

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

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CORONAVIRUS CRASHES CAMPUS

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PHOTO BY ASHLEY AVERILL

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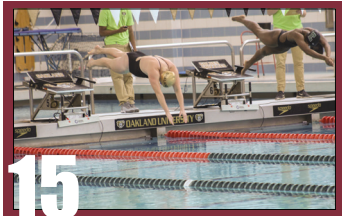
GHOST TOWN Halal Shack was one of several food services across campus to close following the COVID-19 outbreak in Michigan, leaving students with limited dining options. PHOTO / SAM SUMMERS



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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



"I CERTAINLY HOPE THAT, DURING THIS CHALLENGING AND DIFFICULT TIME ... WE WILL REMEMBER THAT EVERYONE HERE AT OAKLAND UNIVERSITY IS PART OF THE OAKLAND FAMILY."
— ORA HIRSCH PESCOVITZ,
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

TIPS FOR STAYING HEALTHY

- WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER FOR AT LEAST 20 SECONDS.
- USE HAND SANITIZER THAT CONTAINS AT LEAST 60% ALCOHOL.
- AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE, ESPECIALLY WITH UNWASHED HANDS.
- STAY HOME WHEN YOU'RE SICK AND AVOID CONTACT WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE SICK.
- REGULARLY DISINFECT OBJECTS AND SURFACES SUCH AS DESKS, CHAIRS AND COMPUTERS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OAKLAND.EDU/CORONAVIRUS

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Trying to move forward in the worst of trying times

TREVOR TYLE*Editor-in-Chief*

Dear readers,

With the growing threat of the COVID-19 pandemic across the globe and recent suspension of in-person classes for the remainder of the semester, we all understandably have a lot of questions and concerns. As a fellow student, I share many of those uncertainties with the campus community, but I also understand — now, perhaps, more than ever before — how important my job is as the leader of this news organization to seek the answers to those questions.

First and foremost, know that, for the time being, The Oakland Post is not going anywhere. As journalists, we understand how important it is to have someone fighting for you to get the answers you deserve. As the campus community continues to adapt to remote life for the rest of the semester, my staff and I are actively investigating the effects of these changes and how they will



impact Oakland University students, staff and faculty.

In the coming weeks, we hope to provide you with continuous coverage of the current situation on campus and in the local community. There's a statement I made when I first introduced myself as editor-in-chief that I feel resonates more now than ever before: "We are the voice of the students, not the university."

By nature, The Oakland Post has been tasked with the tremendous responsibility of serving as the student body's biggest advocate, a role I feel is more important now than ever before. Even in moments when administration falls silent on issues that need to be addressed, we will continue to work diligently to ensure students have the most recent and relevant information presented to them at all times.

I also want to take a moment, as a student leader, to acknowledge my sympathy to all my fellow students whose lives are being drastically altered in ways that are both unprecedented and unfair. As a grad-

uating senior, I feel like what was left of my final year of college was taken away from me, a sentiment I'm sure I share with many of you. The only thing more frustrating than this situation is the realization that neither I, nor anyone else, has the power to change it, and for that, I'm truly sorry. For many of us, what should have been the epic finale to the best four years of our lives is now a bittersweet ending that we all must finish through a computer screen.

Not only does the sudden shift to online learning create barriers for students — and educators — in an academic sense, but it has also produced social barriers that so many individuals and organizations have worked to tear down. This change has brought upon the cancellation of nearly every event for the rest of the semester, leaving a severely negative impact on the ever-so-crucial component of student life on campus. Walking through a practically empty Oakland Center to get to my office, it became painfully evident to me how this terrible pandemic has decimated student life, one of the things that has always made OU so great.

We need each other now more than ever. Remember to be kind to one another and stay

united, not divided. Both on campus and in the larger community, the outpouring of love and support that I have seen for all those affected by this horrible tragedy has been inspiring, and I would encourage all of you to keep that love — and the hope that comes with it — alive.

The COVID-19 outbreak has inevitably provoked a plethora of emotions, and while I can't even begin to fix the skepticism, fear and despair that we are now forced to live in, I can promise you that my entire staff will work tirelessly to keep you informed and educated, because if we don't, who will?

I want to thank our readers for their continued support. It means more to us than you will ever know, and we do not take a single ounce of it for granted. It is that loyalty that has motivated and allowed us to keep writing — and fighting — for you.

Sincerely,

Trevor Tyle, Editor-in-Chief

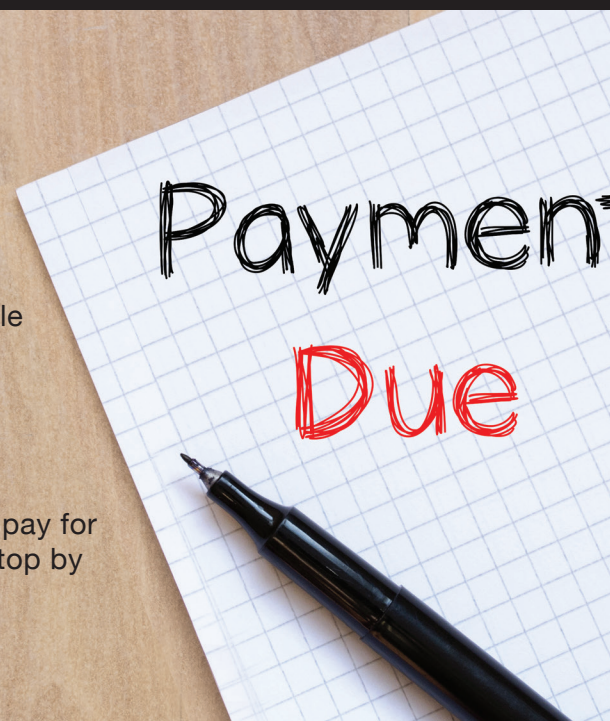
SUMMER 2020 PAYMENT DUE DATE

The summer semester is right around the corner — start it off right and avoid any last-minute financial surprises by being proactive.

Reminder: the summer payment due date is April 15.

If your student account is not paid in full by the established due date, you may be canceled (dropped) from your classes. Consider all your financial options. An OU payment plan helps spread tuition and costs into smaller, more manageable installments and be sure to pay your installments on time. Obtaining financial aid, utilizing external sources, and/or using your own funds are other options for you. Know which charges can be paid with your financial aid (an authorization may be needed) and which charges you must pay out-of-pocket.

We are here to help. If you need help understanding payment options or how to pay for your education, please contact Student Financial Services at (248) 370-2550 or stop by North Foundation Hall, Room 120, as soon as possible.



LEARN how to avoid cancellation (drop) at oakland.edu/financialservices/payments-refunds/payments-cancellation



THE OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES

Students lined up to receive flu vaccines at the Graham Health Center's Fluapalooza.

2005 H5N1, 2014 Ebola caused panic comparable to COVID-19

LAUREN KARMO

Campus Editor

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to ravage the world today, Oakland University has faced different epidemics threatening the health and wellbeing of students and faculty with the annual flu, the H5N1 avian flu and the Ebola virus.

While the university didn't see closures or cancellations like it does today, many were concerned with the possibility of Ebola reaching the United States in November 2014, as it had been spreading across the world after its first discovery in West Africa.

While COVID-19 has caused a frenzy unlike any other in recent history, similar panic fell among the public in 2014. Amid the hysteria, a Graham Health Center (GHC) Adult Nurse Practitioner, Samantha Damren, told the OU community to remain calm.

"I have to stress that I am very unconcerned about Ebola migrating to the metro Detroit area," Damren said. "I don't think it's beyond the realm of possibility, but it's something that I'm not particularly scared of."

While Ebola was not a real concern of healthcare professionals, the annual flu was.

"The flu happens every single year," Damren said. "It's highly contagious. It's easily disseminated. It's droplets, you know? Sneezing. Being on a plane with someone. Being in a movie theater."

Back in October 2005, the H5N1 avian flu threatened to reach a nationwide outbreak after originating in Asia. Unlike COVID-19, which cannot be passed to and from animals, the avian flu was passed to humans from infected birds. Despite the avian flu being

unable to pass from human to human at the time, professionals were concerned about the "smart-strain's" ability to mutate in order to become more contagious.

"The concern is that if it develops the ability to go person to person, this could go around killing millions of people," said Gabrielle Stryker, assistant professor of biological sciences. "[But] there's no reason to believe that this is the year that it can go person to person."

The spread of the avian flu was even more uncontrollable than COVID-19, as changing flight patterns of infected birds was the main carrier of the virus, whereas all carriers of today's epidemic are human.

Also unlike COVID-19, H5N1 did not reach official "pandemic" stage in the U.S., but many were still worried about the possibility of it doing so. Because of this, many healthcare professionals planned for the worst-case scenario.

"Do we have the skills to handle something like this? Yes. Public health is about emerging diseases," said George Miller, spokesman for Oakland County's health department.

At the time, the state and local action plans were based off of other epidemics that have hit the area, such as the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in the early 2000s.

Neither Ebola nor H5N1 had ended up reaching Oakland County like COVID-19 has, and the mass hysteria is unlike any in recent history. While the 3-4% mortality rate of today's epidemic is lower than both Ebola (50%) and the avian flu (60%), the public concern is unprecedented.

As Frank Bruni wrote in a 2014 New York Times op-ed titled "Scariest Than Ebola," "We Americans do panic really well."

Weatherman Al Roker inspired students during his 2000 visit

AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

Al Roker, weatherman of NBC's "Today" show, visited Oakland University in 2000 and brought some sunshine to campus.

Roker was in Meadow Brook Theatre lecturing about the importance of family and family values.

"No matter what you choose to do, you are always your parents' children," Roker said.

The main idea of his lecture was remembering your family heritage and where you came from, and noting the importance of family bondings. He continued by explaining how nowadays, families tend to run in separate directions instead of staying together.

"Al being able to find the balance between family and career is important, and it shows," said Paul Franklin, chair of the Student Life Lecture Board (SLLB).

Roker comedically intertwined stories about his own family from his childhood and what made him into the person he is.

"We have many to remember that the root of it all is within the family," said Roker.

Everyone that attended laughed at Roker's off-the-cuff jokes and enjoyed his captivating lecture. Martene Bates, a freshman who attended, spoke about his experience.

"He was one of the most entertaining speakers that I've seen," he said.

Many students had positive things to say about Roker's performance.

"He was very entertaining, passionate, funny and seemed to be a humble man," student Alex Miller said.

Roker talked about his weatherman career with the "Today" show. Throughout

the audience's questions, one attendee asked who influenced him the most. He said his sacrifices and his father have influenced him the most.

"You have to start small and work your way up," Roker said. "Be prepared and work hard, there's no magic formula."

He encouraged students to "keep plugging away" at their school work and keeping up good grades.

Roker isn't just known for his weatherman position. While on air, he interviews celebrities, does cooking segments and gives technology updates. Moreover, he hosts a show called "Today's Dad," which gives fathers parenting tips and tricks.

"Mr. Roker was a very positive, encouraging speaker, and it's great that he took the time to come to Oakland University," said then-freshman Michelle Canavesio.

The SLLB and the Forensics Team brought Roker and many other powerful speakers to campus to share their career and life experiences and motivate students.

Roker's website, www.roker.com, is where he can be reached. On his website, there is information about him and his shows, along with a shop.

Since Roker, many other influential speakers have come and gone from OU's campus. Most recently, Brad Galli — another local newscaster — spoke on campus about his experience as a sports journalist and his connection to the university.

All speaker events are posted on OU's SLLB instagram page and to their website. To make suggestions and/or comments about who comes to campus, or any ideas for programs, contact the SLLB. SLLB can be found within the Office for Student Involvement in the Oakland Center, room 49.



THE OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES

Senior Alex Stocky had Roker autograph his sweatshirt following his lecture

CAMPUS

Face-to-face classes suspended for remainder of semester

TREVOR TYLE

Editor-in-Chief

Campus administrators announced that Oakland University will suspend face-to-face classes, which was effective 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, and will continue through the end of the semester Wednesday, April 25. The announcement came less than 24 hours after the first two cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Michigan, in the neighboring counties of Oakland and Wayne.

Classes on Thursday, March 12 and Friday, March 13 were canceled. Remote learning went into effect Monday, March 16.

"We recognize that these actions will be disruptive and create challenges for many, and will have financial implications for the university," University President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz said in a statement. "However, the health and safety of our community is our focus at this extraordinary time."

OU was one of many universities to shift from in-person classes to an online format, following similar announcements from Michigan State University, Central Michigan University and Wayne State University. Senior Associate Provost Michelle Piskulich told The Oakland Post last week that a task force of about 45 members has been regularly meeting to "mitigate the risk [of the coronavirus] on campus."

Campus will remain open during this time, allowing faculty, staff and student employees to continue working. However, the university also recommends all employees "actively self-monitor" for potential symptoms of COVID-19.

On-campus residence halls and apartments are also expected to remain open during this time. University officials have confirmed they will continue to provide dining, counseling, health and medical services for students.

"I want to remind everyone that Oakland University is an inclusive and welcoming community," Pescovitz said. "We must remain vigilant and true to our values, and continue to respect each other and the diversity of people who make our community such a special place. We will not tolerate any type of discrimination or derogatory remarks toward any particular group or person."

The scheduled commencement fairs have also been canceled. Currently, all graduation ceremonies for the winter semester are



TREVOR TYLE | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

University officials have suspended in-person classes for the rest of the semester to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

expected to commence as scheduled on April 30, May 1 and May 2.

According to Jean Ann Miller, senior director of the Office for Student Involvement, all campus events and gatherings expected to host 50 or more people have been canceled, including Siblings Weekend and actor Terry Crews' scheduled appearance at the O'rena. Miller later confirmed that Crews' visit to campus would be rescheduled to the fall 2020 semester.

Club sports seasons have also been canceled. According to an email sent by intramural and club sports coordinator Jordan Leslie, all club sports practices, competitions and travel have been canceled until further notice.

All university-sponsored domestic and international air travel

has been suspended until further notice as well. Summer study abroad programs are currently under review. Students will be reimbursed for any study abroad programs that are canceled.

All official university athletic events have also been canceled.

"At this exceptionally challenging time for our campus, we must work together to protect the health and well-being of our Oakland University community," Pescovitz said. "In times like these, I have no doubt in the abilities, perseverance and commitment of our faculty, students and staff to collaborate as we navigate this unfolding, and difficult situation."

For suggested preventative measures and additional information regarding the coronavirus outbreak, visit the OU website.

This information is up-to-date as of Tuesday, March 17.

COVID-19 pandemic interrupting internships for students

EMILY MORRIS

WXOU News Director

The spread of COVID-19 has taken hold of classes, moving learning into a solely online forum. Internship courses, however, may be the one exception. The continuation of the winter 2020 semester's internships is entirely in the hands of individual companies, and most have chosen to stick to the status quo — for now.

"So far, only a small percentage of student internship experiences have been affected by COVID-19," said Robert Sidelinger, communication program director and internship coordinator at Oakland University. "Some sites are going remote and creating plans for students to intern remotely. Other sites are disbanding their internships and terminating interns."

Even though the majority of internships have remained unaffected, some students are forced to cope with sudden changes: adapting to virtual interning, sudden dismissal

and incomplete hour requirements. OU is offering some lenience because of these unprecedented precautions.

"Staying informed and keeping up to date is the best plan possible," Sidelinger said, "but things are changing quickly with little or no notice, so everyone needs to remain patient and flexible."

Although most students currently will have sustained experience at their internship sites, some still have to grapple with a sudden change to remote experience. Alisa Novelli, an OU senior studying communication, has been interning with an on-demand delivery service called Herculeze for the past two months and was just informed she will be resorting to remote work. Although she focuses on Herculeze's online platform, she said experiencing this change in the midst of her senior was "heartbreaking."

"You dedicate four to five years of your life to get a degree, and this is it?" she said. "It is really sad to have my experiences at a university altered in such a dramatic and sudden way."

Students lacking in required weeks or hours at their internship sites do not need to fret about passing. If a business has released its intern but returns to normal scheduling in the near future, interns are able to delay their completion and simply earn an incomplete (IC) grade for now. On the other hand, if a business cannot provide a return timeframe for interns, their current week and hour amount will be accepted.

"Ideally, we want students around professionals, working in a professional setting," Sidelinger said. "But these are extreme circumstances, and we also want students to still complete their capstone experiences in the best way possible, given what is happening."

Internships are an option to give young adults their first taste of their desired career. Because of the wave of coronavirus in Michigan, some students are having a stepping stone in their career cut short. Most locations are choosing to function normally, though — among all of the campus cancellations, internships are one of the last pieces of OU that, overall, is still partially intact.

University officials provide updates one week after COVID-19 hits Michigan

TREVOR TYLE

Editor-in-Chief

Campus administrators are still working diligently to repair much of the damage caused by the recent COVID-19 outbreak, which prompted the suspension of classes and other on-campus services for the remainder of the semester. A week after the first two confirmed COVID-19 cases reached Michigan, members of the university's coronavirus task force have provided updates with many of the changes affecting the Oakland University community.

Commencement ceremonies

Several universities across the state, including the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University, have announced plans to cancel or postpone their commencement ceremonies to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, prompting speculation as to how OU would handle forthcoming graduation plans.

As of right now, President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz has expressed a desire to hold all winter 2020 commencement ceremonies as originally scheduled. However, Senior Associate Provost Michelle Piskulich confirmed administration is looking at "alternatives" if they are forced to postpone commencement.

Facility closures and campus dining

Kresge Library and the Recreation

Center unexpectedly closed Monday, March 16 for an indefinite period of time, shortly after it was announced they would be remaining open with adjusted facility hours. Piskulich and Emergency Management Specialist Mike Crum confirmed the sudden change was due to an executive order passed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

Several students have expressed concerns that these changes would subsequently lead to the indefinite closure of the Oakland Center, but university officials reaffirmed the building would stay open for the time being.

However, Piskulich also noted some options for on-campus dining could change in lieu of an executive order from the governor's office that closed all bars, restaurants, gyms and theaters through Monday, March 30 in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

"That [executive order] has affected what we can do within the building in that sense, but the building is still open," Piskulich said. "My preference was we'll keep it open as long as we can."

Student employment

According to data published at Georgetown University, more than 70% of college students are working while enrolled in classes, inevitably leading to concerns about student employment status at college campuses across the country. Many students are still being allowed to work on campus for the time being, though

there is unease about their potential loss of employment if more facilities on campus shut down.

"I know many student employees are still working, depending on the office and the nature of the work and that type of thing," Dean of Students Michael Wadsworth said. "If there are students who are experiencing financial difficulties and want someone to talk to about it or try to help them resource, then they can reach out to the Dean of Students office and we will try to do whatever we can to help them resource and figure out their specific situations when we can."

Petitions on campus

Earlier this week, a Change.org petition was started by a concerned OU student asking university officials to evaluate classes for the current academic semester on a credit/no credit basis. The petition argues that a lack of resource accessibility and preparation, paired with the difficult and abrupt shift to online learning, could lower student grade point averages.

According to Piskulich, administration is aware of the petition but has no plans to change the distribution of grades.

"What we would want to do is make certain that we are taking into account the needs of all the students and, sometimes, what students want is not necessarily the best for another group of students," she said. "At this moment, we do not have plans to make that change

... we're going to have to look into that more carefully, especially as the semester goes on."

Other updates

Currently, there are no scheduled changes for summer courses. However, Piskulich said her office is prepared to make decisions about altering summer classes if necessary.

According to Wadsworth, University Housing will remain open for the time being.

"University Housing is currently open and, you know, I can't say whether or not it remains open, but as far as we know right now, it remains open," he said. "There's things that are changing on a daily basis no matter how far out we plan. But for right now, they're open and we're running our services as best we can for all the students living on campus."

Crum also reiterated the importance of hand-washing and social distancing for the time being.

"We have no confirmed cases at OU and we really want to keep it that way, so we're asking to make good decisions in that regard."

For more information on efforts being made to combat the spread of COVID-19, visit oakland.edu/coronavirus or email oupdem@oakland.edu. Documents designed to assist educators and students with adapting to online learning are also available at oakland.edu/elis.

THE OAKLAND POST

visit us online



www.oaklandpostonline.com

CAMPUS

Students participate in Murder Mystery at Meadow Brook Hall

KATELYN HILL

Staff Reporter

Students got to live out their own version of Clue at the third annual Meadow Brook Hall Murder Mystery event.

The event was hosted by the Student Program Board (SPB) and held on Tuesday, March 10 at the mansion originally owned by founder and philanthropist Matilda Dodge and Alfred Wilson.

Chris Russell, president of Student Program Board, said this event is great for students to find out more about Meadow Brook Hall, while having a good time with friends. Russell said the members of SPB were excited about this event since Mackenzie Hill, the annual events director, started the event three years back, and this was her last event.

“My favorite part is just watching students break outside of their comfort zones and take on a character for the night,” he said. “You don’t hear students talking about their homework that evening or what their next final exam or midterm is going to look like.”

Russell said it’s great to see people getting into their characters, enjoying the atmosphere and “checking out of all their college experiences.”

At the event, there were two mysteries guests could participate in: Cruising for Murder, a cruise theme, and Sin City, a casino theme.

The reason for having two themes, according to Russell, is to allow more people to play in key roles instead



SOPHIE HUME | PHOTOGRAPHER

Students solve mysteries during the third annual Meadow Brook Hall Murder Mystery event on Tuesday, March 10.

of having them all be extras.

“We can put 70 people in one room and give 30-40 people crucial roles to the narrative in each of those, or we could have everyone just doing one game and now all of those people are fighting for those same 30-40 roles,” he said. “It just cuts in half the amount of significant players within it.”

Upon entering, guests were given different envelopes which contained information about their character and what their role would be before and after the “murder” took place. Russell said the envelopes also contained different

objectives for guests to complete throughout the night to add to their character and their overall experience.

Emma Brownell participated in the Sin City mystery, and she said it was meant to be a Las Vegas casino setting. The envelope she received contained the character known as “Lucy Legs,” a showgirl who was dating the resident Elvis impersonator.

“I think the best part of it was the people because some people really got into their roles,” she said. “It was so, so fun just to see how we would interact with each other even though it was all fake and we just got our characters that night.”

This event was also the first time Brownell had ever visited Meadow Brook Hall, so she was able to receive a tour in the 45 minutes before the event started.

She said the atmosphere of the mansion really adds to the whole experience of the event.

“It added to the character the most,” Brownell said. “It puts you in the mindset and it makes you feel like you’re really high-end.”

Russell said being in the mansion increases the ambience of the event.

“The amount of time and effort that we have to put into decorations and things like that is substantially reduced,” he said. “You wouldn’t want to do something to a place that gorgeous, so it makes that part of it minimal.”

Russell said SPB plans to continue hosting the event in future years with more murder mysteries to keep guests on the edge of their seats.

Residence halls implement new policies and offer contract releases

LAUREN REID

Staff Reporter

In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, university housing is making changes for students continuing to live on campus. For those who have moved out or plan to, contract releases are available.

“This is a very fluid situation and University Housing is adjusting as new information and variables occur,” said Director of University Housing Jim Zentmeyer via email. “It is likely in the coming days that the responses of today may not hold true in the near future. University Housing will [continue to] respond in such a way as to support our current population, as well as support any safety protocols.”

As of now, students can continue to live on campus as remote learning begins, although, there are new policies in place.

According to Zentmeyer, beginning at dinner on Monday, March 16, dining halls will be take-out only, and containers will be filled with food by Chartwells employees rather than students. Students are asked to take their food to a location outside of the dining halls.

Dining hall hours for both Hillcrest and Vandenberg Halls are available on their social media and on their page on the OU website.

Both Tilly’s in Oak View Hall and The Hive in Hillcrest Hall are open daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

The guest policy on campus is also becoming more restrictive in order to encourage social distancing. As of Wednesday, March 11 housing has suspended guest

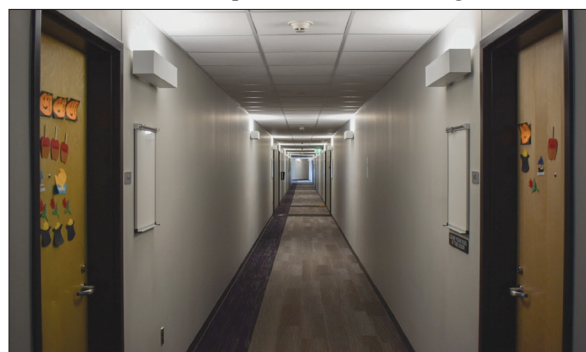
sign-in between the hours of 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. Times for night watch remain the same as of now, but are subject to change.

“For students who wish to continue to live on campus, currently that option [remains to be] open,” Zentmeyer said. “However, I cannot predict what necessary changes may take place from the State of Michigan or university leadership. Such future decisions will be based on the safety and security of our students.”

According to sophomore Kara Ketchum, who’s still living in Vandenberg Hall, the campus feels “barren.”

“A lot of people left already — I’m not used to it being so quiet,” Ketchum said. “At least there are parking spots.”

There is a possibility that all students will be asked to move out at one point. In that case, it would run similar to a normal move-out. Updates are forthcoming.



SOPHIE HUME | PHOTOGRAPHER

OU Housing is allowing students to continue living on campus, and offering contract releases for those who wish to move out.

For students who have already moved out, or are considering doing so, contract releases are available. For information on how to complete a contract release, students are being directed to the University Housing website to follow directions on how to get a contract release. Any cancellation fees will most likely be waived due to current circumstances. Room keys must be returned as well, most easily via an express check-out envelope.

Students are encouraged to contact Student Financial Services for updates on how a contract release can possibly impact their financial aid status, as mentioned by Zentmeyer.

Students with additional questions regarding COVID-19 in general, or how it affects campus can visit OU’s website. Students are encouraged to take the necessary precautions, like hand washing and social distancing, among others, to stay safe and healthy during this time.

Breakfast:

Monday-Friday: 7:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Lunch:

Monday-Friday: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Dinner:

Monday-Friday: 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Late Night:

Sunday-Thursday: 8:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.

Meals Saturday-Sunday:

10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.



CLASS
MOVED
ONLINE

Wash
your
hands!

CHECK OUT
e-LIS
help guides
ON MOODLE!!

by Katie LaDuke | design and graphics by Erin O'Neill

Without even realizing it, students and instructors had their last in-person class sessions of the 2019-2020 academic year on Wednesday, March 11.

Oakland University administration made the decision to suspend all in-person instruction after 5 p.m. on March 11 in response to the COVID-19 emergency. Effective Monday, March 16, courses will be delivered in online and remote forms for the remainder of the semester.

In the initial statement sent to the campus community, President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz acknowledged the disruptive nature of this decision and the challenges that will follow, but reassured that these actions are being taken for the safety and health of the community.

One of those challenges is getting all instructors transitioning their courses that were previously meeting in-person to online formats. Since OU is a member of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), there is a formal agreement that addresses the mandating of online formats for courses that count for credit.

Paragraph 92 of this agreement states, "Faculty may voluntarily engage in the development and delivery of courses for credit to be delivered online, through distance learning methods, using technologically innovative methods and/or through the use of emergent technology."

Amy Pollard, president of the OU-AAUP chapter, explained she has never seen a similar situation calling for mandatory online teaching. However, administration did seek input from the union and made the call for full online instruction, which overrides that section of the agreement.

"This is a big change to the normal course of order, a temporary change," Pollard said. "Various departments are handling it

differently ... What we are trying to do as the union and what we are in the middle of doing, is trying to create a Google site to collect as much of that information as we can in one space for faculty to turn there."

As the transition continues, faculty and instructors are at different experience levels with online teaching. Some instructors use a variety of technological resources and have had online classes in the past, while others do not use any technology for courses, which includes Moodle.

"Different faculty are at very different learning curves at this moment," Pollard said. "The faculty really want to make sure their students are being taken care of. It's a big stress and burden on students and faculty."

Professor Erin Meyers from the Department of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations has taught online classes before, but is still facing challenges with the transition. Meyers never planned for her courses to be taught fully online and is working with any issues of internet access her students might encounter.

"I think it'll be rough at the beginning," Meyers said. "There will be glitches."

She also sees the isolation from making social connections in class a future problem.

"A class that is highly discussion-based is hard to think about how we're going to transition that online," Meyers said.

From the Department of Religious Studies, Professor Joseph Klein has never taught an online course because he feels that in-person instruction is "the foundation of the university experience."

"I've always resisted teaching online because I think face-to-face teaching and interaction within the classroom is at the heart of any teacher-student relationship," Klein said.

With the shift to the form of instruction,

professors still need to meet learning outcomes for the semester. With the semester being just halfway completed, there are still objectives and material to cover.

"We want our students to understand, appreciate and be able to meaningfully use the information we convey," Klein said.

Professors like Meyers understand the temptation to tune out, especially with the overwhelming changes, but creative aspects like online video lectures, online meet-ups and group discussion will be incorporated in some courses. Meyers feels WebEx, an extension through Moodle, and the Google Suite will be helpful resources. Academic companies are also making some of their products free and expanding access to them.

One of the biggest resources for faculty and students is coming from e-Learning and Instructional Support (e-LIS), which has shifted all efforts to supporting instructors and students with the transition.

Shaun Moore, director of e-Learning, explained this is the busiest time the office has experienced since his start at OU in 2001.

For support, e-LIS has been doing online workshops while extending weekend hours and receiving assistance from Classroom Support and Instructional Technical Services (CSITS) Helpdesk for the influx of requests. In Moodle, there are also links to resource guides.

"We've created two guides, one for faculty and students, linked in Moodle, so faculty and students will see the appropriate guide when they log in," Moore said.

Throughout this process, errors are to be expected. Instructors ask for patience and cooperation as they navigate the rest of the semester with their students online.

"I think it'll be hard," Meyers said. "I think everybody needs to be patient."

Two Michigan universities closing for Election Day

LILY STOTZ
Contributor

Despite campuses around the nation announcing Election Day holidays, as of now, Oakland University does not have plans to do so. Recently, Wayne State University (WSU) designated this year’s presidential election on Tuesday, Nov. 3 a campus-wide holiday in hopes of increasing voter turnout.

“This holiday will afford faculty, staff and students the liberty to put their civic duty first,” WSU President M. Roy Wilson said last month.

This announcement comes just weeks after Michigan State University announced that they will implement a fall break that includes Election Day. In light of this, students and faculty at OU are discussing what similar measures could do for increasing civic engagement on campus.

“Our students can get home, so it’s much easier for them to vote in [their] home precinct than maybe at MSU,” said David Dulio, professor of political science and director of OU’s Center for Civic Engagement, in response to MSU’s new fall break. “There are interesting differences and hurdles in how we can get our students to engage — they’re just different.”

OU has a population of over 19,000 students, but only 16% of those students live on campus. MSU, on the other hand, has a population of over 50,000 and houses around 32% of its students on campus. The notable differences in scale, campus demographics and the large number of commuters at OU may account for administration’s decision not to implement a break.

Some OU professors, however, have instituted their own practices to increase civic engagement.

“In the past, if I teach on Election Day, I tell my students if they email me a selfie of themselves with their ‘I Voted’ sticker, that I’ll count it as an excused absence,” Kathleen Battles, a communication professor at OU, said.

Battles said she believes everyone should at least have the opportunity to vote and that right should not be stunted by obligations such as school or work.

“I think Election Day should be a federal holiday for everybody,” she said. “I think it’s great Michigan State is doing it, and I think Oakland should do it, too.”



I think election day should be a federal holiday for everybody. I think it’s great Michigan State is doing it, and I think Oakland should do it, too.

KATHLEEN BATTLES
PROFESSOR



Among 18- to 29-year-olds, voter turnout went from 20% in 2014 to 36% in 2018, the largest percentage point increase for any age group, according to the United States Census Bureau. This exemplifies young people’s growing interest in civic engagement and why many institutions are implementing programs in response to support that.

“I had to leave work and class early to be able to exercise my right to vote,” Christina Quirk, a communication student and campus employee, said. “I think closing the university and giving students and faculty a day off shows that the university supports its attendants’ voting rights and is promoting getting out to the polls.”

Regardless of the lack of plans to implement a campus holiday for Election Day, OU has a history of strong civic engagement efforts that are sure to be showcased during the upcoming 2020 presidential elections. Successful past efforts are likely to be reinstated, such as bear buses providing rides for students to the polls, debate watch parties and material to help navigate the voting process.

Last year, OU was designated a “voter-friendly campus” by Campus Vote Project and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA). This designation is awarded to universities and colleges that planned and implemented practices that encouraged students to register and vote in the 2018 elections, and through 2019, 2020 and beyond. OU is one of only 15 higher education institutions in the state of Michigan to receive the designation.



Registration by class standing and earned credit hours will begin **Monday, March 23** at 6 a.m. Eligible students will register for summer 2020, fall 2020 and winter 2021 classes.

Get ready for registration by seeing your academic adviser now and registering for classes on your appointed day.

STAY ON TRACK FOR GRADUATION

Check out Degree Works, OU’s degree audit tool, at mysail.oakland.edu to monitor your progress toward degree completion. And consider taking summer classes to get ahead in your studies — you can even live on campus at a discounted summer rate. Learn more at oakland.edu/housing/cost.

WHEN TO REGISTER

CLASS STANDING/EARNED CREDIT HOURS	REGISTRATION DATES (ALL START AT 6 AM)
Graduate students, veterans and Honors College students	March 23
Second undergraduate degree students	March 24
Seniors with 121 credits or more	March 24
Seniors with 91 credits or more	March 25
Juniors with 73 credits or more	March 26
Juniors with 56 credits or more	March 27
Sophomores with 42 credits or more	March 30
Sophomores with 28 credits or more	March 31
Freshmen with 16 credits or more	April 1
Freshmen with fewer than 16 credits	April 2
All other students	April 3

The chart is based upon the combination of total degree credit hours earned on an OU transcript as of February 6, 2020. Enrolled credits will not be considered.

Campus resources update operation statuses

KATIE VALLEY

Content Editor

Changing developments to the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation have forced Oakland University to take measures to ensure campus safety.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced Monday, March 16 that sit-in restaurants, bars, gyms and theaters would close at 3 p.m. to contain the spread of the virus and remain closed through Monday, March 30.

OU's resources have to comply with the new rules, so here is the status of various campus resources.

Kresge Library

Kresge Library and the OUWB Library closed at 3 p.m. Monday, March 16, and will remain closed through midnight on Tuesday, March 31.

Mariela Hristova, interim dean of University Libraries, said electronic materials — like ebooks and journal articles — are readily available online and can always be accessed via Library OneSearch and the library's databases. Community members are also encouraged to seek research help remotely through chat and email on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Kresge will no longer be charging late fees, and if community members request a book through Library OneSearch, they can use Pull for Pickup to have it mailed to them at no cost, or utilize electronic document delivery services for books the library owns.

Faculty members can submit electronic items to be made available on course reserves to use library materials for their classes.

According to the Campus Communications announcement, the library's closure "does not prohibit employees or contractors [from] entering the listed facilities while working in their professional capacity," meaning full-time library employees can still come onsite.

More information about Kresge's remote services can be found on the OU Libraries Remote Services webpage, which is being updated as changes are implemented.

Recreation and Well-Being

The Recreation Center closed Monday, March 16, at 3 p.m. and will remain closed until the end of Whitmer's executive order.

The Recreation and Athletic Outdoor Complex (the playfields and track) will be open dawn to dusk for outdoor activities, while the indoor complex, fitness court and residence hall gyms are closed, according to the center's social media.

Career Services

According to a Facebook announcement, OU Career Services will remain open and fully functional. Until further notice, students and alumni can make face-to-face appointments and drop in to the Career Studio.

Students and alumni who prefer to limit in-person contact can schedule online appointments with career consultants or utilize Career Services' Handshake Resource Library.

Career Services events have been canceled, but the resource will provide tips via social media on how to search for jobs while at home.

The Oakland University Writing Center

The Oakland University Writing Center (OUWC) is open for online appointments with its standard operating hours, pending authorization for student consultants to offer remote assistance, as of Monday, March 16.

The OUWC will shift its schedule to one-hour appointments,

to make up for any slowdowns caused by the online software. Writing consultations will run via the OUWC's scheduling software, WCONLINE, in either a video chat or text chat format.

This change stems from the library's closure on Monday, March 16, as the OUWC originally aimed to also have limited in-person sessions.

According to Dr. Sherry Wynn Perdue, OUWC director, the center's operating hours may also be subject to change, depending on client use and further developments of COVID-19.

To schedule an appointment, visit the OUWC's online scheduler. Please check its website for more information and updates.

The Gender and Sexuality Center

According to Grace Wojcik, Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC) coordinator, the GSC will be open Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

All Pride Month 2020 events are suspended indefinitely, and

all remaining GSC Discussion & Support Groups are canceled.

Veterans Support Services

The Veterans Support Services office will remain open with little change to its services. The only change is the office is no longer open late on Wednesdays.

The hours of operation are Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Other closed recreation and entertainment venues

According to the letter sent to the campus community, these places are also closed:

- Meadow Brook Hall
- Meadow Brook Theatre
- Oakland University Art Gallery
- Meadow Brook Amphitheatre
- Varner Hall performance spaces
- The Habitat
- Grizz Dome
- O'rena
- Golf and Learning Center indoor simulator

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The role of the Student Liaison to the Board of Trustees (BOT) is to serve as a non-voting resource on all student issues at public meetings of the BOT.



General Information

- Term of Service - July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 or 2022
- Must have at least a 2.5 GPA
- Must have earned 56 undergraduate or 18 graduate credit hours (minimum of 28 or 9 earned at OU, respectively)
- Must not hold any other major elected campus office

Apply online at:

oakland.edu/bot/student-liaisons

Applications are due by March 27, 2020

For questions, please contact the Division of Student Affairs & Diversity
120 Vandenberg Hall | 248-370-4200 | studentaffairs@oakland.edu

Busting myths about the COVID-19 pandemic

DEAN VAGLIA

Staff Reporter

The novel coronavirus strain COVID-19 has catastrophically reshaped daily life.

From self-imposed social distancing to the large scale postponement and cancelation of large gatherings like religious services and sporting events, these sudden responses to the ongoing pandemic are the perfect breeding ground for misinformation and myths to spread. The World Health Organization (WHO) has published a list of myths about COVID-19 and the truth that debunks them. Here are some of those myths.

Transmission

From what the WHO has observed so far, COVID-19 is spread through contact with respiratory droplets (fluid from coughing and sneezing) from infected people. It can be transmitted through hot and humid environments as well as cold and snowy conditions. There has been no evidence to show that COVID-19 dies in cold temperatures. It is also not transmitted through mosquito bites.

The first known cases of COVID-19 occurred in Wuhan, China in December 2019 and have since spread around the world. The first known cases in Michigan occurred in an adult female in Oakland County and an adult male in Wayne County and there have been 53 discovered cases as of writing. Data regarding testing and known cases can be found on the Michigan coronavirus website.

Infection prevention

The best known way to prevent contracting COVID-19 is to regularly wash your hands with alcohol-based soap and water, disinfect your hands with alcohol-based hand sani-



ASHLEY AVERILL | DESIGN EDITOR

Trust only the facts about COVID-19 from the WHO and CDC.

tizer, maintain a distance of three feet from infected people and avoid touching your face, eyes and mouth. Hand dryers, ultraviolet (UV) light, hot baths, pneumonia vaccines, rinsing your nose with saline solutions, eating garlic, antibiotics (which only fight bacteria, not viruses) and spraying alcohol all over your body will not prevent getting infected with COVID-19. Wearing a mask will also not help with preventing an infection and should only be used by people with COVID-19 and people treating those with COVID-19.

Symptoms

The main symptoms for COVID-19 are fever, tiredness and dry cough. Some patients may also have aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also have what they call emergency warning signs that in-

clude, but are not limited to, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse and bluish lips or face. If you have any of the emergency warning signs, seek medical help immediately.

How to get tested

To inquire about getting tested for COVID-19, please contact your healthcare provider. In Michigan, healthcare providers will determine whether a test is needed based on symptoms, travel history and how much of a risk COVID-19 poses to a patient. NBC reports a COVID-19 hotline has been set up at 1-888-535-6136 that is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. To test for COVID-19, CNN reports that doctors examine a swab from the throat since the virus affects the respiratory system. Those with a “wet” cough may be asked to cough up sputum (mix of saliva and mucus) for testing. Tests are similar to those done for the flu.

What to do if infected

If you end up catching COVID-19, you can also help prevent the spread of COVID-19 through covering your mouth and face with your arm or a tissue when you sneeze and cough, wearing a mask and quarantining yourself. 80% of cases do not need special treatment or hospitalization, but anyone showing the CDC’s emergency warning signs should seek immediate medical attention.

Is there a vaccine/treatment/cure?

The WHO says that no treatment or preventative medicine currently exists for COVID-19. While clinical trials for a potential vaccine began on Monday in Washington state and several other tests are being planned, the only solution is to quarantine and let the virus run its course.

What are the differences between the flu and coronavirus?

Flu

Symptoms

- Fever
- Dry cough
- Body aches

Spread

- Airborne respiratory droplets
- Touching face with unwashed hands

Incubation

- Between 1 to 4 days before symptoms

High Risk

- 65 years of age or older
- 12 months of age or younger

Coronavirus

Symptoms

- Fever
- Tiredness
- Shortness of breath

Spread

- Airborne respiratory droplets
- Touching face with unwashed hands

Incubation

- Up to 14 days

High Risk

- 65 years of age or older
- immunocompromised individuals



Information courtesy of Center for Disease Control and the World Health Organization.

Ashley Averill & Jimmy Williams | Graphic Designers

What spreads faster than COVID-19? Fear

LAUREN KARMO

Campus Editor

In the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic essentially shutting the world down, it's no surprise many have turned to social media to cope with the changing societal landscape, but Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Tik Tok may be adding to the hysteria rather than quelling it.

The quickest way coronavirus news is being spread is through social media, from the highest level of international news down to our university. Even Emergency Management Specialist Mike Crum suggested to all students that the best way to stay in touch with updates on the COVID-19 situation is through social media. While news may be spreading quicker than ever, so is fear.

Our biggest issue with social media in the modern age is the spread of fake news through uninformed users and bots, and it becomes harder and harder to sift through our feeds to figure out what information is true and what isn't. The companies behind our favorite social media sites do their best to stop the spread of fake news, but there's only so much they can do.

Since the first coronavirus outbreak, people have taken to Twitter and Facebook to share news, opinions and jokes about the pandemic, but it has now gotten to a point where people are struggling to figure out what is fake

and what is fact. With that, people are finding more and more reason to be afraid.

Scrolling through Twitter and Facebook has shown a seemingly endless amount of questionable headlines, photos of empty

grocery store shelves and posts about how we're all going to die. People who wouldn't normally be afraid find themselves feeding into the anxieties of strangers.

The reaction to this pandemic is unprece-

ented — I cannot remember anything like this ever happening, but neither can the university administration or even my grandparents. I can't help but wonder if the reaction has to do with the fears shared through socials.

I'm certainly not saying it's unnecessary, but the whole world has shut down, from schools to restaurants to churches. It's unreal, and nothing has ever warranted this type of reaction.

The deterrent to the spread of COVID-19 is simple — wash your hands! If you're healthy, avoid contact with potentially unhealthy people so you don't get sick yourself. That doesn't mean buy all the toilet paper and hand sanitizer available.

What's scarier than the coronavirus is how quickly the panic has hit the nation. People are preparing for doomsday, hoarding cleaning products and nonperishable goods. What's even scarier is how willing people are to turn on each other, from fighting in Walmart to buying out essential goods and reselling them for a profit.

To echo the many leaders who have said so before, there is no reason to panic, despite what your Facebook feed may lead you to believe. As my momma always says, this too shall pass, and we will be stronger because of it. We will be more knowledgeable and better prepared should there be a next time.

I would like to remind all my readers not to believe everything you see and remain critical of your news sources. And please, for the love of God, wash your hands.



ASHLEY AVERILL AND JIMMY WILLIAMS | GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Coronavirus is spreading across the world, but fear through social media is spreading faster.

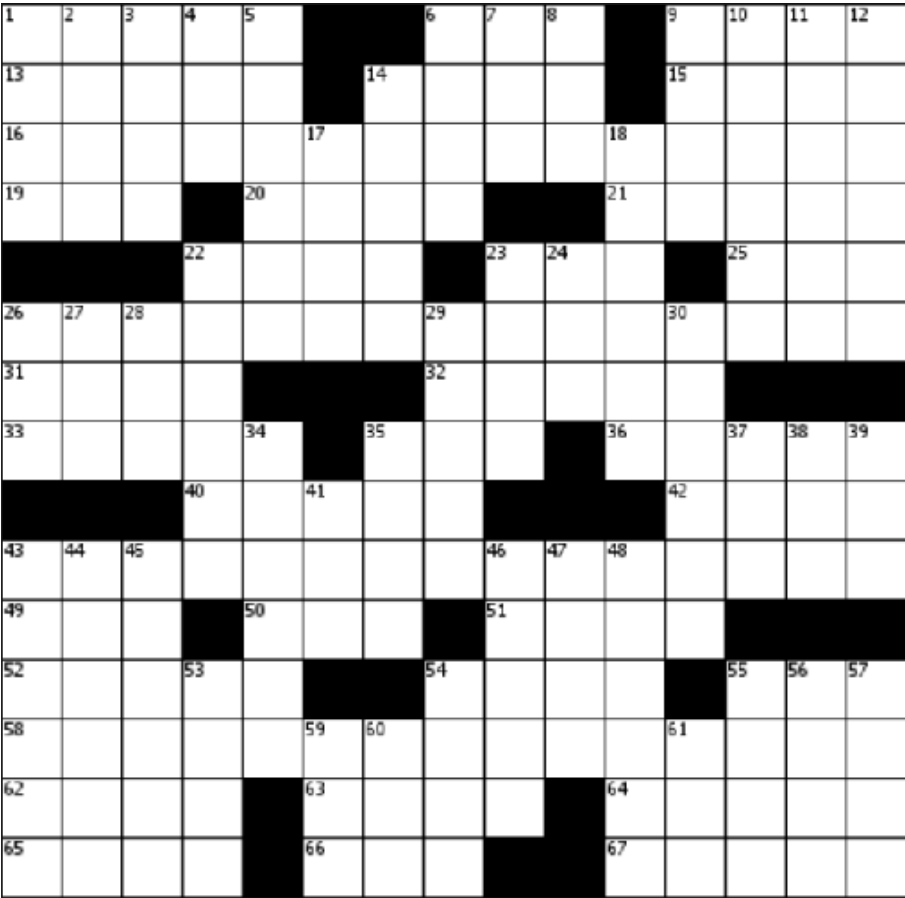
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ACROSS

1. Leveled, in London
6. '60s hallucinogen
9. QED part
13. Ice house
14. Very upset, with "off"
15. Toy block
16. Taking desperate action
19. Friday or Preston: Abbr.
20. Yukon, e.g.: Abbr.
21. Roy's wife Dale
22. Near or Far follower
23. Lower, as lights
25. JFK predecessor
26. Battling confrontationally
31. Physicians, briefly
32. Moisten in the pan
33. Islamic family chief
35. Speak
36. Author Madeleine L'____
40. Nigeria's largest city
42. ____-do-well
43. Been destroyed or forgotten
49. "____ clear day..."
50. Hesitant sounds
51. Rocky peaks
52. Hi-tech vision-

- improving procedure
54. Bangkok native
55. Tea holder
58. Sold, e.g., and a hint to this puzzle's theme
62. Pierce
63. 1804 duel winner
64. Use the soapbox
65. Sped
66. B&B
67. Stocking material

DOWN

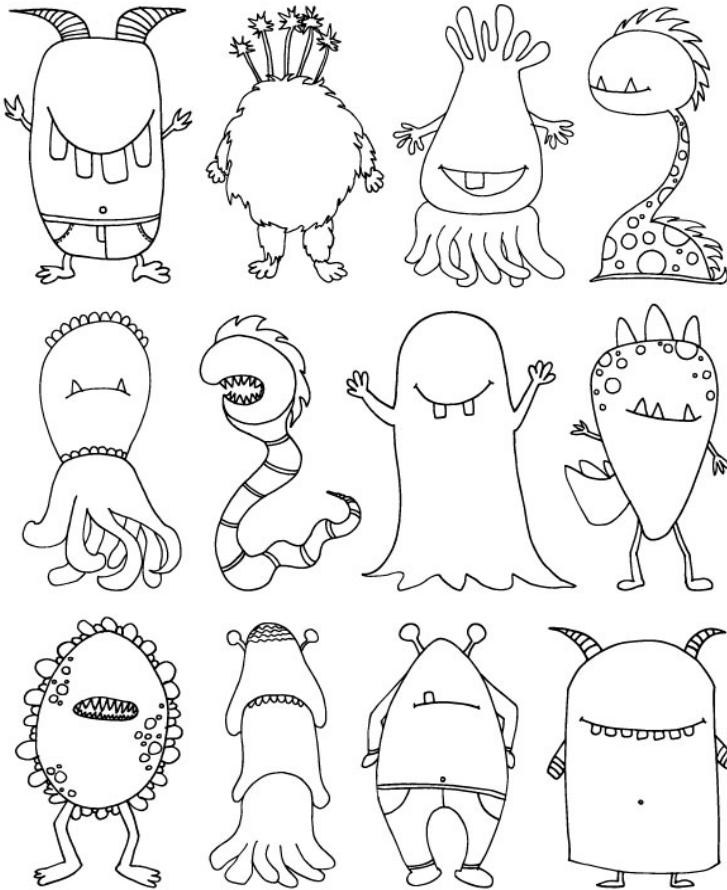
1. Fixes, as an election
2. Wide-eyed
3. Thin opening
4. Long time
5. Soldier's ID
6. Sly look
7. HBO's "____ and the City"
8. Banned pesticide
9. Mountain ht.
10. Done over
11. Chairperson's list
12. Threw easily
14. Rich dessert
17. New Age musician John
18. Channel surfer's gismo

22. Store, as fodder
23. 1944 turning point
24. "____ been fun"
26. Mdse.
27. Delighted cry
28. Zamboni surface
29. Embarrass
30. Dyes in a salon
34. Japanese drama form
35. Tipplers
37. Fr. neighbor
38. Guided
39. Hosp. trauma units
41. Jungle ____
43. Have the final turn
44. Running by itself
45. Jeff Gordon's gp.
46. Former anesthetic
47. Wild swine
48. Prayer
53. The Beatles' "Let ____"
54. Gull relative
55. False god
56. Choir member
57. Small valley
59. Sash in Sapporo
60. Sisterhood member
61. Shed a tear

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- BIRDS
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PICNIC
WAGONS
GRASS
ROADS
PONDS
TREES
LANES

COLOR ME



SPORTS

Horizon League cancels competition due to coronavirus

MICHAEL PEARCE

Sports Editor

The Horizon League suspended competition indefinitely on Thursday, March 12. The season ended early for spring athletes and the swim team, which was competing in the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America (CS-CAA) National Invitational.

The National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) announced the closure of tournaments, including the men's and women's basketball tournaments. The swim team was set to compete in the NCAA swim tournament, but all NCAA championships are canceled.

"I think some [athletes] just wanted to get home and focus on the academic work for the rest of the semester," Oakland University Athletic Director Steve Waterfield said. "Some international students were worried that they couldn't get home."

After competition was canceled initially, the NCAA has discussed giving spring athletes a waiver for two semesters of eligibility due to the coronavirus outbreak.

"I hope that provides at least a little bit of solace," Waterfield said. "The NCAA came out and said they will recommend relief in the form of a waiver [that says] if they had used a year of eligibility so far in spring sports that they would get that year back."

According to Waterfield, financial aid will be an important factor in how the NCAA implements the waivers, since some coaches offer financial support to future student athletes thinking that a senior will vacate a roster spot.

Since the initial decision, Waterfield had conversations with other Horizon League athletic directors about the future of



THE OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES

Oakland's spring sports seasons end early as the Horizon League suspends competition indefinitely due to COVID-19. spring sports. After deliberation, the league decided to cancel the spring seasons all together.

"There were probably 21 or 22 conferences that have gone the cancellation route over the suspension route, so we'll also be doing the cancellation route," Waterfield said. "Even when I met with head coaches on Friday (March 13), some of the coaches had decided to cease practice as of last week."

One of the first OU coaches to cancel activities was Eric Pogue, head coach of men's soccer. Pogue took to Twitter to announce the spring season was canceled for men's soccer.

"Due to COVID-19 threat & the immediate safety of our student-athletes, coaches, staff, fans; Oakland men's soccer

spring games are indefinitely suspended," he wrote. "We'll look at potential spring dates if the safety of our student athletes isn't compromised and suspension of games is lifted."

Individual coaches can determine their practice schedule, but all competitions and events over 50 people will not take place. This includes the Black and Gold Awards, the annual awards show the athletics department puts on in April every year.

The closest thing that Waterfield has seen to the COVID-19 outbreak is the 9/11 attack in 2001, during which he was working at Ohio State as an assistant compliance director. Events happened shortly after the initial attacks in 2001, but this is a different situation with full cancellations instead of postponements.

"The key is to communicate and figure out how to best approach it here," Waterfield said. "The starting point is what's best for our student athletes. The closest thing I can relate this to is 9/11, but activity resumed sooner than later. There's no real date that we know of where things will just be business as usual."

Events that Oakland was going to host include: the Horizon League track and field championships, Horizon League baseball championships and non-Oakland related events like high school graduations.

As a sports fan and athletic director, Waterfield has seen the effect of the cancellations on himself and student athletes.

"It's been disappointment, shock and surprise of how quickly this happened," he said. "It's bizarre as a sports fan, I miss watching all of these games. You start catching up on '30 for 30's on ESPN and watching old games that you remember."

More updates on OU Athletics can be found on goldengrizzlies.com as well as The Oakland Post.

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**OAKLAND
UNIVERSITY**

Credit Union

COVID-19 outbreak halts sports world

MICHAEL PEARCE

Sports Editor

The COVID-19 outbreak canceled numerous sporting events across the United States and the world. Reported cases in the U.S. began to rise, and professional sports leagues followed suit.

The National Basketball Association (NBA) was one of the first leagues to suspend play after Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert tested positive for COVID-19. His teammate, Donovan Mitchell, also tested positive the next day.

After Gobert tested positive, the NBA canceled all games, suspending the season for at least 30 days. The college basketball world followed shortly after.

The National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) canceled all spring sports, including canceling the annual March Madness tournaments on both the men's and women's sides.

"Today, NCAA President Mark Emmert and the Board of Governors canceled the Division I men's and women's 2020 basketball tournaments, as well as all remaining winter and spring NCAA championships," the NCAA said in a statement. "This decision is based on the evolving COVID-19 public health threat, our ability to ensure the events do not contribute to spread of the pandemic, and the impracticality of hosting such events at any time during this academic year given ongoing decisions by other entities."

The National Hockey League (NHL) also suspended its season. The league decided it wasn't right to hold events in stadiums that NBA teams also use after Gobert's diagnosis.

Leagues that hadn't started yet delayed their seasons, including Major League Baseball (MLB), Golf tournaments and Major League Soccer events.

For the MLB, spring training was

canceled. The Professional Golf Association (PGA) Tour postponed the Masters as well, one of professional golf's most famous tournaments.

The Masters was supposed to start Thursday, April 9, but almost every sporting event which was supposed to take place in the next 30 days was postponed or canceled.

While professional players are mostly still being paid — there have been threats of losing pay but nothing has come to fruition — collegiate athletes are lobbying for another year of eligibility. The NCAA was rumored to consider adding another year of eligibility for spring athletes.

There is no known timetable for when any professional or collegiate sports will return. The suspension being removed depends on how the outbreak is handled in the U.S.

NBA commissioner Adam Silver believes that the NBA will be able to finish their season, according to CBS Sports.

"Even if we're out for a month, if we're out for six weeks, we can still restart the season," Silver said. "It might mean the Finals take place in July or late July. Just my feeling was it was way premature to suggest we had lost the season."

Despite optimism of finishing the season, NBA owners expect there to be a near three-month hiatus from pro basketball, according to ESPN.

For the NCAA, March Madness and the conference tournaments are canceled — not postponed — so college basketball fans will be without the annual tournaments in 2020.

As the COVID-19 outbreak continues to grow in the U.S., the sports world is hit hard with more events being canceled every week. The nature of sports requires many people in close contact, so with COVID-19 fears, the sports world remains shut down until the outlook improves.



Information courtesy of Oakland University and the Center for Disease Control.

COVID-19 BEST PRACTICES

1. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
3. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
4. Stay home when you are sick.
5. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue. Immediately throw tissues away.
6. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects or surfaces.
7. Keep all age recommended vaccines up to date including annual flu vaccine.



PHOTO COURTESY OF USA TODAY

Gobert kicked off the mass postponing of games when he tested positive for coronavirus.