

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Rochester, Michigan

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KRESGE LIBRARY



HAPPY 60TH

Kresge Library celebrates its 60th anniversary with rededication event
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NIGHT AT THE OPERA

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PHOTO AND DESIGN BY SOPHIE HUME

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



HEADING FOR HOMEPLATE Jared Miller settles in on third base, looking to make it home for a score during the Golden Grizzlies' game against Purdue-Fort Wayne last Friday.
AYMAN ISHIMWE / PHOTOGRAPHER

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THE **Oakland** POST

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Letter from the editor: We challenge you to challenge us

GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH

Editor-in-Chief

Welcome to the first issue of the summer!

You might have noticed some changes to our website today. We've added two new sections — "Arts" and "Science & Technology" — to Vol. 48, and thanks to Megan Parker — one of our talented graphic designers — we have a new logo!

Oakland University's student newspaper has had many names and designs since its formation in the late fifties: The Oakland Observer (1959-1969), Focus Oakland (1969-1974), The Oakland Sail (1975-1987) and, of course, our current title — The Oakland Post.

By incorporating some of the past with the present of The Post in our design, we hope to highlight the history of this newspaper and its long-tenured tradition of serving as an information platform for campus discussion.

While each version of this newspaper has had its own unique aesthetic, every form has had the same purpose: to bring OU news to OU's community, to hold those in power accountable and to serve as a learning experience for future journalists.

Now more than ever, a free and independent press is a global necessity. Now more than ever, it is under attack.

This past week, Al Jazeera journalist and Palestinian-American Shireen Abu Akleh was shot and killed while covering an Israeli military raid in the city of Jenin.

Al Jazeera and Palestinian authorities reported that Israeli forces shot the veteran correspondent and Arab icon, who has spent two decades covering occupied Palestine. Israel initially said she was caught in crossfire and that Palestinian gunmen are most likely responsible. The Israeli military says it is now investigating the possibility that an Israeli soldier was responsible.

Shireen Abu Akleh was killed doing her job. A job that she committed to exposing the atrocities of violence. And she isn't the only one.

Since the beginning of Russia's war in Ukraine in February, at least 23 journalists have been killed in the line of duty.

All of these journalists had an unwavering, selfless commitment to sharing the truth. Their deaths are heartbreaking tragedies that cannot be forgotten.



PHOTO BY CHRIS ESTRADA

Gabrielle Abdelmessih is the editor-in-chief of The Oakland Post for the 2022-2023 academic year. She is a senior majoring in biomedical sciences and minoring in journalism.

Astonishingly, even in the United States, as little as three years ago, a sitting president labeled the press "the enemy of the people," a term used by Lenin, Stalin and Goebbels as well as a handful of other despots throughout history. The point is that when a free and fair press ceases to exist, authoritarianism and fascism flourish.

A free press as a core pillar and "Fourth Estate" is vital in a democratic society. Threats to fair and accurate reporting — regardless of how small or large a media platform may be — are dangerous, with tangible consequences.

I recognize the responsibility and privilege I have to work with student journalists as an independent entity separate from the university that serves the public interest of our community.

Chances are, if you're reading this, you're already a consumer of this news outlet, but I would

ask you to go one step further and partner with us by encouraging your colleagues, classmates and fellow OU community members to pick up a paper or jump online to our website to stay informed. We hope for an unprecedented level of community engagement for Vol. 48, and we welcome news story suggestions, letters to the editor and comments to spark community discussion on our online platform.

On behalf of all of myself, the editorial board, section editors, reporting staff, photographers, graphic designers, distributors and ads team, as well as our editorial advisor Garry Gilbert, business advisor Don Ritenburgh and informal faculty advisors:

We challenge you to challenge us.

After all, this is your campus, your news.

THE akland POST

Center for Multicultural Initiatives welcomes new CORE Coordinator

TORI COKER

Content Editor

The Center for Multicultural Initiatives (CMI) is welcoming Oakland University alum Sarah Bodnar to their staff as the newest coordinator for their CORE (Collectively Oakland Retains Everyone) program.

Bodnar is a two-time OU alumna, having earned her undergraduate degree in English and Creative Writing before graduating with a master's in Communication last year. Having always harbored an appreciation for reading and writing, Bodnar trusted her gut and pursued the subjects she was most passionate about throughout her studies — a strategy she now encourages fellow Grizzlies to follow.

"School is a lot of work and a lot of time, so you have to have drive and motivation to get up and go to class, engage in conversations and care about your education," Bodnar said. "[...] Your degree does not make your career — you can get a degree in anything and go do anything you want, you just have to be able to tell a story about yourself. Going to school is really building that story, so I'd say go to school for what you're interested in and make connections with people in fields that you're interested in."

For Bodnar, this interest has always been grounded in helping others. Her latest appointment with the CMI is hardly her first brush with the organization — midway through her undergraduate studies, a friend's involvement exposed her to all the center has to offer students, and she quickly sought further involvement as an Ambassador for the CORE program.

"I knew as soon as I started getting involved that I wanted to work in the office," Bodnar said. "I wanted to be a part of that so I could do that for



PHOTO COURTESY OF @OU_CMI ON INSTAGRAM
Sarah Bodnar has joined the CMI staff as their newest CORE Coordinator.

other students, so I could be a positive change on campus and create that sense of community that I really appreciated and valued having."

CORE is an integral program for the center, aimed at easing the transition into college for freshman students from underrepresented communities. The program puts students in touch with meaningful advising and resources they can refer to for any number of needs, from financial aid to academics to making on-campus connections.

For Bodnar, the program represents exactly the type of support system she feels makes college such a promising opportunity for young people of all backgrounds.

"As someone who came from a low-class background and [is] a first-generation college

student, college for me was really exciting because it's almost an equalizer," Bodnar said. "Everyone at the university level is working toward goals, is trying to be a better version of themselves, is learning and growing and making mistakes and trying new things, and that energy that happens at the university really drew me to [on-campus involvement]."

CORE Ambassadors provide peer mentorship to incoming freshmen, an opportunity that allowed Bodnar to satisfy her hunger to provide the same guidance she'd benefitted so much from through the CMI. This appreciation for mentoring would eventually lead her to a role within the First Year Advising Center (FYAC) throughout the 2021-2022 academic year, and finally to her position as the CMI's newest CORE Coordinator.

"To pass [advice] onto someone but to also just be someone they can talk to, someone that's listening to them, that cares about them as a person — not just a student — was really important to me," Bodnar said.

Bodnar's coordinator role will see her continuing to contribute to student success in the CORE program from a heightened point of involvement. From the organization's trademark Bridge Week coming up in July to the return of beloved in-person activities such as men's and women's camping retreats for the first time since COVID-19 this fall, she has high aspirations for the academic year ahead and encourages interested students to get in on the fun.

"This year, our office is really looking to get [back] to creating that sense of community on campus again, coming together again, and so we're going to kick it off at the start of the year," Bodnar said. For more information on the CORE program and all things CMI, head to www.oakland.edu/cmi/

OCC students can transfer more credits for graphic design degree programs at OU

LETICIA CEZÁRIO SANTOS

Marketing Director

Leaders from Oakland Community College (OCC) and Oakland University took part in a signing ceremony on April 7, 2022, adopting a new transfer articulation agreement between both schools to create a simpler and more cost-efficient path for students to complete associate and bachelor's degrees in graphic design.

In a world that is each day more digitized, a career in graphic design can be an excellent way to combine art, technology and communication. According to Indeed, these professionals are needed on many projects in a variety of fields. Majoring in this field gives students a diverse array of knowledge, from artistic principles to proficiency in design programs and software.

The agreement increases the number of transferable graphic design credits from 16 to 20. This credit increase benefits students by enabling them to save money through completing their associate's degrees at OCC, after which point they will only have around 44 credits left to complete to earn their bachelor's degree at OU.

The agreement will be effective until November 30, 2026, and is scheduled to be reviewed for renewal after five years.

"These seamless pathways continue to help students achieve their educational goals while preparing them to make a positive impact on the workforce," Director of Undergraduate Admissions at OU Shane Lewis told OU News.

Besides this agreement for the graphic design major specifically, OU also offers additional ways to facilitate the transferring process to the university. First is the Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) for OCC students — more information on this guarantee can be found at oakland.edu/transfers.

Second, there are many scholarships for community college transfer students varying from \$2,000 for two years — as with the OU Transfer Grant — to \$10,000 for two years — as with the Presidential Transfer Award. These scholarships are given based on GPA and completed credits.

All this support means easier college access for the region's state college students. OU recognizes that many of them are the first generation in their families to

seek higher education so every effort to facilitate transferring or choosing a major is essential to these students.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND NEWS

Introducing new Gender and Sexuality Center coordinator Blake Bonkowski

ARIANNA HEYMAN

Features Editor

The Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC) is under new leadership. Blake Bonkowski has joined the team as the new coordinator and is excited to enact change on campus by supporting and advocating for LGBTQ+ students.

"It genuinely feels like a dream come true every day," Bonkowski said. "Every step that I took – from what type of master's degree I chose to the grad assistantships that I did and the jobs I looked at as I was getting ready to graduate – it all was with the goal of having this specific role at this institution."

Bonkowski is no stranger to the OU community. As an alumnus, he was the former president of student organization Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) and a former volunteer of the GSC.

"I'm really glad that I had those early experiences with leadership in the context of the LGBT community because I think we, to some extent, have our own set of ethics and values that we teach to each other in the community," Bonkowski said.

"Learning leadership in that context was really great for me, [and] I think it made me a much more open-minded, compassionate and thoughtful leader."

Despite being an alumnus, Bonkowski is not here to simply maintain the GSC; rather, he wishes to improve upon the programming and drive the mission and vision forward.

"I don't want people to be concerned that because I was here ten years ago, I'm going to want to make things like they were ten years ago," Bonkowski said. "I want to make things the best they could possibly be for the students we currently have."

As coordinator, Bonkowski has a clear vision for the immediate future of the GSC.

"Priority number one for me [is] – what do our LGBT students need?" Bonkowski said. "Number two is – how do we equip the rest of our campus community with knowledge so that those students can have the experience that they deserve while they're here?"

Despite his desire for change, Bonkowski has a deep respect for the roots of the GSC and wishes to merely build upon the foundation that has already been laid by former students

and staff before him.

"Everything that you have come to expect from the GSC should be continuing for the most part," Bonkowski said. "I was hoping to make everything that we've been doing a little bit bigger [and] a little bit better."

Bonkowski feels it is especially important to note that having an active GSC on campus is crucial for the success of LGBTQ+ students as they navigate their college experience.

"LGBTQ+ students have different needs when they get to college than cisgender/heterosexual students do," Bonkowski said. "There's a ton of research that points to three stages of life that people tend to have self-realizations about sexual orientation and gender identity – one of those is when they enter college."

It is clear that Bonkowski has a deep passion for the work that the GSC does, as it made a deep impact on his own life during his time as a student.

"Spending time in the GSC is how I figured out my own identities as a trans person and a queer person," Bonkowski said. "I had so little knowledge about the trans community coming into college. I can't imagine



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLAKE BONKOWSKI

The GSC has welcomed Blake Bonkowski as their new coordinator.

what my life would have looked like if I hadn't walked in there freshman year, met other trans people and had them echo back to me [the] things I had been saying my whole life. It's really exciting and important for me to be the person who is creating those opportunities and spaces for other people now."

A deeper look at OU's integrative studies major

SIERRA OKONIEWSKI

Features Editor

Oakland University's bachelor of integrative studies (BIS) program is propelling students to live with a vision. The major allows students to build their degree from scratch, while fortifying their knowledge of interdisciplinary work and research.

Students begin their customizable plan of study by taking an introduction to interdisciplinary studies course and then finish their degree with an interdisciplinary research capstone.

"They're kind of like bookend classes," BIS special lecturer Lindsay Zeig says. "The idea is that if our students can understand the concepts earlier on, they'll get more out of their classes because they'll start to see things through that interdisciplinary lens."

Zeig has taught with the BIS department for nearly a decade and has advocated for the addition of an introductory class to the program for much of that time. The course was added to the major in 2021 and aims to give students a footing as they work to integrate their passions and talents.

"In the introductory class, they're going to learn about the three categories of disciplines and then the actual disciplines that are in there," Zeig says. "They'll also start to look at their plan of study and start to make those connections of how these classes all fit together to make them uniquely qualified for the direction that they're headed."

Zeig notes that new students will also spend time studying interdisciplinary scholars and their backgrounds. The goal is to provide budding professionals with an appreciation for the published research that is utilized with the integration of

academic disciplines.

For seniors, the integrative research capstone provides a culmination of each student's experience with the interdisciplinary process. The course is divided into three separate sections and focuses on research writing, career development and service learning.

The first component of the class requires students to write an interdisciplinary research paper that seeks a resolution to a social issue through the combination of two disciplines.

"This is really a chance to dig deep into an issue that a student chooses," Zeig says. "They choose something that they're interested in and passionate about, then research that from two perspectives so that they can learn more about the problem and see what people are writing and saying about it."

The capstone's career development component helps to transition students from a university setting into a professional career environment. Projects in this section of the class include the creation of an online portfolio and a 60-second elevator pitch to prospective employers.

The third component of the course involves students in a real-world application of their research through 20 hours of targeted service in their communities.

"The service-learning piece is my favorite part – it's such a cool opportunity," Zeig says. "This really gives [students] a chance to see their research topic in real life. They get to see what it's really like; it brings up new questions and just helps them to have a deeper connection with it."

The COVID-19 pandemic has prevented the BIS program from offering the service portion of the capstone since 2020, but the department is looking forward to adding it back to the curriculum later this year.

"It's things that I cannot replicate in the classroom,"

Zeig says. "I usually will organize a class project as well because there's just something different about us working together, getting our hands dirty together. We're there pounding nails in and weeding or planting things, and stuff from the class just comes up in a much more organic way."

The BIS program counted 54 graduates, ranging from age 19 to 59-years-old at OU's 2022 winter commencement.

"It really struck me – the impact that this program has on the community as a whole, and how it works for students at all different points in their lives with all different career goals," Zeig says. "If we don't offer an exact major for a student, we can create that for them. We can accept transfer credits so that those students don't find themselves behind. We can help to prepare students for graduate school. It's the program that makes people's dreams come true."



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
OU's integrative studies major offers students a customizable plan of study.

Twin Peaks opens near OU, campus opinions differ

SIERRA OKONIEWSKI

Features Reporter

It's too soon to tell if the newly opened sports bar near Oakland University will prove to be a slippery slope. Twin Peaks offers its diners top-notch food and "scenic views" — but the restaurant isn't referring to the backwoods taxidermy.

The franchise opened its Auburn Hills, Michigan location in April of 2022, directly across the street from OU. In addition to its Twin Peaks Girls, the brand boasts a scratch-made menu and signature 29-degree draft beers.

The lodge-themed restaurant model was founded by Randy DeWitt in 2005. It has since grown from its first location in Lewisville, Texas to include 87 brick-and-mortar eateries across the country — with a super-sexualized waitstaff as its main attraction.

A job posting for the restaurant reveals the ideal prototype for their front-of-house staff, which includes both physical and behavioral requirements.

"The essence of the Twin Peaks Girl is based on female sex appeal. [It] encompasses her knowledge of sports, food, beverages, having [an] energetic personality and her ability to meet and maintain the Twin Peaks Image and Costume Guidelines."

A glance inside any Twin Peaks restaurant reveals the branding image they refer to. The waitresses are required to wear deep V-neck crop tops, push-up bras and skin-tight jean shorts. A rhinestone belt completes the look — in case a customer's eyes weren't already drawn to their server's exposed stomach.

Students and campus staff are divided on the new development and hold differing opinions on the ethical implications of the establishment.

"I just would have liked something else to have gone in place instead," OU student Andrew

Glaza said. "In terms of objectifying women in that way, I just don't think that's really classy."

Lexie Farrer, a young staff member at OU's Meadow Brook Theatre, regards the situation with more leniency.

"I love a Twin Peaks," Farrer said. "I like themed restaurants — everyone dresses like a lumberjack and that's fun to me. Most people's thing is the sexism in it, and waitresses being ogled is a big concern. Putting that near a college campus does feel a little bit icky, but if you're having fun and you consent to being there and working there, I don't see the harm."

A study by the Journal of Economic Psychology found that physically attractive servers make approximately \$1,261 more in tips per year than servers deemed less attractive. For college-aged women looking to pad their wallets — working at Twin Peaks might prove to be the ultimate chance to do so.

"It's understanding respect," Meadow Brook Theatre employee Mikey Vultaggio said. "I think it's a good opportunity."

The ways in which Auburn Hills' shiniest new sports bar will affect OU campus culture remains to be seen. If its consistently jam-packed parking lot



PHOTO COURTESY OF DETROIT METRO TIMES

is any indication, the location — and eye-catching waitstaff — has already found overwhelming success.

"Our Twin Peaks Girls are the essential ingredient to the perfect lodge experience," the franchise website confirms. "They are the beautiful faces that represent the brand and the reason our customers consistently come back for more."

SUMMER 2022 PAYMENT DUE DATE

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S SUMMER PAYMENT DUE DATE: APRIL 15, 2022.

Students who do not pay their balances in full or sign-up for a payment plan (and make the required installment(s)) may be dropped from classes and University housing (if applicable), and may be subject to late payment penalties and registration holds.

If you have questions or are experiencing circumstances that may prevent you from paying your account balance, please contact Student Financial Services at (248) 370-2550. We are ready to support you and help with your financial aid and billing options.



Course Spotlight: Histology

GABRIELLE GAPPY

SciTech Editor

Oakland University offers a wide variety of STEM core courses, as well as electives. It may be difficult determining which electives cater to both one's interest and future career goals. One biology elective many students may not be familiar with is histology. Dr. Dale Telgenhoff, professor of histology, answered a few questions to give insight into the course.

GG: For anyone who isn't familiar, what is the subject of histology centered around?

DT: Histology is the study of tissues, so we look at our four basic tissue types. We have nervous tissue, connective tissue, epithelium and muscle. Between those four different tissue types in the body, essentially everything is made up of one of those four. We start off with just an exploration of those four main types, and then we go into more detail on the structure and function of the various different organs throughout the body.

GG: What kind of students do you think are drawn to this course?

DT: Primarily students who are going to be bound for medical school. Histology is a required class in medical school, so the students

who typically take it want to get a head start on what they will experience in their first year.

Of course, the first year is largely taken up with human anatomy, so the histology component sometimes can be overlooked by undergraduate students. It's a one semester class in medical school, but if students can get a start on it as an undergrad that can be helpful for them when they proceed to medical school.

It's an elective, so it's not required in the biology department, but a lot of pre-med students will also take it if they are interested in anatomic pathology and are thinking about becoming a pathologist once they're finished with medical school.

Other students who take the course include those in the Histotechnology Program, which is a lab-based program in the Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences department at Oakland. Students in that field go on to cut and stain tissues. They have to learn a bunch of different staining techniques and dyes, and procedures for cutting tissues. Essentially anything that you have removed in surgery is sent to the histology lab, cut, processed and stained for a pathologist to review.

GG: What new skills do students walk out of this class having acquired?

DT: The biggest benefit is probably their skill

with identifying tissues under the microscope. Most of them have taken anatomy by the time that they've come into my class, so they're familiar with macro-analysis and identifying different tissues based on their appearance just from the naked eye.

Identifying tissues under the microscope becomes very important for looking at different pathologies. So while the course isn't a pathology course, per se, you need to know what the normal tissues look like before you can identify abnormal ones. Then there's other times where pathology becomes more of an issue in medical school.

Histology, taught by Dr. Telgenhoff, will be offered Winter 2023 under course number BIO 3140.

Bioinformatics – the connection between Molecular Biology and reality

RACHEL YIM

SciTech Reporter

As high-throughput data-generation technologies have revolutionized biological and biomedical sciences, a parallel revolution has happened in the development of large-scale analytic tools for computational biology and bioinformatics. Although one of the most important components of science, bioinformatics is not familiar to many.

What is bioinformatics?

As a field of computational science, Bioinformatics is the study of biological systems via the implementation of data-analytical and computational simulation approaches. It involves a variety of sequence analysis—usually denoting those of genes and proteins. It is an especially valuable method in comparing genes and sequences in proteins inside an organism or between species, examining evolutionary links between creatures, and exploring patterns found throughout those sequences to identify their functions.

Computational techniques — in an effort to better understand the protein structure, gene function, disease mechanism, drug discovery, imaging of biological systems, precision medicine and the analysis of other huge data sets — are projected to make significant contributions to the study of biological systems and issues.

What's offered at OU regarding bioinformatics?

BIO 4412 - Functional Genomics and Bioinformatics

This course demonstrates the “use and implementation of computer software for sequence analysis” and covers “gene discovery, annotation, building phylogenetic histories and state-of-the-art strategies used for gene expression analysis of an organism from a genome-wide perspective.”

CSI 4780 - Bioinformatics

This course introduces the core algorithms and computational approaches for studying “biological sequence data for comparative biology and evolution,” with an emphasis on genomic content, function and structure. Algorithms for exploring sequence databases, pairwise and multiple sequence alignment, phylogenetic approaches and methods for pattern identification and functional inference from sequence data are also discussed.

The two courses mentioned above are just a few of the many options available for OU students who are interested in such a study approach. Students can gain more information from the course catalog.

If students find this information interesting and would like to participate in research, there are a variety of research laboratories at OU that utilize this method in their studies. One example is Dr. Fabia Battistuzzi's laboratory.

“We analyze a large amount of data such as genomes using bioinformatics technology,” Randy Karana, recent OU graduate and previous undergraduate research assistant in

Dr. Battistuzzi's laboratory, said. “Since it is impossible to analyze it by hand, we use coding to have the computer do initial analyses so that we can interpret the data we get.”

Another undergraduate researcher in Dr. Battistuzzi's lab is Caesar Abaas, a rising senior majoring in biomedical science.

“My research with Dr. Fabia involves attempting to find an objective way to differentiate prokaryotic species,” Abaas said. “Prokaryotes become genetically diverse by horizontal gene transfer and mutations, so our goal is to identify where species boundaries are. My role is to create a code that will simplify our genetic analysis step so it becomes faster.”

According to Abaas, the point that connects their research to bioinformatics and computational biology is the “analysis part of the research” which includes running the genome of prokaryotes through an application called “Roary” that analyzes the genome and categorizes it into core genes and accessory genes for later comparison.

“Our goal is to analyze currently classified species using a pan genome approach to determine if the current classification is compatible with the expected core gene distribution,” Abaas said. “There will always be new strains of prokaryotes that come up, and it is essential to keep track of them and classify them correctly. This plays a significant role in shaping many microbial populations.”

Kresge Library celebrates 60th anniversary with dedication

Kresge Library was recognized and celebrated on May 12 in honor of the 60th anniversary of its dedication to Oakland University. The event featured guest speakers of the past and present telling their stories of Kresge and its history. Dean of University Libraries Polly Boruff-Jones kicked off the event, thanking everyone for attending and introducing the first guest speaker: Provost Britt Rios-Ellis.

“Across the nation and across the world, academic libraries are truly the hearts, the living rooms of universities,” Rios-Ellis said. “A 2010 study conducted by the Association of College and Research Libraries identified numerous and very tangible, and measurable ways, in which these organizations advance the mission, vision and goals of the communities they serve.”

Rios-Ellis went on to say libraries help identify and enhance institutional progress in ways such as student enrollment growth, student retention rates and professional success among graduates.

“This is just a short list of the ways libraries and certainly our own Kresge Library have fulfilled their charge as the hearts of this higher education community,” Rios-Ellis said. “The impact of these contributions in whole, while theoretically calculable, is truly difficult for us to wrap our hearts around.” Libraries are more than just a place of study, with many classes and groups meeting at Kresge Library. Also acting as a social space, Kresge is at the heart of campus and a large part of the community being as close as it is.

“It’s not difficult to conclude that we are talking about countless millions of visits,” Rios-Ellis said when discussing alumni, faculty and guests visiting Kresge. “We are talking about countless millions of enlightening, inspiring, motivational and empowering touchpoints that this building has become home to.”

Brouff-Jones next talks about some of the history behind Kresge Library, crediting professor Dominique Daniel who provided much of the historical information.

The building was designed by Robert S. Swanson, and was originally 72,500 square feet built to accommodate 200,000 physical volumes and up to 1,200 students at one time. Students assisted in moving books from the old library — inside of North Foundation Hall — to Kresge.

The Saints and Sinners sculpture located in front of Kresge was designed by Marshall Fredericks — who also designed the Spirit of Detroit statue — was dedicated in 1976. In 1987, the \$11.5 million expansion was approved and introduced individual and group study meeting rooms and computer labs. Cynthia Kresge was in attendance for the event and is the great great granddaughter of Sebastian Kresge whose foundation is the reason for the celebration. Cynthia was the first of the guest speakers to come forward.

“I’m here today because of my involvement with the Kresge Foundation, which is the philanthropic institution that my great grandfather established in Detroit almost 100 years ago,” Cynthia said. “I’m delighted that the Kresge Library has become a leader in library technology while remaining true to its mission of assembling information for new generations of students, faculty and researchers as they seek truth in the natural and human worlds.” Mary Jo Ahern and Beverly Miller — outstanding members of Oakland University’s Charter Class — were able to share some of their stories of Kresge. The Miller Family presentation practice room is located on the second floor and the Ahern Family room is in the works now to feature enhanced interactive technology.

Designed by Megan Parker

Story by Joe Zerelli

Photos by Chris Estrada and Kresge Library



School of Music, Theatre and Dance presents 'Acis and Galatea'

BELLA JAVIER

Arts Editor

The Oakland University School of Music, Theatre and Dance (OU-SMTD) presented George Fredric Handel's "Acis and Galatea" from May 5 - 8 and May 12 - 15.

Originating from a Roman poem about the tragic, short-lived love between a shepherd, Acis, and a nymph, Galatea, the story starts with a lonesome Galatea desiring to reunite with Acis, who feels likewise. Act one ends happily with the reunion of the two lovers before their joy is interrupted by the jealous, one-eyed giant Polyphemus, who threatens their happiness and eventually kills Acis off out of envy.

We aren't all shepherds and nymphs whose great love is ruined by a cyclops. This is something that the OU-SMTD production of "Acis and Galatea" keeps in mind, so instead of mythological creatures, these characters are modern-day people just like you and me.

The choice to put a contemporary spin on Handel's "Acis and Galatea" was a clever one — it gave the production a fresh feel for something that might otherwise seem mundane and frankly not relatable. Director and professor of vocal performance Dr. Drake Dantzler did this as a way "to help bridge theatrical and musical gaps." This sort of approach to the production also makes it perfect for the education of the vocalists who performed, as it

makes Handel's message much more accessible.

Though updating the theatrical aspects to fit a more contemporary palate is exciting, it comes with its obstacles.

"The greatest obstacle of modernizing this production [...] is the threat of the update upstaging the production itself," Dantzler said.

Students in the production had the obligation to remain faithful to the text while telling the story in a different context. In my opinion, they succeeded at this.

Another production feat which elevated this particular production was the use of the space. I have watched my fair share of shows in the studio theater here at OU, and I would say this is one of the more creative ways the space has been used. The way this production was staged kept audience members engaged and added levels to the performance at hand — and while this was not as consistent as I feel it could have been, it nevertheless caught my attention.

Additionally, the pit interacted with the characters — a detail I would have otherwise overlooked, but it added another layer to the show, making it more entertaining and fun to watch. It wasn't just simple interactions the pit musicians had with the singers, but the inclusion of them throughout pivotal points of the story (e.g., "Hush you pretty warbling choir," "Where shall I seek the charming fair?" etc.) This added another dimension to the show, elevating its quality.

As far as musicianship and performance go, the

students who participated in this production were so wonderfully talented and a joy to watch and listen to. I may not be the biggest fan of the opera, but OU-SMTD's production of "Acis and Galatea" was more than a pleasure to see.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JLBOONE PHOTOGRAPHY
The final performance of "Acis and Galatea" concluded on May 15.

My summer romantic comedy top book choices

D'JUANNA LESTER

Arts Reporter

It's that time of year again. Summer. Sun. Traveling. No school. Time for catching up on all of the great romance novels, and looking forward to the new ones. Who doesn't love a book about a classic romance? Summer is the season of great romcoms.

With my book count up to 13 for the summer, I've had time to reread some of my favorite romcoms from years past, and now, I'm going to go through some of them here.

"To All the Boys I've Loved Before" trilogy by Jenny Han

How can I not include a Jenny Han series? She masters the fake dating trope like a pro. Lara Jean Covey has to be my favorite Young Adult (YA) protagonist. She's authentic, relatable and a well-balanced character. Seeing the love story between her and Peter Kavinsky evolve throughout the series makes fans want more of our favorite couple. It's hard to pick a favorite out of the trilogy, but I would have to say the first or third.

"Counting Down With You" by Tashie Bhuiyan

Fake dating? Diverse friend group? Good girl and bad boy trope? Yes, please! Where do I start with Tashie Bhuiyan's debut novel? Karina Ahmed and Ace Clyde have set my standards way too high for relationships. I mean, he buys her books. Ace is a complex character himself — existing as a character, not just a love interest. Every character is interesting.

The book is so diverse with its characters and their cultural experience that not only do readers get swept away in a whirlwind romance, they learn about different perspectives through Bhuiyan's writing. I'm excited to read her new book 'A Show for Two', which is finally in stores!



PHOTO BY THE OAKLAND POST
Popular books to read while soaking up some summer sun.

"Anna and the French Kiss" by Stephanie Perkins

This Parisian romance by Stephanie Perkins is a huge guilty pleasure of mine. The story follows Anna, an American girl sent to a boarding school in Paris. She meets Etienne (AKA St. Clair) and instantly falls for him. Problem? He has a girlfriend. Following these flawed characters and their horrible decisions is refreshing, hence the guilt.

"Kate in Waiting" by Becky Albertalli

Becky Albertalli is known for writing humorous, captivating YA books, and "Kate in Waiting" is no exception. The story follows Kate and her best friend as they both fall in love — with the same guy. A story of friendship, heartbreak and complicated relationships, this book is another romcom that I look forward to reading again.

"The Summer I Turned Pretty" trilogy by Jenny Han

With how much I've been talking about this series, it had to be on this list. Han's first YA series fills its readers with joy and optimism — then destroys it right at the climax of the first book. It's a wash, rinse, repeat cycle of sadness, happiness, youthful optimism and then more sadness. Basically, it's like a good Taylor Swift song. Main character Belly and the Fisher brothers, Jeremiah and Conrad, add an intriguing twist to the love triangle cliché. Typically, love triangles can get stale, but Han's writing keeps the audience interested to see what happens next — even if it breaks our hearts.

The Pin Up Girls: A heartwarming love note to our Veterans

LETICIA CEZÁRIO SANTOS

Marketing Director

From April 20 through May 15, 2022, Meadow Brook Theatre presented the Pin-Up Girls by James Hindman and Jeffrey Lodin. Featuring music from the 1920s to today, the show took the audience on an emotional trip through a different perspective of war history.

The show tells the story of a group of friends that come across a collection of letters from the past hundred years. Leanne (Brittany Jeffery) and her friends are helping their families to close their Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW) Post when they find letters from soldiers, sailors and airmen spanning from World War I through Afghanistan. Inspired by their stories, the group put together a show that beautifully celebrates the people that fought for our country, with songs ranging from “You Made Me Love You” and “Please Mr. Postman” to “Push It” and “Single Ladies.”

Cast members were all making their Meadow Brook debuts. Alongside Jeffery’s Leanne is Brooke Quintana as Megan, Grace Choi as Dana, and Justin Scott Brown bringing his

Broadway experience to complete the cast as Joel. The Pin-Up Girls is directed by Travis W. Walter, with Deon Ridley and Zachary Ryan serving as choreographer and music director, respectively.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEADOW BROOK THEATRE COMMUNICATION

Meadow Brook Theatre presented “The Pin-Up Girls” from April 20 through May 15, 2022.

“This show celebrates the service of those individuals that can be at different times sentimental and silly, fun and heartbreaking, lighthearted and breathtaking,” Meadow Brook Theatre artistic director Travis W. Walter said. “The Pin-Up Girls is full of music

everyone will remember and enjoy.”

The musical was entertaining from beginning to end. Each song carried explicit emotions with it and magnificently illustrated each letter and story represented — a notable example being “Sincerely Wilbur,” a three-part song telling the tale of a soldier that wanted to become a war hero but ultimately lived a different experience.

From love letters to heartbroken families, the audience received each story gracefully, resulting in laughs, tears, many locked eyes on the stage, and plenty of applause.

The songs were not the only entertaining aspect of this show. Walter opened the night with some military-themed jokes carried with humorous twists of words, and a fifteen-minute intermission was introduced by a quick round of bingo covering historical facts. As if the songs in the show were not entertaining enough, the cast performed a sing-along very much known by us all: the alphabet of states.

The musical connected each story effortlessly, and the live band was the final touch that made the songs so astounding. Everything worked together, down to the stage design — resembling an American post office,

The stage was covered in red, white, and blue, the walls adorned with old photos of soldiers and small LED lights.

The cast had very common costumes — almost like everyday clothing — but with each song, they would play with accessories like hats, fake bears, capes and more. The patriotic stage design, their costumes and this playful use of accessories allured the audience to innocent memories of how children can play in the living room and put together a show for a family lunch on a Sunday. The musical built in many details a very respectful and loving environment to present such inspiring stories.

The show had a moment dedicated to recognizing the veterans present in the audience. Each of them received a single flower, which many dedicated to their spouses.

What I liked most about this show was how the present and past came together to tell these inspiring stories we rarely think about in a unique way. With references to Marilyn Monroe and Carmen Miranda, the musical was entertaining while thought-provoking. The Pin-Up Girls is a nostalgic memory for older generations and an important lesson for younger ones.

RomCom “Along for the Ride” is lacking cowboys

OLIVIA CHIAPPELLI

Arts Reporter

In my latest quest to find a rom-com fix in the same vein as the art piece that is “Safe Haven,” I stumbled upon the movie “Along for the Ride.” It had just arrived on Netflix, and while it didn’t star Josh Duhamel, I was intrigued.

I also thought it would be like a cowboy movie because of the title, but that fully did not happen. I was left waiting for Britt Robertson to walk out “The Longest Ride” style.

The film adaptation of Sarah Dessen’s 2009 novel of the same name toted a synopsis that felt like the perfect mix:

“During the summer before college, Auden meets the mysterious Eli, a fellow insomniac. While the seaside town of Colby sleeps, the two embark on nightly quests to help Auden experience the fun, carefree life she never knew she wanted.”

I was definitely the target demographic. New to college, goes to sleep at 4 a.m. at the latest, loves a seaside town, is perpetually nostalgic about a time in her life that she actually never experienced in reality. Direct hit.

Everything seemed right, but as a rom-com aficionado I was aware of the fact that no one has been able to pump out a good rom-com since at least 2012, so I went in with my expectations in check.

The movie kind of had the ultimate rom-com package going for itself with veterans like Andie

MacDowell, Dermot Mulroney and Kate Bosworth in the cast. They are all playing parents now, which was kind of a reality check for a 90s rom-com enjoyer like myself — a sacred passing of the baton to a younger cast.

All of a sudden G. Hannelius showed up and kind of threw me for a loop. I suddenly felt like I was back in my “Dog With a Blog” days, and was confused as to how she was still playing teens after all these years. I subsequently found out she is only



PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX
“Along for the Ride” is available on Netflix.

23 and now going by Genevieve in the credits — a rebrand, if you will. I was happy to see her.

The plot, like most YA novel adaptations, had its anticipated levels of cringe, but I have to admit that I mindlessly ate it up.

However, I could tell that important plot points were missing even though I had never even read the book, which isn’t a good sign. For instance — the way she followed that random bike boy into a secret underground room behind a washing machine at a public laundromat upon first meeting. They didn’t even know each other’s names, she just followed in silence. I admire this unwarranted trust, but I guess I value my survival too much to adopt that mentality.

To be honest, the plot wasn’t my main priority, as I was distracted by the dismal cinematography. The “seaside town” looked like a row of pastel porta-potties lined up on a dreary boardwalk. And the main girl’s (I don’t even remember her name right now) highly anticipated prom dress reveal left me feeling fooled. Absolutely tasteless.

It never seemed like a single light was turned on in that beach house — and not in a “the daylight flooded the halls” type of way, but rather in a “wow it’s very gray in that room and that pot light is noticeably off” type of way. The house was gray and dim and so not summery.

All that said, this movie did quench my insomnia thirst as I watched it in the dead of night, so I guess main girl and I have that in common.

Rating: 2/5 stars

All the details on the upcoming series ‘The Summer I Turned Pretty’

D’JUANNA LESTER

Arts Reporter

Attention, Jenny Han fans! The ‘To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before’ author has big news. Han’s first book trilogy ‘The Summer I Turned Pretty’ is being adapted into a tv series for Amazon Prime. After months of waiting, there is a lot to know about the show before it hits the small screen.

The first book in the ‘The Summer I Turned Pretty’ series debuted back in 2009. The sequel, ‘It’s Not Summer Without You,’ was released in 2010, with the final book in the series, ‘We’ll Always Have Summer’ following in 2011. The Prime show will be following the first book — let’s dive into everything we know so far.

According to IMDb, the first season of the show will be seven episodes long. In April 2021, the casting for the four main leads — Isabel “Belly” Conklin, brothers Jeremiah and Conrad Fisher and Susannah “Beck” Fisher — were announced. Since then, more supporting characters have been added to the cast.

Main character Belly Conklin will be played by up and coming actress Lola Tung. The rest of the cast includes Gavin Casalegno as Jeremiah Fisher, Christopher Briney as Conrad Fisher, Jackie Chung as Laurel Conklin, Rachel Blanchard as Susannah Fisher and Sean Kaufman as Steven Conklin to round out the main leads.

There has also been confirmation that there will be new characters added to the show. So far, casting has also been announced for other characters, Colin Ferguson as John Conklin, and Tom Everett Scott as Adam Fisher. There is no news about casting for Taylor Jewel or Cameron as of now.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON STUDIOS
“The Summer I Turned Pretty” will be coming to Amazon Prime on June 17th.

The official synopsis for ‘The Summer I Turned Pretty’ has been released by Amazon Studios: “‘The Summer I Turned Pretty’ is a multigenerational drama that hinges on a love triangle between one girl and two brothers, the ever-loving relationship between mothers and their children and the enduring power of strong female friendship. It is a coming of age story about first love, first heartbreak and the magic of that one perfect summer.”

After a lifetime of waiting, fans no longer have to wait on the announcement of when the show will premiere. It’s official — ‘The Summer I Turned Pretty’ will drop on Amazon Prime on June 17!

Along with the release date announcement came a teaser trailer, offering a glimpse at the scene where the Conklins and Fishers reunite at Cousins beach. We get a sneak peek at our three main leads — Belly, Jeremiah and Conrad.

Not only do we get to see the actors as their characters for the first time — there’s also another special surprise where the soundtrack is concerned.

The song featured in the teaser trailer was a song by none other than Taylor Swift herself. She partnered with the project and contributed “This Love (Taylor’s Version)” — one of her re-recordings from her 2014 album 1989. Swift released the full song the day after the teaser was dropped, surprising the many fans of the series who wanted a song of hers on the soundtrack.

Taking the Joe out of TV show ‘Impractical Jokers’

AUTUMN OKUSZKA

Contributor

“Impractical Jokers” is back — and this time, they’re one joker down.

The hidden camera series has been airing on truTV since 2011, following four friends — Joe Gatto, Brian “Q” Quinn, Sal Vulcano and James “Murr” Murray — who have known each other since high school as they dare each other to say and do things to unsuspecting bystanders.

The show has found a loyal fanbase and success that has lasted nearly ten seasons, as well as a movie released in 2020.

Just when it seemed that the Jokers had reached the peak of their popularity, it was announced that Gatto would be leaving the tv show due to issues in his personal life.

“Bessy [Gatto’s wife] and I have decided to amicably part ways,” Gatto said. “I need to focus on being the best father and co-parent to our two incredible kids.”

The remaining jokers then released a joint statement affirming that they would get back to making a new chapter of “Impractical Jokers” in January



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRUTV
Pictured from left: James “Murr” Murray, Sal Vulcano, Joe Gatto and Brian “Q” Quinn.

2022, despite Gatto’s departure.

Every fan of “Impractical Jokers” has their favorite Joker — I remember when Gatto became mine.

The episode was titled “Stare Master,” and Gatto was “tonight’s big loser.” He was punished by the other jokers by being subjected to uncomfortably staring at people who were working out at the gym. His commitment to the bit in spite of the awkwardness of the situation was mind-blowing, because it was something I could never imagine myself being able to do.

Over the years, Gatto continued to shock and impress in various punishments — from becoming a flying genie to stealing baseballs from small children. When I found out he would be leaving, I immediately thought the show wouldn’t survive without him.

The show post-Gatto was to return with a stand-alone special that succeeded the NCAA Men’s Final Four game on April 2, 2022, featuring the remaining jokers and special guest star Eric André.

While I was anticipating the ending of “Impractical Jokers,” — believing that Gatto’s absence would be too much for the loyal viewers of the show to handle — I am happy to report that the special actually left me pleasantly surprised.

Besides a new introduction that changed the iconic line, “four lifelong friends,” to “lifelong friends,” — which broke my heart a little — the special felt familiar and brand-new at the same time. Featuring the pranks that have made the show a household name, it did not stray far away from the original format, letting the remaining jokers shine and waiting to include André until the final punishment.

Although Gatto’s absence was evident, I was happy to see that Quinn, Vulcano

and Murray are all still able to do what they love and have fun doing it.

Quinn recently talked about working on “Impractical Jokers” without Gatto on his podcast, “Tell ‘em Steve-Dave!”

“I wouldn’t do it if I didn’t think people were going to like it,” Quinn said. “I think people are going to be really surprised at what we end up doing. [...] I’m more invested and more involved and having more fun than I’ve had in a long time.”

After the special aired, advertisements teased what’s to come for “Impractical Jokers” when the second half of season nine premieres on June 16 — including a slew of celebrity guests, such as Colin Jost, Chris Jericho, Jillian Bell and David Cross.

Even if the absence of Gatto in the upcoming episodes leaves a bad taste in the mouths of viewers like myself, knowing I can always turn to reruns with him on truTV and HBO Max is a comforting thought.

If the new episodes are anything like the special that aired, however, I think we’ll be seeing new “Impractical Jokers” episodes for as long as the Jokers want to keep creating them.

Detroit Lions finally have effective general manager

JOSEPH POPIS

Sports Reporter

The 2022 NFL draft has come and gone. The new NFL season is just around the corner, and the Lions got a haul in this draft.

The picks include defensive end Aidan Hutchinson (Michigan), wide receiver Jameson Williams (Alabama), defensive end Joshua Paschal (Kentucky), safety Kerby Joseph (Illinois), tight end James Mitchell (Virginia Tech), linebacker Malcolm Rodriguez (Oklahoma State), defensive end James Houston (Jackson State) and cornerback Chase Lucas (Arizona State).

It is new for Lions fans to have a general manager in Brad Holmes who actually knows what he is doing. The past regime consisting of Bob Quinn and Matt Patricia set the franchise back years and ultimately wasted the final years of Matthew Stafford's time in Detroit.

However, Holmes and head coach Dan Campbell have created a culture in Detroit that players want to be a part of.

You may look at a 3-13-1 record last season and say the team stinks, which they did, but this group's toughness and effort last year did not go unnoticed. The players played hard, and they cared.

They wanted to win for the organization, the coach, the fan base and themselves. The players just needed more help. Finally, they received some of their needed support following this year's draft.

I'm not confident this team will be good or even make the playoffs, but I think they will undoubtedly surpass their win total of the previous season.

Grabbing Michigan star Aidan Hutchinson was a steal even though they got him with the second pick in the draft. I'm not sold on the first overall pick Trayvon Walker who went to the Jacksonville Jaguars the pick before.

This decision led the Lions to snag probably the best player in the draft in Hutchinson, who totaled a whopping 14 sacks in his senior season at the University of Michigan. I did want the Lions to pick Oregon standout, Kayvon Thibodeaux, as I loved his output, swagger and personality. In the end, I cannot be mad at the pick of Hutchinson.

The Lions' next pick came from trading up with the Minnesota Vikings, where they took arguably the best wide receiver in the draft, Jameson Williams. Coming off an ACL injury, Williams has some question marks but was the fastest wide receiver in college football last season.

He offers a game-changing speed that can wreak havoc on defenses. The big question is: can Lions quarterback Jared Goff get him the ball on those deep throws?

The second-round pick was the most questionable selection to me as the Lions selected Joshua Paschal. I

wanted linebacker Nakobe Dean out of Georgia as I felt he was a can't-miss prospect. However, injury concerns made him fall in the draft, which led the Lions to pass on him and Holmes ultimately selected Paschal. With that being said, the Lions needed pass rushers. Teams that can get to their opponents' quarterbacks have a massive advantage.

One of the more underrated players the Lions picked was Malcolm Rodriguez. He is a robust, gritty linebacker who can clog up holes and make effective tackles.

The linebacker room within the Lions organization was a glaring weakness last season. While I don't expect a sixth-round pick to become the next Luke Kuechly, I expect efficient production.

In the two drafts of Holmes' tenure, he has added offensive tackle Penei Sewell, defensive tackle Alim McNeill, defensive end Levi Onwuzurike, wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown, defensive end Aidan Hutchinson, wide receiver Jameson Williams and defensive end Joshua Paschal.

He has built a young core for the Lions that will contribute significantly to this team for years to come. Don't forget that they also have two first-round picks in the 2023 NFL Draft and plenty of cap space next offseason.

While a winning record and a playoff appearance are probably a season or two away, I am happy with the pieces Holmes has added. The players on last year's roster bought into the organization, and I expect no different this year.

The Lions have a solid offensive line and weapons in T.J. Hockenson, Amon-Ra St. Brown, D'Andre Swift and D.J. Chark. The biggest question will be Jared Goff's output. The defense I expect to be better, but probably needs another offseason and draft to be noteworthy. In the end, I'm excited for this season and the direction of this organization.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES
The Lions celebrate their first win of the 2021 season against the Minnesota Vikings on Dec. 5, 2021. Photo via Forbes.

Amalia Shahzan leads Oakland to Horizon League championship

BROCK HEILIG

Sports Editor

The Oakland women's golf team secured the Horizon League championship back in April on the back of Amalia Shahzan's outstanding performance. The championship round took place in Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida.

The Golden Grizzlies put together a remarkable team performance. The team led after all three days, and no other team came within 10 strokes of Oakland.

Shahzan was the only golfer in the whole event to shoot below par. The graduate student shot a 212 (72-70-70), to finish the event with a 212, which was good enough for seven strokes under par.

Shahzan won the individual event by 15 strokes. Green Bay's Isabelle Maleki and Youngstown State's Puthita Khuanrudee each shot +8, and they were the next closest competitors.

After the day's first event, Oakland led by a narrow one-stroke lead over Detroit Mercy. Nateda Her and Ashley Chin each shot 77s to help the Grizzlies to the first-day lead.

During the second day, the Oakland golfers combined to post an event-best 296 total. Shahzan shot a 70, while Her and Chin shot 72 and 76, respectively.

The Golden Grizzlies had a 16-stroke lead after the

first two days.

It wasn't a great third day for Oakland, but it was all a moot point as the aforementioned 16-stroke lead was more than enough for the Golden Grizzlies to win the event.

The team's stellar performance was enough to send it through to the NCAA Regional round. The Grizzlies were invited to the Ann Arbor regional this year.

However, all momentum the team built in the



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
A member of Oakland University's women's golf team lines up for a putt on Monday, Sept. 27.

Horizon League Championship was lost in Ann Arbor.

Oakland competed against some of the nation's best, and the Golden Grizzlies were clearly outmatched.

After the first day of the regional round, Oakland shot a 316 as a team and was 14 strokes behind the next closest team, Virginia Tech.

The Golden Grizzlies continued to be overmatched on day two. The team's 312 was once again a regional-worst, and Oakland's hopes of advancing any further into the national spotlight were practically crushed.

Oakland made it through the third day with a 314, bringing the grand total to 942. The next closest team was UCF with a 909 three-day score.

Despite the disappointing finish in the NCAA Regional, there is still a lot to look forward to with the Oakland golf team.

Chin and Her, two of the team's best golfers are both just freshmen. Those two should be a bright spot for this team in the coming seasons.

Furthermore, head coach Alyssa Gaudio seems to have the team trending in the right direction and is clearly the right person for the job. Gaudio was hired as the team's first-ever head coach back in 2014, and she has since brought the team to national relevance.

All in all, a great, memorable season for the women's golf team. Although Shahzan is a graduate student, Chin and Her will play huge roles for this team in the future.

Baseball brings it together going into Horizon League Championships

JOSEPH POPIS

Sports Reporter

This season the Oakland University Baseball Team has compiled a 27-24 record, significantly better than last season's 18-29. The team is 16-10 in conference play, 15-6 at home and 12-18 on the road. Since the end of the school year, the squad has gone 8-4 in the last 12 games.

The first win came against Milwaukee, 9-3, on April 30. Junior pitcher Travis Densmore had eight strikeouts over seven innings. Redshirt senior Brenton Phillips had three hits and two RBIs, and graduate student Brad Goulet hit two balls with two RBIs.

On May 1, the Grizzlies took care of Milwaukee again with a whopping 17-8 victory. Senior Luke Malmanger hit two home runs while sophomore Brandon Heidal had three hits and one RBI.

A few days later, on May 4, the Grizzlies took care of the University of Pittsburgh with a win, 8-4. Senior Gabe Lux had three hits and one RBI, while senior Michael Stygles also had three hits and two RBIs.

The Grizzlies also took two wins over Wright State in the next two games on May 6, 5-4, and 6-4. In the first game, Stygles hit four balls, and senior Jared Miller had one hit and one

RBI. Miller had two hits and three RBIs in the second game.

Redshirt junior Thomas Green had two hits and one RBI. Redshirt senior pitcher Christian Stelling struck out five batters over five innings. Freshman pitcher Hunter Pidek struck out four batters over three innings.

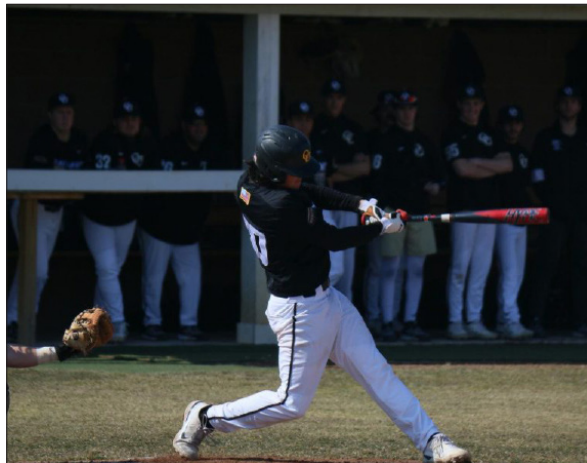


PHOTO BY STANLEY TU
The Oakland baseball team got their first series victory against Wright State ever this weekend.

On May 8, the Grizzlies dropped the first game to Milwaukee, 2-3. However, they won the second game, 6-2. Junior Ian Cleary had two hits and three RBIs.

Redshirt junior pitcher Brett Hagen had three strikeouts with zero earned runs over four innings, while graduate student Quinton Kujawa struck out two batters over four innings.

A week later, on May 13, the Grizzlies faced Northern Kentucky University. They played two games, winning the first game 5-4 while dropping the second game 4-9.

In the win, Phillips had three hits and one RBI. Pidek struck out two batters over four innings.

The Grizzlies will now face Northern Kentucky University for a three-game matchup from May 19-21. The Grizzlies have split their two-game matchup with Northern Kentucky previously and will look to finish the season strong.

The Grizzlies currently sit in third place in the Horizon League standings behind Wright State, which is 16-7 in conference play, and the University of Illinois Chicago, which is 13-8 in conference play. The Grizzlies have improved and will look to compete at the Horizon League Championships.

Softball Team closes season with pair of Horizon League Championships

BROCK HEILIG

Sports Editor

The winter semester of classes ended last month and students are off for the summer, but student athletes that participate in spring sports are still competing and hoping to win championships.

The Oakland softball team is doing just that. Despite going just 7-6 in their last 13 regular season games, the Golden Grizzlies put together a good enough season to claim the Horizon League regular season title.

The Golden Grizzlies dropped a three-game series against Cleveland State during exam week back in April as the final stretch of the season loomed.

Oakland then got back on track with a double-header sweep of Youngstown State. Runs were hard to come by for both the Golden Grizzlies and the Penguins, as the two-game combined score was just 4-1 in favor of Oakland.

The Golden Grizzly winning streak was extended to three games on April 29 when Sydney Campbell made light work of the Robert Morris lineup. Campbell pitched a complete-game, six-strikeout shutout.

However, the series was spoiled on Senior Day when the Colonials stole a pair of games to win the series.

Oakland then opened the month of May with a split double header with IUPUI. The team

then closed out the regular season with a series victory over Green Bay to clinch the regular season Horizon League championship.

The Golden Grizzlies finished the regular season with an 18-7 conference record, which was good enough for a first-place finish and the No. 1 overall seed in the Horizon League Tournament.

Oakland then set its sights on the Horizon League Tournament, which it came up just one run short of winning last season. Head coach



PHOTO BY JOSE JUAREZ
Oakland softball lost via mercy rule to the Michigan State Spartans on Sunday. Photo courtesy of OU Athletics.

Lauren Karn explained before the season began that winning the league championship was one of the most important goals for the 2022 team.

"We have a very specific goal now," Karn said. "When it comes to winning the championship, that's not the only thing that's going to define our success, but it is a big part of what we're working for every single day."

The Golden Grizzlies began their quest for their second championship of the season with a 2-0 victory over the Green Bay Phoenix in the tournament's opening round. Campbell pitched another seven-inning shutout as she lifted Oakland to the second round.

Campbell pitched again on Friday in the second round matchup against Northern Kentucky. The Grizzlies' ace went seven full innings yet again, and the Oakland bats added a few insurance runs to send the Grizzlies to the championship game.

Oakland then found itself in the same situation as last season. Just one win away from claiming both the regular season and tournament titles, the Golden Grizzlies delivered. Robert Morris claimed an early lead, but Oakland scored four runs in the final three innings to secure the championship.

Oakland will now head to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2015. The team will face the ninth-ranked Northwestern Wildcats in the Evanston Regional on Friday, May 20 at 4:30 p.m.

Thin, white and young: The culture of exclusion of Abercrombie & Fitch

LETICIA CEZÁRIO SANTOS

Ads Assistant

On April 19, 2022, Netflix launched the documentary “White Hot: The Rise and Fall of Abercrombie & Fitch.” Featuring interviews with dozens of former employees, executives and models, the Netflix exposé unravels the complex history of an iconic brand and its influence on an entire generation’s beauty standards and shopping habits. It is a lesson of everything you should consider when choosing a new favorite brand.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, Abercrombie & Fitch (A&F) reached its first peak of popularity that lasted long enough to leave a mark on many school outfits and fashion trends. You probably remember the long-sleeved tees with “Abercrombie” across the chest or all over one arm. Abercrombie was aspirational — the perfect image of the American youth.

“A&F was just aspirational enough, but not so expensive that it was out of reach,” Robin Givhan, Senior Critic at the Washington Post, said. “The fundamental idea is that fashion is selling us belonging, confidence, coll, sex appeal. In many ways, the very last thing it’s selling is actually garments.”

This was A&F’s main strategy. They were not selling clothes but rather stereotypes, beauty standards and statuses. The Abercrombie logo was almost like a badge of

distinction. Subjectively, the brand sorted those who belonged from those who did not.

The exposé explains how brands like A&F became such phenomena if social media did not play a role in spreading the word about them. How do you transform an established, older brand into a modern success? For former A&F CEO Mike Jeffries, it was a formula: heritage (the brand was established in 1892), plus elitism, plus sexual visuals — summed up with exclusivity.

“I noticed it was a super white thing,” former employee Anthony Ocampo said. That’s when the problem started. Jeffries had planted the brand roots onto exclusivity — but what started as something made to be exclusive over time became exclusionary and discriminatory.

From racist graphic t-shirts to similarly discriminatory hiring practices, A&F’s scandalous conduct led to many protests and lawsuits. Details proved that Abercrombie hired their employees based on a “caucasian standard” — it was not about performance. Any Asian-American, African-American and Latino individuals who were hired by the company were given tasks where those staffers could not be seen by customers.

A discrimination lawsuit was filed in June 2003. The retailer admitted no guilt and denied allegations. Still, A&F settled the class action suit a year later, agreeing to pay \$40 million to put an end to the



PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX MEDIA CENTER

litigation in November 2004.

Another case is Samantha Elauf’s experience of not getting hired due to wearing a hijab. In a case that lasted years, A&F’s actions were proven to violate the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Elauf’s case became known nationally and caught the attention of many media outlets like the NY Times, The Guardian and others.

Racism and discrimination were not the only problems at A&F. Besides status, the brand sold sex. However, let’s remember they were selling it to a target audience ranging from 15 to 22 years old. As with every brand, audiences want to identify themselves with the brand imagery. A&F used college boys as models — can you understand the point I am getting to?

Around the same time as the discrimination lawsuits, claims of sexual harassment became public against Jeffries and Bruce Weber, A&F’s official photographer. These claims also affirmed both men had pedophilic views and exhibited inappropriate actions toward the models. Weber settled two sexual assault lawsuits by former models for undisclosed amounts and with no admission of guilt in 2021.

“We are an exclusionary brand,” Jeffries affirmed in a 2006 interview. That’s when the public understood that everything up to then was not an accident

— he was unapologetic about it all.

In 2013, Activist & Public Speaker Benjamin O’Keefe created a petition calling A&F to apologize that went viral. Consequently, the public reaction was to boycott A&F.

“Exclusion was the root of their success, and exclusion itself stopped being quite so cool,” former A&F merchandising manager Kjerstin Gruys said.

Mike Jeffries retired in 2014 with a 27 million dollar retirement plan. In 2017, A&F welcomed Fran Horowitz as their new CEO.

Through a spokesperson, A&F said they have “evolved to become a place of belonging rather than ‘fitting in.’” After 127 years, they claim to have changed paths and made a shift toward encouraging body positivity.

“It was a culture that defined beauty as thin and white and young,” Givhan said on the side of America A&F shed light on, “and it was a culture that was very happy to exclude people.”

“White Hot: The Rise and Fall of Abercrombie & Fitch” is worth watching because it aggressively brings to light how our purchasing habits can mean more than taste. Brands represent a culture, a theory and reasoning, which we often do not pay attention to. A&F’s slogan is “Authentic American clothing since 1892.” Brands are jobs, are people, are legacies — this documentary forces you to rethink which legacies you are contributing to.



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Thoughts on Roe v. Wade in danger of being overturned

JOE ZERILLI

Campus Editor

On May 2, 2022, a draft of the Supreme Court's vote to strike down Roe v. Wade was leaked to the world by Politico. In the following days, many politicians — including President Joe Biden — spoke up defending Roe v. Wade, but on May 11, a vote to protect and codify Roe v. Wade failed in the Senate.

In a 49-51 ruling, the bill was unable to reach the 60-vote minimum to be passed, with Sen. Joe Manchin being the only Democrat to vote against the bill despite claiming to be “pro-life and proud of it.” The Democratic Party is now under extreme pressure to take action with fears of Roe v. Wade being struck down sooner rather than later.

In a recent poll conducted by CBS, almost two-thirds of Americans say Roe v. Wade should be left as is, which goes to show how nondemocratic America truly is when only 51 people can decide the fate of a country whose population is roughly 330 million.

What some people fail to realize is that Roe v. Wade being struck down would bring an end to safe, legal abortion. People will still be having abortions but now risking their own health to do something which should be a basic right to have.

Dr. Jonathan Bearak released an article in 2020 looking at abortion rates from 1990 to 1994 and 2015 to 2019, and came to the conclusion that people will still seek abortions even in places where it is restricted. He also found people in higher-income countries have better access to sexual and reproductive health care.

An abortion can cost up to

\$750 — depending on the clinic you go to or the insurance you have — according to Planned Parenthood. But with the removal of Roe v. Wade, the number of unsafe abortions will rise, which is even more costly in both the immediate and long-term need for this procedure.

On the World Health Organization's (WHO) webpage for abortions, they state an estimate from 2006 showed that complications of unsafe abortions cost developing countries' health systems \$553 million per year for post-abortion treatments. Afterward, the same estimate showed that households lost \$922 million in income because of long-term disability from unsafe practices.

Vasectomies are a pretty common practice that can help reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies. According to Planned Parenthood, vasectomies cost anywhere from \$0 to \$1,000 — which can vary based on insurance.

Vasectomies are something men can control with their own bodies, which brings me to my next point— there is absolutely no reason for men to be making decisions and laws on women's lives and what they can do with their bodies. I don't know, call me crazy, but this seems like a good way for the people affected to be the ones making the decisions.

If Roe v. Wade is struck down, it has the potential to lead to a downward spiral, inevitably backtracking and erasing years of progress for women's rights. For a country claiming to be the “land of the free,” there sure are a lot of restrictions on women's lives.

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