the university a lot of money. This small addition will give students more options when they graduate.

"I think this is a great idea," Lentini said. "Many of our students begin to teach once they graduate. So having this at the undergraduate level allows them to get teaching experience within a short time-frame."

The proposal for the new majors was unanimously approved. OU will be the only school to offer a pedagogy program in Michigan. This approval also puts OU ahead of the academic trend in offering arts education majors, not just minors.

"This is a shift in the profession," Mary Wiggins, professor of music education said. "Other schools nationwide will follow suit, but we'll be one of the first."

Athletics budget

The BOT also reviewed the budget presented by Jeff Konya, the director of Athletics. Konya began by celebrating Athletic's growth and success in the last few years. He then moved to a budget that will replace some of the department's old equipment.

The items needing replacement include the broadcasting equipment for games, pole vault equipment and a concessions tent. The largest request was for a new van for both the men's and women's golf teams. All items were approved.

As this was President George Hynd's last meeting, Vice Chair David Tull ended the meeting by giving Hynd a formal farewell. Hynd and the BOT celebrated his accomplishments and the accomplishments they believe are to come.

"Oakland is headed in a terrific direction," Hynd said.

The BOT will meet again on at 2 p.m. on August 7 in Elliott Hall. At that time, OU's new president Ora Hirsch Pescovitz will sit with the BOT. She was present at June's meeting via phone as it was the first meeting held following her appointment.



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Commemorating 50 years of service from the OUPD

Oakland University Police Department celebrates half a century of being a vital part of safety and security on campus

Laurel Kraus
Life Editor

In September of 2016, Oakland University was named the seventh safest large college campus in the country by college resource website College Choice.

This year, the Oakland University Police Department celebrated its 50-year anniversary on Thursday, April 20, prompting a look back to 1967.

According to OUPD's website, the Department of Public Safety was established due to a recommendation by the Citizens Re-

search Council of Michigan for nine police officers and 20 firefighters to ensure public safety.

Oakland had been open for 10 years when the first four public safety officers were hired, but fire protection was pushed aside due to budget limitations.

The first Director of Public Safety, Thomas D. Strong, was brought on a year beforehand.

In its first year, the department responded to 743 calls for service, compared to the around 10,000 in 2016 reported by the current OUPD Chief of Police Mark Gordon.

When Strong resigned in 1969 to return to his previous career in the Secret Service, Earl N. Gray, a 15-year veteran of the Detroit Police Department, became the second director of Public Safety at Oakland.

The Public Safety and Service Building was then built in 1975 following Senate Bill No. 81, Act No. 244, Public Acts of 1967.

Former Lieutenant for Wayne State University Police Richard W.

Leonard served as the next director of Public Safety for 24 years.

"Every time you change police chief positions, those are always very big days in the history of a police department because you end up going maybe in a different direction or there's a new vision for the police department," Gordon said.

On Oct. 1, 1992, the Department of Public Safety changed its name to Department of Public Safety and Police. This was brought about after the department became completely separate from the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

One year later, the Department of Public Safety and Police set up the first of the emergency blue light phones that are on campus today.

It was on June 6, 1996 that the department officially changed its name to OUPD.

"Public safety implies that you are a police and fire agency, so you'd have one responder [who] could do both jobs," Gordon said. "Well that's not how we're trained, we're police officers only, so calling us Department of Public Safety was

becoming confusing."

Beginning in 2001, Adam Garcia was the fourth director of Police for a year before resigning and making way for Samuel C. Lucido, OUPD's fifth chief of Police who served for 12 years.

"We had major events to handle," Lucido said. "We had President Bush here on campus a couple of times when he was president, [and] we had the Republican Party Presidential Debate in 2012."

Gordon was hired in 2014 along with the OUPD's first female and youngest lieutenant, Nicole Thompson.

Currently, OUPD employs 22 sworn in law enforcement officers and five dispatchers.

"We are very proud of 50 years of service to the University community," Gordon said. "We just like to remind our community that there is no police department that can continue to create a feeling of safety and security by themselves, they need the support of the community to be able to do that."



Photo courtesy of Brian Bierly

Members of OUPD were awarded badges in celebration of the 50-year anniversary.

Meeting of Minds celebrates 25 years of undergraduate research

MOM conference comes to OU for its jubilee celebration, students from multiple majors present their findings

Mary Siring
Staff Intern

Meeting of Minds (MOM) came to Oakland University for its 25th year. The undergraduate research conference was held on Friday, May 12. OU was able to participate in the event as the host.

"Though an anniversary, my Southern roots want to call it the 25th jubilee," said Robby Stewart, a professor of psychology and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "This is a celebration, not just an anniversary."

Beginning in 1933, MOM began as a cooperation between University of Michigan-Flint and University of Michigan-Dearborn. Oakland University was invited to join in 1995 and has now hosted the 25th event on its own campus.

MOM invites students from the three universities to present their scholarly and creative ventures through oral and poster presentations.

The day began at 8:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast and ended at 4 p.m., only breaking at noon for an hour-long lunch, musical performance of a piece from Roland Dyens and a student suc-

cess story from Andrea Kozak, an associate professor of psychology at Oakland University. While Kozak could not be present to speak herself, her presentation was given nonetheless through email transcript and a stand-in speaker.

Concurrent presentations began at 9:30 a.m. Students presented posters in Fireside Lounge while others gave oral presentations in various classrooms of South Foundation Hall. There was a total of 133 presentations over the course of the conference.

From a literary nonfiction panel discussing Ouija boards, milk-carton children and epigraphs of gravestones, oral PowerPoint presentations of growing radical Islamic attacks and Islamophobia and a poster presentations of narcissism and a podcast on feminism, the topics and disciplines of MOM were unlimited.

Inspiration was as limitless as the topics at MOM. Some students recalled trains of creative thought and expanded upon them for their presentation, where others drew inspiration from mere interest and devoted their time to research.

"I'll have an idea or a theme in mind and I take notes on my phone," said

Paige Lalain, author of "Sleeping Place" and panelist in the literary nonfiction panel. "I'll have a flash of memory and think 'how could this be thematically relevant?'"

Overall, MOM created an environment that supported student endeavors and encouraged research, presentation and, especially, made a safe space to learn.

"I am presenting my capstone project," Jeff Waters, a women and gender studies major, said. "It is a chance to present your research to an understanding audience. They choose to see your presentation, so people are interested in what you're talking about."

Education during this process doesn't stop with research, either. Students are given the chance to learn about data gathering and presenting as well.

"This taught me about research," said Catherine Barrey, a women and gender studies major. "I learned about surveying and how to handle situations where your participant really doesn't want to help you."

"This is a celebration of student achievement and accomplishment," Stewart said. "This isn't just a research project."



Michael Orlando / The Oakland Post

The MOM Conference took place at Oakland University in the Fireside Lounge and South Foundation Hall on May 12, 2017. A variety of subjects were presented, ranging from a literary nonfiction panel to podcasts on feminism.

POLICE BRIEFS

Forcible Contact in Hamlin Hall

On April 25, a student called the Oakland University Police Department to report that her friend had been sexually assaulted. OUPD came to the girl's room, where she was found crying and shaking. A male she recognized from Vandenberg Cafeteria approached her on her way to Hamlin. He said he was going to see his cousin who lived in the building. While riding the elevator in the building, he hugged her and grabbed her butt. The male was quickly identified and, upon questioning, repeatedly denied any wrongdoing. Later, on May 9, the male admitted to lying in the first interview and said he did hug the student, but nothing more. He also said he lied about having a cousin in Hamlin. The student ultimately did not press charges.

Damage of Property in Elliott Hall

OUPD was dispatched to Elliott Hall on the morning of May 22 on the report of a vandalized tampon dispenser. The door was pulled back, exposing the product and two coin boxes. Nothing had been taken because the coin boxes required key access, the product was simply left untouched. OUPD put in a work order to fix the machine for \$327, which includes labor. A suspect has yet to be identified because the staff member who made the report said the incident probably happened the day before it was reported.

*Compiled by Shelby Tankersley,
Editor-in-Chief*

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New film major added to 2017-2018 catalog

Oakland expands cinema studies program with specialization in filmmaking

Trevor Tyle
Staff Intern

In addition to the many new changes happening on campus this year, the cinema studies program at Oakland University is adding a brand new Bachelor of Arts degree —specialization in filmmaking.

According to Andrea Eis, director of cinema studies at Oakland, the degree will combine existing filmmaking classes at Oakland with a new set of courses that focus on film history and theory, providing students with the basics of filmmaking. In contrast to the Bachelor of Arts in cinema studies, which concentrates on the critical studies aspect of film, this new degree will give students the opportunity to work hands-on in the art of film production.

After completing the required film history, theory, methods and introductory courses, students may digress into many of the newly added filmmaking electives, which will focus on developing skills in areas of film production such as screenwriting, cinematography and editing, among others. A capstone project specific to the degree is also being introduced and will give students the opportunity to create their own thesis films.

"Students like myself that are more interested in the filmmaking and production aspects of the industry rather than critical analysis and history can concentrate more of our efforts in developing these skills and taking advantage of the range of filmmaking classes Oakland has to offer, while still getting the well-rounded experience of studying history and theory," senior Bushra Varachia said.

When speaking about the variety of skills focused on with the new specialization, Eis revealed that students learn "all parts of the production cycle for a film—pre-production, production and post-production."

She believes what students acquire from having experience in all areas of film production will both prepare them for a career in film and enhance the quality of their work.

"In our program, [students'] education in good filmmaking practice is enriched by having to understand and work all of the roles that it takes to make a film," Eis said.

The amount of skills acquired is no exaggeration.

"Students write scripts, create storyboards, scout locations, audition actors, plan shooting schedules, obtain talent, location and music releases as needed, plan set and costume design, all before

starting to film," Eis said. "They learn how to use a variety of cameras, lights, and audio gear, to become more flexible in learning new technology, and then are the cinematographers as well as directors for their shoots."

Students also do their own editing with the use of professional software. This amount of work is put into as many as four short films for students in beginning classes; however, the length and complexity of the films increase as students progress further into their degree.

Those who major in specialization in filmmaking will also have plenty of opportunities to prepare for their field of study, as a variety of internships and field experiences are expected to be made available.

Additionally, professionalization opportunities will be offered, including work on film sets. Involvement in such projects is encouraged by the department, which gives students the opportunity to work with Michael Manasseri of Flux Capacitor Studios, a film partner of OU, as well as resident filmmakers the Deka Brothers. This type of work will give students experience with short films, feature films, commercials, music videos and documentaries.

The degree was introduced due to the rising student interest in the subject matter and according to professor Adam Gould, adviser of the OU Filmmakers Guild, students are "very excited" about the new addition.

The cinema studies department worked toward creating the new degree

for "several years," Eis said.

"As it turns out, though," she added. "The planning we did to expand over time means that we will be better able to incorporate the numbers of new students we expect with the specialization, in a stronger and more expansive program."

Senior Sarah Griffith is one of many students excited about the addition.

"I have been interested in production from the start, so after hearing about the filmmaking specialization in the works for so long, it is very exciting that I will be able to partake in it before I graduate and be a part of the first group of students to complete the major with this option," she said.

Griffith further acknowledged the benefits of the specialization, noting that it helps to "showcase all of the skills I have learned from my production classes at Oakland."

The excitement for the program is promising for Eis and other members of the cinema studies department who hope that its success can lead to the addition of more film-related degrees.

"If the program is successful, we hope to add more areas of study," Eis said.

Advanced classes in effects and post-production work, directing, cinematography, and animation could be offered in the future as well.

They are also optimistic that its success could allow them to upgrade their facilities and equipment in the future.

The degree will become available to students in the upcoming fall semester.

Classifieds

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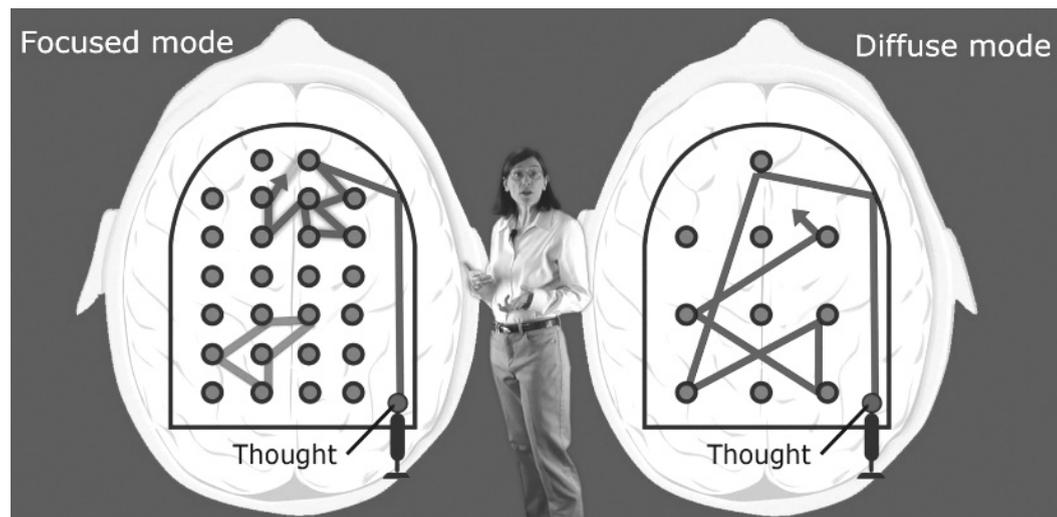


Photo courtesy of Barbara Oakley

A School of Engineering and Computer Science professor has the largest amount of online students recorded.

Oakland SECS professor creates world's largest online learning course

Barbara Oakley creates "Learning How to Learn," states that the cost to create was much less than other online classes

AuJenee Hirsch
Chief Copy Editor

Oakland University School of Engineering and Computer Science professor, Barbara Oakley, Ph.D., created the world's largest massive open online course (MOOC). Oakley's course "Learning How to Learn" acquired over two million students worldwide in a year. The Oakland Post sat down and talked to Oakley about her MOOC.

What is the MOOC about?

The massive open online course I teach, with Terrence Sejnowski, the Francis Crick Professor at the Salk Institute, is called "Learning How to Learn." No surprise, it's about how to learn effectively. The videos are short, about five minutes long, and each one is packed with practical, immediately useful insights about how you can improve your learning. Plus, the videos are pretty darn funny. The neuroscientific foundation of the course makes it very different than what most people might expect and far more useful.

What was it like for you to teach yourself how to edit videos and use a green screen?

It was scary at first to jump into the video production world. I'd never done anything with video before, I could barely hold a camera. A friend who is an inspiring professor of engineering here at OU, Chris Kobus, suggested that perhaps the best approach for the course might be to use green screen technology. I didn't know enough to realize that green screen was considered a more advanced production technique. Truth be told, though, the

technology just isn't that hard to master, although I definitely had my share of frustration. I just watched YouTube videos to learn how to set up the studio and how to edit video. Whenever I got stuck during the video editing process, I could just ask a local high school student. The whole course cost less than \$5,000, which is pretty amazing given that many online courses have been made for hundreds of thousands of dollars, yet have only a tiny fraction of the students in our course.

Why do you think adults are drawn to your MOOC?

A combination of many factors. First off, I'm not just standing there droning away in the videos, having occasional bullet points or a few illustrations come up beside me. Instead, there are great moving images—easy-to-understand metaphors for what's going on deep inside your brain. Using the magic of Hollywood, I walk around inside these images. The quick video editing keeps your eyes on the screen whether you like it or not—it helps hold your interest. Everything you learn is immediately useful—it's not just a boring litany of research, even though everything we discuss is based on research findings that we often allude to on screen. The neuroscience is top-notch—my co-instructor, Terrence Sejnowski, is a legendary neuroscientist. And there's the wacky, unexpected humor popping up everywhere. Ultimately, of course, people are drawn to the course because the subject matter is very important in people's lives. I'm just amazed that a course like this isn't taught on a standard basis at universities and high schools. Three cheers to Oakland University that they're starting a regular face-to-face course, ISE 1170: Learning How to Learn, that I'll be teaching this fall.

Gay Straight Alliance branches out to volunteer at Pride events

GSA plans on attending Michigan Pride events, past students comment on inclusivity at Oakland

Cheyenne Kramer
Managing Editor

The Gay Straight Alliance of Oakland University is no stranger to volunteering. The annual drag show requires many student volunteers, as does the pride prom and lavender graduation celebrations.

Together with volunteers from Undergraduate Admissions and University Communications and Marketing, the GSA volunteered with metro Detroit area pride festivals for the first time.

June 3's Ferndale Pride attracts more than 15,000 people according to its website. Its been an annual event since 2011.

This year's festivities were a bit different thanks to the number of volunteers. Pride fests, and many LGBTQIA+ spaces in general, are known for the consumption of alcohol. Pride Institute estimates up to 45% of LGBT individuals suffer from alcohol abuse. This year, Smirnoff released limited-edition bottles featuring real couples to sell and raise money for the Human Rights Campaign

To combat that problem, Ferndale Pride included a "sober space" for those who wished to have a space away from drinking.

Although volunteering with Ferndale Pride is through for the year, OU representatives will also attend Motor City Pride on June 10 and 11.

Motor City Pride has over 40,000 participants each year, according to its website.

Oakland went to promote the university as an inclusive campus to the LGBT community, and volunteers were able to share their own experiences to festival attendees.

"I am hopeful our presence will allow us to inform potential students and employees of all the work being done on campus to further diversity, equity and inclusion, especially in regard to LGBTQIA issues," said Grace Wojcik, director of the

Gender and Sexuality Center.

Jake Semma, a recent graduate of Oakland University, went with the GSA to volunteer at Ferndale Pride and plans to volunteer at Motor City.

"I loved the experience because it allowed me to spread the word about OU being incredibly LGBT inclusive, and talk to possible future students," Semma said.

Semma said students came to talk to the OU volunteers, and said that they would choose OU because of how inclusive it was. Recent inclusion measures on Oakland's campus include a preferred name policy, which was put into place last year.

What is Pride Month?

Pride Festivals happen in remembrance of the Stonewall Rebellion, which occurred in June of 1969. Commonly referred to as the Stonewall Riot, the uprising is known as the dawn of the modern LGBT Rights Movement.

Motor City Pride began in 1986. An organization called the Michigan Organization for Human Rights organized Michigan's first gay and lesbian march.

The march was moved to Lansing in 1989, leaving no event in metro Detroit for members of the LGBT community to rally behind. This left Frank Colasanti, Jr, and the Detroit Area Gay/Lesbian Council to start the first pride festival in the gymnasium of the University of Michigan.

"Pride festivals are open to everyone, and provide a space for LGBT people to celebrate their identities in a society that often oppresses them," Semma said.

Though there are entertainers at Pride, including Sabin, who has been performing at the Oakland University drag show for many years, Semma said that the focus of pride shouldn't be on the entertainment.

"[Pride festivals are] about promotion of a community that is often overlooked or lacking in rights and protections," he said.

Students respond to minimum wage increase

Shane Grodzicki
Contributor

Being poor is part of being in college. But summer is the time where most students try to make some extra cash by working minimum wage jobs. Jan. 1, 2017 brought the minimum wage up by 40 cents to \$8.90, allowing a higher income for students.

While the raise doesn't seem like a great deal more of income, especially compared to the colossus of student loans, it does help students by compensating for the increasing expenses of textbooks, high-priced vehicle insurance and reinforces the wallet to nurture a social life.

Known as Act 138, the Workforce Opportunity Wage Act was passed by the Michigan legislature on May 27, 2014. Following the most recent second installment, the third and final wage increase of Act 138 is scheduled to raise Michigan's minimum wage to \$9.25 on Jan. 1, 2018.

Although the higher income is certainly nice, it can also come with a price.

"Know your limits," sophomore Bethany Griffith said. "Make sure that you manage your time well between work and school."

The last thing we want is to fall into a slow downward spiral from feeling overworked. Griffith's words serve to remind that a college job is a means to set yourself up for a better future; she feels that academic success should always remain a top priority.

But even for those who are not so lucky to find a career immediately after graduation, the taste might not be so bitter.

Many petitioners tried to enact a bill that would increase the state's minimum wage to \$15 an hour. It was also one of presidential-hopeful Bernie Sanders' campaign goals.

Not only would this assist low-wage workers

falling below the poverty line, but it would also make the prospect of paying for tuition considerably easier for students.

However, not everyone is so quick to agree on the means to achieve this goal. Oakland University professor of economics, Jonathan Silberman suggests that a 15 dollar an hour bump in minimum wage would offset the job market.

The price of goods would become much greater, and companies unable to pay the additional expenses for their employees would cut jobs.

Silberman instead indicates that a direct wage subsidy is a more reasonable alternative. This means that for every dollar earned per hour, low-wage workers would receive extra compensation from the government with each paycheck. To the worker this would seem like raised earnings, all while bypassing extra pressure on an employer to increase payroll.

To the hard-working student, this may sound like a good deal, but it will require some patience.

There are no policies presently circulating in congress to create a truly significant increase of income for low-wage workers.

There is a silver lining, however. Freshman Nautica Prater isn't worried. She advised other students to not let it stress them out either.

"Try not to stress too much about it, choose to make it work for you," Prater said.

In other words: Keep doing what you've always done.

On that fateful day when you're dressed from head to toe in black and gold, and a mass of tasseled caps come cascading back down from the rafters, you'll know that you have come out that much stronger. Until then, keep flipping those burgers and scooping that ice cream while you finish your degree.



Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

Djimon Hounsou (left) and Charlie Hunnam (right) on the set of King Arthur: Legend of the Sword

King Arthur hits theaters

Connor McNeely
Campus Editor

The moment of truth has come and gone - final grades have been administered. Whatever they may be, *c'est la vie*. As teachers release those remarks, it is in good health that students release their school-provoked stresses from tests, homework and deadlines.

Summer break is a crucial time to find fresh motivation and mentally decompress. It is a time to reflect on the prior school year and start making goals for the fall. School is tough and everyone gets that. Even "Sons of Anarchy" actor Charlie Hunnam gets that.

"My little brother is much, much younger than me and he just graduated university [at the] top of his class and I was so proud of him when I called -- and I was away working," he said. "So, I called him and I said, 'I'm just so proud of you.' He was so dismissive and he said, 'Yes, well maybe now I'll be able to get a job at McDonald's.' And it was an insight into the youth of today."

Hunnam played the lead role in Warner Brother's "King Arthur: Legend of the Sword." It is directed, produced and co-written by Guy Ritchie. The film hit theaters May 12.

"It's a really universal story because ultimately it's about how we become the best version of ourselves," he said. "And so it's a really lovely story and

I think... the people that I'm most excited about seeing this film are the young generation because it seems to me that there's a lot of disillusionment in the kids of today."

College can be competitive, but every person has an innate purpose. Although initially reluctant to accept his extraordinary powers, Hunnam faces the realization of his destined greatness in "King Arthur."

In medieval history, the legendary King Arthur fantastically drew an iron sword from a granite slab, which unlocked his power. Ritchie's version, however, is a contemporary origin story based off of the original mythical character, which follows the king's adolescent years as he fends for himself against the thieves who surround him.

Djimon Hounsou, whose most notable appearances were in "Blood Diamond" and "Guardians of the Galaxy," acts against Hunnam as the villain Bedivere.

"I think it'll attract a lot of people and certainly most of us can relate to this king," Hounsou said. "Certainly, this interpretation of the guy."

As the weather starts to warm up, we reassess academic goals for next semester and keep an eye out for new hobbies that spark interest. Just as Arthur was unaware what his future would bring until he pull the almighty sword from the stone, many students face similar pressures. That is, until they find their sword.



Taylor Stinson / The Oakland Post

The minimum wage for employees across Michigan was changed from \$8.50 to \$8.90 on Jan. 1, 2017.



Photo Courtesy of Sam Paraventi

Participants join together to perform dance routines choreographed by Take Root facility to combat feeling symptoms of Parkinson's.

Dancing through Parkinson's Disease

Take Root returns to Oakland University with free classes

Mary Siring
Staff Intern

Take Root, a non-profit professional modern dance company based in Rochester, held one of its monthly Dance For Parkinson's classes on campus Sunday, May 21.

Take Root began in 2013 with its first full-length concert of the same name. Now, the group consists of seven performers and resides at Oakland University under the direction of its founders and fellow members, Ali Woerner and Thayer Jonutz.

"Dance for Parkinson's Disease started in October of 2014 as a once a month class at Oakland University's Varner Hall," Ali Werner, the Co-Director and Co-Founder of Take Root said.

The initial success of the first class, which drew over 40 participants, began the monthly sessions that are still open to the public today.

"We have been holding the free of charge class one Saturday a month ever since," Woerner said. "The Dance for Parkinson's Disease classes are unique because they provide awareness and connection not

just to those living with PD, but to the community at large."

In the Dance for Parkinson's classes, participants are empowered to explore movement and music in ways that are both enjoyable and creative. Each class also addresses PD-specific challenges like balance, flexibility, coordination, isolation and depression.

"The goal for Dance for Parkinson's Disease is to reach and connect with as many people living with PD [as possible], including their spouses, loved ones and caregivers" Woerner said. "We want them to know they have a place to come to dance, connect, feel supported and confident, and, most importantly, find that they don't have to become invisible due to this disease."

Parkinson's Disease is a neurodegenerative brain disorder that progresses slowly in most people. Most patients will not show symptoms for years and can live with the disease for an extended period of time.

A person's brain slowly stops producing dopamine. As levels of dopamine decrease, a person's ability to regulate movements, body function and emotions decrease too.

The incorporation of exercises that combat common symptoms and problem points is what allows Dance for Parkin-

son's to be beneficial.

"Ali relates exercises and dance movements to what the benefits are for us," Michael O'Donnell, a Dance for Parkinson's participant said. "For example, stretching the arms wide to open up our chest muscles which tend to collapse and pull our heads and shoulders down."

Besides focusing on physical movement specific to common issues, each class focuses on mental stimulation as well.

"She also requires us to come up with our own improvisations and interpretations, which exercises our minds as well as our bodies and gives us personal role, an ownership, of what we are accomplishing," O'Donnell said. "I feel more alert, more in balance, more in control and more energized after each session."

Take Root has already begun expanding its reach and providing services to a larger piece of the community. This past September began weekly classes at the Older Person's Commission in Rochester, and plans to start more class sessions at The Boxing Rink in Troy this summer are in progress.

"We laugh in every class," Woerner said. "We have created a support group within these classes that lends to the positive mentality of those living with PD.

OU Alumni earns role on Fox's "Empire"

Falin Hakeen
Staff Intern

It's not everyday an Oakland University alumnus stars in a hit television series. But Revon Yousif is the exception.

He recently played a rhythm and blues singer named Harry on season 3, episode 15 of Fox's "Empire," "Civil Hands Unclean." He appears on screen alongside Terrence Howard, who plays the infamous Luscious Lion.

He had auditioned for the role three other times, but the fourth time proved to be the charm.

"I would sign up for every audition that came up," Yousif said. "I've seen all of the episodes, I wanted to be on the show from the very beginning - I had to have this role."

His favorite part of the filming process was doing so many takes.

"That's usually not the answer for other actors," Yousif said. "I wanted to really showcase my talents, show them what I've got."

It took about 14 or 15 takes to shoot his singing scene, which he prepared for in advance by taking singing lessons.

As for working with Howard, he said it was like acting with a father figure.

"While shooting with Terrence, I made sure I was myself," Yousif said. "I didn't want to be a try-hard."

According to Yousif, Howard would joke around on set and even played him a few songs,

asking for his opinion.

"We had this bond, even if it was only for a day," Yousif said. "I was so intimidated by him at first, he just has this aura about him."

Prior to landing the role, Yousif starred in smaller roles on studio films including "Scream 4" and "LOL." He went on to star in "2101," an independent film directed by Kyle Misak.

He also took home the best performance award for the short film, "Amnesia," an entry to the 24-Hour Film Challenge put on by OU.

"The best advice I could give to students would be to utilize all of the resources the university has to offer," Yousif said. "All of the tools, the advisors - get involved in extracurricular activities."

While at OU, he started the Glee Club in 2013, and was its president and director.

Yousif recently moved from Sterling Heights to Chicago to branch out as an actor and get his name on the map. He plans on staying there until he gets cast in a series or film.

"My agent once told me something that always stuck with me," Yousif said. "Do you want to be a big fish in a small pond, or a small fish in a big pond?"

As for reprising his role on "Empire," he said his character absolutely has the potential to appear on another episode in the future.

"Next stop, the Golden Globes and Oscars," Yousif said.

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MTD presents “Wiley and the Hairy Man”

Connor McNeely
Campus Editor

The Department of Music, Theatre and Dance took to Varner Recital Hall on Friday, May 19, Sunday, May 21 and Friday, June 9 with its production of “Wiley And The Hairy Man.”

Originally written by Suzan Zeder, Oakland University’s adaptation of the folk tale is directed by Associate Professor of theater Lynnae Lehfeldt. While the titular role is played by Tony Sharpe, the monstrous Hairy Man is played by Brandon Wright.

Set in the southern bayous of America, Wiley lives with his voodoo-practicing single mother, Mammy. The swamp-residing Hairy Man is responsible for the loss of Wiley’s father and because of this, Wiley fears him greatly. Throughout the play, Wiley seeks help from his spell-summoning Mammy to protect him from The Hairy Man. Which he ultimately does himself.

Sharpe calls it a coming of age story.

“You definitely see the arch of [Wiley] growing into a man and I think since I’m older I look at it from a more mature perspective but seeing the fact that he has an absent father, he has to figure out by himself what being a man entails,” he said. “That’s my favorite part about it – is that him becoming a man has nothing to do with societal norms, it’s just [Wiley] facing his own fears.”

According to Sharpe, his appearance in OU’s production of “In The Red And Brown Water” last year gave him a leg up on the southern dialect as it was set in the geographical area as “Wiley.”

Wright credits the Hairy Man costume for helping him get into character.

“The costume sort of added an extra layer to [the character] and it added a sense of eeriness,” he said. “It helped put weight to the character too because as I was walking I realized I was a little



Nicole Morsfield / The Oakland Post

In the swamp, Wiley encounters the Hairy Man who is responsible for his father’s death.

bit floaty before but the costume helped keep me grounded.”

According to costume designer Krystal Smoger, the Hairy Man costume was made of a tunic (an over garment without pants) covered with layers upon layers of scrap fabrics and gauze that has been dyed different colors. Wiley’s costume, however, required some

geographic research.

“A lot of my research started with looking at pictures of actual people who lived in the bayou in New Orleans and other parts of Louisiana and figuring out what sort of clothing did people wear in those sorts of climates from the shoes to the jean-like materials,” Smoger said.

She said the intention was to give the set a timeless look.

Sharpe hopes the message the audience takes away is that people are their own biggest obstacles.

“I hope that when people see this they get that they are fully in control of everything that happens in their life. Law of attraction,” he said.

NEW PAYMENT DUE DATES

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

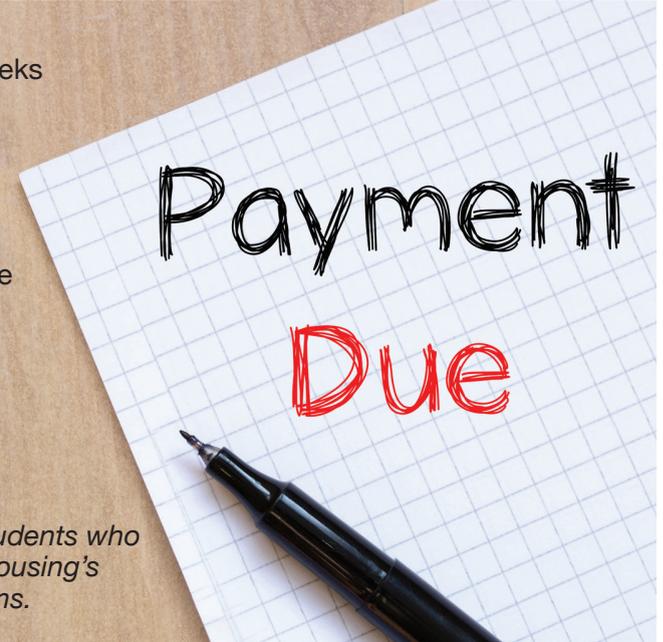
Beginning with fall 2017, payment due dates for all semesters will be two to three weeks before the semester begins. If you do not pay your charges in full by the due date, you will be canceled* from all your classes and on-campus housing (if applicable).

Students canceled for not paying current semester charges can re-register for classes (based on space availability). Students canceled for not paying past semester charges can re-register (based on space availability) once the prior balance is paid in full.

IMPORTANT FALL SEMESTER DATES

- **July 16, 2017** — fall tuition and housing charges posted
- **August 15, 2017** — fall payment due date

* Students who are canceled from classes will have their tuition charges reversed. Students who are canceled from housing will have their charges adjusted according to University Housing’s terms and conditions, available at oakland.edu/housing/policies-and-procedures/forms.



VIEW all payment and cancellation dates and **LEARN** how to avoid cancellation at oakland.edu/financialservices, then Payments & Refunds, then Payments & Cancellation.



"This is a once-in-a life

Ora Hirsch Pescovitz becomes the second female president

Shelby Tankersley / Editor-in-Chief Photograph



A standing-room-only crowd at Oakland University welcomed its seventh president, Dr. Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, with applause and cheers Thursday, May 4.

She will become the second woman president of OU when she begins on July 1. She will earn \$457,500 in the first year of a five-year contract.

Pescovitz will replace George Hynd, who has served as OU's president for the last three years. The national search for a replacement began shortly after September 2016 when Hynd's contract was not renewed. The Board of Trustees narrowed the search down to Pescovitz and Carl Camden.

"I think we were very transparent in this process," Board of Trustee Chair Richard L. DeVore said. "We were open in the end just like we said we would be. We are convinced we found the right person."

Much like her open campus forum, Pescovitz accepted the job sporting black, gold and an OU pin. She was met with a happy audience, DeVore hadn't even finished making the announcement before the room erupted in applause.

"I want to give extreme thanks for your confidence in me," she said. "This is a once-in-a lifetime opportunity."

Pescovitz said she was happy to see students so involved in her selection process, especially the attendance at her open forum that took place during finals week. She said she is excited to enter such a community.

Her four goals are to achieve academic excellence, make an affordable education, apply student knowledge to solve problems and activating economic growth in OU's communi-

A QUICK LOOK AT THE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

The following is a timeline of the events leading up to Pescovitz's first official day as Oakland's president.

SEPT. 29, 2017
The Board of Trustees announced that it will not renew George W. Hynd's contract.

APRIL 17, 2017
Presidential finalist, Carl Camden, hosted his forum in the Gold Rooms of the Oakland Center.

FEB. 24, 2017
The last day for presidential applications to be submitted.

APRIL 20, 2017
Pescovitz's presidential forum took place in the OC.

MAY 4, 2017
The Board of Trustees announced that Pescovitz will be the seventh president of OU.

JUNE 5, 2017
George Hynd had his Board of Trustees meeting as the university president.

“Part-time opportunity.”

...ent in OU history, scheduled to begin July 1

...y by Taylor Stinson / Photographer

ty: what she called the four A's. She also wants the campus to get to know her and her family.

“I look forward to getting to know the students personally,” she said. “I believe the university is for the students.”

Pescovitz wants to hold quarterly meetings with students in student-centered places on campus like the OC to hear about their concerns. And despite her medical background, she looks forward to working with the arts-based departments.

Because she has been with Eli Lilly since 2014, Pescovitz addressed some of the concern faculty expressed in having a business person be the president of a university in a survey. She plans to use her business experience and 21 years of academic experience to make her mark on OU.

“There are many lessons from industry are relevant to academia,” she said. “For example, I learned some things about running a meeting more efficiently from being in the business. I’m not going to turn Oakland University into a business, but I have learned things that will help.”

Her first goal is to learn to do her job well so she can best serve the university.

“I may be going to president school,” Pescovitz said. “Even though I’m 60-years-old and I’ve been at a lot of schools, I’ve never been a president. So I’m going to be doing lots of learning.”

Some of that learning will come from her transition with Hynd. When she takes office on July, she will begin transitioning with Hynd until he leaves office on August 14.

At the Board of Trustees meeting on June 5, Pescovitz was present via phone. This meeting was Hynd’s last and was transitional in their presidencies. The meeting decided a 3.74 percent tuition increase that Pescovitz will administer. Her first BOT meeting will be on August 7, nearly a month after she has been in office.

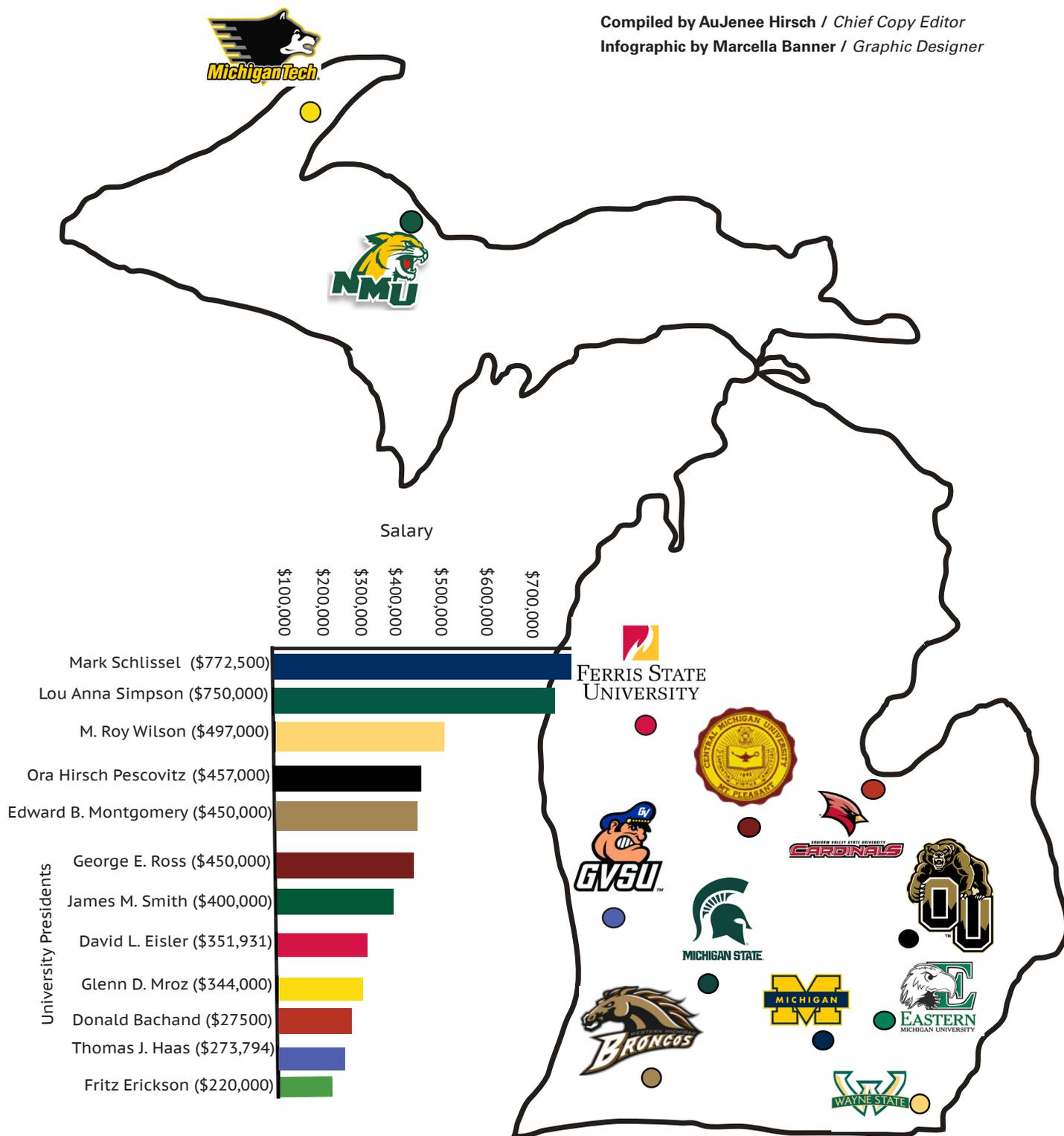
...s last
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JULY 1, 2017
Pescovitz's first day as Oakland's president.

How much does a university president make?

Compiled by AuJenee Hirsch / Chief Copy Editor

Infographic by Marcella Banner / Graphic Designer



“Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales” — fifth installment sinks an already wrecked ship

Trevor Tyle
Staff Intern

This review contains plot spoilers.

Since its debut in 2003, Disney’s “Pirates of the Caribbean” franchise has become one of the most successful film franchises of all time. The franchise’s most recent installment, “Dead Men Tell No Tales,” further proved this with its triumph over the Memorial Day weekend box office. The film has made over \$500 million so far.

However, despite its commercial success, the latest “Pirates” film has thrown the franchise even deeper into its continued downward spiral.

When the original “Pirates” trilogy concluded ten years ago, it came to a fitting end, bringing closure to most of the major characters’ story arcs. But instead of letting a good thing die, Disney continued with the franchise without director Gore Verbinski and permanently tainted it with not one, but two sequels that have fallen short of its predecessors.

“Dead Men Tell No Tales” should be given some credit. It had little to work with, following up “On Stranger Tides,” which is so bad that it’s almost completely irrelevant to the rest of the franchise. However, in undoing its predecessor’s mistakes, “Dead Men Tell No Tales” plays it safe, acting as a bad rehash of the near-perfect first “Pirates” film, “The Curse of the Black Pearl.”

Newcomers Henry (Brenton Thwaites) and Carina (Kaya Scodelario) work as strong additions to the series if you can look past their similarities to Will (Orlando Bloom) and Elizabeth (Keira Knightley), the protagonists of the original trilogy. This shouldn’t come as a complete surprise, though, as Henry is Will and Elizabeth’s son, determined to free his father of a curse brought upon him in the third film, “At World’s End.” Of course, he has the help of Johnny Depp’s Jack Sparrow.

As always, Johnny Depp and Geoffrey Rush deliver with their respective portrayals of Jack Sparrow and Hector Barbossa, which is surely one of the few elements keeping the franchise afloat. Javier Bardem also offers a solid performance as the film’s antagonist, Captain Salazar—though he doesn’t come close to previous villain Davy Jones. Both Bloom and Knightley reprise their roles, albeit briefly. Unfortunately, their return is far too brief, but remains one of the few truly enjoyable moments in the film. The acting is one of the film’s strongest offerings, sans a bizarre and pointless cameo from Paul McCartney.

Despite some stellar performances, there are far too many character motives to keep track of, creating an unnecessarily complicated storyline whose introduction wastes the first half of the film away.

Once the film is done failing at copying its predecessors, it starts stealing schticks from other successful franchises—most notably “Star Wars.” No, there aren’t any lightsabers or space battles, but there is a shocking—and somewhat forced—revelation regarding the connection between two characters, resulting in the slightly detrimental humanization of an otherwise strong character.

Needless to say, “Dead Men Tell No Tales” has some serious flaws. Fans of the franchise will most likely enjoy the film, but will be unable to overlook some of its major issues. Though the final act—especially the must-see post-credits scene—redeems some of the film’s shortcomings, it still lacks the straightforwardness and fun of the original trilogy.

Is “Dead Men Tell No Tales” awful? No, but it’s far from good. Thankfully, the film’s resolution gives Disney the potential to make a fantastic sixth—and hopefully final—installment. However, without the direction of Gore Verbinski and the starring roles of Bloom and Knightley, Disney might as well abandon ship now.



Courtesy of IMDb

“Pirates” veteran Johnny Depp and newcomer Brenton Thwaites on set of “Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales.”

Rating:
2.5/5 stars



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Political focus: The Paris Climate Agreement

After much debate and division in both the Trump Administration and congress, President Trump has announced plans to formally withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement. As is the case for most things our bumbling “President” does, the rest of the world and a majority of the country strongly disagreed with him.

Trump’s decision to leave the Paris agreement goes against some of his closest advisors, including his daughter Ivanka Trump and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. Prominent business leaders such as Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla and Solar City, and Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein also voiced distaste for the president’s move.

President Trump was open to renegotiating the deal with our European allies. However, this move was shot down within minutes when the leaders of France, Germany and Italy issued a joint statement where they called the deal “irreversible”



John Bozick
Web Editor

The President’s rhetoric in describing the climate deal also seems a bit extreme, as he states that the agreement would have “draconian financial and economic burdens” on the United States. However, the emission standards of the Paris Agreement have no legal bindings and only require the United States to report its carbon emissions, which it may revise if it turns out to be too economically burdening.

Renewable energy also employs more people in the United States than any other form of energy according to a report by the Sierra Club. This is compared to coal which, according to a study by the Department of Energy, saw a 39 percent decrease in overall employment since 2009. In just the last year, coal has seen a 24 percent decline in overall job growth.

The President’s announcement also did not stop many states from saying they will still adhere to the agreement, a move that could pit the states against the federal government.

Shortly after the President’s announcement, California Governor Jerry Brown, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and Washington State Governor Jay

Inslee announced the formation of the United States Climate Alliance.

After this announcement, the governors of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, Oregon, Hawaii and Virginia all announced their states will be joining the alliance as well. All states joining are pledging support behind the climate agreement and are focused on upholding the environmental standards put forward by the agreement.

However, on June 2, The Washington Post brought up an important question about the alliance potentially violating the “Constitution’s interstate compacts clause”. Essentially this clause prohibits states from entering into an agreement with other states and foreign powers without the approval of congress, which this alliance seems to have done.

Yet, given the the fact that the alliance is no more than a week old, it’s tough to say whether or not it would be violating the parameters of this clause, as it is still unclear as to what exactly the alliance plans on doing. More time is needed to see if the alliance is indeed constitutional.

In the long run, President Trump’s decision seems like more of a middle finger to the rest of the world instead of to a smart economic move. Not only does it isolate the United States from its traditional European Allies, but it also hands over and entirely new job market to the European Union and China.

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My worst nightmare

Amanda Buchanan
Contributor

This article describes sexual-assault and its emotional aftermath. Reader discretion is advised.

Powerless.
Denial.
Guilt.
Embarrassment.
Fear.
Anxiety.
Most of all: anger.
These emotions overwhelmed me the day I was sexually assaulted.

Sexual assault is often painted in a way that makes it the girl's fault. But that was not my case. In fact, I was wearing not-too-tight flared jeans and a blue long sleeve shirt that reached up to my neck.

Surprising, right?
The flashbacks are vivid. I see a place that was supposed to keep me safe but was the opposite. This place, which was supposed to be full of fun memories, became a source of the worst experience. It is the worst memory of my life. This place, my high school, looms large and ominous in my mind.

It was not a typical school day. It was the day before winter break and I was in charge of my first anti-bully campaign, a movie day. Through fundraising and the admission price I raised \$300 for Know Resolve, an organization working to reduce youth suicides. What was supposed to be a good day is lost in the ugliness that followed.

He was a friend, one I'd known since ninth grade. I trusted him.

In the control booth of the school's auditorium, I was excited for the movie to start. He was there with me.

"Break up with your boyfriend. I will treat you better."

His hands overpowered me. I was trapped. Pushed up against a table, I was unable to find enough strength to push him off me. Helpless, scared and speechless, I realized I wasn't a victim of bullying but of sexual assault.

I wanted to scream. I wanted to fight back. I wanted my friend that stood right next to us to make him stop. I wanted the 200 people that sat two feet from the wall that my body was pushed against, to stop him. But my body froze and the words that filled my mouth were gone.

Embarrassment filled my head. I did not want anyone to find out. Instead of pushing him off of me, my friend later made the situation worse. She confronted the principal, and in that moment my bad dream became reality.

"He admitted that he was wrong but it's all up to you. If you go to the cops, we will suspend him. If not, we aren't going to."

Why was that my choice? Isn't that supposed to be their decision?

New emotions filled my mind. He was getting away with harming my emotional well-being. But I didn't matter. All that mattered was the school's reputation. Sexual assault can't happen at their school.

But it did. To me.
He was given a one day suspension.
My mother is what it took to make it five. Her "over protective mom powers" came out. The principal's hands trembled as my mom did what the school board should have done: got involved.

I never wanted to step foot in that school again. When the principal found out that I was transferring, he reduced my class schedule. All I had was three classes left to graduate. I loved school. Why would I only want to come to school for three hours? I lost valuable time in my own education.

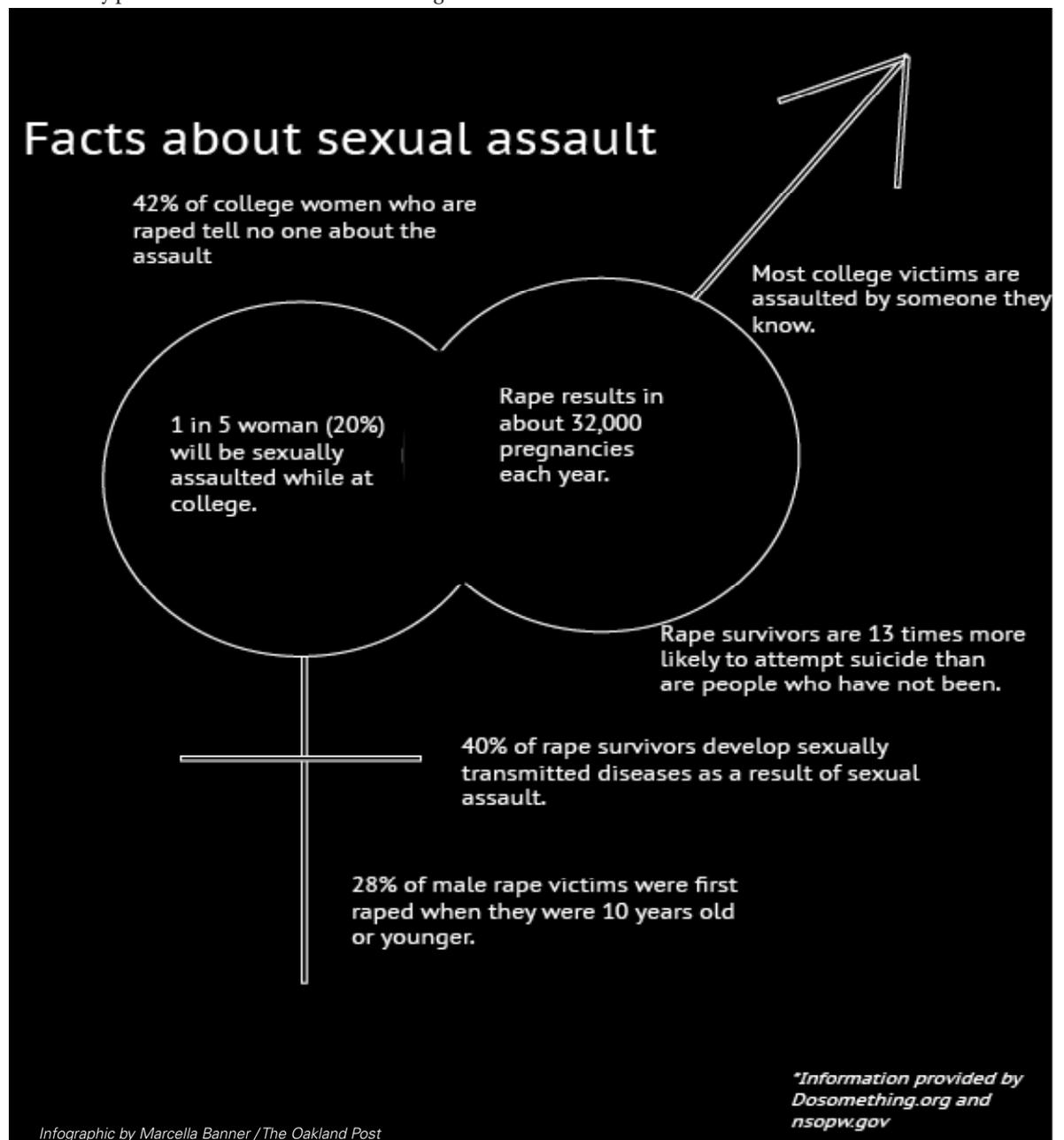
Senior year was supposed to be made of laughs, smiles, and the year to make all the farewell memories. My senior year was nothing like that. I cried more than I smiled. My positive memories turned into a nightmare.

Every day, the flashbacks continued as I ran into him in the hallway. I wanted to hide from the feelings that were eating me alive.

He knew my schedule. There was no place to run.
Prom was cut two hours short. Because everywhere I looked, he appeared in the distance. Staring, and maybe not at me. But in my mind, I couldn't get away. I had to get out of there.

As the legal case began, I was constantly reminded of that fateful day. I didn't have the strength to face him in court. I gave him a plea deal and he was charged with fourth degree sexual criminal conduct.

No sexual assault story is alike. Our wounds need to be healed, our stories need to be understood, and our words need to be heard.



Pilot: A flightless bird or a sci-fi reality?

Waverly Labs' Pilot attempts to break language barriers.



Photo Courtesy of Waverly Labs

Shane Grodzicki

Contributor

In the ever-intermingling age of global commerce, a new technology is aiming to take flight this summer, and it's one that could soar well beyond the obstacles of language.

For what could be a giant leap in worldwide understanding, Pilot is a wearable earpiece allegedly able to translate conversations in real time between various language speakers.

According to Waverly Labs' website, the designers of Pilot, "Being lost in translation has happened to everyone, today it's history."

The company said it has sold over twenty-two thousand units and raised \$4.5 million through crowdfunding.

Founder and CEO of Waverly Labs, Andrew Ochoa, said it all started when he met a French woman and shared great difficulty in overcoming the language barriers in their relationship.

Although the wearable earpiece is the first of its kind, powered by speech recognition software, text translation, and text-to-speech synthesis, the technology is not completely innovative.

In fact, Waverly Labs admits that some of the technology going into Pilot has already been created and is licensed to other companies.

"The translation industry has used various types of translation software and technology for decades now," said Oakland University professor of Spanish, Holly Walker Cote, "the goal of this device is functional commu-

nication, not the meaningful use of nuanced language."

Pilot lacks in translating subtleties like humor, sarcasm, accents and multiple pronunciations of a single word. Translating isn't as black and white as it may seem.

Even on the Waverly Labs website, the ad features a non-natural rendition of French into English, translating the word *parlez* into "talk" when the speaker intends to say "I can hear you speak French."

Matthew Tucker, a professor of linguistics at Oakland University, agrees that the technology is not tried and true.

"It is always going to be only as good as the statistical models it employs in the app for machine translation and speech synthesis," Tucker said.

Despite the suggestion of the website, because the statistical models are not perfect, Pilot will likely be ill-fitted for encounters between business professionals depending on communicating subtleties.

"What I see as an actual breakthrough for this technology is the way in which it could be used in natural disasters, emergency rooms, for first responders, [and] for ESL students in the classroom," Walker Cote said.

Although Pilot lacks in various capabilities, statistical translation is becoming very sophisticated; modern humans may even see language barriers become a thing of the past.

Pilot is selling for \$250 and is expected this coming fall.

The technology will feature English, French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, with Germanic, Slovak, Asian and African languages promised to follow.

As Pilot comes to the scene, consumers are either going to find another fluke played up by over-zealous advertising, or the fulfillment of a sci-fi dream prophesied by "Star Trek" and "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy."

'Alien: Covenant'- A promising prequel



Photo Courtesy of IMBD

"Alien: Covenant" is the newest film to join the famous franchise's ranks.

Trevor Tyle

Staff Intern

Thirty-eight years ago, Ridley Scott quite literally grabbed the attention of audiences everywhere with the release of his sci-fi/horror classic, "Alien." The film would go on to establish a hugely successful franchise, though in recent years it has struggled to achieve the critical success of its first two releases. With the release of 2012's "Prometheus," the first in a series of prequels to the original film, fans were left with little hope for the series' future, but with "Alien: Covenant," that hope may finally be restored.

The "Alien" franchise's storylines have always been essentially indistinguishable—a space crew falls victim to a ferocious extraterrestrial species in need of human hosts to foster their offspring. Although the premise works for the series' first two films, it quickly becomes a vicious and predictable cycle that leaves audiences asking, "How many times can this be done well?"

Despite "Covenant's" inevitably unoriginal storyline, screenwriters did their best in creating something new and exciting from the weak material they were left with from the previous film, "Prometheus." In their efforts to fix the many flaws of "Prometheus," the filmmakers

played it safe, filling "Covenant" with action sequences that boast intensity almost too reminiscent of the first two installments.

Although initially controversial, opting to eliminate the previously established protagonist of "Prometheus" in favor of Katherine Waterston, a new character Daniels, proved to be one of the filmmakers' best decisions. Waterston is known for her role in "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" as Porpentina Goldstein. Though Michael Fassbender received universal praise for his dual portrayal of androids David and Walter, which was indeed phenomenal, Waterston's performance is equally impressive. "Covenant" does a subpar job in establishing her character, though the film's final act briefly allows her to shine in a sequence evoking the strength and fearlessness of Sigourney Weaver's Ripley, the iconic heroine of the original "Alien" films.

However, as Fassbender's Walter notes in "Covenant's" second act, "One wrong note eventually ruins the entire symphony." Unfortunately, this is too accurate in describing the amount of time the film spends trying to resolve issues created by "Prometheus." The film's overbearing reliance on gore quickly becomes a weak effort to stay relevant in the horror genre it was distanced from by its predecessor. Thematically, "Covenant" is tainted by Scott's unnecessary philosophical backstories, which feel out-of-place in a film series that came to prominence without needing this sort of intellectual depth—it leaves audiences feeling more confused than entertained.

It seems unlikely that any of the franchise's future offerings will even come close to the quality of the original two; however, "Alien: Covenant" brings back the action, excitement and horror that its recent predecessors have lacked. Though far from perfect, "Alien: Covenant" is definitely a step in the right direction.

Rating: 3.5/5 stars



Summertime destination madness

Simon Albaugh
Social Media Editor

Are you feeling extreme emotional distress? Failing-oriented feelings of paranoia? Major-related identity dysphoria?

If one or more of the above is a direct result of finals stress, then maybe you need a vacation.

So, The Oakland Post has created a list of seven exotic summer destinations armed to the teeth with a psych ward on standby. Because, you know, finals.

7.) Mackinac Island, Michigan

That's right, we're starting with our motherland of a state. We're famous for our cherries, lack of any wild state-animal specimen and a shitload of car companies. But what most people don't realize is that we also have an international treasure just a 20-minute boat ride away.

Mackinac Island is known for trying to seem like it doesn't know what a car is. But don't ask a tourism ambassador why there are no cars. It's an international conspiracy used to immerse tourists in the experience. I once saw a naked man running through the streets yelling "Cars exist! Cars exist!" He was promptly tazed and taken off the island.

Maybe he was brought to Cheboygan Mich., where the area's psychiatric center treats a variety of behavioral issues and cognitive effects. Or maybe he's being brainwashed by the Mackinac tourist industry. We'll never know for sure.

6.) Ocean City, Maryland

Did somebody say lobster and butter? Well, I'm allergic. Thanks for being so insensitive.

This Atlantic Ocean city boasts one of the greatest boardwalk experiences in America. So whenever you drop your keys or your phone, they go through the cracks, never to be seen again.

The innumerable businesses and attractions should keep your mind off your grade point average long enough to really enjoy yourself. But make sure not to go during their designated "Senior Week," when recent high school graduates come to enjoy the location.

However, if you do go, don't harass them and tell them that they are so naïve for growing up and thinking that college will be fun. Don't throw rocks at them and try to explain to the police that it's a metaphor for life that they need to learn as soon as possible.

If you find yourself in that situation, count yourself lucky that Baltimore has more young adult psychiatric hospitals than you can count.

5.) Amsterdam, the Netherlands

You know what doesn't help directly after a period of high stress? Psychedelics, which are totally legal in the Netherlands.

This place obviously has its share of psychedelic truffle-related emergencies. With this intensely cerebral nature of such emergencies, there needs to be a good place for those people to get help.

So, go ahead and enjoy the copious



Photo Illustration by Marcella Banner / The Oakland Post

Don't let your grades drive you into a padded cell this summer.

amounts of weed. I'm not trying to tell you what to do, but maybe hold off on the psychedelics scene. Or don't. I honestly don't know how psychedelics work.

4.) Virginia Beach, Virginia

The land of the free and home of the brave belongs to number four on our list. This wonderful place is best known for its simultaneous position as the home of original American settlers and the locale of a girls gone wild "top ten college party spot." So, you can throw up in the same place that a pilgrim lived!

But what this place lacks in morals, it makes up in charm. 400,000 call this resort town home and they have psychiatric problems after watching the gross things tourists do.

So, when you realize what horrible choices you've made in Virginia Beach, VA, you can go to the Virginia Beach Psychiatric Center. The only place with an ocean view from psychotherapy rooms.

3.) Tokyo, Japan

This is the most exotic destination, with culture brimming from every noodle shop and sushi bar. Famous for Anthony Bourdain's transformation into an international celebrity, and, you know, Pearl Harbor. This is a great place to get culture shock.

Many wealthy ex-patriots know this place well. Its charming streets and safe environment turn the city streets into a playground. Until you suddenly remember The Nanking Massacre.

If you're anything like me and hold a grudge about things that literally have nothing to do with you, then you're going to start running

around the streets asking why the Japanese felt the need to do horrible acts. That's a great way to put you in a psychiatric hospital.

2.) Dubai, The United Arab Emirates

If you're rich, this is the place for you. You know those pictures of golden Ferraris and platinum AK-47's? This is where they come from.

Dubai is famous for its ridiculous amount of wealth and prosperity that WILL collapse because all of its money comes from oil and violating basic human rights of minority ethnic groups.

Luxury shopping and a great night life are just some of the beautiful things that come from this Persian Gulf city. It also homes of one of the only indoor ski resorts in the world. You can ski inside after you literally just watched a foreign construction worker getting shot in the street.

If the PTSD doesn't get you, then the PDA (public display of affection) may. That's right, you can be sent to a psychiatric hospital for kissing someone. We won't think you're crazy, but we're not the ones that govern Dubai.

1.) Hawaii

Don't think about the volcanoes. Don't think about the volcanoes.

If there's anything I've learned, it's that the world is a horrible place. But a little vacation to one of these places can make everything seem better. Or it can make it all worse. Just don't think about this stuff. Drown your real feelings in ignorant bliss because the world doesn't need more sad people. Now, enjoy your summer.

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Nowshin Chowdhury / The Oakland Post

This season, Kampe will be entering his 34th year with Oakland's men's basketball team.

Men's basketball coach will be inducted to Michigan's Sports Hall of Fame

Men's basketball coach humbly receives historic achievement after 33 years, responds by continuing to volunteer with Coaches Beat Cancer

Skylar Tolfree
Sports Editor

In recent weeks, Oakland University's men's basketball head coach Greg Kampe was elected to the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame. He will be Oakland's second member in the Hall of Fame, the first being swimming and diving head coach Pete Hovland, who was inducted in 2016.

This year's class also includes Mitch Albom, Jon Jansen, Jim Leyland, Dean Look, Andre Rison, Dennis Rodman and Jalen Rose. They will be inducted at a ceremony held in the Max M. Fisher Music Theatre on Friday, Sept. 15.

Kampe has been with the men's basketball team for 33 years and starting next season it will be 34 years. He shows no signs of slowing down or stepping back. With three of his players moving on to the NBA and him leading a record-setting team, Kampe is a force to be reckoned with. Though the team's roster changes every year, he is the constant presence for the team and fans.

During his career at Oakland, Kampe has helped lead the men's basketball team to six championships in the past 14 years. He also was involved in helping to get the men's team from division two to division one.

He is known by fans as the hardcore coach who spends every game on his feet, directing his team in his trademark shouting and over-the-top hand motions. But to the team, he is known as the teacher and mentor who helps make them the players they are.

When the news broke that Kampe had been elected to the hall of fame, Oakland forward Jalen Hayes reached out to Kampe to congratulate him. As a player who started every game last season, he has experienced first-hand what working hard with Kampe can do to a player's game.

"34 years is a while," Hayes said. "I've been lucky to be a part of that for the past four or five years."

Kendrick Nunn, a senior guard on the team is also proud of his coach's accomplishment,

saying he values the time he has spent learning from Kampe.

"This is an amazing opportunity, it's once in a lifetime," he said. "It speaks a lot about him as a person. To be coached by him is an amazing opportunity."

Kampe has been humble in the time after the announcement. Between disbelief and shock, he commented to press in a video posted by the Detroit Free Press, "I'd be lying if I said it didn't make me step back and say 'oh my god.' Yeah, I'm very lucky."

Senior guard Martez Walker said the accomplishment marks a milestone for not only Kampe, but Oakland as well.

"This is something special for him, and our team," he said.

In his character, Kampe spent the days after the announcement volunteering in his Coaches Beat Cancer event. This year's event raised around \$180,000 for the American Cancer Society. Kampe organized the event and he as well as 11 of his coaching peers, including Michigan State's Tom Izzo, spent the day with cancer patients at Beaumont Hospital.

Associate athletic trainer steps down due to ALS

Tom Ford has been with the Golden Grizzlies since 1988, vows to battle Lou Gehrig's Disease

Skylar Tolfree
Sports Editor

Oakland University's Tom Ford recently announced that he will be stepping down from his duties as Associate Athletic Trainer. On Saturday, May 13, Ford told the public that he is stepping down due to being diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) or Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Ford has been with OU since 1988 and is widely known and loved by many on campus. He has worked primarily with men's basketball, women's soccer, and the men's and women's golf teams.

During his time at Oakland, Ford was honored with the title of 2012 Michigan Athletic Trainer's Distinguished Athletic Trainer for his efforts.

Since Ford's work at OU was done primarily with the men's basketball team, he has developed lasting relationships with the team and coach. Men's basketball coach Greg Kampe spoke very highly of Ford in an interview with Oakland University Athletics, calling Ford "a legend among the student athletes," and also stated that he "is indebted to Ford for his service and will always be there for him."

Kampe posted on his Twitter as well, saying, "Dec. 9 is Tom Ford Day at the O'Rena." He also asked for alumni and others to sell out the O'Rena so as many as possi-

ble can celebrate Ford's legacy.

There has been an outpour of public support on social media. Many athletes and alumni have been sending Ford encouraging tweets, and well wishes. Many will miss seeing him around campus.

"I'm not going anywhere and I plan on battling this difficult disease with every challenge it gives me."

Tom Ford
Former Associate Athletic Trainer

But, he plans to fight the ALS with all he has.

"I'm not going anywhere and I plan on battling this difficult disease with every challenge it gives me," Ford said in an interview with Athletics.

The news of the illness was a complete shock to Ford and his family, but they are not letting it get their spirits down. Ford and his family will continue to live in Rochester and he plans to volunteer with the ALS Association.

"He is always welcome within these walls and we owe him and his family a debt of gratitude." Athletics Director Jeff Konya told Athletics.



Jose Juarez / Photo Courtesy of Oakland University Athletics

Tom Ford was a major asset to many of Oakland's varsity athletics teams including men's basketball, women's soccer and men and women's golf.



Photo Courtesy of Olympia Entertainment

Little Caesars Arena will be open in September 2017 and will house both Red Wings and Pistons sporting events.

Oakland University's men's basketball will take on MSU at Little Caesars Arena

Dec. 16 marks Oakland's annual men's basketball game against MSU at new arena, players are excited for the privilege to play on same floor as Detroit professionals

Skylar Tolfree
Sports Editor

Oakland University men's basketball will be taking on Michigan State University at the new Little Caesars Arena in downtown Detroit.

The teams have the privilege of playing in the arena set to replace both the Joe Louis Arena and the Palace of Auburn Hills in its historic first season. The arena will seat 20,000 during hockey games and 21,000 during basketball games.

Little Caesar's Arena will be the new home of the Detroit Red Wings and Detroit Pistons and is also expected to host big names in music like Kid Rock, Imagine Dragons and Ed Sheeran after it opens on Sept. 17.

The game is set to be a doubleheader, with Oakland taking on MSU and the University of Michigan taking on Detroit Mercy. These matchups are sure to draw crowds, and bring out the college rivalries all around Detroit. With two rivalries in the house, the games are expected to be heated.

Oakland has gone up against MSU 15 times and fallen short every time, the most recent being in 2016 at MSU's Breslin Center. Nonetheless, it is expected to be a thrilling match-up, especially if it is anything like the 2015 game in which Oakland narrowly fell to the Spartans 99-93. In the sold out game, Oakland led for most of the match until falling behind in overtime. Despite the last

game being so close, both the team and head coach Greg Kampe want a win.

Senior Martez Walker said that he is very confident going into the faceoff and is looking forward to a great game. After losing out in the first round of the Horizon League tournament as the No. 1 seed, the team has work ahead of them. But Oakland is determined to come back strong.

"I'm excited to see where we go with the team coming back from last year," Walker said.

With the loss of Kay Felder and Sherron Dorsley-Walker in the last few years, winning is up to the team's new upperclassmen. Jalen Hayes, a senior on the team, is hoping this game will give the Golden Grizzlies a chance to best MSU before he has to hang-up his Oakland jersey for good at the end of the season.

"I'm really, really excited," he said. "It'll be nice to play MSU on a mutual court. This will be good for the city. I'm looking forward to a chance to knock MSU before I graduate."

Every time Oakland takes on MSU the games are hyperintense and crowd-pleasing. This keeps spectators on the edge of their seats until the final buzzer.

"It's going to be an amazing game both to play and watch," Kendrick Nunn, a senior on the team, said. "MSU has always been one of my rivals."

With pre-season games and over a month of regular season before the faceoff, the Grizzlies have plenty of time to warm up before the team attempts to defeat the Spartans for the first time.

Golden Grizzlies met challenges in baseball and softball tournaments

Shelby Tankersley
Editor-in-Chief

Oakland university's baseball and softball teams recently qualified for and competed in their respective Horizon League tournaments. Neither team walked away with trophies, but both made good plays throughout.

Softball spends short time in tournament

Oakland Softball started the Horizon League tournament as the No. 6 seed. The tournament ended the college careers of seniors Erin Kownacki, Sydney Hasslebach, Lyndsay Hill, Lydia Peplinski, Lauren Meed, Abbey Walewski and Kaley Waalkes.

The team's first game was against No. 3 seed Valparaiso University (Valpo). After a three-hour rain delay, the game was shortened due to heavy rain and lasted just four innings. Oakland ended up losing 1-0 with two hits.

On May 11, Oakland fell to its long-time rival, University of Detroit Mercy. Pitcher Kownacki pitched a solid game with five strikeouts in just over three innings. Devon Smith hit Oakland's only run of the game in the team's loss of 4-1.

Baseball fights hard into the semifinals

The Golden Grizzlies defeated Youngstown State University 7-5 and 8-6 in a doubleheader on May 14 to secure a spot in the Horizon League Tournament. This marked the beginning of the team redeeming itself after a rough regular season.

The Golden Grizzlies entered the tournament as the No. 5 seed. The tournament served as a farewell to this year's graduating class included Tyle Pagano, Tyler Janish and Zach Sterry.

In its tournament opener, Oakland beat No. 4 seed Valpo 6-4 thanks to key-player Pagano, who went 3-for-5. The game was a turning point for the Golden Grizzlies as it was the team's first tournament win since the 2012 season.

Following the good momentum, the team crushed No. 3 seed Northern Kentucky University 12-5 on May 25. Pitcher Connor Fanning only gave two hits in the six innings he threw. Matt DiLeo and Mike McGee were also key players, scoring four runs between them. This game was also monumental for the team, it was the first time Oakland won multiple tournament games since 2000 when it was still a member of the Summit League.

Later that day, the Grizzlies fell to No. 1 seed University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) 8-0, ending the winning streak. Jake Dahlberg, UIC pitcher and Horizon League Pitcher of the Year, shutout Oakland in the seven innings he threw. With no runs, the Grizzlies moved on to what would be its final game of the season.

Wright State defeated Oakland 12-4 in the semifinals round, ending Oakland's time in the tournament. Wright State would go on to lose the championship to UIC 4-2. The game was UIC's 39th victory of the season.



Nowshin Chowdhury / The Oakland Post

Oakland baseball fell to Wright State in the Horizon League Tournament.



Photo Courtesy of Wilfred Williams

Williams raised money to fund the education of the Liberian kids from the Paynesville Young Star Football Club.

Williams with a mission in Liberia

Oakland soccer player pays tuition for and supports kids soccer team in Liberia.

Katie LaDuke
Staff Reporter

Wilfred Williams, a transfer student last year from Eastern Florida State University, finished his first season as a defender for Oakland University soccer in the fall of 2016. Williams was born in Liberia, Africa and came to America when he was 10 years old to live with his uncle in Tennessee.

"My mom wanted me to come [to America] to get a better education and better life. At that time in Liberia and most parts of Africa, there were a lot of struggles," he said. "The education is good, but it's not great, so my mom wanted me to come here so I could get a better future."

While living with his uncle, Williams started getting involved with volunteer and service opportunities. Through his club soccer team, Williams became affiliated with One7 Ministry, a non-profit organization located in Charlotte, N.C. that helps people affected by abuse, homelessness, abandonment and other obstacles. After graduating high school

in 2014, Williams became a full-time intern for the summer.

Following that summer, Williams went back to One7 around the holiday season in 2014 and 2015. During this time, Williams donated presents he received from family and friends to the children at the ministry.

For the 2016 holiday season, Williams decided he wanted to do something different by spending a whole day of just having fun with the kids. To do this, Williams set a goal of raising \$2,000 so he could take 20 to 25 children out for the entire day. This holiday shopping project became one of Williams' bigger service projects with his short time at Oakland.

"I made a GoFundMe page to raise money to take some kids shopping," he said. "When I came to college I knew I wanted to do something, so I started doing fundraising to get Christmas presents for the kids at One7."

With his many trips to North Carolina, Williams had not been back to Liberia in four years. A few months before the 2017 school year ended,

Williams' host family surprised him with a plane ticket to Liberia.

"I was very shocked and surprised when I found out," he said. "It was just unreal."

Williams left for Liberia on April 26 and returned on May 13. At the beginning of his trip, Williams spent time seeing relatives he has not seen in years. There was a detour to Ghana and also places in Liberia with family members that Williams has not seen in over a decade.

"It was amazing to be around family," he said. "It was something I needed for myself, personally, to mentally just focus on soccer and school. I guess you could say I was homesick, so I definitely needed this before my senior year of college."

Besides seeing family and being at home, Williams also wanted to give back to his old community and help with a local soccer team, the Paynesville Young Star Football Club.

One major difference between America and Africa, Williams recalls, is the school system.

There are two different times when children can go to school. There is a morning session and afternoon session. Between these two sessions, children can be seen working in the streets to get money for their tuition or for their household.

"It really hits you," Williams said. "When you're [in America] it's illegal for kids to work until they're 14 or 15, and when they do work they get paid good money. Some people over there only get \$69 for the entire month."

In Liberia, there are public and private schools. However, public schools in Africa are often very overcrowded where children are not given the best quality of education. With private schools, families need to pay tuition to attend. Even if children are allowed to go to school, some families may not be able to afford it or keep up with payments of the tuition.

Seeing how so many people take education for granted, Williams decided he wanted to help pay for some children's tuition while he was in Liberia. Before his trip, Williams started another GoFundMe page where he raised a total of \$1,000.

As he went around to various schools in Liberia to check up on kids, he noticed that tuition went up and many children could not pay the tuition for the full year.

Tuition for the private schools can be anywhere from \$75 to \$200. With the money he raised, Williams decided to pay off the tuition debt the

"Every time I see kids selling something on the streets and it's school time, it hurts me deeply. Some families cannot afford to send kids to school. The amount it costs for a kid to go to school [in Africa] is not much at all compared to if a kid went to a private school here. I wish I could pay for every kid's tuition."

Wilfred Williams
Senior soccer player

families faced.

"I partnered up with a local soccer team to help these kids pay for tuition as long as they are on the team and as long as their grades are up," he said. "My goal for them is to just focus on playing soccer and school. The money their families were going to pay for their tuition can now go towards providing for their family."

Williams spent a total of \$800 on the children. The money went towards tuition and equipment for the soccer team. Williams also gave some of the money he raised to people he just saw on the streets.

"The best part of my trip was playing soccer with Paynesville Young Star Football Club," Williams said. "Another thing we [in America] take for granted is the field and facility conditions. [In Africa] we would play on dirt with hills, and these kids were just amazing. They were just so focused and driven. It reminded me how much I love the game."

In fall 2017, Williams will finish his bachelor's degree in Integrated Studies. After graduation, he still wants to help raise money and volunteer, and he hopes to take all of his experience from his travels to impact the lives of others.

"My job now is to fundraise for PYSFC," Williams said. "Right now we have 36 players on the team that were selected. For these 36 players, I will be looking for people or families to help support and sponsor them. Each year I would love to do that."

Williams knows that a lot of people promise children in Liberia things but never follow through with those promises or go back. He vows to never do that and will try his hardest to get sponsors for the children.

"I'm not giving up on them," he said. "I want to help them and be a part of their team."

We cheer and dance together

Integrated Cheer and Dance team starts from scratch.

Katie LaDuke
Staff Reporter

As the shock wears off from the announcement on April 19 regarding the combination of the cheer and dance teams, Oakland University Athletics is beginning to build the new Integrated Cheer and Dance team from the bottom up. Naming coaches became the first task of the new program.

Chelsea Estes and Kayla Peiffer were named coaches of Oakland University Integrated Cheer and Dance on May 4. Estes brings over 20 years of dance experience including her involvement with the Detroit Tigers Energy Squad as well as working within Athletics for the past two years as a sideline reporter for ESPN3. Peiffer spent time in the Sylvania School District in Ohio as a cheerleading adviser and was a varsity cheerleader at the University of Toledo.

"I am still so honored and blessed to be a part of this team [at Oakland]," Peiffer said. "I think the team is going to be a really good and positive thing coming out of Oakland. I think some of the athletes are still a little scared, but after we got to meet with them and had some one-on-one time with them, they are more open to the idea now."

Integrated Cheer and Dance will largely focus on fan engagement and community interaction. Some ideas have focused on talking more with the fans in the stands on game-day and helping with daily promotions that Oakland sponsors at games.

"The biggest misconception is that cheer was completely cut and dance was completely cut, but that is not the case," Estes said. "We are still going to be highlighting the dancers and the skills they have along with the cheerleaders. We'll be doing services events along with community events where we'll be together."

A common concern among both fans and athletes is how this team is going to work. Instead of fo-



Nicole Morsfield / The Oakland Post

All prospective athletes for the team, including returners, were required to tryout. This will allow the team to employ dance and cheer aspects to routines through athletic diversity.

ocusing on just one group or cross training each athlete in cheer and dance, both groups will be represented equally based on the skills the athletes have originally been trained in. Routines performed by the groups separately, but there will also be numbers that combine the two groups and involve both cheer and dance elements.

"We want this team to have its own identity," Estes said. "We definitely have skills we are looking for, and we have a unique opportunity to do make this program how we want it. We want the best of the best."

In order to get the best of the best, Estes and Peiffer want to see all the skills athletes have. Everyone, including the returning dancers and cheerleaders, is required to tryout. Each athlete will also be interviewed on why they want to be a part of this new team. The first set of tryouts took place May 22-24. There will also be another set of tryouts in the fall for any interested dancers and cheerleaders.

"There are a lot of schools out there that do a great job playing off of the [cheerleading and dance] groups," Peiffer said. "I think there's going to be a good mix of under-

standing the game day element as far as leading the crowd and understanding how their presence can be maintained throughout the whole game. I think that is going to be something that will be able to complement each other in the whole sense of it. The cheerleaders can learn from the dancers just as much as the dancers can learn from the cheerleaders."

Before the first set of tryouts, there was an informational meeting on May 17 where the expectations and vision for the team were laid out for prospective athletes.

Besides enhancing the game day experience and going out in the community, the athletes will be working with Oakland's marketing team as athletic ambassadors.

"The marketing team with the cheerleaders and dancers works hand in hand as far as it goes with the promos and different elements they have at the game," Peiffer said. "There may be a time-out in the game and there is a t-shirt toss. That is our opportunity to get to be in front of the fans. It's [the athletes] time to really understand that yes they are cheerleaders and yes they are dancers. They will get to per-

form, but they are also there to help out with the bigger picture of Athletics."

With Integrated Cheer and Dance shifting its focus from competitions, an issue involving participation at Nationals arises. The new team will not be able to compete at the National Cheerleaders Association national competition nor the Universal Dance Association national competition. Involvement in these competitions has been highly regarded by athletes who are now disappointed.

However, competitions are not completely ruled out. There is a possibility that two separate competition teams, one for dance and one for cheer, may arise. This all depends on if there is enough interest in making the teams.

"There have been some people worried and apprehensive about the issue surrounding Nationals," Estes said. "We are encouraging [the athletes] to have an open mind since this change is different and may be a little hard to grasp right now. They will still dance. They will still cheer. We will still push them. They are athletes performing at the collegiate level, and we will not accept anything less from them."

This new team will heavily rely on athlete input. Estes and Peiffer are open to hearing new ideas and will work with what the athletes want. Athletes will also be involved in deciding on what direction the team will go in with regards to performances, uniforms and the permanent name of the team.

"The most difficult aspect with this new team is going to be trying to convince everyone that it's going to be okay," Estes said. "I think everyone is still a little confused on how everything is going to work, but I'm excited to see how far this program will go and to see the entertainment increase at Oakland University."

"Both dancers and cheerleaders are athletes as well as entertainers so we're going to bring a lot of new ideas to Oakland," she said.