

THE OAKLAND POST

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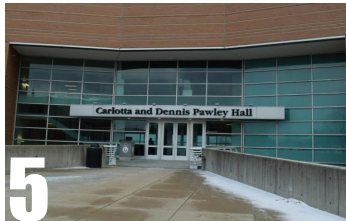
PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

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POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT'S THE BEST SUPER BOWL HALFTIME PERFORMANCE?

- A) DR. DRE
- B) PRINCE
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LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHAT'S YOUR IDEAL VALENTINE'S DAY DATE?



BOT announces creation of ‘Faculty Board Liaison Task Force’

JEFF THOMAS
Editor-in-Chief

In a letter sent to the University Senate this morning, Chair of OU’s Board of Trustees (BOT) Robert Schostak announced the creation of the Faculty Board Liaison Task Force (FBLTF) as a way to “facilitate communication between OU faculty and the [BOT].” The entire letter is presented in italic below.

“Dear university leaders,
I am pleased to announce the establishment of the Faculty Board Liaison Task Force (FBLTF), which will facilitate communication between the OU faculty and the OU Board of Trustees. This task force will open lines of communication and foster discussion to advance the collective goals of the faculty and Board in support of Oakland University.

- The FBLTF will include:
- Three representatives from the University Senate Steering Committee and the AAUP President
 - Two representatives from the Oakland University Board of Trustees
 - The President and the Provost (or their respective designees)
 - Additional ad hoc faculty leaders as requested by the Board
- Initial appointees to the FBLTF include:
- Dikka Berven, Special Instructor of French
 - Andrea Eis, Distinguished Professor and Director of Film Studies and Production
 - Laila Guessous, Professor of Engineering
 - Karen Miller, Associate Professor of History and AAUP President

- Bobby Schostak, Chair, OU Board of Trustees
- Joe Jones, Vice-Chair, OU Board of Trustees
- Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, President
- Britt Rios-Ellis, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

The first meeting of the FBLTF will be scheduled soon and take place this semester. Meetings will also be scheduled for the summer and fall. As needed, special meetings of the task force will be called at the Board’s request.

My Board colleagues and I look forward to working with fellow task force members to ensure that we maintain meaningful and productive dialog addressing important faculty, Board and administrative concerns.

Thank you,
Robert Schostak
Chair, Oakland University Board of Trustees”

Newly announced and apparently created this week, the perceptions and understanding of how the FBLTF will function are all very preliminary. For instance, it is unclear at this point why the FBLTF concept was acceptable to the BOT and the OU AAUP’s requests for faculty liaisons were not.

Still, Oakland University’s Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (OU AAUP) President Karen Miller sees the FBLTF as a potential step in the right direction for improving relations between the two sides.

“It’s supposed to start the semester, which is a good thing,” Miller said. “But I don’t know what the ground rules are, I just know who’s participating ... I have to assume that we’re all going to try to work together and figure something out ... I think [the idea] has potential. It’s going to take us a long time

to heal, but it has the potential of helping us to heal, so I will cooperate to the best of my ability to try and make this successful.”

The announcement of this task force comes on the heels of renewed tensions between faculty and the upper administration over allegations of bad-faith bargaining, as well as an OU AAUP survey which revealed hundreds of OU AAUP faculty were in favor of faculty liaisons. The Post will continue following this story.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
OU’s Board of Trustees alongside President Pescovitz and Chief of Staff Josh Merchant at last Monday’s BOT meeting. The BOT’s announcement of the creation of the Faculty Board Liaison Task Force could facilitate better communication between OU AAUP faculty and the upper administration.

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New York Times bestselling author, alumnus Matt Bell returns to OU

D'JUANNA LESTER

Senior Reporter

New York Times bestselling author and Oakland University alumnus Matt Bell returned to OU for a reading from his most recent book “Appleseed.” The event took place on Thursday, Feb. 10 in the Oakland Center Banquet Room A, as well as via a Zoom livestream.

This event was the culmination of the Creative Writing Program’s 10th Anniversary celebration. Annie Gilson, associate English professor in the Creative Writing Program introduced Bell, talking about her experience having him as a student. After graduating from OU in 2006, Bell has published 11 books, including three novels.

“Appleseed” is based on the character Johnny Appleseed, but reimagined in the world of Greek mythology. The story includes themes of human identity with the use of Pan — the half-human and half-fawn main character.

“There’s also a second timeline from fifty years from now, and a third from the far future, where the earth has returned to an ice age and humanity has been wiped out,” Gilson said.

“Appleseed” was published in the summer of 2021. It was named a “Best Book of the Summer” by several notable magazines, including New York Times, Goodreads and USA Today.

Bell started the reading by describing his time at OU. He came to OU in 2004 and it was the third university he attended. He emphasized the

importance of teachers and how they made him feel throughout his time here.

“These teachers took me seriously as a writer,” Bell said.

“Appleseed” starts in 1799, and ends later in the far future. There are three different timelines, and the audience sees them split into three points of view (POV). This was not the original version of the story, as Bell recounted this story was in the works for three and a half years, but only during the last six months did he add the separate POVs.

“I worked on this story for three and a half years before I sent it to my agent,” Bell said. “In the last six months, I put all of the perspectives into the same book. I kind of just discovered it as I went.”

Bell split the reading into three different parts, one for each of his POVs, and answered questions in between.

“One thing I love about fairy tales and mythology in general is that the ones that last are inexhaustible, they’re interesting as source material,” he said. “They’re so sparse and so rich.”

Bell highlighted the importance of the characters and how they’re placed in the setting of the novel. Attendees asked him about characters of marginalized identities.

“I think I’ve thought a lot about who was in my future,” Bell said. “The resistance group that Johnny is a part of — I thought a lot about who was on that. I wanted to make sure that other people were given chances to be the hero and lead the story. I think it does matter who’s in the future of books, not just

surviving, but thriving.”

He finished the reading by answering the question about advice he has for aspiring authors.

“Find a community of people that you want to be with,” he said. “The most giving part of my life is my daily practice as a writer. It’s fun to write a cool scene, it’s fun to do that. Figure out how much magic your book can hold.”



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

NY Times Bestselling author Matt Bell reading from his new novel “Appleseed” during his appearance last Thursday night in the OC.

Spread kindness to the community during Kindness Week 2022

SARAH GUDENAU

Features Editor

The annual Kindness Week is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 14 through Friday, Feb. 17 at Oakland University. Hosted by the Office for Student Involvement (OSI) and the Leadership and Volunteer Center (LVC), Kindness Week 2022 will be filled with giveaways, activities, service opportunities, and of course, kindness.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OSI

Kindness Week 2022 will be on Monday, Feb. 14 until Friday, Feb. 17.

“It’s all about just being kind,” said Coordinator of Leadership and Service Programs Daryl Blackburn. “Our goal in the Office for Student Involvement and the Leadership and Volunteer Center is to really come up with ways that we can do just that. We’re going to be kind to our students, faculty, staff, and our students, faculty, staff are going to be kind to each other, and we’re going to be kind to the community all in one week. That’s our big goal here.”

Monday, Feb. 14

Kindness Week kicks off on Valentine’s Day with a table in the Oakland Center (OC) from noon to 2 p.m. At the table, representatives from the OSI and LVC will let students know about the week’s upcoming events and will hand out free stuff-your-own heart-shaped pillows.

Additionally, the tables will have punch cards available to keep track of event participation. Those who attend four events during the week will be entered to win a prize at the end of the week.

New to Kindness Week this year is Valentine’s Day Happy Hour. Happy Hour will take place in the Habitat from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and students can come hang out, enjoy some mocktails, listen to music from a DJ and participate in karaoke.

Tuesday, Feb. 15

Dog Days of Winter, a chance to pet some therapy dogs, will take place in the Habitat from noon to 3 p.m.

“Hopefully about five or six [of the therapy dogs will be there] the whole time for students to come in, stop by and pet the dogs, play with them ... Therapy Dogs are stress relieving for most people, so that’s kind of our goal, come and be kind to yourself, have fun with the dogs, hang out,” Blackburn said.

While the therapy dogs are in the middle of the Habitat, there will also be a volunteer fair with tables set up around the perimeter of the Habitat. Nonprofits and other organizations such as Lighthouse of Oakland County and Dutton Farm will be in attendance, giving students the opportunity to give back to the community.

Wednesday, Feb. 16

The annual OU Day of Kindness takes place in Ballroom A of the OC from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eight or nine tables with different service projects — such as making dog toys out of t-shirts and crafting cards for a senior citizens home — will be set up, and at the end of the day, all the projects will be donated to different nonprofit organizations.

Students, faculty and staff can drop in anytime they want and participate for however long they want and the goal of the event is to also give back to the community.

Thursday, Feb. 17

Cocoa, Cookies and Kindness will start at 10 a.m. in the lobby of Kresge Library. The OSI and LVC will be handing out hot cocoa, cookies and giveaways until they run out of items as a way to be kind to the OU community.

Friday, Feb. 18

To cap off the week, the OSI and LVC will host a social media campaign. The OU community can share posts of random acts of kindness using the hashtag #bekindou. The OSI will repost pictures and those accounts will be entered in a giveaway to win a prize.

All events are free to all members of the OU community and none require registration.

8th Annual Black History Month Research Symposium coming Feb. 16

GRACE LOVINS

Senior Reporter

The 8th annual Black History Month Research Symposium will take place Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 4:30 p.m. The symposium will be held over Zoom and features a presentation from keynote speaker, Tiffany Steele, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Organizational Leadership.

This year's symposium is sponsored by the School of Education and Human Services (SEHS) Black Faculty Network, the Oakland University Black Faculty Association, and the Diverse Voices Initiative.

President of the Oakland University Black Faculty Association and professor of Human Resources Development, Chaunda L. Scott, Ed.D., began the symposium in 2015 as a way to celebrate Black History Month within the SEHS. Scott noticed that there were not a lot of campus events dedicated to Black History Month and felt the research symposium would provide a great opportunity for Black faculty to present their research.

"Our goal, especially my goal as the president of the Black Faculty Association, is to increase the visibility



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
Professor Tiffany Steele, the keynote speaker of the 8th annual Black History Month Research Symposium.

of Black faculty at Oakland University," Scott said.

"We have a very small group of people — about 35 faculty — so most of the time we don't even get to see each other because everyone works in different colleges. Our goal is to increase the visibility of Black faculty because they're doing phenomenal things but usually, you don't see Black faculty on the homepage of Oakland University, you don't hear what they're doing, so my goal as president is to try to increase the visibility of my group."

As the creator of the symposium, Scott hoped to create a platform to

showcase the work of Black faculty and faculty conducting research that was Black or African American centered. The presentations within the symposium extend beyond the SEHS and aim to feature faculty from all across campus.

"I'm happy to highlight faculty that are doing African American or Black focused research, and since we're colleagues together, it's nice that we can hear what each other is doing because most of the time we go to our own professional conferences but we don't really share it in a format at OU," Scott said.

"I'm really happy to learn more about what my colleagues are doing in their research and give an opportunity for them to share it more broadly at OU."

This year's keynote speaker, Tiffany Steele, will give a presentation reflecting on her research studying Black women and girls in the aspect of education while unpacking the difference between doing research on or about a population versus doing research with a specific population from a critical perspective.

She aims to normalize conversations surrounding Black women and girls in their educational journeys as well as dispel myths surrounding the success of Black women and what it takes for them to be successful. Steele also hopes

attendees are able to learn from an aspect of being intentional with research — thinking about how the research being conducted is going to serve the people the researcher is studying.

Steele says she is looking forward to being able to have a platform to engage in conversations surrounding her research as well as having the opportunity to share that research with an audience outside of her field.

"I'm excited to step outside the bounds of my department in the School of Education and Human Services to the border Oakland community," Steele said.

"I know that everybody doesn't have that opportunity and everybody doesn't know what every faculty member is engaging in or studying, so I'm excited about being able to share a little bit of my own thoughts or my approach to research and seeing what folks think about it."

For more information or the Zoom link to the symposium, any interested students, staff and faculty can contact Scott via email. For those unable to attend, the symposium will be recorded and can also be accessed through Scott. More information about Steele's research and published works can be found on Google Scholar.

Circle of Brotherhood, Sisterhood offer impactful experience for students

JOSEPH POPIS

Senior Reporter

The Circle of Brotherhood and Circle of Sisterhood are two groups on campus offering students the opportunity to build relationships with fellow classmates, have support systems, achieve personal growth and acquire resources to lead a successful life.

The Circle of Brotherhood meets biweekly on Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., while the Circle of Sisterhood meets biweekly on Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.. Both circles primarily meet in Oakland Center rooms 129-130.

Vester Waters, retention coordinator of the Center for Multicultural Initiatives, said the Circle of Brotherhood explores the roles of being a male.

"We go into a variation of topics," Waters said. "Exploring the different roles of a male. When you think of a male, you could be a son, a brother, an uncle, then you go into being a father, then a provider or protector. Just understanding those different roles of a male and seeing how we fit into society."

Nicole Lucio, assistant director of the Center for Multicultural Initiatives, states the Circle of Sisterhood is a place where women can connect, build relationships, empower and uplift each other.

"It was originally created as a space for women to come together," Lucio said. "Just to have a space where they can openly talk about

things, connect and build relationships with other women, and empower and uplift each other.

The women who attend Circle of Sisterhood often find friendships and connections, as they are there for positivity and camaraderie.

"It naturally draws in folks like that, so a lot of times when people are seeking friends, they do find someone in the group that they connect with," Lucio said. "Most of the women there are there for positivity and friendship. Just watching those relationships develop is really nice. Helping to create them and encourage them is great for us."

Student engagement is important as students stay at institutions they are engaged in, explained Waters. Getting engaged and making friends is all a part of the college experience.

"From a retention standpoint, students stay at institutions they are engaged in," Waters said. "So if you just go to a college, go to class, and go home, you don't really have any attachments. So getting engaged, making some friends, and doing some new things is really important to an undergraduate experience."

When asked about building relationships with fellow classmates, Waters emphasizes its importance. Waters also calls attention to individuals' development that leads to networking opportunities. The students that you meet now can help in the future.

"I'd say it's extremely important," Waters said. "It's like right now, these are just people you're in a class with. These are just your friends, but later

down the road, these people are going to progress professionally. These people are going to be supervisors, managers and entrepreneurs. These are people that could potentially help you in your career trajectory. So, I think it's really important to develop that network, especially here at the same institution."

Both groups offer opportunities for students to speak on what is on their minds. Aside from the more set-in-stone topics, there's always time to discuss what students may be going through.

"Other times, we will do a less structured random pick a topic," Lucio said. "Where folks can write down a topic, they want the group to discuss, and it's anonymous. They can disclose if it's their topic if they want to, but if not, they're just looking for a general discussion on something because they're kind of mulling over something or they're trying to make a decision."

"We also open up the floor," Waters said. "... Even if they wanted to hang back after the rest of the group had gone and wanted to talk on a more personal note, that's totally fine. There's always an opportunity to express different topics and things that have been on their mind."

Both the Circle of Brotherhood and the Circle of Sisterhood welcome all students. For more information on these groups, visit GrizzOrgs.

OUSB students receive large donor-supported scholarship

RACHEL YIM
Senior Reporter

Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUSB) recently awarded a total of \$250,000 – the highest amount of donor-funded scholarships in OUSB's history – to selected 25 students.

The endowment for OUSB's donor-funded scholarships has constantly been on the rise in the past few years, according to Jeremy Jones, Associate Director of Financial Services at OUSB, said.

The donors of the scholarships include the Beaumont Foundation, Dr. James V. and Ruth Huebner, the Family of Dr. W.J. and Lillian Kemler, Ann Nicholson and the Schostak family.

"When I got the email that I had received the scholarship, I felt very lucky and grateful," Holly Shifman (M4), a recipient of the Beaumont Foundation Scholarship, said. "All of my classmates have done amazing things and I did not expect to be chosen, so it felt really amazing to be recognized."

The Beaumont Foundation Scholarship awards students who have a strong passion for fulfilling the mission of OUSB through academic and extracurricular activities, highlighting leadership, community service, medical education, and diversity.

"I am so thankful to the donors who created the endowment for this scholarship," Shifman said. "I feel so lucky to have received this gift and am very grateful that I can

focus on school and community work and worry a little bit less about finances because of the generous contributions of the Beaumont Foundation donors."

According to Shifman, this scholarship will allow her to continue to focus on school, service work in the community, and other extracurricular commitments without much concern about finances and further assist her in focusing on growth in these areas. She hopes to carry these projects forward throughout the rest of medical school.

Charlene Hsia (M3) is another OUSB student who was awarded the Dean's Scholarship. The Dean's Scholarship is awarded through the Beaumont Health Foundations, and it rewards students with a strong passion for fulfilling the mission of OUSB, specifically through championing diversity and inclusion.

"Honestly, I was shocked," Hsia said. "It's such an honor to receive the Dean's Scholarship, and it felt like it validated the importance of my passion to engage in diversity and equity work within the field of medicine. I would like to tell the donors that it's encouraging to see their investment in future doctors who will make medicine more diverse, equitable, and humanistic."

Hsia said that the scholarship will directly support her with the medical school tuition, which is one of the biggest financial burdens for many medical students.

"It's a relief to know that I won't have to worry about paying quite as much for my medical education this year," Hsia said. "This scholarship helps relieve some of that burden."

Elizabeth Carlson (M1), received the OUSB Scholarship, which is awarded to students who demonstrate commitment to fulfilling all aspects of the OUSB mission and its values, including academic excellence, leadership in medical education and serving the community.

"I was extremely humbled and relieved to receive the scholarship," Elizabeth Carlson, M1 student, said. "I called my mom right away—she has always been a huge support. The scholarship allows me to focus my time on school and to mentor the cadets in my military unit who also hope to pursue medicine. Overall, I think it encouraged me that I am on the right path."

Get funky with SPB's "Silent Disco 3.0" on Feb. 22

JOSEPH POPIS
Senior Reporter

Listen to music and showcase your dancing abilities at "Silent Disco 3.0" presented by the Student Program Board (SPB). Silent Disco is an event where people are provided wireless headphones that the music of their choice is transmitted through. DJs control the music, and participants can navigate the stations to the music they desire.

The event is occurring on Feb. 22 and will take place in the Oakland Center Ballrooms A and B from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. This night will feature three DJs and a dance-off with speakers awarded to two dancers. In addition, students will be able to listen to whatever DJ they desire that fits their music tastes. One DJ will be provided by WXOU, while Degy, an entertainment company, will provide the other two.

"Music tastes vary widely across a lot of graphics and genres," Kaleigh Belz, annual events director of SPB, said. "Having three different stations that everyone is able to tune into means that they get to pick and choose what they want to listen to."

Matthew Murray, mainstage director of SPB and organizer of this event, mentions "Silent Disco 3.0" is a way to bring students back together following the shutdown. Since there has been a limited number of people on campus, people of various music tastes can gather and display their funky side.

"It's a great way to get back together," Murray said. "With the shutdown and a lot of people not being on campus this year, it's a great way

for all different students with a lot of different tastes in music to come together and get groovy, get funky, get down with it. It's just great to get back together with people. It's the best part about being on campus."

Belz states that the memories and experiences will be a takeaway from this event, as well as interacting with different types of music and experiencing new situations.

"Some of its memories and some of its just the experience," Belz said. "Also the ability to interact with different music. Some of the time, it's just putting yourself into a situation that you haven't experienced and having a good time."

SPB's goal is to bring students together from different backgrounds to have fun.

"What we end up getting out of it is the opportunity to bring people together," Murray said. "That's very important here, that's kind of our role, that's our job to bring a lot of students together from different backgrounds, and so that's our biggest takeaway. So we can have a lot of fun while we're there to bring people together."

When mentioning a takeaway from this event, Murray mentions seeing how groovy students can get.

I think it really is a better aspect of understanding how groovy people can be in the Oakland Center," Murray said. "That's an excellent takeaway!"

"Silent Disco 3.0" is open to all students who want to experience it. The event is free, and no sign-up is required as students can come and go as they please. For future SPB events, check out GrizzOrgs.



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
OUSB students at a White Coat Ceremony in summer 2021.

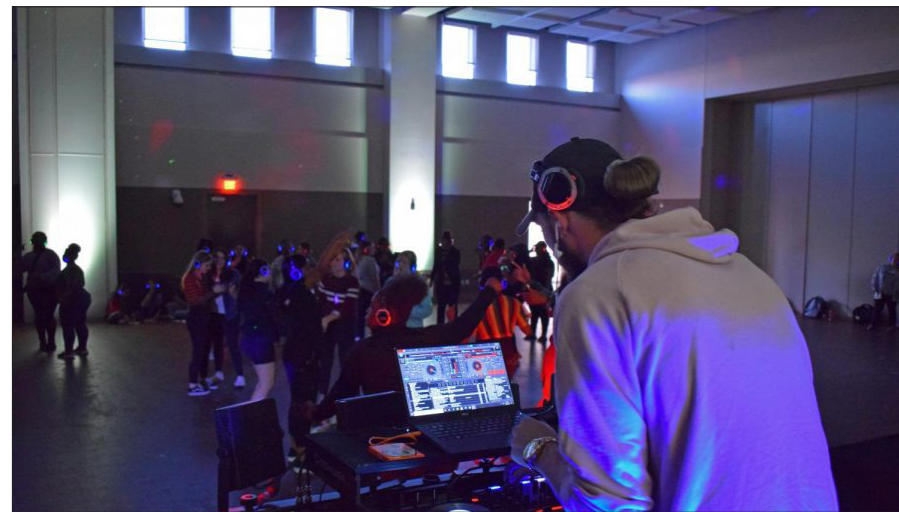


PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
2019's Silent Disco in the Oakland Center.

Pet therapy group visits campus, alleviates stress

ALEXANDER GUSTANSKI

Senior Reporter

Last week, the Fur Angels charity visited the Oakland Center. Handlers brought their dogs to OU for students to engage in canine therapy. The Fur Angels visited campus to help students with their first full week of in-person classes since December.

The Fur Angels are a pet therapy group that visits schools, nursing homes and medical facilities around Southeast Michigan. The group trains prospective members and their dogs for interacting with patients. The training is done by captains from the nationwide nonprofit Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs. After training, canines and their handlers are tested and then can become certified members. The organization currently has over 60 members.

One of the members, Andrea Durham, who brought her dog Delilah, spoke about why the organization visited the campus.

"We're here to promote positive mental health and wellness. I know that sometimes it's hard for you guys to be away from home, maybe you're away from your dogs or stressed out with tests or exams. So we hope that our dogs can make you feel better. I feel like the Fur Angel group is such a great group, I'm so blessed to be in it."

Durham also talked about her canine companion. "Delilah is a two-year-old Golden Retriever, she just became a member in August. She's such a patient dog who can read people's emotions well. It's such a great way for Delilah to be with people,

She really loves it."

Jane Baerman, freshman, gave her thoughts on the Fur Angel's visit.

"I love the dogs being here, it's definitely the highlight of our week." She also talked about what she thought about campus, "I like campus so far. Covid-19 has made everything different but it's nice to have dogs here."

Interacting with therapy dogs has been proven to help treat depression and anxiety in patients by helping them produce endorphins. When dogs interact with humans and vice versa, they produce the hormone oxytocin which helps them create a connection and attachment. Oxytocin, which is more commonly known as the love hormone, has positive health effects such as lowering blood pressure and the heart rate of both canines and humans.

A 2020 survey conducted by the Healthy Minds Study concluded that around 40 percent of college students suffered from depression and around 35 percent suffered from anxiety. Of the students surveyed, 83 percent attributed emotional or mental difficulties hurting their academic performance. Most worryingly, 45 percent of students agreed "most people would think less of someone who has received mental health treatment." Interacting with therapy dogs is a therapy method that carries a low social stigma and is healthy for students, dogs and their owners.

If you or someone you care about is suffering

from mental illness and stress, there are on-campus resources available. The OU Counseling Center offers six free therapy sessions to students alongside other resources such as counseling groups. View available resources on their website or visit them at their Graham Health Center office.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THEFURANGELS.COM
The Fur Angels visited the Oakland Center last week.

OU Art Gallery presents "Image and The Photographic Allusion"

GRACE LOVINS

Senior Reporter

The OU Art Gallery's newest exhibit "Image and The Photographic Allusion," is now open through April 3. The exhibit features photographs taken by 15 different artists from around the world and prompts viewers to question the allusive qualities of photographic imagery.

Dick Goody, chair of the Department of Art and Art History and director of the OU Art Gallery, said he curated this exhibit both to allow people to experience art in an in-person format, as well as to recognize the brilliance of ambiguity in the photographic allusion.

"I think this is a very timely exhibition, particularly for students that are interested in the visual arts, because the visual arts — like theater or any kind of thing that is performative — has really been cut off in the last couple of years because of COVID-19 and I think this is a great opportunity for people to really experience some work in the flesh," Goody said.

Goody writes in his essay, "Nothing to do with something," found in the exhibit's catalog, "photography is thriving, but in a curious way, it is less proliferating than ever...Photography exhibitions give us pause to reconsider the aesthetic grandeur of a printed-out, permanent, archivable image."

He notes the hold technology and social media has over the way we, as a society, view photographic art. The immediacy of modern photography and egotism

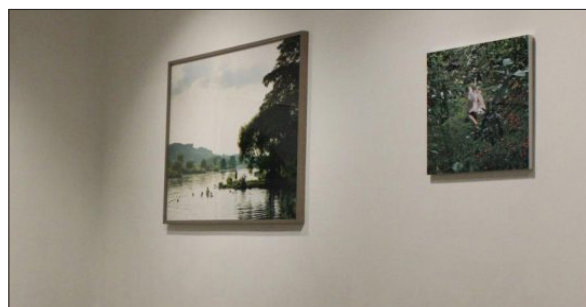


PHOTO BY SOPHIE HUME
"Image and The Photographic Allusion," the OU Art Gallery's newest exhibit, is now open.

surrounding social media has interrupted how people process photographic images and their splendor.

"In other words, we're absolutely obsessed with looking at our phones and scrolling, and this gives us an opportunity to look at the photograph in a different way, which I think we used to do more in the old days. We've become very much like photo consumers, we just eat them," Goody said.

"I picked this because of that issue about the ubiquity of smartphone pictures but the kind of photography I was interested in is photography that doesn't immediately reveal its meaning. For example, the famous photograph of the sailor kissing the nurse in Times Square [V-J Day in Times Square by Alfred Eisenstaedt], everybody's seen it. It's a sensational photograph and you immediately

look at it and you read it and you understand what it's about. None of the photographs in this exhibition are like that. You have to look at them and scratch your head."

The art gallery provides students, faculty and staff with the opportunity to view renowned artwork at no cost. "Image and The Photographic Allusion," is an exhibit aimed at exploring photographic artwork that is, in this context, not meant to be conceptualized but enjoyed.

"The idea is you go into the exhibition with an open mind. I'm not really interested in the idea of interpretation; I think that you just get lost in the pictures and have an open mind. You don't have to interpret them, you don't have to say, 'well what is the meaning of this,' you can just enjoy them for what they are because they're really like visual poetry. I'm looking at them more poetically and they give you a chance to dream," Goody said.

Goody hopes this exhibit serves as a way for people to view large-scale photographic images and, in a sense, hit the reset button to unclog your brain. He feels that the exhibit presents a unique opportunity for busy students, and all community members, to take a break and look at some art.

The OU Art Gallery, located in Wilson Hall, will also begin offering a virtual tour of the exhibit to be finalized this week. In conjunction with this exhibit, artist Mary Ellen Bartley will be featured in the Zoom lecture, "Book Work," on Feb. 24. For more information on the exhibit and for gallery hours, visit ouartgallery.org.

Professor Freeman to release novel for National Poetry Month

ARIANNA HEYMAN

Senior Reporter

Coinciding with the start of National Poetry Month, poet and Oakland University professor John “Cal” Freeman is due to release his latest book, “Poolside at the Dearborn Inn” on April 1.

This is not the professor’s first foray into the poetry world. He has had a lifelong passion for the art of poetry and initially found inspiration from his parents and other poetry greats such as Robert Lowell and Elizabeth Bishop.

“I would say that those formative years with my parents definitely were a big thing in terms of steering me toward poetry,” Freeman says. “My dad was an English professor at the University of Detroit Mercy and my mom had this amazing kind of uncanny ability to remember poems and be able to recite them. The music of her reciting poems always stuck with me.”

Influenced by childhood memories, Freeman tries to capture the musical element of poetry in each stage of the process — preferring to write longhand in a notebook when inspiration strikes.

“Starting on the page with the pen is really important for me. It unlocks something in my imagination and it gets the music of the poem going,” Freeman says. “I think there’s something about writing on the page — that sort of haptic thing that happens — [where] you can actually feel the music of the page when the pen is going over the page. It creates this cadence in a way

that looking at the monitor screen — for me — doesn’t do.”

Freeman also draws inspiration from the mundane, frequently finding deeper meaning from the world around him.

“A lot of times something I’m reading will inspire me to start writing,” Freeman says. “If I’m taking a walk can I see an image — could be something as simple as a tree or someone shoveling their snow.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF FOREVER TITANS BLOG
Professor Cal Freeman will release his latest poetry book, “Poolside at the Dearborn Inn” on April 1, the start of National Poetry Month.

The Michigan region is also a source for Freeman’s writing, and he frequently is influenced by the local environment and history of Dearborn where he lives.

“I find it fascinating that I can go to the end of my street and look at the Ecorse River and think about the way that eventually makes its way into Lake Erie and eventually that makes its way into the St. Lawrence seaway,” Freeman says. “We’re connected to so much water in this region. I find environmental issues and ecological issues surrounding the Great Lakes basin often trigger my writing.”

Freeman’s interests have culminated into his latest work and he believes the title poem of his new book is the best representation of his “obsessions” as a writer.

He says: “It’s got some ecological stuff, it’s got labor history attached to a real place-based writing, so I would say the title poem ‘Poolside at the Dearborn Inn’ would give you a good sense of who I am as a poet.”

Freeman is also taking part in various reading events for those interested in hearing more of his works. He will be appearing at the Henry Ford Centennial Library on Feb. 23 at 6:30 p.m. and at the OU Writing Center on March 10 from 11 a.m. to noon.

To pre-order “Poolside at the Dearborn Inn,” go to r-rpress.com.

Negotiations ongoing to end Ambassador Bridge protest

ARIANNA HEYMAN

Senior Reporter

After days of protesting, demonstrators allowed a single lane to open on the Ambassador Bridge Friday morning. The protestors said it was a sign of “good faith” and a signal that they are looking for a peaceful resolution to the current conflict.

This conflict started last month when the Canadian government implemented a new rule which requires that all truckers must be vaccinated when crossing the U.S.-Canada border.

Soon after, protestors who label themselves as a “freedom convoy” gathered at Parliament Hill in Ottawa to oppose these measures as well as broader pandemic restrictions in Canada.

The protests — which were centralized in the Canadian capital — soon spread across the country and inevitably materialized in Windsor. The Windsor demonstrations — which began on Feb. 7, have already caused economic problems for the U.S. and Canada.

Per NPR: “The bridge, which connects Detroit to Windsor, Ontario, is the busiest land border crossing in North America in terms of trade volume. General Motors has canceled two shifts at Lansing Delta Township assembly in Michigan due to parts shortages, while Ford is running its plants in the Canadian cities of Windsor and Oakville at ‘reduced capacity.’”

An estimated \$350 million in goods passes over the bridge each day, so ending the blockade is a top

priority for both governments.

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer reiterated the need for an end to the protest in a statement released on Feb. 10 stating, “it is imperative that the Canadian local, provincial and national governments de-escalate this economic blockade. They must take all the necessary and appropriate steps to immediately and safely reopen traffic so we can continue growing our economy, supporting good-paying jobs and lowering costs for families.”

Since protests began, truckers have rerouted in order to utilize the Blue Water Bridge in Port Huron. However, the increased gridlock has caused delays of over four hours for commercial traffic,

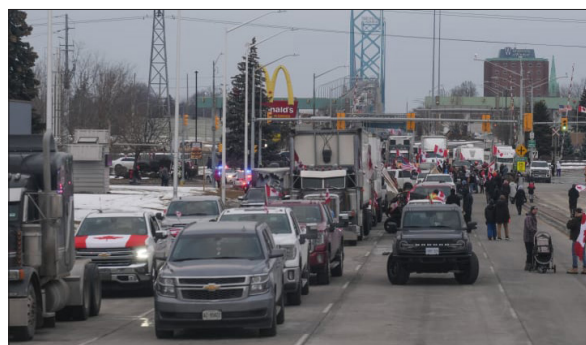


PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTHEW HATCHER
Protesters against vaccine mandates gathered to block the Ambassador Bridge. On Friday morning, demonstrators allowed a single lane to open.

according to the Canadian government website.

A peaceful resolution is what all are hoping to achieve, but with millions of dollars already lost due to protesting, Windsor officials are contemplating ending the demonstration with police force. Windsor police revealed in a tweet Thursday that they have also deployed “additional resources” from outside jurisdictions in order to support a peaceful resolution.

As of Friday morning patience is wearing thin with Windsor Mayor Drew Dilkens declaring, “a short time ago, Windsor City Council met and has authorized an injunction to be sought, from superior court, to bring about an end to this illegal occupation. The individuals onsite are trespassing on municipal property and, if need be, will be removed to allow for safe and efficient movement of goods across the border.”

Ontario also declared a state of emergency with Premier Doug Ford stating, “Today, I’m using my authority as premier of Ontario to declare a state of emergency in our province, and I will convene cabinet to use legal authorities to urgently enact orders that will make crystal clear it is illegal and punishable to block and impede the movement of goods, people and services along critical infrastructure.”

Both sides are hoping for an effective solution, but it is becoming increasingly apparent that with dwindling patience and pressure from the U.S. government, the protestors may be disbanded by force.

OU reimagines transfer student accessibility in enrollment

SIERRA OKONIEWSKI
Contributor

Oakland University has upgraded its welcome mat. Michigan enrollment initiatives have prompted the Oakland County college to make its transfer program more accessible than ever. Within the last year, OU has expanded its allotment of transferrable credits to allow eligible students a quicker path to graduation.

“We have eliminated the limit on transfer credits that are coming in from a community college,” said Shane Lewis, director of OU admissions. “Formerly, only half of a student’s bachelor’s degree could come in from a community college. As of this [past] fall, that has changed.”

The policy shift allows students transitioning to Oakland to transfer an unlimited number of credits from another college. The student can then graduate after completing a minimum of 45 credits from OU.

“We’re trying to make it so that we’re honoring the work that the transfer students are doing at the community college – not leaving any credit behind,” Lewis said. “Being more friendly to

transfer students has gone a long way in showing that we value a transfer student and that we’re here to support them through graduation.”

OU has also initiated 40 articulation agreements and 18 reverse transfer agreements with various community colleges. Articulation agreements offer students predetermined amounts of coursework that will transfer directly into their major, while reverse transfer agreements allow students to transfer OU credits back to a community college.

“Every semester we’re taking gobs of credits and basically transferring them back to 18 community colleges in Michigan,” Lewis said. “These students are getting retroactively awarded these associate degrees to honor the work that they’re doing in completing these credentials.”

These policy updates come as the number of potential transfer students in Michigan has risen throughout 2020-21.

Community college enrollment has surged throughout the state as a result of Governor Whitmer’s Sixty by 30 project, which aims to increase the number of accredited Michigan residents from 45% to 60% by the year 2030.

The project spearheaded Futures for Frontliners, a scholarship opportunity

that granted free high school and community college tuition to individuals who acted as frontline workers during the state-wide shutdown of 2020.

Michigan Reconnect is another Sixty by 30 effort that provides adults 25 years and older free community college tuition and skills scholarships.

Dave Murray, communications director of Grand Rapids Community College, attributes these state programs as a certain factor in GRCC’s 4% enrollment increase over 2021.

“About 3,000 of the 12,685 students enrolled in credit-seeking courses during our fall 2021 semester were enrolled through Futures for Frontliners or Michigan Reconnect,” Murray said.

In light of statewide programming, Oakland University is making its policies more accessible for community college graduates who may want to take their degrees a step further.

“I think our hope is that the word is getting out there that we are a transfer-friendly destination and we want to stay that way,” Lewis said. “And no matter where you start, hopefully you can complete your degree with us here at Oakland – and then maybe stick around for a grad degree, too.”



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
OU has expanded its allotment of transferrable credits, which in turn, creates a quicker path to graduation.

Lewis maintains that the OU difference is an evident experience. He notes that the university faculty and staff strive to show students that they’re not numbers or statistics, but truly cared for.

“That’s what we’re really trying to share – that this is a really great place to be,” he said. “It’s not just because of what you’re going to get at the end. It’s because of everything you’re going to get in the middle.”

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MEN'S BASKETBALL RALLIES TO DEFEAT DETROIT-MERCY IN PACKED O'RENA

Design by Bridget Janis

Story by Matthew Scheidel

Photos by Maggie Willard

The Oakland University men's basketball team defeated arch-rival Detroit Mercy 75-59 Sunday afternoon in front of a packed house at the O'Rena.

It was a rough first four and a half minutes for the Golden Grizzlies. They had trouble getting shots to fall and they struggled guarding the perimeter.

Detroit Mercy hit three 3-pointers before the first media timeout, with D.J. Harvey leading the way with eight quick points. The Titans led 11-3 early.

This trend would continue into the second media timeout. Detroit was having their way early on as they led 16-5.

From here, Oakland would start to play with a bit more energy offensively. Jamal Cain was getting more involved, getting to the glass more often.

However, Detroit's hot 3-point shooting continued. That's ultimately what separated the two teams in the first half.

The Golden Grizzlies slowly but surely clawed their way back into this game. They toughened up on defense and started getting to the free throw line on offense.

Detroit clung to a 32-30 lead at the half. Cain led Oakland with 14 points, while Micah Parrish added 11 and Jalen Moore had five.

The Titans shot 47.8%, including 8-17 from 3-point land in the first half. Oakland shot just 32.1% including 2-10 from behind the line, but they shot 10-12 from the free throw line, which kept the game close.

Detroit continued to shoot well from beyond the arc, hitting a triple on three straight possessions. But Oakland kept up the energy on both sides of the court.

Blake Lampman would give Oakland their first lead on a transition dunk. After some back-and-forth action, the Golden Grizzlies would turn up the intensity on defense, forcing several turnovers.

After the under-12 timeout, Oakland would open up a 10-point lead. They started dominating on the glass and getting out in transition.

It helped that the Titans finally cooled off from the field. They shot just 24.2% in the second half, including 22.7% from behind the 3-point line.

Oakland dominated the rest of the game. They would take this one to move to 11-4 in Horizon League play.

Cain finished with a career-high 32 points and 12 rebounds. Moore finished with 13 points and 11 assists.

The players were happy to be playing in front of a raucous crowd. Cain even went as far as to say he felt like he was back at Marquette.

"I felt like I was in the Big East again," Cain said. "Just the environment, how loud they were, and how engaged they were. I just want to tip my hat to the fans, they did a great job of just feeding us energy."

Moore said the fans never stopped believing in them even when they were down big early.

"We went off to a slow start and they didn't disappear," Moore said. "They kept their faith in us and they believed in us and we appreciate everybody for coming out."

Micah Parrish said the environment reminded him of his high school days.

"I appreciate all our fans," Parrish said. "It was really nice, I really enjoyed it."

Regarding the slow start, Head Coach Greg Kampe attributed that to the game plan.

"Sometimes in this world when you've done something as long as I have, your ego gets in the way sometimes," Kampe said. "I wanted to have some great game plan for Detroit. And the truth of the matter is we only had one day [to prepare]. And I still put that in — and it backfired...our game plan sucked. They came out and dissected our zone."

Kampe credits his players for fighting through the adversity.

"I did a terrible job tonight," Kampe said. "But those guys, they believed and they fought through it. And then we just went back to being who we are. We were back home, and we're really good in this building and for the last 30 minutes, we were really good."

The Golden Grizzlies will return to the blacktop to take on Wright State on Friday, Feb. 18 at 9 p.m.



SMTD presents: 'Sense and Sensibility' by Jane Austen

JOE ZERILLI

Senior Reporter

The School of Music, Theatre and Dance will kick off the return to campus by putting on a performance of Kate Hamil's rendition of "Sense and Sensibility" by Jane Austen. The road here wasn't easy, and director Karen Sheridan talks about some of the challenges along the way.

"The actors weren't all in a room together and did not have an opportunity to develop relationships in a play by being with each other," Sheridan says. "Theatre is a collaborative art form, seldom for a director to tell where to move and then actors get up and volunteer and offer adjustments but over Zoom it's not possible."

To assist her students after being on Zoom all day for classes, Sheridan would cut the amount of time spent together at night. Eventually the theatre department was able to get into Varner Hall a week early on Jan. 24, but that was the first time the actors saw the new space setup.

One of the leads of the show Emily Nichter — who plays Elinor — says the theatre department has done everything possible to adapt to the difficulties of COVID-19.

"I think it could have been very easy for the department to put a hold or outright cancel productions throughout this time, and thankfully we've been able to avoid that mostly," Nichter says. "No one could have ever anticipated the issues that COVID has brought upon us, and I find that the performance community has really had to become inventive to still make it work somehow."

COVID-19 has allowed Nichter to get out of her comfort zone, which is something she is always looking for.

"Building confidence in any and all work I do is a journey I'll always be on, and I think it's given me the opportunity to adjust to whatever a process calls for, managing any changes that may come our way and be almost willing to go with the flow."

Virtual rehearsals, while not the most effective, could become more of a reality in the future, Madeline Daunt — who plays Marianne — thinks.

"Virtual rehearsals are never anyone's first choice, but Zoom has been a fantastic option to turn to in situations like a snow day when the university shuts down," Daunt says. "Before COVID we would have just



PHOTO COURTESY OF
JLBOONE PHOTOGRAPHY
Marianne (Madeline Daunt) and Elinor (Emily Nichter) in "Sense and Sensibility."

lost that rehearsal day, but we were all able to join a Zoom call and work on the show."

Daunt hopes the audience will think about their personal and familial relationships and how they can best support the people around them upon watching the show.

"It is easy to think that people who lived hundreds of years ago did not share the same thoughts and feelings that we have today, but every theme we explore in 'Sense and Sensibility' is timeless and applicable in the business of practicing empathy," Daunt says.

In her 30 years at OU, Sheridan says this is the weirdest thing that has happened, from going in-person back in November, then online post winter break and now back in-person for tech week before the show.

Sheridan is extremely proud of the work put in by the actors and those behind the scenes, as it was not possible without everyone helping each other.

"We are right on track where we would normally be if we were in-person the whole time and actually going better than that," Sheridan says. "That is a testament to work for all the students on stage and off."

The show will be performed in the Varner Studio Theatre from Wednesday, Feb. 16 to Saturday, Feb. 19 with ticket prices ranging from \$8 to \$15 dollars.

For showtimes and ticket purchases, visit etix.com.

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Rec Center to launch new program for faculty, staff

JOE ZERILLI

Senior Reporter

For the first time ever, Oakland University Recreation & Well-Being will be hosting a Couch to 5k program for employees only.

Couch to 5k is centered on helping individuals prepare for a 5k who may not be avid runners. Employees will follow the eight week program by using the free Couch25k app.

Couch to 5k was designed by runner Josh Clark in 1996 to help himself recover from a breakup. Now 26 years later, Couch to 5k is used by thousands of people across the world.

Caitlyn Hennings — wellness and educational outreach coordinator — and Hailey Forbes — fitness programs and services coordinator — will be co-running the program. This started when they surveyed faculty and staff, and the majority of respondents reported that they are sedentary for 60% or more of their day.

The program starts off by walking and then small amounts of running, and it increases in difficulty throughout the eight weeks. Weekly runs will be held on Mondays from either noon to 1 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. starting at the Rec Center.

The plan is to run around OU's campus if the weather permits, but if need be the runs will be held on the indoor track at the Rec Center.

"With [February] being heart health month, this

is a good opportunity to be more active," Hennings says. "[It is a] great way to get into aerobic activity."

Hennings has utilized this program before at the previous university she worked at, and it was very successful — now it is OU's turn. Faculty and staff can use the program for not only physical health, but to also improve mental health.

"Hopefully this program will help people with their worries," Hennings says. "It's a great stress reliever and helps to practice being mindful — people will focus on breathing and how the mind feels."

The process is slow, but the goal is to make running easier for people — one way to achieve this is to be part of a group. Up to 30 employees are able to register for the program, which registration is already open until March 14 — the day of the first run.

In addition to the weekly runs, there will also be weekly webinars every Thursday on Zoom from noon to 12:30 p.m. The purpose of these webinars is to provide resources and advice to those participating.

The head cross-country coach Paul Rice will be hosting one of the webinars discussing correct running attire and techniques for running and breathing. Another guest speaker will be Seth Swary — coordinator of sport & performance psychology at OU Counseling Center — who will talk about mindfulness for running and preparation.

Forbes will incorporate her personal trainers into the program to help assist and to run alongside

the faculty and staff. Forbes will also be hosting a stretching webinar, and a trainer will talk about good strength training exercises.

A weekly email will be sent out to explain the week's schedule and to provide additional words of encouragement. Hennings hopes the faculty will stay committed to the journey and enjoy it.

"A lot of people expect to feel amazing after running once, but people need to be patient for the results," Hennings says. "Being patient with the process and trusting that your body is getting stronger."



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

For the first time ever, Oakland University Recreation & Well-Being will be hosting a Couch to 5k program for employees only.

A Grizzly's Guide to a Healthier Y(OU): Medical emergencies

GABRIELLE ADBELMESSIH

Campus Editor

At the scene of most medical emergencies, witnesses are the first ones there until first responders arrive. Knowing common emergency skills and basic information regarding how to respond to an emergency can help you better prepare for and handle stressful situations and can help save lives. Whether you're studying or career field you may be in, emergencies happen. Someone with basic emergency information and low-cost, widely available formal training like a CPR/AED certification has the ability to save a life. I spoke to OUPD Chief of Police, Mark Gordon, about medical preparedness and on-campus resources.

Q: When you witness a medical emergency—in your own home or out in public—what can you do to help?

A: If you are trained, you should respond as your training guides you. If you do not know how to treat a specific emergency, dial 911, provide your address and answer all the questions from the 911 operator. They will have first responders en route quickly to administer aid.

Q: Is there a separate extension number for OUPD, or should people on campus just call 9-1-1 if there's

an emergency?

A: To reach the OUPD specifically, dial 248-370-3331 or dial 911 from a campus phone.

If you dial 911 from a cell phone, you will reach a 911 Dispatcher from the Oakland County Sheriff's Office. Either way, be prepared to provide the address where the emergency is occurring and answer any questions the 911 Dispatcher asks.

Q: How can bystanders help when someone faints, bleeds, has a seizure, heart attack, or stroke, or stops breathing?

A: The best way to respond to this type of situation is to be prepared in advance. That means to get CPR/AED and First Aid training. This will give most people the skills and confidence needed to respond to this type of emergency. If a bystander is not trained, notifying 911 would be extremely helpful to the person in need.

Editor's Note: Michigan Medicine also has a review list of common medical emergencies and more detailed steps of what to do.

Michigan's Good Samaritan Law protects those who act in good faith to help in an emergency

Q: What are some of the things people should keep in their car in case of an emergency?

A: Michigan State Police

recommend the following items be available in every motorist vehicle during winter weather

10 Things You Must Carry In Your Car During Winter

- Portable Phone Charger/Battery
- Ice Scraper
- Shovel
- Bag of Sand or Kitty Litter
- Hazard Triangles or LED Flashers
- Flashlight
- Blankets & Extra Cold-Weather Clothes
- Snacks & Water

Q: What should they keep in a first aid kit?

A: There are many options available when searching for a first aid kit, and of course, the more items in a kit, the more expensive they become. At a minimum, individuals should consider having the following items in a basic first aid kit:

- Gloves/Eye Protection
- Band-aids
- CPR Pocket Mask.
- Tourniquet.
- Roller Gauze.
- 4x4 Gauze Pads.
- Medical Tape.
- Two Triangular Bandages.
- Scissors
- Sam Splint.

Are AEDs/other life-saving

equipment located in all campus buildings?

The University has invested well into AED and Bleeding Control kits for our community. Most buildings on campus are equipped with these items. Individuals interested in having an awareness of the locations of these devices on campus can check the interactive campus map, which identifies the location of each device.

Are there resources on campus for students to learn about medical emergency preparedness?

The OUPD offers CPR/AED and Bleeding Control training to student groups when requested. The Recreation Center also offers this type of training when they are properly staffed to do so. Currently, due to COVID precautions, much of the in-person training has been suspended. We are in the process of considering offering this type of training again once we are certain it can be done safely.

Editor's Note: Both the American Red Cross and American Heart Association also offer CPR/AED/First Aid training and certification.

If you have suggestions for a future column topic, email me at gabdelmessih@oakland.edu!

The issue with ‘The Bachelor’ season 26: the ableism

D’JUANNA LESTER

Senior Reporter

As a long time fan of this guilty pleasure show, I’ve given “The Bachelor” a lot of grace to improve over the years. I was thrilled when we (finally) got our first Black lead, Rachel Lindsay. That opened the door for more diversity. With the scandal of Matt James’ season, I honestly believed ABC was heading in a direction that addressed their issues and moved more toward inclusivity.

I was wrong.

I have finally reached my breaking point. After years of watching the show, with Clayton’s season barely started, I have quit the show. I’ve given up. We went from listening to segments about diversity, bullying and inclusion to a neurodiverse girl having her ADHD outed to the entire cast and being bullied and discriminated against by another cast member.

In the second episode of Clayton’s season, there was a confrontation between Elizabeth and Shanae. Shanae claims Elizabeth was rude to her and ignoring her. Here, Elizabeth begins to explain that because of her ADHD, she has trouble processing multiple people speaking to her at one time and had no intentions of hurting her feelings.

One, Elizabeth did not have to disclose this information whatsoever, seeing how the community, especially girls, are invalidated when we talk about our neurodiversity. Two, Elizabeth didn’t use her

ADHD as a scapegoat, like Shanae accused her of. She calmly explained the situation and apologized. That’s ok.

What isn’t ok was Shanae’s ableist reaction to it. She proceeds to: 1) Go back to the rest of the group and out Shanae’s ADHD without her consent, 2) Go on an ableist tangent about how Elizabeth is faking her ADHD and gaslighting her. Some of her quotes include “Fake, fake, fake,” and “ADHD my ass,” and 3) In a mocking manner, claims that she has ADHD and “Little kids have ADHD.” I really hope you see the problem with this.

Instead of the show opening up a conversation about neurodiversity within the franchise (which is long overdue in media in general), the show decides to reward an ableist clout chaser by giving her attention. This was played for laughs and drama. Because that’s how this show is now. Be a bigot and get rewarded with an audience.

As someone who is constantly having their neurodiversity invalidated and demonized, I was triggered by this episode, as were many neurodiverse fans. Ableism is not entertainment. It’s just disgusting, unacceptable ableism.

I have since stopped watching the show, but have kept up with the news. Apparently, we’re approaching episode six and she’s still there. The fact that Shanae is getting rewarded by still being allowed on the show with zero consequences makes it worse.

If your oblivious lead Clayton can apologize to

Elizabeth after watching the episode, why couldn’t production put a stop to it before it aired? Like we saw with Matt James’ season, the cut out group dates and Rachel’s infamous “I don’t see color” line. They couldn’t cut out the ableist rant that Shanae goes?

I, along with many other fans have finally given up on the show. I would hope that the franchise takes the backlash as a lesson and learns from it, but I doubt it. I am not sticking around to find out.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIZACA
The cast of “The Bachelor” season 26.

Why are so many people wearing Nike Dunk lows?

ALEXANDER GUSTANSKI

Senior Reporter

If you’ve been on campus in the past year, you probably have seen someone wearing a pair of Nike Dunks, specifically the Dunk lows. But why are these shoes so popular, and why do they resell for anywhere between 2-16 times the retail price of \$100?

To understand the Dunk low hype, you first need to know about the differences between the members of the Dunk family of shoes. There are three main models of dunks, all intended for different uses. The first type is the classic Nike Dunk, which quickly became one of the most popular high-top basketball shoes when it was introduced in 1985. The shoe was marketed towards college basketball players, with high tops available in their university colors.

In the nineties, skate culture took off and many skaters wore beat-up pairs of dunks they found in thrift stores. Nike noticed the demand and made the shoes available in a low-top silhouette, alongside introducing the Nike Dunk SB. The SB sported a modified tongue, insole, outsole, and puffy laces both for comfort but also to make them easier to skate.

The newest Dunk Silhouette and arguably the least popular is the women’s exclusive Dunk Disrupt. The shoe has a more modern and boxy silhouette and combines aspects of the original dunks with the SB. The model recently saw its second incarnation, the Dunk low disrupt 2, which is closer to the original silhouette with some additional embellishments.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLIGHTCLUB.COM
Nike Dunk Lows (pictured here) — let’s unpack the hype.

So why are these simple basketball and skating shoes one of the hottest trends right now? There are a few. The Dunk trend seems to have once again been revived by thrifting. Dunks fell out of fashion in the early twenty-tens, and once again flooded thrift shops or sat on the shelves of Nike outlets. Their retro silhouette and often simple colorways pair well with thrifted pieces, especially older graphic tee shirts. This is in addition to the shoes being very practical for everyday wear, especially the SB model. It wouldn’t take long before the shoes received a celebrity endorsement and rocketed back into the spotlight.

Once again, I have to talk about one of the most influential celebrities in streetwear, and the reason I can’t buy any vintage Rush tee shirts, Travis Scott. Scott pioneered the vintage tee shirt, cargo pants, and SB Dunks outfit, and solidified the look by releasing his own pair of SB Dunks. Other collaborations with Off-White, Cactus Plant Flea Market, and oddly enough Ben and Jerry’s led to dunks becoming some of the most sought-after sneakers in recent memory.

The demand for hyped pairs, and their often limited stock, subsequently drove up the prices of all other models as the supply was artificially undercut to not meet the demand. This problem is exacerbated by the process of backdooring, where Nike intentionally or unintentionally sells shoes to resellers to profit off the resale market and create hype. In one particularly egregious example, the VP of Nike North America was forced to resign after people discovered she was backdooring shoes for her son for his own business.

The revival of Dunks was originally out of accessibility and practicality but quickly resembled some of the worst aspects of modern fashion. While it’s not bad to enter SNKRS raffles and try to get a pair of Dunks, I strongly encourage against buying from resellers and continuing to gentrify thrift stores. If you want a similar silhouette that won’t break the bank you can’t go wrong with a pair of New Balance 550s or the classic Air Force One.

Nets and Sixers complete blockbuster trade hours before deadline

CHRISTIAN TATE
Sports Reporter

James Harden, just a year after forcing his way out of Houston via demanding a trade, has put on a repeat performance for the Nets-Rockets trade's anniversary.

Harden, the eight-time All-Star and seven-time All-NBA guard, has been officially traded to the Philadelphia 76ers in a move that had been rumored long before the deadline started looming. James isn't the only disgruntled star player moving teams during this trade though, as the package for him includes three-time NBA All-Star Ben Simmons.

In a seeming match made in heaven, the two stars swap teams amid reports of discomfort and tension between the players and their respective organizations. The official package includes James Harden and Paul Millsap for Ben Simmons, Seth Curry, Andre Drummond, and two first round draft picks. Here's the story on why both players wanted out:

'The Ben Simmons Saga', as it has been dubbed by many sports personalities familiar with the situation, started months ago with the end of Game 7 in the 2021 Eastern Conference Semifinals. After Simmons and the team turned in disappointing performances during that run, many players and organization members [including star center Joel Embiid and Head Coach Doc Rivers], threw Simmons under the proverbial bus and blamed his hesitance and down right inability to score as one of the main reasons the series was lost.

In response to their comments and the history of fit problems that existed between Simmons and Embiid, Simmons would request a trade from the Sixers and take his demand public by announcing that he would not suit up for the team in the preseason or report to training camp.

This would then begin the talk of trades around the league, invading NBA discourse with ideas of what team would trade for a player with such amazing upside but horrendous downsides. Teams continued to float around the proverbial water cooler as the Sixers general manager, Daryl Morey, refused any trade that wouldn't result in a star player suiting up for the Sixers.

Cue the recent drama with the Brooklyn Nets and their star guard, James Harden. Or more specifically, the swirling drama with the other always-controversial Nets star guard, Kyrie Irving and his part-time player status. It is well-known that Kyrie Irving is one of the few unvaccinated players in the NBA amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

His want to remain unvaccinated coupled with the mandates in the city of New York have created both a tense atmosphere and unprecedented situation within the Nets

organization, with Irving being sidelined in every home game and only being allowed to play away games. This tension would reach the other players, as Irving's "part-time player" status would rub some of his teammates the wrong way and disrupt the chemistry on the team.

This alleged frustration, coupled with multiple lingering injuries hindering his own play, would continue to break down the relationship between Harden and the Brooklyn Nets. Harden has only played in four of his last 10 games and has averaged a subpar 18 points per game on 34% from the field and 25% from the three-point line during that stretch, a far cry from the superstar player we know him to be.

Despite Harden not formally requesting a trade, his discomfort and irritation with the situation in Brooklyn was apparent and palpable. This would only help stir the rumors of the two players being traded for one another, given the connections between Daryl Morey and James Harden, and the rest is trade deadline history.

I, for one, am happy that the Sixers can now move forward, putting this entire saga behind them as they look to the future and start preparing to make a real push to the playoffs. There were no winners in this game that Simmons and the Sixers were playing, but the biggest loser was Embiid as his MVP-caliber season was being wasted with every game Simmons sat out.

As for the other big-time player involved in this trade, I cannot blame James Harden for being irritated with becoming stuck in a situation he did not sign up for. This team was built for a three-man offensive engine and the team was missing one of its most important cogs due to a rather petty decision.

In conclusion, both teams have moved on from these players, and I can only hope for the best for both of them as they try to thrive in their new environments.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SB NATION
James Harden [left] and Ben Simmons [right] were traded for each other on Thursday.

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Track and Field remains competitive in GVSU Big Meet

REECE TAYLOR

Sports Reporter

New school records were set when Oakland University Golden Grizzlies men and women's track and field team took the field in the annual Grand Valley State University Big Meet Friday and Saturday on Feb. 11-12 in Allendale, Michigan.

The Golden Grizzlies stayed in state for a competition that featured Wayne State, DePaul University, and featured numerous Horizon League rivals, including Youngstown State and Milwaukee. In the two-day event, Oakland was able to reach new heights and distances, but only two teams qualified for day two.

The women's Golden Grizzlies gave some of their best performances on Big Meet Friday, particularly on the field. Freshman Rose Philogene earned second place in the women's long jump finals with a 5.7 meter jump, which was good for second among the Horizon League in the meet. Freshman Alexis Hunter became another Golden Grizzly in 2nd place in the triple jump category, winning her placement with an 11.83 meter total for Oakland.

Senior Madison Leigh set a school record in the 800-meter with a time of 2:11.44 run, a mark that is set in Oakland history books.

Oakland's men's team was just as impressive, setting new marks for the Grizzlies. Senior Jimmie Williams came in second in the 400-meter with a time of 46.95. Freshman TJ Brooks set a school record in the 800-meter with a time of 1:51.75. The Golden Grizzlies sole men's appearance on Big Meet Saturday resulted in another record setting performance. The team of TJ Brooks, Justin Kudara, Eddie Harrell III, and Yami Albrecht ran a school record 9:50.57 in the Men's Distance Medley Relay.

Throughout the weekend's events, the Golden Grizzlies were active on the leaderboard, earning top placements in numerous track and field events. Though Oakland took the stage and competed at a high level, ultimately, they were unable to win out for the weekend. The Golden Grizzlies were able to give every team a run for its money, but high end talent across the board from both extra-conference teams and Horizon League rivals. In both solo and relay events, Oakland

was able to push each team to its limit, but unfortunately couldn't win out even with a record setting weekend.

Oakland will compete in its final event of the season in the SVSU Final Tuneup on Saturday, Feb. 18 in University Center Michigan. After this event, Oakland will travel to Youngstown, Ohio to compete in the Horizon League Championships on Feb. 26-27.

Following the string of record setting performances for Oakland University, Oakland shouldn't have to look too hard to find courage in their final outing. The track and field teams are stringing together some of their best performances toward the end of the season, which could lead to upsets and wins on Feb. 26-27.



PHOTO BY JOSE JUAREZ

Yami Albrecht and TJ Brooks running in an event. Photo courtesy of OU Athletics.

Seth Tucker ready to lead Oakland baseball to success

BROCK HEILIG

Sports Reporter

He didn't know it, but Seth Tucker's baseball journey was about to make a major turn one day when his phone rang.

On the other end of the line was the Head Coach of the Oakland University baseball team, Jordon Banfield.

Tucker, who at the time was in the transfer portal after three seasons at Hendrix College in Arkansas, built a strong relationship with coach Banfield, and things took off from there.

Not long after, Tucker committed to Oakland to finish out his college career.

"[Oakland has] great facilities. I love the dome," Tucker said on why he chose Oakland. "I didn't see many other D-1 opportunities, and this one I felt was a good fit. I'm really glad I chose [Oakland]."

In his three seasons at Hendrix College, the outfielder totaled 99 hits, 56 runs, 39 RBIs, with 27 walks and 39 stolen bases.

Not only is Tucker a threat at the plate, but the 5-foot-10 senior is also a key piece in his team's bullpen. During his stint at Hendrix, Tucker hurled 59.0 innings and recorded 40 strikeouts.

"I throw sidearm, so it comes from down low," said Tucker. "So lefties usually see my ball very well. So basically I throw to right-handed hitters. I would say I'm more of a setup guy, more of a situational pitcher."

Once Tucker arrived at Oakland, which he said was a place he felt he could compete for playing time and crack the starting lineup, he wasted no time

making an impact.

Last year, his fourth collegiate season, Tucker started in 26 games, and made 36 appearances in the outfield. The transfer batted .233 with 21 hits in 90 at-bats. He also posted a .322 slugging percentage,



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS

Seth Tucker has been named one of the captains of the 2022 Oakland baseball team along with Michael.

and a .289 on-base percentage in his first year with the Grizzlies.

"Last year, coming into Oakland, being the leader, being 'the guy' [that I was] at Hendrix, I wasn't 'the guy' here," Tucker said. "That was kind of hard for me to deal with last year, so I kind of took a step back and I wasn't much of a leader. But now that I'm comfortable around all these guys, I've stepped into that leadership role again."

Now, in his fifth collegiate season and second with Oakland, Tucker has been named a team captain along with senior infielder Michael Stygles.

In a previous interview, Tucker said it's "an honor and a privilege" to be named team captain.

The Oakland baseball team is set to begin its season next weekend. The Grizzlies will be on the road for a lengthy period of time before playing their first home game.

The team will begin its season in Bakersfield, California, and will make stops in New Mexico, West Virginia and Illinois before their first home game on March 15.

Aside from its normal Horizon League schedule, the Grizzlies are slated to take on non-conference schools such as Rochester, Bowling Green, Aquinas, Michigan, Central Michigan, Northern Illinois, Michigan State and Pittsburgh.

Head Coach Jordon Banfield will look to lead his team to success in 2022, following a subpar 18-29 campaign in 2021. One guy he'll lean on to carry the load: Seth Tucker.

Men's basketball ends three-game skid with win over Robert Morris

CHRISTIAN TATE

Sports Reporter

The Oakland Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team held on late while on the road to capture the win against the Robert Morris Colonials with a score of 71-68, in a win that went down to the



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
Oakland snapped a three-game losing streak with a win over Robert Morris Friday night.

last second. The win snapped a three-game losing streak for Oakland.

The first half of the game started off with a huge burst of energy from the Golden Grizzlies, as they immediately jumped out to a 10-3 lead within the first four minutes. The game quickly became more competitive as the minutes wore on. The Colonials caught up rather quickly, and the race was on.

The Golden Grizzlies extended their lead to eight points with a score of 17-9 before the Colonials proceeded to catch up again. This trend of back and forth continued until the Colonials caught and kept their first lead during the waning minutes of the half.

This lead would not last long, with the Golden Grizzlies forcing a tie in the score and then taking the lead. The Golden Grizzlies' lead would not waver, going into halftime with a four-point lead as the scoreboard read 39-35.

The second half turned out to be a mirror of the first half for much of the period. The Golden Grizzlies held onto their lead with everything they had as the Colonials feverishly tried to break through the point deficit. Every time the Colonials brought the lead down to a one-possession game, the Golden Grizzlies just scored more.

This trend would continue all the way until the final seconds of the game, where the Colonials only trailed the Grizzlies by one point. On the back of two free throws made by Jamal Cain and a Jalen Moore steal, the Golden Grizzlies

held onto their lead to leave the game with the win on a score of 71-68.

In #GrizzVision, Head Coach Greg Kampe praised the effort shown by the players during this road trip, saying,

"We needed that, man. Boy, we needed that win and we got it. Nothing's gonna ever be easy, nothing that's worth anything, but to get out of this with all those road games and how weary and everything we were, we came out on fire. We got up to a seven or nine point lead...we played pretty darn good and we hung on by the skin of our teeth."

Both teams would have a similar night statistically, which probably helped to keep this game as close as it was. The Golden Grizzlies shot 29-60 from the field and 5-17 from the three-point line [good enough for 48% and 29% rates, respectively], while the Colonials shot 25-51 from the field and 6-18 from the three-point line [good enough for 49% and 33% rates, respectively].

Usually, what tips the balance in close games like this is the rebound battle. The team who wins the battle of the possessions usually controls the balance of a close game. Despite winning this by a staggering 11 board advantage [the Colonials recorded 38 rebounds to the 27 boards for the Grizzlies], the Colonials still lost this one narrowly.

The Grizzlies will return to the court on Friday, Feb. 18 at 9 p.m. to face off against the Wright State Raiders at the O'rena.

Men's basketball falls to Youngstown State for third straight loss

CHRISTIAN TATE

Sports Reporter

The Oakland Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team dropped another game this Wednesday, losing to the Youngstown State Penguins with a final score of 78-71 in a rather close affair that came down to the wire.

This marks the third straight loss the Grizzlies have suffered as they make their final push into the Horizon League tournament. Poor shooting doomed this game for the Golden Grizzlies, with their struggles from the field and beyond the arc holding them back from achieving their comeback.

In the first half of the game, the tone was set by a Penguins' three which was then countered by a score from the Golden Grizzlies. The two offenses would trade buckets, with the Penguins' trying desperately to pull away with their small lead while the Grizzlies stubbornly held on.

The game would eventually find its way to a tied score around the five-minute mark, with the score being 28-28 until the Golden Grizzlies would score and take their

first lead of the game. The Penguins would immediately grab control of the game again, taking the lead back and then extending it to finish out the half with a six point lead.

The game would resume in the second half with the Penguins leading 37-31. The lead would balloon and shrink rapidly, as the Golden Grizzlies would stay aggressive in their pursuit of the comeback.

The Grizzlies would get the lead down to one possession multiple times, but the Penguins just would not relinquish their grip on the lead. The Grizzlies would even erase the deficit to a one point lead, but just could not overcome the Penguins' tenacity and offensive talent.

The Golden Grizzlies would desperately try to get back into the game, but the consistent trading of buckets would end up being counterintuitive to breaking down the lead. The Penguins would consistently battle back to keep their lead, scoring in kind with desperate Grizzlies.

The Grizzlies would never tie the game up again or hold a lead in the second half, losing the game 78-71. The Golden Grizzlies would shoot 23-55 from the field and 5-23 from

the three [good enough for 41% and 21% rates from the field and three, respectively]. For comparison sake, the Penguins would shoot 30-68 from the field and 9-33 from three [notching 44% and 27% rates from the field and three point line, respectively].

Another reason that the game was such a tight race to the finish line for so long is the close race that took place in the rebounding category,

which saw the Penguins just barely edge out the Grizzlies. The Penguins would record 37 rebounds [12 of them being offensive] to the 34 boards grabbed by the Grizzlies [with 10 of them being offensive rebounds].

The Golden Grizzlies will return to the court on Feb. 18 to face off against the Wright State Raiders at 9 p.m. at the O'rena. The game will be nationally televised on ESPN2.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
Oakland lost their third straight game last Wednesday to fall to 10-4 in the Horizon League.

Point guard Brianna Breedy: Shooting for her dream

RACHEL YIM

Senior Reporter

Killing two birds with one stone when it comes to sports and academics? Easier said than done. Brianna Breedy, however, has done so during her time at Oakland University both as a student and an athlete.

Women's Basketball team's point guard Brianna Breedy is a senior, majoring in health sciences with a pre-physical therapy concentration.

"The last couple of seasons have been good there's been a lot of ups and downs, but overall, it has been a great experience," Breedy said.

Influenced by her father, a former college



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

Point guard Brianna Breedy is a senior this year, with hopes to become a physical therapist.

basketball player, she was first exposed to basketball at the age of three. Her passion for basketball started soon after. Later in her life, when she attended a sports camp where she played basketball, she absolutely fell in love with the sport, which led her to start playing competitive basketball when she was in fourth grade.

Breedy graduated from Pickering High School in Ontario, Canada, where she was ranked number one point guard in the class of 2018 and top ten player by Crown Sports. She also led her team to three Division I Provincial Regional Championships.

"Obviously, being from Canada, the culture is a little different," she said. "But for me, I think the hardest challenge is not being around my family and only getting to see them a couple of times a year. I am really family-oriented so not being around them was hard."

Despite the long distance between her and her family, Breedy had supportive teammates, coaching staff and school friends who made her college life more special and meaningful.

During her time as a college basketball player at OU, she has accomplished numerous achievements. Scoring her career-high 16 points against University of Illinois Chicago during the 2020-2021 season, five rebounds against Jacksonville State University, six double-figure scoring games and nine games with five-plus assists, just to name a few.

As the highlight of her basketball career at OU, Breedy chose the away game against Toronto when her team went to Canada in the summer, and played in exhibition games – homecoming games. For the Canadian Breedy who doesn't get to have her family as the audience often, this game was a special one as her family had the opportunity to come to the game to see her play.

"It was great to play around my friends and family who would never get the chance to see me play if it wasn't for the opportunity," Breedy said.

Her skills and commitment, however, does not only stand out in basketball. It also does in academics. With a current GPA of 3.99 and the four-time academic honor roll selection title, she has efficiently managed her time between her sport and academics, and has paved a successful pathway to become a physical therapist one day.

"I have to credit my work ethic and my discipline on why I have been able to do so well," she said.

Wrapping up the last season of her college basketball career, she hopes for her team to win the Horizon League Championship, and play in the NCAA tournament.

After graduation, Breedy is going to stay at OU for the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) graduate program in preparation of beginning her career as a physical therapist.

"I knew I wanted to do something in the medical field, and I loved sports so I wanted an occupation that was a mixture of both," she said. "Basketball did have an impact [as] I have dealt with many therapists and they have been positive experiences."

Her college basketball career may soon be over with her graduation, but her passion in this sport does not. She plans on continuing to play basketball in her free time, and coaching aspiring basketball players in the community.

"I am definitely going to continue to play basketball in other ways," she said. "I definitely want to join a league. I also want to try to stay connected with my teammates so I, going to try to make it to all the home games. Also, I currently coach middle school girls, so I may continue doing that as well."

Women's basketball lose to Milwaukee, fall further in conference

REECE TAYLOR

Sports Reporter

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies women's basketball team struggled with shooting as they fell to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers 57-41 at the O'Rena on Feb. 12 in the second of four straight home games.

In the first quarter, the Golden Grizzlies and Panthers played a very physical and defensive game as the Panthers attacked the paint and looked to score inside against the smaller Oakland team. The first quarters set the tone of the game with hard fouls and diving, which threw the Grizzlies out of rhythm. Led by forward sophomore Megan Walstad, Milwaukee dominated the interior by pushing Oakland inside and scoring at the rim. Megan Walstad would finish the game with 26 points and nine rebounds on the night. The first quarter ended 11-9, Panther's advantage.

In the second quarter, Oakland's offensive woes continued as they went 0-5 from three-point land. In spite of their struggles, the Golden Grizzlies were active on the defensive end, ending the night with five steals and a block. Both Oakland and Milwaukee struggled to score the ball, and ended the first half 23-20 in favor of Milwaukee.

In the second half, it was all Milwaukee. The Panthers opened the third quarter on a 15-4 run and never looked back. Oakland only converted on three

of their 14 field goal attempts in the third as the game got further away from them. The Milwaukee Panthers surged ahead to a 22-9 advantage, and ended the third quarter, leading 45-29 over the Grizzlies.

Oakland showed signs of life in the fourth quarter, fighting inside to get to the line, but they failed to capitalize on their aggression. Oakland went to the free throw line 11 times in the fourth, and converted on 8 of their attempts, but were 11-18 for the game as Milwaukee pulled away. The Golden Grizzlies had 10 shot attempts from the field in the fourth, but ultimately couldn't get shots to drop, and fell to the Panthers, 57-41.

Outside of the lone Golden Grizzly in double figures being junior Breanne Beatty with 14, Oakland struggled from the field and couldn't get into rhythm versus their Horizon League rival. Oakland shot 27% from the field as they fell to 11-12 on the season.

In spite of the loss, Oakland rebounded the ball well played through several tough fouls, but the physical game took its toll on the smaller Oakland team. The Golden Grizzlies kept it a close game in the first half, but a combination of the physical play and tough Panther defense kept Oakland at bay until they were able to pull away.

The Golden Grizzlies look to bounce back against the 15-5 Cleveland State Vikings on Thursday, Feb. 17 in the third of four games at home. Oakland will look to make adjustments as they face off with their

Horizon League rival. With four games left in the regular season, Oakland has a mix of tough and a few winnable games on their way to the Horizon League tournament.

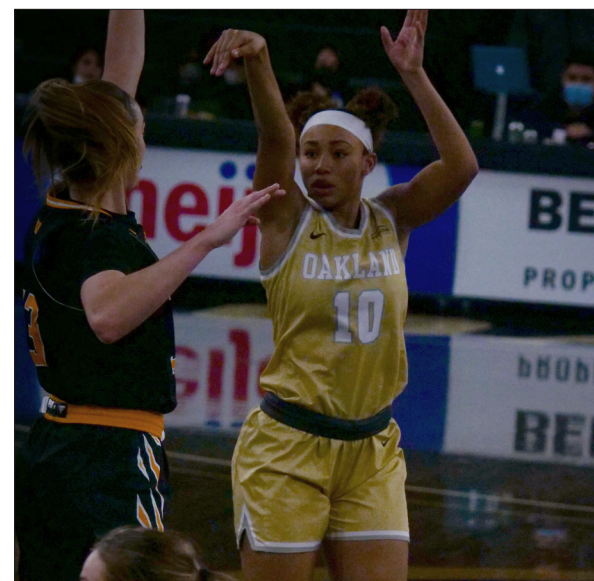


PHOTO BY BIJON STIGGER
Breanne Beatty gets a shot away.

Oakland baseball team is ready to get back on the diamond

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL

Sports Editor

While the status of the 2022 Major League Baseball season remains up in the air, the college baseball season is ready for takeoff.

The Oakland University baseball team will begin their 2022 campaign on Friday, Feb. 18. Last offseason was a tough one for Head Coach Jordon Banfield, with the COVID-19 pandemic making things difficult on the recruiting front.

But this offseason brought a much-needed sense of normalcy for the second-year head coach.

"It was great—so much better," Banfield said. "I got to worry about the team and coaching...it's definitely a relief. To have all that going on in my first year as a Division I head coach was interesting."

This year's baseball roster has a good mix of experience and youth, with several key upperclassmen from last season returning.

"This year was just a lot different [in terms of recruiting]," Banfield said. "We could really take the time it took to get the right pieces and we had a year to evaluate what we really needed, and then where are the additions needed to go. I say this every year but like this year brings true more than anything—the makeup really, really started to separate. Let's make sure that we're getting good players that are the right people for the program that I want to have. We got a really good group. So it just was a lot more exhaustive, thorough process this time around and moving forward."

Senior infielder Michael Stygles and graduate student outfielder/right-handed pitcher Seth Tucker have been named team captains for the

upcoming season. Stygles said he was "honored and humbled" to be named a captain.

"It was just something I really worked for and wanted," Stygles said. "But at the same time it wasn't a given, it had to be earned. I want to hopefully be able to fulfill my duties as a captain and be able to lead the team this year."

Stygles talked about the importance of leadership when it comes to being a team captain.

"Being a captain, that's the biggest thing is being a leader on and off the field and just showing the guys the right way to go about their business," Stygles said. "I think meet both me and Seth Tucker will do a really good job of that on the preparation side and just showing younger guys—and just guys who haven't really been at the Division-I level yet—how to prepare and be ready for a game and be ready for practice."

Last year, Stygles was lead the Horizon League with .419 batting average during conference play. He said that "it will be a challenge" to follow that up this year.

"Last year I felt like a I flew under the radar a little bit with me not playing a full season of Division-I baseball up until that point," Stygles said. "So knowing that this year will be a bigger challenge for me and knowing that teams know who I am coming into the games will be a challenge in itself. But I feel confident in my abilities and in myself to perform at the highest level and I'm not afraid of what's ahead of me."

Banfield said he is excited about the depth of the pitching staff, something the team didn't really have last year.

"I'm excited that we're gonna have a lot of guys that I feel good about bringing in," he said. "We were



PHOTO BY BIJON STIGGER

The Oakland baseball team starts their season Friday, Feb. 18 at California State University Bakersfield.

three, four, five guys deep last year depending on the time. [If you look at why we struggled last season,] it was because we pitched very poorly and played poor infield defense. So there were games last year that would get out of control on us as soon as we got behind. We couldn't go to some of our better relief options because we couldn't risk using them in a game we were already down. [Now], we're ten deep for sure."

Banfield said he is especially excited to have starting pitcher Jacob Wosinski back and fully healthy.

"His stuff is as good as anybody's in the league," Banfield said. "What he was last year was not him. That was the 9-10 month off Tommy John surgery, working his way back version. But he went out there and battled for us and gave us a chance a few times. But he's a different guy and he's confident, [and most importantly], he's healthy. So that's huge."

As far as freshmen are concerned, Banfield said he's excited the most about two-way player Brandon Nigh. Nigh pitches and plays third base.

"Brandon Nigh has probably been our top freshman dating back to the fall," Banfield said. "He'll play for sure."

Wright State has dominated the Horizon League the past few years, having several players get selected in the MLB draft. Banfield said getting to their level will not happen overnight.

"Wright State has been that good," Banfield said. "Certainly last year—they were the best mid major team I've ever coached against. They were good enough to have made it to the College World Series. How do you

get to that level? Well, they've had a long track record of success now. And that starts with recruiting. Obviously it's easier to recruit when you have success. So it's a number of layers building. How do you get to where their program is at? It takes a while."

Last year, the Golden Grizzlies finished 18-29 overall, and 12-24 in the Horizon League. Stygles said he thinks the team has "as good a chance as ever" to compete in the Horizon League this season.

"In my three years here, this is easily the most talented and well-rounded group of guys [that we've had]," Stygles said. "I definitely feel like there's a good chance of some good things happening this year. Obviously in the game of baseball, anything can happen. Injuries do happen, so hopefully we were able to stay healthy along the way. I think that if we stay healthy, there's a really good chance of us making a run in the Horizon League this year."

Oakland's first opponent will be California State University-Bakersfield out of the Big West. Banfield said he "expects them to be good."

"[The Big West] is a really, really good league," Banfield said. "You're talking UC-Irvine, CSU-Fullerton—some big time programs. I think [CSU-Bakersfield] was a game under .500 in that league, so based on that alone, I expect it to be a tough test. To go .500 in that league...you're a good club."

The first pitch of Oakland's season will take place on Friday, Feb. 18 at 9 p.m.



PHOTO BY BIJON STIGGER

A zoomed out look at the scoreboard in left field at Oakland University.

Women's basketball drops 61-57 to Green Bay, falls to 9-6 in Horizon League

BROCK HEILIG

Sports Reporter

The Oakland women's basketball team fell to the Green Bay Phoenix by a score of 61-57 on Thursday, Feb. 10 at the O'rena.

This was just the first matchup between the two teams this season. Oakland was scheduled to travel to Green Bay to take on the Phoenix on New Year's Day, but that game was canceled.

Both teams struggled to find rhythm in the early going. The score was knotted at 4-4 after five minutes of play.

The lids came off the baskets in the closing minutes of the first quarter, and Green Bay had a narrow 11-9 lead after the first 10 minutes.

Breanne Beatty led the way for Oakland in the first quarter with five points, on 2-4 from the floor and 1-2 from distance. C'Erra Maholmes and Sydney Gouard each added two points for the Grizzlies.

Oakland came out on fire in the second quarter with quick baskets from Kendall Folley, Maholmes and Beatty, giving the Grizzlies a six-point advantage.

Green Bay had no trouble making a run of its own, reclaiming the lead just minutes later.

With 2:50 remaining in the half, Grizzlies' Interim Head Coach Ke'Sha Blanton called a timeout with her team down by one, 23-22.

The timeout paid dividends, as C'Erra Maholmes went on a 5-0 run of her own to give Oakland the lead once again.

The Phoenix struck back, however, to even the game at 27 heading into halftime.

Beatty and Maholmes carried the load for the

Grizzlies with 10 points each, on a combined 8-17 from the floor. Folley and Gouard added five and two points, respectively, to round out the first half scoring for the Grizzlies.

The Grizzlies struggled to open the second half. Green Bay's stifling defense and superb shooting gave the Phoenix an 11-point lead early in the third quarter.

"We lost our momentum," said Blanton. "They came out and they threw a punch, and basketball is a game of runs, and we let it get a little too far away from us before we decided to punch back."

Oakland was unable to muster any momentum on either end of the floor, and found itself down 49-41 at the end of the third quarter.

Oakland didn't lose heart, however, and continued to battle. A pair of Kahlajah Dean layups brought the Grizzlies within four early in the fourth quarter.

The Phoenix held off the Grizzlies in the ensuing minutes, stretching the lead to 10 with 5:27 to play in the game. The Grizzlies would not go away easily, however, cutting the lead to two with 3:25 remaining.

Both teams traded buckets down the stretch, but ultimately, the Phoenix, led by Hailey Oskey, prevailed in a nail-biter.

Leading the way for Oakland in the loss was Dean [13 points], Beatty [10 points] and Maholmes [10 points].

The Grizzlies now sit at 9-6 in the Horizon League, and 11-11 overall. With five games left in the regular season, Oakland is just two games back from a first round bye in the Horizon League Tournament, which is awarded to the top four teams in the league.

"To get that first round bye we've got to step up," Blanton said. "Anytime you can get that first round bye obviously it speaks to the success of your season."

Next week, the Grizzlies will host Cleveland State on Thursday, Feb. 17, and Purdue Fort Wayne on Saturday, Feb. 19.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

Golden Grizzly women set up their offense during last Thursday's home game against Green Bay.

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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