

THE OAKLAND POST

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BACK ON CAMPUS

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PHOTO BY SOPHIE HUME

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PHOTO OF THE WEEK



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POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SNOW DAY PAST TIME?

- A) PLAYING IN THE SNOW
- B) SLEEP
- C) CURLING UP WITH A CUP OF HOT COCOA
- D) BINGE WATCHING / VIDEO GAMES

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHAT PART OF RETURNING TO CAMPUS ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT?



Where OU stands as an LGBTQIA+ friendly campus

SARAH GUDENAU

Features Editor

From 2017 through 2020, Campus Pride Index (CPI) ranked Oakland University the most LGBTQIA+ friendly campus in Michigan. As of 2022, OU is no longer number one on the list — the university is third in the state.

Currently, OU has four and a half out of five stars on CPI, a rating system that is “an overall indicator of institutional commitment to LGBTQ-inclusive policy, program and practice,” as per the website.

The CPI is an assessment meant to be completed by campus employees who oversee LGBTQIA+ related programs and services. The CPI not only acts as a tool to measure campus inclusivity, but also assists universities and colleges in learning how they may improve their institutions.

To calculate ratings, factors such as LGBTQIA+ policy inclusion, support and institutional commitment, academic life, student life, housing and residence life, campus safety, counseling and health, and recruitment and retention efforts are individually ranked out of five. OU also received four and a half out of five stars for both its sexual orientation and gender identity/expression scores.

Regarding OU’s shift from first to third most LGBTQIA+ friendly campus in the state, Graduate Assistant of the Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC) Jackie Weisenfelder says: “Other institutions with additional policies in place that are used as criteria for the ranking system have filled out the survey in the last few years that is used to gain

data for the rankings.”

Coordinator of the GSC Grace Wojcik filled out the CPI assessment and called it a “roadmap” into what areas could be improved across campus. In the past decade, OU has made progress.

“When I completed the first-ever CPI on behalf of OU in 2011, we received two and a half out of five stars, ranking us in the middle of all the Michigan institutions who had completed the index at that time,” Wojcik says.

Supports in place that contribute to the university’s current high ranking include the GSC, the university’s resource center dedicated to the retention and graduation of LGBTQIA+ students.

The GSC offers a variety of initiatives focused on education — peer mentoring, a Lending Library, the SAFE (Students, Administrators and Faculty for Equality) training program — and community-building — Pride Month celebrations, Lavender Graduation and weekly Q*mmunity Discussion and Support Group meetings, to name a few.

“Despite the lower ranking, OU continues to be one of the most LGBTQ-friendly/inclusive campuses in the state, though the GSC was only established in 2005 and has a smaller professional staff (and perhaps budget) than many other LGBTQ+ resource centers at institutions across the state,” Wojcik says.

Additionally, OU offers gender-inclusive housing, gender neutral bathrooms accessible in every building, an active Gay-Straight Alliance student organization and inclusive on-campus counselling, as well as on-campus medical care



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES

OU's campus remains a friendly place for the LGBTQIA+ community even if it's no longer the top rated university campus.

available by professions who are trained in health care needs of LGBTQIA+ communities.

OU also has numerous policies in place to ensure gender identities, pronouns and preferred names are respected.

In April of 2018, OU passed the 840 Preferred Name Policy which allows community members to have their preferred name on university records. The 845 Gender Identity/Personal Pronouns Policy was updated in October of 2021 to allow community members to self-select their gender identity and personal pronouns within OU's information systems.

“I think this is more just a broad education thing — sometimes I’ll come across people outside of the Women and Gender Studies classes and mention my pronouns and people just kind of look at you and they’re very confused,” says senior Isabella Levitt, an English major and LGBTQ Studies minor. “That’s because I use they/them pronouns, and a lot of people are like, ‘Oh, grammatically, that doesn’t make sense.’ So occasionally, I’ve had professors who try to fight me on it and be like, ‘well, that doesn’t make any sense.’”

“This was a couple of years ago, so it’s possible that it’s changed over time,” they say. “But you know, it’s not a great feeling for your identity to be challenged, especially when we were in-person. It was in front of everybody. It was a little bit embarrassing. So I think it’s more of an individual professor kind of thing — some people take change easier than others, and it’s a learning curve for others.”

Additionally, the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning offers a recommended syllabus template which includes a section about students preferred name and

pronouns so they may be respected in the classroom. The section also describes how to update one’s name in MySail.

“[Something I’m impressed with] is how kind of second nature it is for every syllabus to include a note about pronouns and name usage,” Levitt says. “I’ve been at a couple of different schools — I went to Alma my freshman year and then I was at OCC for a little while as well. No other school that I’ve been to has had a note on every syllabus in every class I’ve had noting about pronoun usage and name changes.”

Another factor that contributes to cultivating campus inclusivity are the courses and programs of study dedicated to LGBTQIA+ education. In 2015, OU introduced the LGBTQ Studies Minor.

“We had students asking for the minor before ours was officially created, and we see demand for new courses in the area all the time,” says Ami Harbin, Ph.D. — associate professor and director of Women and Gender Studies. “One of our faculty members, Professor Lacey Story, will be offering a new course in winter 2023, WGS 3040: LGBTQ+ Lives Through a Global Lens.”

One student in the LGBTQ Studies minor program is Rebecca Dwyer, a senior double majoring in Women and Gender Studies and Psychology.

“I never had a negative experience on campus, with professors, students, anybody at this point — [the environment has] always been very supportive,” Dwyer says. “I’ve heard the numbers too that we used to be number one and now we’re three and I don’t quite understand that or why, because for me I feel like we’re number one still — just from my experience.”



PHOTO BY AYMAN ISHIMWE

The Gender and Sexuality Center at Oakland University.

OUWB welcomes new associate dean of Undergraduate Clinical Education

JOE ZERILLI
Senior Reporter

Now that new associate dean for Undergraduate Clinical Education Pierre Morris, M.D., has passed the acquisition of knowledge phase, he is ready to bring change to Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB).

He joined OUWB on Oct. 18, 2021, after being at Wayne State University (WSU) for 20 years total — 17 as faculty and three as a resident.

“My first couple of weeks, it’s like drinking from a firehose. There was just so much information coming to me,” Dr. Morris said.

When looking at the immediate need and what he can do to best help students right now, Dr. Morris said the biggest challenge is dealing with COVID-19. He said the entirety of OUWB has to look at the barriers the pandemic has created and learn how to navigate around them.

“A lot of the challenges are with students transitioning from preclinical to clinical — that’s the short-term goal,” Dr. Morris said. “It’s all the things that are out there, just the basic COVID challenges and compounding them with personal challenges that COVID has created.”

As for long term goals, he wants to continue producing high quality residency candidates and building on what the school already has. OUWB can do so by building a good curriculum, but it’s also important to note what makes a good resident.

“A good student becomes a good resident, and a good student is someone that has a strong knowledge base, can display empathy and compassion and has a proven interest in helping the community,” Dr. Morris said. “An accurate description of the personality traits that I’m looking for in residents — would I want them to be my doctor or my family’s doctor.”

He is also extremely proud of the residency programs he ran at WSU, specifically how he was able to attract good students. For about 10 or 11 years in a row, not a single resident of his failed the board exam.

Dr. Morris felt he would retire at WSU, but at the end of the day he thought he could best fill his passion of working with the students at OUWB. Now working directly with third and fourth year medical students, Dr. Morris truly feels he can make a difference.

“I will say absolutely, unequivocally, it’s the biggest honor of my career to be selected for this role, and because

of two things: it’s fulfilling a long term goal that I’ve had — working with students closer — and now that it’s taking on a position that I truly think I could have a positive impact,” Dr. Morris said.

Dr. Morris praises the help he has received from Lynda Misra, D.O. — the founding associate dean of the medical school. He plans to use the assistance from Dr. Misra and his past in education to propel OUWB — Dr. Morris was a high school teacher for 12 years and also taught classes at WSU.

“You have to make things interesting, so I always tried as a high school teacher to make things as interesting as possible, and yet still get the point across,” said Dr. Morris. “Bland information is going to remain just that.”

Dr. Morris learned students have different learning styles so teachers must remain flexible in order to accommodate these styles. Above all else, he wants students to succeed in the future.

While he may not have expected to end up here, Dr. Morris is enjoying his job and is excited for the future.

“Stay tuned, the best is yet to come,” he said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. PIERRE MORRIS
Dr. Pierre Morris is the new associate dean of Undergraduate Clinical Education at OUWB.

Honors College offers its students Study Abroad Scholarships

RACHEL YIM
Senior Reporter

The Donna and Walt Young Study Abroad Endowed Scholarship was established in 2004, and since its formation, it has become one of the most valuable financial support for undergraduate Honors College students at Oakland University who are interested in studying abroad.

“The Young’s happened to meet up with a member of Honors College staff, and following a conversation about supporting students to travel, the Walt and Donna Young Scholarship was born,” Graeme Harper, dean of the Honors College said. “A fortuitous conversation, for sure.”

According to Harper, the Young’s are avid travelers and are committed to education, and the scholarship they established way back then combined both those interests and continues to do so today.

A few years ago, the donors increased their endowment to further support Honors College students. This generous gift will allow even more students to study abroad in the future by providing required funding for lodging, tuition, books, fees, flights and other transportation expenses associated with study abroad programs.

These scholarships are offered 3 times a year (depending on time of travel) and applicants must satisfy the criteria below in order to apply:

- Must be an undergraduate student enrolled in The Honors College
- Must be in your second year or above, at the time of travel
- Have a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA at the time of the application
- Be willing to communicate with the donors about the impact of the experience (arranged by The Honors College)
- Preference given to students who exhibit leadership and involvement in the Honors College
- One time award

“The most important element is

educational value - which is a requirement, and which is confirmed during the selection process by the Dean of The Honors College and the Scholarship Selection Committee,” Harper said. “So, the Study Abroad travel, has to have that educational value.”

For each application cycle, the Selection Committee carefully reviews every application submitted, and works on the evidence given. However, every HC student who applies and matches the criteria is awarded funding, according to Harper. The amount generally varies depending on the length of their study abroad — which can be anywhere from 2 weeks to a year abroad.

The application deadlines are Oct. 15 for winter travel, Mar. 15 for summer travel and Apr. 15 for fall travel.

“The size of the award is at the discretion of the Selection Committee (but length of time most often guides that decision), and the Committee takes some time to read through the planned travel itinerary, information about formal programs and courses abroad, and plans on how the experience will relate to the student’s OU program of study overall and their future plans,” Harper said.

The students are also asked to submit a written report with photos upon their return from Study Abroad trip, which will allow them to share the places they visited and the experiences they had with the donors and the Selection Committee.

“This experience brought out a confidence in me to take on new challenges, make new friends and handle whatever life throws at me,” Amanda Breitner, past recipient of the scholarship, said. “I now have a broader world view and am itching to share my experience, as a teacher, with my students in the future. Thanks to this scholarship, I know that the kindness and generosity of strangers can change someone’s life.”

For more information about the scholarship, visit the Study Abroad Scholarship page or contact Karen Conn, administrative assistant for the Honors College, at conn@oakland.edu.



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
Oak View Hall is home to OU’s Honors College.

Office of the Registrar shares information for upcoming registration cycle

RACHEL YIM

Senior Reporter

Full-year registration (Summer 2022, Fall 2022 and Winter 2023) by class-standing begins on March 21 for graduate students, veteran students and honors college students, then continues each day for the eligible student levels.

According to the OU registrar website, registration is staggered by class standing and earned credit hours – a combination of total degree credit hours earned, excluding current semester credits. Students can check their earned credit hours in MySAIL. Students who are interested in taking online courses can refer to the online meeting overview to gain a better understanding of the location and system of their desired courses.

One of the biggest supporters during the process of registration is the Office of the Registrar. They work collaboratively with departments to create the schedule of classes, maintain the academic record and provide copies of official transcripts.

Additionally, they evaluate transfer credits and AP/IB test scores, verify student enrollment, program Degree Works, audit all undergraduate students for graduation, award degrees, order diplomas and calculate honors. They also have a lot of other responsibilities outside of our direct support to students.

“The Office of the Registrar is the keeper of the Academic Record,” Tricia Westergaard, the registrar of the Office of the Registrar, said. “We work with all students from prospective to alumni. We also work with many departments on campus. I like to think of us as the intersection where student service meets academic

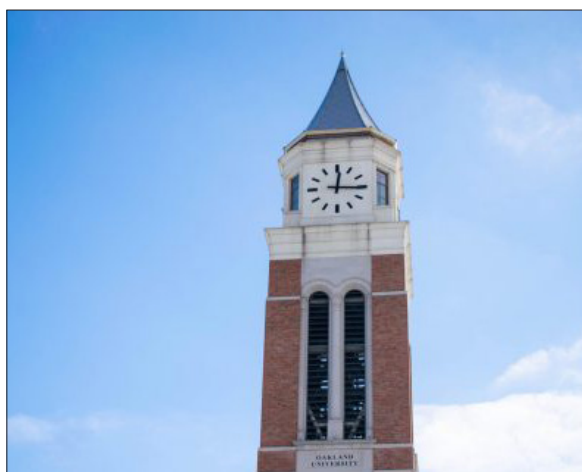


PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

The Oakland University Office of the Registrar offers tips and insight into future semesters.

programming. We have a unique viewpoint and often consult with faculty and staff on a variety of topics.”

Registrar Services supports students with troubleshooting the technology of registration in SAIL. They also offer walk-through guidance for all students in how to register, and troubleshoot support in any errors or questions.

“Most often, we are providing coordinated care between the student, advising and the academic units to ensure the curriculum intentions are in the system,” Westergaard said. “Additionally, and most students probably are not aware, we collaborate with the

academic units in the creation of classes in the system, data auditing and general classroom assignments.”

Due to the pandemic, Oakland University has offered many online classes as well as the hybrid system for necessary courses to prevent further spread of COVID-19. According to Westergaard, OU will continue to offer a broad range of options for courses in the upcoming school year, and that the Office of the Registrar is currently in the process of working with the academic departments at OU to finalize the schedule of classes for Fall 2022 and Winter 2023.

“The summer 2022 schedule is already available online, and we anticipate that the fall 2022 and winter 2023 schedules should be viewable in early March,” she said. “We will offer a variety of course modalities to meet the needs of students, with a combination of in-person, hybrid and online classes.”

Lastly, Westergaard shared a piece of advice for students for the upcoming registration cycle.

“The best advice that I can offer students is to plan for registration in advance,” she said. “If you have not seen your adviser recently, schedule an appointment so that you can review your course options to stay on track for graduation. Register for classes as soon as possible on the day you are eligible to register. This will allow you to have the best class selections possible. Finally, use your resources. If you need help, reach out to your adviser or the Registrar staff any time you are not sure what to do. We are here to help you.”

More information on web registration and class standing can be found on the web page. For support for the registration process, visit the Office of Registrar in-person in the North Foundation Hall, Room 160 or email regservices@oakland.edu.

Career Services panel offers career fair preparation advice

D’JUANNA LESTER

Senior Reporter

On Jan. 27, Career Services hosted an event where employers gave out expert advice on how to prepare for a career fair. With Oakland University’s in-person career fair scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Feb. 2 in the Oakland Center, and their virtual career fair on Feb. 3 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Career Services is offering many chances for employers to come in and give advice to students on how to be ready.

Career Services consultants Deniwse McConkey and Emily Cutlip hosted a panel discussion, asking questions to help students. The panel consisted of Anna Anderson from OU Credit Union, Jeffrey Granat, an Oakland County HR Analyst and Gianna DiLisio from Hall Financial. Each panelist discussed the importance of standing out to employers.

McConkey: What are some things students can do to make sure they’re ready?

DiLisio: “Reach out to people already employed at the company. Do your research to be prepared. Take time to think about who you want to speak with. Look at those participating in the career fair. Go on LinkedIn and make sure to ask questions.”

Granat: “It’s very important to do research on the company. It’s important to know what you’re looking for and what values you add to the company — making sure the values there align with yours. You can see what their mission is — prepare ahead of time by going on their website.”

How do you suggest students dress for a recruiting event?

Granat: “It depends on what company they want to meet. Some companies are super casual. I would probably be professional. If you’re a gentleman, you’ll want to dress in a suit and maybe a tie. I’d rather be overdressed than underdressed. It lets them know that you’re taking it seriously too.”

Anderson: “Everyone has their own image of bringing yourself to work. Bringing your best, whatever that means for you. Whatever makes you feel the most confident in whatever space you’re going in. What makes you feel like your best. You know, I think it’s different for everyone. I think it also depends on the environment. It’s not a one-size-fits-all.”

What is an appropriate background for a virtual setting?

DiLisio: “We primarily do our interviews virtually, so most take place over zoom. Be mindful of what’s going on in the background if you have family members or pets around in the background. There’s a really awesome blur setting in zoom, but you can also place on backgrounds. Maybe show your flair, things that you’re interested in.”

Granat: “Try to find a quiet place to focus. You can concentrate, not have a lot of distractions behind you. Make sure it’s neat, and do your thing.”

What would you advise students to include in their elevator pitch?

Granat: “What makes you you? Keep it short, but

let them know about your skills and values. Even if you don’t have a lot of work experience, it doesn’t mean you don’t have value.”

Anderson: “What are you interested in? You’re most likely doing unique things outside of classes. Don’t make it a five minute speech, utilize your time to have a valuable conversation. Make it organic. Make it fun.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAREER SERVICES
Career Services hosted a virtual event where employers gave out expert advice on how to prepare for upcoming career fairs.

Returning to campus: What should students expect?

GRACE LOVINS

Senior Reporter

After a month-long wait, students finally prepared to make their way back to campus on Feb. 1 for the transition from virtual to in-person classes.

On Jan. 24, campus communications sent an email to the campus community regarding the return to campus on Feb. 1. The email, from Britt Rios-Ellis, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, and Glenn McIntosh, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer, discussed COVID-19 policies and preventative measures OU is taking as classes commence in-person.

OU's vaccine mandate remains in place. Students should upload their vaccination status to the Graham Health Center (GHC) Secure Patient Portal. However, if students uploaded their vaccination records last semester, they do not need to repeat this step — but is encouraged if they received a booster injection. For students with approved vaccine exemptions, the weekly testing policy remains the same.

Similarly, OU's masking policy remains in place. Masks are required

in all indoor facilities at all times with the exception of actively eating or drinking. The university is offering KN95 masks along with other 3-ply disposable and reusable cloth masks for students and faculty at three different on-campus locations: the Oakland Center Welcome Desk, CSA Service Window and the Food Pantry.

Rios-Ellis is looking forward to students returning — stating that as a higher education administrator, she is dedicated and committed to the transformational process that students go through during a positive higher education experience.

"I'm just really excited to see folks back. I just want to underscore that. We're waiting, we're really happy to have folks back on campus and I think I just want to thank the student population for protecting themselves, helping each other, protecting each other and protecting your staff and faculty as well. We really are all in this together," Rios-Ellis said.

Although the administration has expressed their excitement about students returning to campus, some students don't seem to reciprocate those feelings — especially with so much uncertainty ahead.

Cameron Schneider, a senior majoring in business and marketing, said he is disappointed about the return to campus, especially after the initial postponement from Jan. 18 — noting the back-and-forth causes a lot of disappointment and confusion for students.

"I'm fine with the return to campus, but I wish it would have remained online. I've been skeptical that we are actually going back, especially since they moved the date from earlier this semester," Schneider said. "I still have a feeling they're going to send an email the day before saying: 'Actually, we're staying online.' I'm really not too pleased about going back, especially after a month."

Matt Wesolowski, a senior majoring in communication, expressed similar feelings about the return to campus in terms of concern and uncertainty.

"Honestly, I feel [the return] has some risks but also some benefits. I have two in-person classes this semester and it has been a bit annoying. I am concerned with the fact they waited this long to send us back. I think they should either keep us all home or let everyone go if they want," Wesolowski said.

"I had all online classes last year, so I was used to it. The issue was that I found out super late and almost went

to my first class in-person. I feel that it was not a necessary thing. If people were really so scared of going to class, they would email the school and work something out."

As of right now, according to Rios-Ellis, the university is officially moving ahead with the plan to return to campus with COVID-19 safety precautions in place. She encourages students feeling apprehensive or anxious about the transition to reach out to faculty or counseling services for help, and emphasizes that we are all in this together.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
After one month of remote learning, classes are back in person as of Feb. 1.

Jan. case count, community comments on in-person return

JOE ZERILLI

Senior Reporter

With classes returning to an in-person format, it's important to see how well Oakland University did at controlling COVID-19 in comparison to other schools. On Dec. 22, 2021, OU students received an email stating Winter 2022 classes would begin in an online format until Jan. 18, which was extended to Feb. 1.

Since the beginning of the semester, there have been 426 positive cases among students, faculty and staff as of Jan. 28. The group that reported the most positive cases was commuter students, while students on-campus reported the least.

Wayne State University (WSU) has also been virtual until Jan. 31, and they recorded only 259 confirmed cases — a roughly 39% decrease in cases. WSU is the closest comparison to OU as they are also a big commuter school with 93% of students living off campus.

Michigan State University (MSU) began online classes on Jan. 10 and remained like that for the first three weeks, in the meantime reporting 1,664 cases — an increase of about 290% from OU cases. University of Michigan

(U-M) began their semester in-person and never went online, and saw 3,778 confirmed cases — a 787% percentage increase from OU.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
As classes return in-person on Feb. 1, students and faculty reflect on how OU has managed the spread of COVID-19 thus far.

While MSU also went online, the sheer size of the campus can help explain the number of cases. When compared to U-M, which never went online, it is clear that staying virtual helped control the spread of COVID-19.

One thing that OU has yet to do that all other schools mentioned have is truly mandating the booster shot for COVID-19. OU strongly encourages students to get the booster — available

at Graham Health Center — but there is no official mandate in place.

All the other schools have greater vaccination percentages than OU for their students. OU sits at 80% of total students vaccinated, while MSU has 94.21% of students with self-reported vaccinations and U-M has 98% of students vaccinated.

Along with OU, all the colleges enforce a mask mandate with the return to in-person. OU says students can request KN95 masks, disposable masks or cloth masks, available at the Oakland Center Welcome Desk, the Food Pantry or the CSA service window.

While OU has implemented plenty of policies to help reduce the spread, some feel the administration don't seem to do a good job at enforcing them. One professor who feels this way is Chiaoning Su.

Although the policies may not be strictly enforced, Su still feels safe — her students not so much.

"I've been getting emails from students asking if we can stay online because they are concerned about returning to campus," Su says. "Some are asking for a hybrid format — there's technology concerns but [I] want to give students peace of mind."

Su personally enjoys in-person teaching more and feels it brings something magical to the classroom. Even during virtual learning, her department helps boost morale by having good communication and hosting events such as virtual coffee meetups to talk to one another.

She feels we may never return to "normalcy" and just have to adapt to the changing environment.

"For PRSSA (Public Relations Student Society of America), we plan to have several in-person events, and this will be a small step to bring back a sense of normalcy," Su says. "I don't think we will return to pre-COVID."

Some students feel OU has not done a good job at handling COVID-19, one of whom is senior Ellie Ackerson.

"They have handled lab classes relatively well with social distancing and reducing class size but they haven't been taking temperatures like before," Ackerson says. "I dislike online classes, but being at a school with a large population of commuters seems high risk."

Ackerson is also on the club softball team which had most games and practices cancelled but says OU's sport teams have barely been altered.

OU mistakenly offers 5,500 Platinum Presidential Scholar Award

JEFF THOMAS

Editor-in-Chief

Oakland University mistakenly offered their highest scholarship award to approximately 5,500 students on Jan. 4.

Below is a statement The Post received from Director of Media Relations Brian Bierley detailing what happened.

“Yes, it is true that Oakland University had mistakenly sent out scholarship notification emails in early January. Here is what happened.

On January 4, Oakland University learned that, due to human error, our undergraduate student application system sent some 5,500 admitted students email notifications that they were entitled to receive Oakland University’s Platinum Presidential Scholar Award, our highest award. The award is worth \$12,000 per year for four years.

Unfortunately, the students who received the message do not meet the eligibility requirements for this award, but have qualified for varying levels of OU scholarship awards. While the emails were sent in error, OU notifies students of scholarship awards through official scholarship award letters sent to students via United States mail.

An immediate correction update was sent within two hours to the students who received the scholarship messages in error. Our Undergraduate Admissions team also scheduled phone calls to explain the situation for those who contacted us. Oakland University is very transparent with the criteria for our scholarship

opportunities, and while many families were disappointed, there were also many students and families who have been understanding and eager to learn more about the OU award they did earn.”

The university followed up by notifying the affected students and apologizing for the error with the following message:

“We wanted to follow up with you personally regarding the Undergraduate Admissions Platinum Presidential Scholar email that was mistakenly sent to you yesterday.

Unfortunately, due to a human error, the email was inadvertently sent to you and others who had not received Presidential Scholar awards. Please know we take this unfortunate mistake very seriously and would like to sincerely apologize.

We know the college application process is an extremely stressful time and we are sorry for the added confusion and disappointment this email has caused. While we know that this message will not make up for our mistake, we wanted to share our deep regret that this error occurred, and our deep compassion toward all those affected.

The University notifies students of scholarship awards through official scholarship award letters sent to students via United States mail. The email that you received was only intended for those students who had already been sent notice of their Presidential Scholar award through an official scholarship award letter.

We have examined our email data extraction procedures to ensure that this doesn’t happen again. We feel very badly that you received this incorrect communication, and we hope you will still consider attending Oakland University.

The Undergraduate Admissions team is available to talk to you and help you understand your current university scholarship, as well as other scholarship opportunities at OU. If you have any additional questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us directly at splewis@oakland.edu or dmaubry@oakland.edu.

Again, we apologize for this error, and we look forward to welcoming you to the Golden Grizzly family.”

Remarkably, Central Michigan University made a similar error at the beginning of January, notifying 58 students of full-ride scholarship rewards that they weren’t eligible for.

CMU’s admission director is no longer with the university following the error, though it is unclear at this time whether they were removed from their position or resigned. Additionally, CMU offered those 58 students the equivalent of the scholarships they were wrongly offered.

The Post asked Bierley whether OU planned on taking any additional measures to make good with students who were affected by this error.

“It was a regrettable error to send that email to be sure, but we sent the correction email two hours later and an apology letter the next day explaining to those students in order to respond as quickly as possible to clarify the situation,” Bierley said. “Oakland has told those students who got the email by mistake that we are honoring the various levels of scholarships the students qualified for and are encouraging them to submit updated transcripts and test scores before they start the fall semester so they can be considered for any other scholarship awards they might qualify for this fall.”

Board of Trustees denies AAUP request for faculty liaisons

JEFF THOMAS

Editor-in-Chief

In a letter sent to Oakland University’s Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (OU AAUP) President Karen Miller from OU Board of Trustees (BOT) Chair Robert Schostak earlier this week, the BOT rejected OU AAUP’s proposal to add two faculty liaisons to the BOT.

Schostak’s letter to Miller is in italics below.

“Thank you for your recent request that faculty and AAUP members serve as liaisons on the Oakland University Board of Trustees.

In response to the OU-AAUP’s proposal, the Board remains committed to best practices and transparent communications along with shared governance.

As such, we believe that the existing and longstanding University Senate structure, and the committees of which it is composed, remains the most effective and appropriate model for implementing shared governance practices at Oakland University.

Faculty are always welcome to attend public meetings of the OU Board of Trustees and will always be given an opportunity to address the Board of Trustees.

Therefore, after careful consideration, the Board respectfully declines the OU-AAUP’s proposal.

On a personal level, as Chair of the Board of Trustees, and as an Alum and committed community member, we will always do our best to be responsive to new ideas and approaches by our faculty and encourage the leadership to reach out to us from time-to-time.

*With Appreciation,
Bobby Schostak”*

This response was greeted with disappointment from OU AAUP faculty, who saw faculty liaisons to the BOT as an opportunity to strengthen shared governance of the university.

“We are disappointed that the Board has chosen to turn down our proposal,” Miller said. “We had hoped that a liaison could permit members of the Board to a fuller, more interactive understanding of the concerns of faculty members. We believe that the lack of forthright and open dialogue among the various stakeholders of the university is a barrier to charting a future course for the university. The AAUP will continue to listen to the concerns of the members of our community. We will continue to advocate for our membership through any avenues available to us.”

OU AAUP Executive Director Amy Pollard responded similarly to Schostak’s letter saying, “We are discontented by the denial of the proposal and by the lack of constructive dialogue between the parties on the subject. The OU AAUP will continue to advocate for transparency from OU leadership as well as active communication and collaboration amongst OU leadership groups in order to ensure the needs of faculty, students and staff are properly prioritized.”

Miller first suggested adding faculty liaisons to the BOT at the Oct. 11 meeting during the public comment section as a way of beginning to heal the divide between faculty and the upper administration following last summer’s contentious faculty contract negotiations.

At that time Miller described the idea behind adding faculty liaisons saying, “Often [BOT members] feel that higher ed is broken and feel that they have been appointed to fix higher ed,” Miller said. “The problem

is they don’t know very much about higher ed, but they go ahead and try to fix it ... if board members want to be activists then they at least have to know what they’re doing. They have to understand [faculty] from our perspective. They don’t have to agree with us but they at least have to understand how we think and what we value. And it’ll make them much better board members. I think the more information that the board has access to, the better they can do their jobs. And it doesn’t help them to operate in a vacuum, where they’re not interacting with the student body or the faculty or the staff.”

This initial request wasn’t responded to by the BOT, so OU AAUP followed up by sending a formal request to add two faculty liaisons to the BOT ahead of the Monday, Dec. 13 BOT meeting. The BOT did not address the request during that meeting – with President Pescovitz saying at the time, “This request was received late on Thursday by the Oakland University Board of Trustees and they have not yet had an opportunity to fully consider or discuss the request.”

Schostak’s response letter comes in the midst of renewed tension between faculty and upper administration over OU AAUP allegations that the university bargained in bad faith during 2021’s faculty contract negotiations. While the university’s bargaining team released a statement denying any bad-faith bargaining, the statement didn’t address any of the specifics of the OU AAUP’s allegations and was generally received poorly by faculty.

The next BOT meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 7. It will take place from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Banquet Room A of the Oakland Center.

OU professor earns Department of Energy grant for dark matter research

GRACE LOVINS

Senior Reporter

Assistant professor in OU's department of physics, Ilias Cholis, Ph. D., has recently been awarded with a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science to aid in his research on dark matter.

According to Cholis, dark matter — matter we know exists due to its gravitational impact but can not observe directly — accounts for approximately 25% of the total energy budget of the universe. "Normal" matter — matter we can see directly through light emissions — is only responsible for roughly 5% of the total energy budget of the universe.

Cholis attributed his interest in understanding dark matter to research and observations that were being done at the time he was earning his Ph.D. He states the nature of dark matter is a very basic question in particle physics, cosmology and astrophysics and that the astrophysical data that would come in the years following his Ph.D. drew him to the question of dark matter.

His research aims to utilize existing observations from a sequence of experiments to advance theoretical models on how cosmic rays and gamma rays are produced from both known natural mechanisms and from dark matter.

From there, he hopes to have a better understanding of what role dark matter plays in the emission of these particles by getting greater accuracy of how many of these particles are created by known sources and observing how much room is left for dark matter.

Because dark matter takes up a large percentage of the total energy budget in our universe, understanding what it is and where it comes from will offer great insight into the early formation of our universe.

"It is something out there that's very dominant in the universe that has played a major role in the entire history of the universe," he said.

"It has played a major role in the formation of galaxies and all these structures that we see in astrophysics — stars, galaxies, larger galaxies, clusters of galaxies — all that. Dark matter played a major role in how those structures were created and how they've evolved with time. So, dark matter plays a major role in the storytelling of the universe."

Scientists are still trying to understand the nature of dark matter, and what form dark matter takes is yet to be determined. Dark matter hasn't been ruled out to be a type of particle, macroscale object like black holes, or a new field.

"Is it a particle or is it some big object like a black hole for instance? Or is it some very very general kind of field that you cannot even call it exactly a particle? If it is a particle, it would be a new particle, a fundamentally new particle, a particle that we have not detected so far," Cholis said. "If it's not a particle and it's something like an object, then those objects would have been created through a mechanism that would be also fundamentally new in some sense."

The grant from the Office of Science, worth \$60,000, will help Cholis, the principal investigator of the project, facilitate his research and allow for the recruitment of a graduate student and three undergraduate students as well as cover the cost of travel to conferences to present their research.

Cholis states that, because of the grant, he and his research team will be able to conduct research more effectively and faster. It will also allow him to recruit personnel and, at the same time, benefit whoever joins the team with an opportunity to do research in physics within his field.

"I'm very happy to have this grant [which] will facilitate the research in understanding the nature of dark matter with ongoing and future observations and help support research at Oakland University," Cholis said.

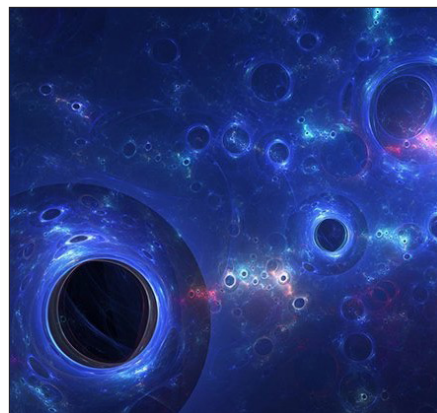


PHOTO COURTESY OF EARTHSKY.ORG
Dark matter accounts for 25% of the total energy budget of the universe.

University Receives NSF funding for cybersecurity research

ARIANNA HEYMAN

Senior Reporter

To address the demand of cybersecurity professionals in government, the United States National Science Foundation (NSF) has allocated a scholarship for service grants to Oakland University. The NSF investment is a perfect fit for the students of OU as the university was designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education (NCAE-CD) by the Department of Homeland Security and the National Security Agency in 2018.

The NSF plans to provide more than \$29 million in scholarships to eight universities over the next five years. After graduation, scholarship recipients are required to work in cybersecurity at a federal, state, local or tribal government organization for a minimum of two years.

Recruiting cybersecurity professionals is a top priority for the United States government which is why they are making the investment in students across the country.

"The cybersecurity talent shortage remains a critical issue in the United States, with businesses and government agencies alike struggling to fill critical cybersecurity positions," NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan says, as per the NSF website.

"These new CyberCorps Scholarship for Service projects engage diverse student populations and provide innovative and high-quality educational experiences that will ensure our nation is prepared to meet future cyberthreats with a well-trained workforce," Panchanathan says.

Huirong Fu, Ph.D., is a professor in the Computer Science and Engineering Department at OU.

"OU has a strong cybersecurity program that offers undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to engage in a curriculum with hands-on activities and practice in multidisciplinary courses in information technology, computer science, engineering, management and ethics as defined by the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Workforce Framework," Dr. Fu says.

This fund will not only provide scholarships, but also new opportunities for many students with little visibility in the field. According to Dr. Fu, "recruiting women and minority students, who

are currently underrepresented in the cybersecurity workforce, will be a priority."

The program will also include a mentorship program and multi-level advising for cybersecurity in government.

"Students will complete a project with a faculty and government mentor with activities including security policies; system vulnerabilities and countermeasures; legal and social issues; artificial intelligence in mobile security and wireless security; protecting machine learning algorithms; and security in big data," Dr. Fu says.

With the NSF funding, OU's Center for Cybersecurity will only continue to advance and prosper. This funding will ensure that current and future students receive mentorship and multidisciplinary training.

"OU has a concentration of faculty with expertise in autonomous systems and/or AI as part of its mission in serving employers in southeastern Michigan, most of whom are national or global companies," Dr. Fu says. "This program will provide a visible, competitive pathway for students to exciting, rewarding careers in serving the United States government in cybersecurity and cyber defense."

With the addition of the NSF funding, OU will have the opportunity to recruit, train and educate a new generation of cybersecurity professionals who will impact the workforce for many years to come and ensure the United States is prepared to face the many cybersecurity challenges.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The National Science Foundation has allocated a scholarship for service grants to Oakland University for students in cybersecurity.

People of OU: Professor Howell prepares for retirement

ARIANNA HEYMAN
Senior Reporter

After a long and storied career at Oakland University, Professor Shea Howell is preparing for her forthcoming retirement at the end of the winter semester.

“I’m really enjoying the classes this semester,” Howell says. “I find the students interesting and open and fascinating and thoughtful so in that sense I know that’s something I will miss when I’m not teaching anymore.”

Howell’s career began at Marietta College in Ohio where she attended on a debate scholarship and majored in history.

“Originally I thought I’d be a high school teacher because that’s what was open for women,” Howell says. “By 1968, the time I got out, the world had changed dramatically and I decided to go to New York to be part of the transformation of urban life. It’s where revolution was happening and I was all for it.”

From New York, Howell moved on to Northern Illinois for a graduate assistantship as an assistant debate coach. However, her political activism was the reason for her termination mid-term.

Howell then found herself teaching at Ashland College in Ohio when she got an offer for a debate assistantship at Wayne

State University. Howell says she had already thought about a move to Detroit, so the offer was perfectly timed.

After arriving in Detroit, Howell was in the process of obtaining her Ph.D. and came to OU as a visiting instructor. The rest was history.

Howell believes that she has taught “everything in the [OU] curriculum” at one point or another, but selected the public speaking and theory of communication classes as her favorites.

“I think our classes in the theory of communication are very helpful to people both conceptually [and] theoretically, but also practically,” Howell says. “I think we’re in the pragmatic American tradition of communication matters. It’s an essential life skill. I think our major enhances people’s lives [and] enhances consciousness.”

Howell’s years at OU have also allowed her to bear witness to generational changes within the student body.

“The fact that [this] generation has been so predominant in the Black Lives Matter movement — and that’s been people of all ethnicities — but especially young white kids have been involved — I think that’s a tremendous thing,” Howell says. “That would not have happened 10 years ago.”

Howell’s insight and perspective will

not only be missed by students, but also by the faculty.

“The most enjoyable part of working with Professor Howell was watching how she fostered a climate of inclusion in the department — especially with newer faculty,” Professor Jacob Cayanus says.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WAYNE STATE
Activist, writer and professor Shea Howell is preparing for her retirement from OU at the end of the winter semester.

“Her greetings and life knowledge are what I will miss the most. She always greeted me with a smile and genuinely wanted to know how I was doing.”

Howell has a wide variety of plans she hopes to accomplish after retirement. She is very focused on sustained writing about the state of the country and world — what has happened and what she thinks could happen.

Howell is also very engaged in politics in Detroit and plans to do more work for Riverwise Magazine and continue to write articles for the Boggs Center.

“I’m [also] working with something called the Detroit Independent Freedom School movement. We’re about to start an adult university,” Howell says. “I work with the coalition for police transparency and accountability [too]. Needless to say, defunding the police is hard to do, but worth it.”

With future goals in mind, Howell still reflects on her experiences at OU.

“I think I have had a rich experience at Oakland. I am fortunate to have had fabulous colleagues. I have been in an environment that has supported breaking down boundaries and crossed disciplinary lines,” Howell says.



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MEN'S BASKETBALL BESTS MICHIGAN- DEARBORN

Design by Bridget Janis

Story by Reece Taylor

Photos by Maggie Willard and Sophie Hume



The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies men's basketball beat the University of Michigan Dearborn Wolverines 104-61 on Monday, Jan. 24 at the O'Rena .

The Golden Grizzlies looked to fine-tune their offense against the Wolverines in between a pair of Horizon League matchups. Though Oakland was highly favored versus U of M Dearborn, the importance of the game wasn't lost in coach Greg Kampe, who saw the opportunity to let the younger players on the team develop.

"... To be honest with you, I'm thinking about maybe in the future, saving a game in the schedule like this to put in at this time of the year, because I can't tell you how good this is for our team and our guys," Coach Kampe said on the victory. "To have Jalen [Moore] and Jamal [Cain] on the bench cheering and, you know, just role reversals."

In the first half, the Golden Grizzlies jumped to an early lead, but the Wolverines converted a few quick buckets to make it a 17-14 affair, Oakland locked in defensively and attacked the interior to quickly turn the tide and ended the first half 50-26. Oakland's ability to force turnovers and score in transition was a key factor in the game, as they outscored U of M Dearborn 19-3 in points off turnovers in the first half, as well as 9-0 on the fast break.

In the second half, Oakland continued their interior scoring onslaught as they continued to score on the interior and get to

the free throw line, where the team was hyper efficient, converting 25 of 27 free throws for the game. U of M Dearborn played good basketball throughout the game, out rebounding the Golden Grizzlies 39-37, and three Wolverines were in double digits scoring. Though a well-coached and balanced team, they couldn't keep up with Oakland's speed and efficiency.

Oakland's size and wing span forced many U of M Dearborn turnovers, where the Golden Grizzlies forced 21 turnovers to their own 10. Though the Wolverines improved in the second half by scoring 35, Oakland proved to be a daunting task, and fell to the Golden Grizzlies 104-61.

As great as Oakland played, including six Golden Grizzlies in double figures, the performance of the night goes to freshman guard Osei Price, who had a historic game. Price led Oakland in scoring, putting up 27 points in a perfect night of shooting, hitting all seven of his field goals, all five three-pointers he took, and not missing any of his eight free throws. Price's perfect performance hasn't been replicated in the last 20 years. For the young Golden Grizzly, this game is a glimpse into the program's future.

The Golden Grizzlies don't play again at the O'Rena until Feb. 13 vs. the Detroit-Mercy Titans. Oakland looks to build upon this game to challenge for its first Horizon League title since 2017.

Former Post editor talks career, representation in journalism

LAUREN REID

Content Editor

Dreaming and goal setting are instrumental in Oakland University alumna Cayla Smith's post graduation mindset. The Post's former campus editor, Smith currently works as a Multimedia Journalist for the College for Creative Studies (CCS) in downtown Detroit, and is attending graduate school at Syracuse University working toward her Master's in Public Relations (PR).

Smith truly believes working at the Post during her senior year gave her the experience and assurance she needed to begin working professionally. Now, she's the face behind most of CCS' in-house stories.

"I feel like I became a better writer once I started working at the Post — writing stories each week, editing and watching the way other people wrote — I became a better writer that way," Smith said. "I didn't have confidence as a journalist until I started working at the Post. I wish I had more time to work there."

When it comes to her PR aspirations, Smith is eager to work on campaign implementations and PR strategy — she realized her love for the field throughout college.

As a woman of color, Smith aspires to one day create a scholarship for minority students who want to get a job in the field — as minorities are certainly underrepresented in the communication and journalism realm. According to the Pew Research Center, 76% of newsroom employees are non-Hispanic white. Additionally, six in 10 newsroom employees are men.

"I remember writing on my application for Syracuse — I want to be that voice in a room," Smith said.

"[I want to be the one that says] the Kendall Jenner for Pepsi campaign can't happen. I think getting my master's can help me get there."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAYLA SMITH
OU journalism alumna and former Post editor, Cayla Smith, talks overcoming obstacles and minority representation.

Smith admires how her team at CCS is always striving to learn more about representation and race saying, "[they're] learning and wanting to learn. There's also lots of events on campus that help. You're not the diversity quota they wanted on this team, you deserve to be there."

Although she's extremely successful and flourishing

in the professional world today, Smith mentioned graduating without a job lined up brought on negative comparison and doubt. Her job offer at CCS came a few months after receiving her diploma.

During a time such as college graduation, there are lots of expectations — expectations to find your passion, harness your creativity, see success, move away and become independent, among many others. Feeling like you're falling short in any of these areas can take a real toll.

"I was comparing myself to a lot of people who had jobs, moved to these big cities, or went on vacations post-graduation," Smith said. "I was like — 'oh my gosh, here I am just sitting in my room, and I'm not there yet.' But you have to realize everyone is going at their own pace. Just be patient with yourself."

Ultimately, Smith's ambitious nature leads to her dreaming big — which makes her extremely fun and inspiring to talk to and hear about her goals. She eventually wants to move to New York City and work in entertainment PR.

"I always want better for myself and hold myself to high expectations. If I don't reach a goal, I just rethink and reshape it," Smith said. "Life is really short, and I want a lot of things out of it."

After a really tough 2020, Smith is content with where she is today and looking forward to what's next, saying she's really glad she pushed through.

"At one point I thought, 'I am never going to get past this moment,' but I am past that moment — things do get better. College was a long four years. Experience what you can, but remember you have all the time you need to reach your goals."

Behind the scenes of OU with Lisa Peterson

BRIDGET JANIS

Managing Editor

As a university, there are a lot of people behind the scenes the community just doesn't get to hear a lot about. At Oakland University, Lisa Peterson helps keep the Dean of Students on their toes and keeps things organized that many people wouldn't think about.

Peterson has been working at OU for 22 years, and is currently the Assistant to the Dean of Students, while also attending Oakland University for her Human Resource (HR) Development degree and a minor in marketing. She makes all the Dean's calendar appointments, coordinates events and coordinates faculty and staff. She fills the role of being an HR assistant to the office, doing a little bit of everything.

"I'm responsible for all of the research proposals that come in," Peterson said. "For the review of those, for faculty reviews, for merit, I work on all this stuff. So I'm really the HR person in my office, on top of working for the Dean"

Prior to working for the Dean, Peterson worked on fundraising in the development office.

Peterson hoped to graduate earlier

than she expected, but said how life just got in the way. She is married with kids, so there was a lot going on in her life when trying to go back to school.

She still has about two years left before she graduates. Since she works at OU and also attends OU, she understands the struggles from both perspectives — especially during the pandemic and the transition between in-person and online.

"It's a learning curve for faculty, just like students," Peterson said. "I actually would say, given the technology is more now than probably when our faculty were students, it can be a challenge for them. So for them to be able to teach classes remotely and teach synchronously and asynchronously — I think I can speak for the school business faculty [when I say] they've done a wonderful job."

Peterson has yet to fully start her minor, so she has not yet experienced having a professor in the School of Business, but she is certain the professors, as well as herself, will remain professional throughout the classes.

"I love being a student and I don't think you're ever too old to learn — I'm learning amongst the best," Peterson said. "I think I'm at an advantage because I work at a place where people teach."

Peterson lived in Port Huron and

started her higher education journey at St. Clair Community College, then transferred to Macomb. When she finally transferred to OU she had 64 credits toward her degree.

While also working on her degree, Peterson is preparing for a new Dean that will be joining the university in the summer. This will be the seventh Dean that Peterson has personally worked with. She will be working on catching them up to speed about everything happening at the university such as unions, policies and faculty contracts.

"Every personality was different. Every learning curve was different. And everybody has their own style of management," Peterson said.

There is a lot that needs to be done behind the scenes. Peterson runs many events that help the university run smoothly. She has put together golf outings, faculty receptions, alumni breakfasts and board meetings. She also has organized many out of state alumni events that have been super successful.

All meetings, such as executive committee meetings and assembly meetings that have to happen bi-weekly with all the staff, have been organized by Peterson.

Everything that is done needs to be planned — and Peterson is the person



PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA PETERSON
OU's Assistant to the Dean of Students, Lisa Peterson, is responsible for lots of behind the scenes planning.

to do it. She's stuck by OU's side since 2000, and has been the backbone of the Dean's office.

"I always say my boss is the pretty face, and I'm behind the scenes, he gets a kick out of that," Peterson said. "But my job is really behind the scenes and it's making sure everything upfront works well for him. It's important that his image is professional and we're putting our best foot forward."

A back-to-campus guide on COVID-19

GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH
Campus Editor

On Jan. 24, an OU Communications email was sent out to the campus community detailing the Feb. 1 return to in-person and hybrid learning instruction.

The rapid spread of the omicron variant, which prompted this semester’s delay in face-to-face instruction, is slightly subsiding, with hospitalizations and the seven-day average decreasing — but we’re not out of the woods yet.

Preventative measures like vaccinations, testing and mask-wearing are still a necessity. It doesn’t mean it isn’t challenging to find tests and masks, though. In this column, I share some local and on-campus resources.

What type of mask should I be wearing?
According to CDC recommendations, masks should have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric, completely cover your nose, mouth and chin, and fit snugly against the sides of your face and not have gaps. The CDC also recently made some changes to these recommendations, now stating that people may choose to wear N95 and KN95 masks, as they offer the best protection against COVID-19.

Here are some web pages the OU Communications email recommended for information on effective use of respirators and masks:

- “Improve How Your Mask Protects You”
CDC.gov
- “Mask Up, Mask Right”
Michigan.gov
- “What Mask Should I Wear”
publichealthcollaborative.org

Where can I get these masks?
According to Ann Rayford, Interim Director of the Graham Health Center (GHC) and Nurse Practitioner, “The university will have KN95 masks; 3-ply disposable masks and washable, 3-layer cloth masks available on request. Students can obtain one at the Oakland Center Welcome Desk, the Food Pantry or the CSA service window.”

The Biden Administration is also expected to begin distributing 400 million N95 face masks to local pharmacies and community health centers in early February. Information about this mask distribution will be included in a future column when it is available.







DO choose masks that	DO NOT choose masks that
 Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric	 Are made of fabric that makes it hard to breathe, for example, vinyl
 Completely cover your nose, mouth, and chin.	 Have exhalation valves or vents which allow virus particles to escape
 Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps	 Not recommended: Evaluation of face shields is ongoing, but effectiveness is unknown at this time.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CDC
A guide from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention on how to choose the right mask for you.

What are some of the omicron variant symptoms?
Dr. Katherine Poehling, an infectious disease specialist and vaccinologist, told NBC news these appear to be the prominent symptoms from omicron:

- Cough
- Fatigue or tiredness
- Congestion and runny nose
- Sore throat
- Headache

Where can I get a COVID-19 test?
Rapid antigen tests and molecular PCR tests are available at the GHC. Testing type and location is determined by GHC staff based on the individual situation, according to Rayford.

Drugstores like CVS, Rite-Aid and Walgreens are also offering both testing methods at no cost, as well as at-home testing that is available for purchase and for insurance reimbursement.

The Biden Administration is also offering four rapid COVID-19 at-home tests at no cost to every American household.

When should I get tested?
“All OU community members have a responsibility to ourselves and each other to reduce the risk of spreading any illness, especially COVID-19. All symptoms should be considered COVID-19 until proven otherwise with a negative COVID-19 PCR test. One cannot assume symptoms are “just a cold” or “just allergies,”” Rayford emphasized.

Additionally, students, faculty and staff are required to fill out the Daily Health Screening before coming to campus or leaving their on-campus residence, and are instructed not to come to campus if they have symptoms.

Is the at-home COVID test effective at detecting omicron?

Research is still ongoing, but rapid antigen COVID-19 tests may be less sensitive to omicron than to other variants, which is why testing over the course of multiple days might be necessary. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has also released at-home testing guidelines, with answers to frequently asked questions that may be helpful to you as well.

What should students do if they test positive for COVID-19?
Students must alert the GHC if they test positive and will receive further instruction about their safe return to campus. There is not a universal COVID-19 plan for in-person instruction in class syllabi, so you might want to email your professor regarding their academic policy for COVID-related absences.

Seek urgent medical care if you have severe symptoms. Notify people you may have been in contact with you were around (within six feet) for 15+ minutes in a 24-hour period to let them know about your positive results.

The MDHHS graphic included on this page also details quarantine/testing instructions based on your vaccination status.

If I haven’t gotten my primary COVID-19 vaccine doses and/or my booster shot, should I?
Yes. Vaccines reduce your risk of acquiring severe disease, hospitalization, death and spreading COVID-19 to others.

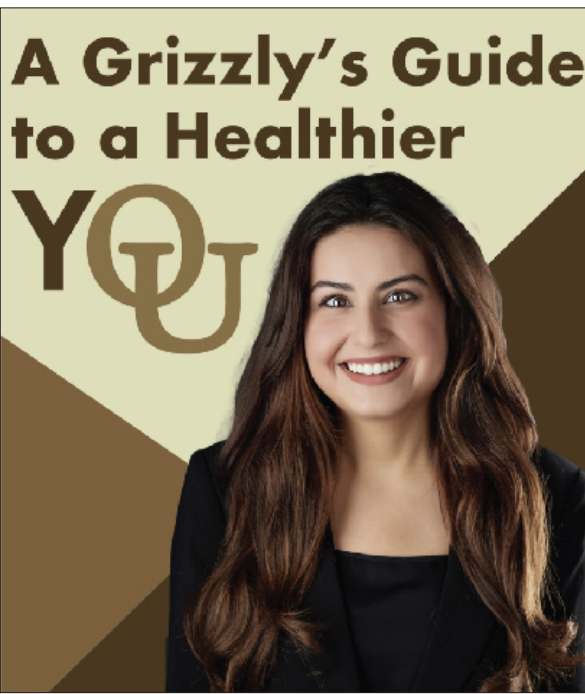


PHOTO COURTESY OF GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH
Campus Editor and Columnist, Gabrielle Abdelmessih.

Appointments for free booster shots can be scheduled at GHC via the Secure Patient Portal and pop-up clinics will take place on campus as follows:

- Tuesday, February 1 - Oakland Center, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Thursday, February 3 - Hillcrest Hall, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Pop-up clinic visits can be expedited by having a photo ID, insurance card and COVID-19 vaccination card on hand. You can also upload your insurance and vaccination card to the Secure Patient Portal.

I hope this clears up some of the confusion surrounding this subject. If there’s a portion of this column that needs further clarification or something that I didn’t address, please leave a comment below or email me via gabdelmessih@oakland.edu.

If you have a suggestion for a future column, please contact me. My goal is to make this column as helpful as it can be for the campus community.

Have you been exposed to COVID-19?*

If you are unvaccinated, OR not fully vaccinated OR not boosted (if eligible),

- Get tested on day five after your exposure, even if you don't have symptoms. If symptoms develop after day five, test again.
- Stay home and away from others in your home for two days from your last contact with a COVID+ person. Continue to wear a well-fitting mask that covers your nose and mouth around others for an additional five days. Even if you don't get a contact tracing call from the health department, quarantining and mask wearing is important to avoid infecting others.
- Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
- Wear well-fitting mask that covers your nose and mouth anytime you are around other people, even in your home.

If you are fully vaccinated* AND boosted (if eligible), OR if you tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days,

- You do NOT need to quarantine unless you have symptoms.
- Get tested on day five after your exposure, even if you don't have symptoms. If symptoms develop after day five, test again.
- Wear a well-fitting mask that covers your nose and mouth around others for 10 days. Even if you don't get a contact tracing call from the health department, mask wearing is important to avoid infecting others.

* People who received two Pfizer and Moderna vaccines within the last five months or one J&J vaccine within the last two months.
School and health care quarantine guidelines and requirements may be different.
Visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus for information.
For questions, contact your local health department, dial 211 or call the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MDHHS
A chart provided by Michigan’s Department of Health and Human Services that shows what to do when exposed to COVID-19.

A sneak peek into OU's Barstool Sports Instagram account

ALEXANDER GUSTANSKI

Senior Reporter

Oakland University recently gained its own “Barstool Sports” affiliate Instagram account. Barstool is a digital media network that is well known for its Instagram presence, sharing sports-related news and user-submitted clips. Their popularity has inspired many “affiliate” accounts run by students from across the country for their own respective universities.

I spoke to the Oakland University Barstool account administrator — who wishes to remain anonymous — about why they wanted to create a Barstool account.

“Basically, I transferred here after going to community college and that was when everything was online. So I attended OU online for a year. When I finally got to go to classes in-person, I had a year until I graduated and wanted to make it the best year possible not only for myself, but all the students here. [I thought] this would help. I believe college is a very important time in a person’s life to make friends and create memories you’ll laugh at, the Barstool is a way to help connect people and create that for everyone.”

This isn’t the first time an OU student has tried to create a Barstool account, though. There is a now inactive account under the username @OU_Barstool that never received the same success that the latest incarnation has acquired.

The new account is growing rapidly due to the

accessibility of Instagram and people sharing their favorite posts with their friends. This was the case for Garret Gilstorff, a sophomore at OU — a follower of the page.

“One of my friends told me about the page — how funny it was and that I should follow it,” Gilstorff said.

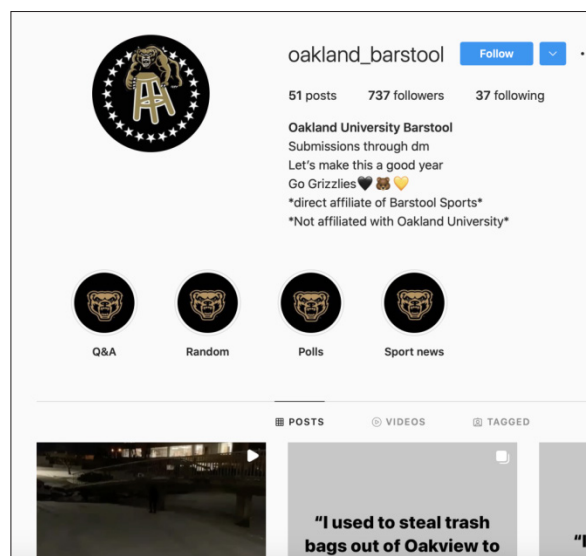


PHOTO BY LAUREN REID
The OU Barstool Instagram account.

The administrator of the Barstool page has garnered support from the student community, except for one incident where the page refused to publish inflammatory content, and spawned a now removed competitor page. The administrator’s favorite content is when people send in content of themselves and their friends.

“I love all submissions that show people having fun with their friends, and show people making the most of their college experience, which doesn’t necessarily always have to be on OU’s property. To me, if you attend OU and you’re somewhere having a good time with people you met here, that’s the content I want.”

“I absolutely love running this page,” the administrator continued. “I’m going to be very sad giving it up when I graduate, but will post something showing my identity when I do graduate — so that’s something followers can look forward to.”

The administrator emphasized OU students should go out and curate new content for the page.

“Go out, have fun, meet new people, and send in the pictures and videos of that. I cannot stress enough that this page is nothing without content from our students. Posts can be anonymous, but someone’s post could encourage others to make the most of their college experience, too.”

You can find the account @oakland_barstool on Instagram for the latest updates on campus sports and campus life.

‘Selling Your Service Industry Skills’ the value of work experience

JOSEPH POPIS

Senior Reporter

On Jan. 25, Oakland University Career Services hosted “Selling Your Service Industry Skills” — an event to promote the value of students’ service industry experiences. The event aimed to beat the stigma that jobs students may have in the service industry are not valuable on a resume or transferable to professional jobs.

Career Services invited employers who previously have worked in the service industry to discuss the benefits, and also gave students insight on how to highlight these service industry skillsets to employers.

“I think the concept that stuck out the most was that students need to be proud to put it on their resume,” Anne Holtvluwer, career consultant in Career Services, said. “You worked at this restaurant, and you learned so many skills. The things they learned ranged from customer service, multitasking, prioritizing, time management, selling, communication skills, leadership and the whole training bit.”

Leadership opportunities are abundant in service industry jobs. However, students may not realize all the skills they are gaining — especially leadership qualities when training people.

“People don’t realize those skills can’t be taught,” Holtvluwer said. “You have to learn them. The students [working] in these industries have learned invaluable skills, so that was the best part, I thought. We don’t even recognize how cool these jobs are.”

Employers shared what multidisciplinary skills they gained from their service industry experiences. These include: learning conversational skills, multitasking in a fast-paced environment, dealing with challenging customers, becoming efficient at time management and learning how to shake things off more easily.

There are plenty of misconceptions when it comes to students working in the service industry. The goal of this event was to give students an informed picture of the industry, and that its jobs are valuable and offer plenty of opportunities to enhance abilities.

“I definitely think it debunked myths because we had employers who have gone through the service industry themselves,” Emily Cutlip, career consultant in Career Services, said. “Not only were students hearing that from Career Services, but now they hear that from employers themselves. Specifically, employers who have gone through the service industry on their own career journey, so they could speak to it

in a variety of ways.”

Cutlip hopes that students find value in the transferable skills they gained through the service industry, and have the confidence to talk about it.

“My hope is students gain confidence in their service industry background,” Cutlip said. “The service industry is something that I think a lot of students are initially ashamed of, or they feel like it doesn’t have any value. But my hope is students realize there’s so much value

in these soft transferable skills that you gain in the service industry.”

Cutlip also shared there is a place for their skills, and a way to discuss those skills on a resume. It is valuable when students are able to sell the skills they have in interviews and mention them with recruiters.

“Again, things like communicating efficiently, working with difficult people, being able to work in teams, working under pressure,” Cutlip said. “I really feel like students walk away feeling the value of their skills and that there is a place for them. And there’s a way to talk about them on your resume. There’s a way to sell them in an interview. I think students walked away realizing it’s not something to shy away from when talking with a recruiter. It’s something you can celebrate and if you know how to speak to the skills you gained, it’s incredibly valuable.”

In service industry jobs, dealing with the public happens often, and according to Holtvluwer, communication is an important transferable skill.

“Probably the top for me would be communication,” Holtvluwer said. “They almost always deal with the public in one way or another. [With] that, you learn a lot, meet a lot of different people, and that’s priceless.”

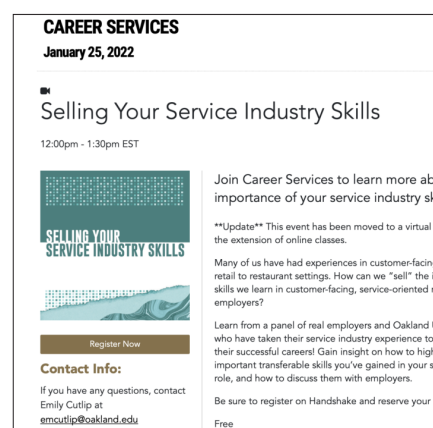


PHOTO BY LAUREN REID
The “Selling your Service Industry Skills” event took place on Jan. 25, and was presented by Career Services.

Explore business majors, career paths Feb. 9

JOSEPH POPIS
Senior Reporter

The School of Business Administration is hosting “Explore Business Pathways” on Wednesday, Feb. 9 from 5 to 7 p.m. for students interested in acquiring more knowledge on business majors, minors and future career paths. The dress code is business casual, and the event will take place in Oakland Center Gold Rooms B and C. All majors are welcome, with the main focus on business majors and minors. Dinner will also be provided.

“I would say it is really for students to learn much more in-depth about each of the majors and minors,” Debbie Lengyel, director of advising services in the School of Business Administration, said. “It’s really casual, and it’s free-flowing. They can ask questions and come in and find out. We have employers there as well with the faculty. Then also, student organization representatives [will be in attendance], so [attendees] can find out from each perspective what you can do with the major — what skillsets and what is the career path for that major. It really comes down to defining ‘Is this what I really want to do?’”

Students will be able to meet with professionals within their field of interest. In addition, various opportunities will be offered — such as learning about career paths within the majors, identifying hard and soft skills needed for success, grasping projected job growth and networking with faculty and students.

“There’s going to be a representative for every

business major,” Denica Holzworth, academic advisor and events coordinator in the School of Business Administration, said. “So for every single major, there are different sessions so that every session will have a faculty member, an employer and a current student in that major.”

The confirmed represented companies are Comerica, BorgWarner, Shift Digital, Sedgwick, General Motors, FANUC America, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and UHY Certified Public Accountants.

The team of employees, faculty and students

will answer questions about topics including career paths, continuing education, leadership, professional organizations and the student viewpoints on each major.

The ability for students to make connections is an important aspect of this event. Employers will discuss the jobs they offer and skillsets they are in search of.

“The connections [attendees] make there are really important from a career side,” Lengyel said. “Listening to the employers talk about what types of jobs they offer, or somebody with a major in whatever — I think it can be really helpful for students. What kind of skillsets they’re looking for, what are good classes — that’s really important. Those are some great things from students, but really the connections from faculty and with the employers [is valuable].”

Student organizations on campus also allow for individuals to learn more about major options. In addition, these organizations allow for a greater connection.

“We tell our students we have very active major student organizations and [getting involved is] one thing that they should do, you know that’s really important,” Lengyel said. “That’s where they can find out much more about the majors, other students that are involved in the majors, faculty are involved, etc. It just gives them a much deeper connection.”

Students will be able to learn more about the specifics regarding electives in their major, as well. They can talk with faculty and learn more about what electives might be good for them.

Register via Google Form at Explore Business Pathways. Walk-ins are also accepted.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
Elliott Hall is home to the Oakland University School of Business.

‘Echoes and Empires’: new breakout YA series?

D’JUANNA LESTER
Senior Reporter

The year has started off with a bang in terms of great books. I’ve already read eleven books so far, and today, I want to review my standout read for January: “Echoes and Empires.”

“Echoes and Empires” is a young adult (YA) fantasy by “Falling Kingdoms” series author Morgan Rhodes. In the first book in Rhodes’ newest fantasy series, the audience is introduced to headstrong Josslyn Drake. In the world of a highly esteemed empire, Joss is a character who grew up in a life of luxury, gossiping with her (fake) friends and attending the glorious galas of the infamous Queen Isabella.

In this world, magic is illegal. Deadly. Looked down upon by everyone associated with the queen. When Joss gets caught up in a robbery at the Queen’s Gala that she’s attending with her best friend, she ends up getting infected with a dangerous piece of magic.

Joss has to get rid of the magic as soon as possible. In order to do

so, she enlists the help of a wanted criminal, Jericho Nox. The infuriating character offers Joss a deal, and she reluctantly agrees. The two embark on an adventure that takes Joss out of her privileged life of luxury and pampering inside of the city, and she gets the chance to explore the world around her, while learning more about Jericho, as well as magic itself.

Where do I start with this book? First off, plot twists! There was a new reveal or something interesting getting discovered every few chapters. It’s one of those books that I couldn’t put down because I was anticipating what would happen next.

There were so many twists and turns in this book that at some moments I had to pause and say “Did that seriously just happen? This poor character!” There’s something about this book that makes you desperate for a sequel, which I hope we’re getting.

Throughout the story, we got to peel back layers of what seemed to be one-dimensional characters. We got to see who they are and also what led them to being who they are now. This was especially true with Jericho, the

rugged male love interest to Josslyn. Jericho first seemed to be like every

other YA love interest — a sad, lone wolf, attractive bad boy archetype that learns to love the main character after previously hating her. Throughout the book, we learn more about how heartbreaking his story is, and how he and Josslyn have more in common than previously thought. There’s so many different parts of the story that fall into place because of how well written the characters are.

Rhodes has a way of writing a plot that had me engaged from beginning to end. In most YA books, it’s the characters that make me fall in love with a book, such as “Six of Crows” and “A Curse so Dark and Lonely.” This time, it was the plot that engaged me the most. I felt like the plot was complex but not difficult to keep up with. With the ambiguous ending, it only makes sense that there’s more to the story. I, for one, am really curious to see where it goes from here. I want to see how the plot advances the stories of these interesting characters.

Rating: 5/5 stars

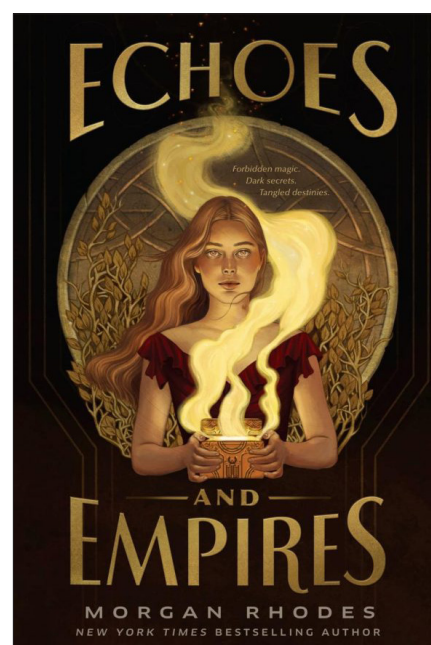


PHOTO COURTESY OF MORGAN RHODES
Morgan Rhodes’ YA fantasy “Echoes and Empires” came out on Jan. 4.

My 2022 Sundance Film Festival favorites

ALEXANDER GUSTANSKI

Senior Reporter

I virtually attended the 2022 Sundance Film Festival and watched a total of eight feature-length films, along with a myriad of shorts, throughout the weekend. Let's unpack my four favorite films.

"Emergency" - 7/10

"Emergency" is a comedic thriller about a trio of college students who end up with a passed-out girl in their apartment, and their attempts to get her help without having to call the police, as they are from minority backgrounds and are afraid of the police brutalizing them. The movie is an adaptation of the director's short film of the same name, stretched out to a feature-length that only shows a little bit.

The first part of this film is pretty funny minus a few eye-rolling lines, like when one of the leads says, "trigger warning deez nutz." The film becomes increasingly tense, as through a comedy of errors, the situation continues to deteriorate and our leads begin to look more suspicious to the sister of the drunk girl who is pursuing them, and to the police. The film both made me laugh and was incredibly uncomfortable in a good way.

"Nanny" - 8/10

"Nanny" is a horror film by Nikiyatu Jusu. Nanny is about a Senegalese immigrant (Anna Diop) who works for a wealthy white couple as a nanny for their young child, so she can bring her own child to the USA. My favorite aspect of the film is how it incorporates magical realism and African mythological figures, like Anansi the spider, to elevate its already tense

drama. Likewise, the cinematography and use of color in the film were incredible.

My only complaint is the film sometimes tries to force scary moments by playing out-of-place audio stingers amongst other items. I feel like a slight recut before this gains distribution could raise my score, as "Nanny" has serious potential to become a horror classic.

"Dual" - 8/10

"Dual" is a deadpan light sci-fi film and the third feature from Riley Stearns. The film has a ridiculous concept: when people are about to die, they can choose to be replaced by an identical clone, if the cloned person ends up surviving their terminal illness, they must fight their clone to the death to decide who gets to keep their identity.

Our protagonist (Karen Gillan) is replaced by a more perfect version of herself and seeks out self-defense lessons from an instructor (Aaron Paul) so she can beat her evil clone. The high points of the film are when Paul is training Gillan as they're both directed to treat ridiculous lessons seriously. The film also brings up an incredibly interesting moral question about how your friends and family would react to a more impressionable version of yourself. The film made me laugh, but also contemplate my existence.

"Jeen-Yuhs" - 8/10

The last film I watched was actually just the first episode of the three-part Kanye West documentary — "Jeen-Yuhs." The documentary has been over twenty years in the making, as the filmmaking duo, Coodie & Chike, has been filming Kanye ever since the beginning of his career. The first episode covers

Kanye's rise from being a producer, to him getting signed by Roc-A-Fella records.

This is arguably a very short period in Ye's career to devote an entire hour and a half to, but since I'm a huge fan of the college dropout, I enjoyed it. If you are a fan of Mr. West — check this out when it drops on Netflix.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUNDANCE.ORG
The 2022 Sundance Film Festival took place Jan. 20-30.

Oakland men's basketball midseason grades

CHRISTIAN TATE

Sports Reporter

It is no secret that the Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team has been on a tear unlike any other this season. With a 15-5 record [8-1 in conference play] this season and plenty of room to improve upon that record, this is the best basketball that they have played since the 2016-2017 season.

Identifying the reasoning behind this surprising jump in winning and the seemingly immediate jump in production was no easy task, but I have managed to narrow it down to what I believe are the most important reasons.

Reason #1: Effort [Grade: A+]

Starting off with the first reason — the overall strength of the youth on this team. With ten of their active players on the roster being listed as freshmen — either due to them being true freshmen or using the extra year rule introduced because of COVID — the Golden Grizzlies and Head Coach Greg Kampe have had to rely on a lineup chock full of players who are making it through their first collegiate season.

Despite the supposed inexperience, the youth of the team have put in the work and leave everything out there on the court each night in order to bring home the wins. Two of the team's heaviest contributors — starting forwards Trey Townsend and Micah Parrish — have both played a combined 1,158 minutes over the course of this season [averaging around 38 and 34 minutes per game, respectively] and they have made every single minute count. With all the factors

going into this, I think the team as a whole deserves an A+ for the collective effort shown.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
The Oakland men's basketball team in a huddle during a timeout against UM-Dearborn on Jan. 24

Reason #2: Defensive Production [Grade: A]

The upside to this team being so young is the stamina and effort shown by the guys who want to desperately earn their play on the court, which brings me to my next reason: defensive production. This year, the Golden Grizzlies defense is on an entirely different level. With only 10 games left to go in the season, the team have halved their opponents' points scored in comparison to last year's defense.

In the 2019-2020 season, the Golden Grizzlies allowed their opponents to score a combined 2,301 over 33 games. This year, with 20 games under their belt, they have only allowed 1,123 points combined over all of their games. Unless their opponents are able to score over 1,000 points in the next 10 or so games, then this year's defense will top last year's by a mile — and they get an A from me because of this.

The contributions of our team's more experienced players [graduate student Jamal Cain along with junior Jalen Moore] have also been huge for the team's win columns, but I think that goes without saying.

This year's Golden Grizzlies basketball team seems to have that "it" factor this year. The swagger and confidence with which they play, the emotion and the poise that they've shown numerous times on the court this season — all of it points to a team that looks primed and ready to make a deep run in this year's Horizon League tournament and maybe even further beyond.

Golden Grizzlies men's basketball outlasts UIC

BROCK HEILIG

Sports Reporter

The Oakland Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team improved to 9-1 in the Horizon League on Saturday afternoon with a 81-74 win over the UIC Flames.

The Grizzlies and Flames battled early, as Micah Parrish helped the Grizzlies to a 12-8 lead at the under-16-minute media timeout. Parrish — who had a pair of 3-pointers in the opening minutes — was joined by Jamal Cain [2 points], Trey Townsend [2 points] and Jalen Moore [2 points].

Oakland squandered its lead in the following minutes, but regained the four-point advantage before the under-12-minute media timeout.

Oakland found life coming out of the timeout, as it went on a 10-0 run to extend its lead to 14. The Flames couldn't buy a basket from the floor, going scoreless for eight straight minutes.

Despite their struggles, the Flames did not go away easily, scoring eight points in the final three minutes of the half. Ultimately, the Grizzlies hung onto a 34-29 lead at the end of the first half.

The Grizzlies were led in scoring by Cain [14], Townsend [8] and Parrish [8]. Jalen Moore added four points of his own, in what was a half full of swings. Oakland led by as many as 14, but the Flames were able to cut the lead to five at the end of the first half.

Cain was already well on his way to yet another 20-point outing — after the game, he spoke on his mindset in the first half.

"I just try to play aggressive early," Cain said. "Just trying to exploit that [the defense], and just trying to be

aggressive and trying to get early foul calls."

Scoring came in bunches as the second half began. Townsend notched six quick points to open the half, but UIC came out on an offensive tear with 12 points in just over three minutes to take a 41-40 lead.



PHOTO BY BROCK HEILIG
Micah Parrish heads to the locker room at halftime against UIC on Jan. 29.

UIC could not miss to start the second half, as it scored 15 points in four minutes on 6-7 shooting from the floor — including 3-3 from distance. The Flames led 44-42 at the under-16-minute media timeout.

The two teams went back and forth in the ensuing minutes. Baskets by Parrish, Townsend and Osei Price helped the Grizzlies to a 53-51 lead at the under-12-minute media timeout.

The epic battle continued as both teams threw their best punches. Heading into the final stretch of the game, the teams were locked even at 58.

Coming out of the under-8-minute media timeout, Cain logged five straight points to put the Grizzlies in front. Moore added a triple of his own on the next possession, and Oakland quickly found itself clinging on to a 66-60 lead.

Oakland never looked back, holding off UIC in the game's final minutes. The Grizzlies led by four with 33 seconds remaining, when two Jalen Moore free throws put the game out of reach for the Flames.

Cain and Townsend led the way for the Grizzlies, with 26 and 22 points, respectively. Moore added 17 points of his own, and Parrish was also in double figures with 13.

After the game, Head Coach Greg Kampe had extremely high praise for Parrish.

"I think he's progressed phenomenally," Kampe said. "Micah Parrish is going to be a pro. He's doing everything I need him to do to win."

Oakland — now 9-1 in the Horizon League — trails league-leading Cleveland State by just half a game in the league standings. As the Grizzlies set their sights on a potential Horizon League championship, Kampe knows the road ahead will be critical for his team's success.

"I don't think we can lose again," said Kampe, as it relates to winning the Horizon League championship. "We have to win them all."

The Golden Grizzlies now set their sights on a four-game road trip, as they try to stay within striking distance of first place in the Horizon League. Oakland will travel to Northern Kentucky on Thursday, Feb. 3, and to Wright State on Saturday, Feb. 5.

Swim and dive beats Horizon League rival Cleveland State

REECE TAYLOR

Sports Reporter

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies men and women's swim team beat the Cleveland State University Vikings in Cleveland, Ohio on Jan. 28.

With both the men and women's teams active for the event, Oakland had a chance to face off against a Horizon League rival at the end of their regular season. Looking to defend their Horizon League championship for potentially eighth straight season, the Golden Grizzlies were focused headed into the pivotal match.

The Golden Grizzlies women were absolutely sensational against the Vikings, coming out of the day on top of all medal counts in double digits, with 14 gold medals to two, 10 silver medals to six, and ten bronze medals to six. Eight different swimmers ended the day with gold medals for Oakland, including four with multiple.

Swimmers Susan LaGrand and Taylor Bailey, both seniors, led the way for the Golden Grizzlies, each earning two gold medals and a silver medal respectively. The combination of a variety of finishes from the dominant team led Oakland to not only win in medal count, but to dominate the scores 217 to 78.

The Golden Grizzlies men faced a feisty opponent in their waters, barely winning out in totals and

medal counts, winning in gold medals 9-8, losing silver medals 9-8, and winning bronze medals by the same score. The Gold medal count shows how tough this matchup was for Oakland, as 11 different swimmers won gold between the two teams, including Cleveland State having six swimmers win gold compared to Oakland's five.

In spite of the fewer swimmers with golds, Oakland's Adam Flowers, Marko Khotynetskyi, and Christian Bart were the only swimmers to win multiple gold medals. The Golden Grizzlies faced a tall task against a deep Vikings team, but were able to pull ahead in medal counts and inch out a win in scores, 159-142.

With the regular season wrapping up, the Golden Grizzlies have one major event left before the Horizon League championship. Oakland will host the USA Michigan Open from Feb. 11-13 at the Oakland Aquatic Center. Oakland's final stop will be this at home invitational as they prepare for the Horizon League title.

If there's anything to take from their win over the Cleveland State Vikings is that the Horizon League title was never guaranteed. The Horizon League is as deep as they have ever been, with teams who have a realistic chance to upset the Golden Grizzlies, and that it's going to take everything Oakland is made of to get their eighth straight title. As hard as the other teams are willing to fight, Oakland needs to be able to match.

Just as the competition is tough this year, Oakland knows something about the championship: they're just as tough. You don't win seven straight for nothing.



PHOTO BY NOWSHIN CHOWDHURY
The Oakland Swimming and Diving team defeated Cleveland State in their final regular season match on Friday.

People of OU: Detroit sports personality, entrepreneur Mike Sullivan

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL

Sports Editor

There are busy bodies, there are busy bees and then there's Mike Sullivan.

Sullivan, simply known to some as "Sully," is an Oakland University graduate, former executive producer for 97.1 The Ticket's "The Valenti Show" and founder of Brand25 media and Metro Detroit Golfers. Growing up in Clarkston, Michigan, he was always into sports, mainly football.

Like many kids, he had dreams of playing football professionally. Luckily for him, he got the opportunity to play college football at Division II's Saint Joseph College in Indiana.

When he realized that he probably wasn't going to make it as a professional football player, he decided to go into sports radio during his freshman year. He fell in love with the field, transferring to Oakland the following year to get further involved.

Sullivan is someone who's always trying to stay one step ahead, dating back to his days at OU, where he tried to get his degree as soon as possible.

"When I transferred to OU I really wanted to just grind and graduate college quickly," Sullivan said. "I was interning at 97.1 and it's such a crazy space in radio especially and I had a chance and an offer to work at 97.1 as soon as I graduated college ... so I really wanted to just try and graduate as quick as I could."

Sullivan was able to graduate so quickly by taking a full load of classes during the summer semester. He was only 20 when he graduated in 2014, the youngest person in the class.

"The summer courses were really [how I was able to graduate so early] and just get a ton of credits," he said. "I would take full courses in the summer and again, just with that goal of graduating and diving into my career as soon as possible."

Reflecting further on his time at OU, Sullivan said it was where he "fell in love with the communications-media type space."

"Whether it was my broadcast classes, or my mass communication classes, or my journalism classes, my public relations classes, [I] really had kind of gone down that route and also just honed in on the radio side of things," Sullivan said. "I interned at 97.1 The Ticket when I was at OU and really, my entire life was interning and 97.1, working at WXOU and doing my show and then working at the Nike store at Great Lakes Crossings as well, so I was super busy."

Reflecting on his time at The Ticket, Sullivan said 97.1 offered him a job immediately after he graduated.

"They basically created a spot for me," he said. "I was an assistant producer. I would kind of assist each show a little bit. And I was in that [role] for about 9-10 months and then had a chance to get promoted quickly. At the time, it was an interim basis to the executive producer of 'Valenti and Foster.' So I was there for maybe around six, seven years at 97.1 and worked my way up to executive producer, had a chance to be on air a lot and a chance to build client relationships. So I had a great experience."

While he was at 97.1, at some point along the way Sullivan decided it was time for something different. So with the help of a friend, he started his own media company called Brand 25.

"I've always wanted to build my own business," Sullivan said. "I've always had that entrepreneurial drive. And basically at 97.1 again, I had a great experience there but I really wanted to just go dive into my own thing and then how it all started really was kind of on the side. I had several of my radio clients that were asking me, 'Hey, you're good on social media, can you help me with social media? Can you help me with some websites?' It kind of started on the side in terms of our media company, Brand 25, where I was doing some consulting and helping clients with their online presence. And it really got so busy and my partner Kyle, who worked at 97.1 as well, was kind of in the same situation. He wanted to leave, wanted to go dive and do his own thing. Him and I kind of teamed up and really just dove into it full time."

Sullivan also said he and his team just started a new division of the company called Make The Turn, focused solely on golf-related marketing.

"We've been flooded with golf marketing requests, whether it's golf retail courses, golf fitness that need help with marketing," Sullivan said. "So we're doing a lot of golf specific marketing. There's been so much synergy between just our marketing efforts and just golf in general. It really has been a whirlwind — just diving into everything and being so busy growing these companies."

Sullivan was very close with Timothy Ponzter, who passed away in an auto accident last summer. The two came to know each other at OU and would go on to work with each other at Brand 25.



PHOTO COURTESY OF @MIKESULLIVAN ON TWITTER
Businessman Mike Sullivan at a Detroit Pistons game with mascot Hooper earlier this month.

"When we started Brand 25, Tim was the first full-time team member that we hired," Sullivan said. "Tim was exceptional. He was so bought in, he was so passionate about helping and client relations and digital marketing and writing, of course — he was such a great writer. So it was really a no-brainer to hire him. [His passing] was extremely tough from a personal perspective, and now of course from a business perspective with all that Tim was doing and how big part of our company he was and how driven and bought in he was. He was a great, great friend and really just a great team member as well, especially having known him and worked with him in several different spots. Just just one of the best."

Sullivan has also started a golf community called Metro Detroit Golfers, which has exploded in popularity, gaining over 50,000 members in just two years. Sullivan said he never anticipated this much growth this quickly, and attributes the success to the passion that Michigan golfers have.

"When we launched MDG we certainly thought there was a need for it in terms of, quite frankly, just creating a golf community for the state of Michigan," he said. "So I was surprised that there wasn't one that existed. There wasn't an online space really for Michigan golf that existed. So what people don't realize is that Michigan is the third biggest golf state in terms of total golf courses. It was honestly that mindset of 'hey, let's create an online space for the Michigan golfer.' There's so much passion here. There's so many people who want to talk golf and just have that golf discussion and meet people."

Sullivan has also been very adamant about trying to get star golfer Phil Mickelson to re-enter the Rocket Mortgage Classic in Detroit. When an article from The Detroit News last year portrayed Mickelson in a negative light, Sullivan decided to take matters into his own hands.

Sullivan said he thinks he can get him to come back to Detroit.

"Phil was upset about [the article], and I just tried to turn [the situation] into a positive," Sullivan said. "I tried to just say, 'hey, regardless of what people think of the article let's just show Phil that he is wanted in Detroit and people do love him here.' I started this petition, and Phil mentioned my name in his press conference, which was unbelievable, just growing up as one of the idols of my generation. And then I got a chance to meet him briefly as well and just for him to kind of know me on a first name basis is just unbelievable. But yeah, trying to get him back. I think he will, we'll see."

Sullivan said the next step for him is to keep "expanding and growing" Make The Turn.

"I have a very forward thinking mindset where I'm always trying to stay one step ahead," Sullivan said. "So I never want to just be complacent. I'm always thinking about the next thing. I think that that is a company that has some national appeal. We have a lot of national connections outside of just Michigan. So I think the next step and in simple terms is really trying to scale Make The Turn as big as we possibly can and as effectively as we possibly can, and really just be a leader in the golf industry space for marketing."

Women’s basketball loses tough game to Robert Morris

CHRISTIAN TATE
Sports Reporter

The Oakland Golden Grizzlies women’s basketball team fell to the Robert Morris Colonials last Friday night, after an uncharacteristic disappointing offensive showing.

The first quarter would begin and the Colonials would immediately turn the ball over on their first possession, leading to a transition jumper and a lead for the Golden Grizzlies. The Colonials would answer back later with a basket of their own, and immediately the game would become a series of traded buckets.

The first quarter would end with a Colonials lead, as the score would sit 20-17. The Golden Grizzlies would open up with a layup, which would deadlock the score 19-20 until both teams would score again around the sixth minute mark.

The Colonials would keep their lead growing as the Golden Grizzlies would stumble, with the score before halftime sitting at 34-23. The Golden Grizzlies would only put up six points in the second quarter, going into the locker room with a puzzle to unlock on the offensive side of the ball.

The Grizzlies would come out of the half with the proverbial offensive puzzle solved, starting to look ahead to chip into the Colonials’ lead and leave their abysmal second quarter performance behind them.

With every push the Grizzlies would give, however,

the Colonials would push them back even harder. This trading affair would continue on through the entire quarter, and the lead would not change hands as the quarter score would hang at 53-41.

The fourth and final quarter would leave no questions unanswered, with both teams scoring their highest amount of points here. Although they showed commendable effort in the final quarter to fight back against the lead, it would simply be too little too late as the Colonials refused to let go of the lead.

The game would end with a win for the Colonials, with the score sitting at 71-65 by the time the final buzzer sounded. The Golden Grizzlies struggles from the three and the field were simply too much to overcome while the Colonials had a great shooting night. They would outshoot the Grizzlies from every spot on the court.

The Golden Grizzlies would shoot 43% from the field and 28% from the three point line, compared to the Colonials who would shoot 52% from the field and 41% from the three point area. Although the Grizzlies would draw more fouls than the Colonials, they would shoot a worse percentage from the charity stripe with a final percentage of 67% vs. 77% for Robert Morris.

The Colonials would also win the rebounding battle with as narrow of a lead as one could possibly manage, grabbing 31 boards vs. the Golden Grizzlies’ 30 rebounds. The Colonials would also put up more than double the assists that



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELYSE GREGORY
The Oakland University women’s basketball team dropped a tough one to Robert Morris last Friday.

the Grizzlies would, winning that battle 17-8.

This loss drops the Golden Grizzlies to .500 on the season with a 9-9 record [8-4 in conference play] this season, while the Robert Morris Colonials improve to 7-10 [6-7 in conference play] with this win.

The Golden Grizzlies will return to the court on Feb. 4 against the IUPUI Jaguars at 7 p.m. in Indianapolis, Indiana.

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Women's basketball stuns first place Youngstown State

BROCK HEILIG

Sports Reporter

The Oakland women's basketball team knocked off the league-leading Youngstown State Penguins on Sunday afternoon in a 56-52 thriller.

The Grizzlies jumped out to an early 11-2 lead as Kendall Folley and Kayla Luchenbach each notched four points in the opening minutes, with Breanne Beatty adding three as well. The Penguins fought back quickly, however, and came within three before a media timeout.

Scoring halted for both teams in the following minutes, but Oakland continued to hold off Youngstown State. A Breanna Perry last-second jump shot extended the Grizzlies' lead to five at the end of the first quarter.

Turnovers plagued both teams in the second quarter, and the Penguins came within two — however, big shots by Beatty and Brianna Breedy extended the Grizzlies' lead to seven just before the media timeout.

The Penguins clawed their way back to tie the game at 23 with just over a minute to play in the half. Youngstown State continued to find its groove, finishing the half with a slim 27-26 lead over Oakland. The Grizzlies finished the half with seven players in the scoring column, highlighted by Folley [7] and Beatty [6].

Both teams struggled mightily from behind the arc in the first half. The Grizzlies connected on just 2-10 from deep, and the Penguins were an abysmal 3-16.

Scoring slowed down once again to start the second half, with both teams combining to score just six points in the first five minutes of the third quarter. The Penguins boasted a 31-28 lead over the Grizzlies at the third quarter media timeout.

In the ensuing minutes, Youngstown State began to extend its lead. The Penguins strung together many successful possessions, as they quickly found themselves leading the Grizzlies by 10 with just under two minutes to play in the third quarter.

The Grizzlies were unable to do much on the offensive end, and they suffered the consequences

as the Penguins continued to make shot after shot. Sydney Gouard and Breedy connected on crucial shots to trim the Penguin lead to six at the end of the third quarter.

Oakland stepped up on the defensive end of the floor in the fourth quarter, holding the Penguins to just two points in the first five minutes of the final quarter.

Led by five straight points by Breedy to open the quarter — along with clutch baskets by Beatty, Kahlaijah Dean and C'Erra Maholmes — the Grizzlies found themselves up by four with just three minutes to play.

Youngstown State would not go away, however. The league-leading Penguins clawed their way back to take a one point lead with 1:45 left to play.

Dean hit three free throws with 1:26 remaining to give the Grizzlies a two point lead that they would not give up. Clutch free throw shooting sealed the game for the Grizzlies, who gave the Penguins their third loss of the season.

Breedy led the way for the Grizzlies with 14 points off the bench, and Beatty tallied 11 of her own. Dean added 10 to help Oakland claim the victory.

With the win, the Grizzlies improve to 10-9 overall, and 8-4 in the Horizon League. Oakland — now fifth place in the Horizon League — trails Cleveland State and Northern Kentucky by half a game in the league standings.

After a tough loss to Robert Morris earlier in the week, Oakland is now 1-1 in the first half of its four game road trip. The team will now look ahead to IUPUI on Friday, Feb. 4, and UIC on Sunday, Feb. 6.



PHOTO BY ANNA DRUMM
Breanne Beatty goes for a layup against Youngstown State during the team's first matchup earlier this season..

WINTER 2022 PAYMENT DUE DATE

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S WINTER PAYMENT DUE DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2021.

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

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

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