

THE OAKLAND POST

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Flowers of one garden

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Indigenous culture, unity, OU's Land
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Men's soccer shuts out Dayton in
decisive home victory

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PHOTO BY AYMAN ISHIMWE

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



DANCING FOR PEACE Performer Wayne Cleland took the stage during Sunday’s Peace Day Concert in the Varner Courtyard.
AYMAN ISHIMWE/ PHOTOGRAPHER



HEARTSTRINGS MAINSTAGE
Folk band The Heartstrings Project headline WXOU’s mainstage.
Photo/Noora Neiroukh



HOW WE BECAME GRIZZLIES
This week’s Looking Back tells the story of how OU became the Golden Grizzlies.
Photo/Maggie Willard



A HEALTHIER Y(OU)
Our new public health column talks COVID-19, Nicki Minaj’s tweet.
Photo/Sophie Hume

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POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT ARE YOU MOST FORWARD TO THIS FALL?

- A) HALLOWEEN PARTIES
- B) LEAVES CHANGING COLORS
- C) FALL OUTFITS
- D) APPLE ORCHARDS

LAST ISSUE’S POLL

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO EAT AT IN THE OAKLAND CENTER?



OUWB student is co-author of published orthopedic research

GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH
Campus Editor

Madeleine DeClercq, second-year medical student at the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB), is a co-author of a study recently published in The American Journal of Sports Medicine.

DeClercq worked on the study as an undergraduate student at the University of Michigan (UofM).

The study investigated hypertrophy (enlargement) of the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in response to mechanical loading. The ACL is a ligament that stabilizes the knee joint and helps connects the femur to the tibia. It is often injured in sports that put stress on the knee. A smaller ACL is associated with a greater risk of injuries.

This study hits close to home for DeClercq, who tore her ACL while completing as a ski racer in high school.

“I tore my ACL ski racing so that’s kind of how I got interested in surgery and sports medicine,” DeClercq said.

Completing a gap year doing research for The Steadman Clinic, a world-renowned orthopedic clinic with various locations in Colorado, DeClercq expressed interest in orthopedic surgery as her future specialty as a physician. She is also keeping her mind open to other specialties and experiences as she

continues her journey through medical school.

“It fits pretty well with who I am but anything could happen,” DeClercq said.

A total of 52 figure skaters and springboard divers in their early twenties from local organizations were recruited for the study. Researchers chose these elite athletes as subjects because figure skaters always jump/land on the same leg and springboard divers use the same leg to drive into the board during their hurdle. Both types of athletes habitually load one leg more than the other. These athletes also served as a unique study population because their contralateral leg could be considered the control group.

To be selected for the study, athletes were required — among other specifications — to have participated in their sport before, during, and after puberty. This was a requirement because previous studies in animal models have suggested that exercise during pubertal growth periods results in a hypertrophied ACL with improved mechanical properties. A goal of this study was to contribute to these findings in humans. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and strength testing were used to investigate differences.

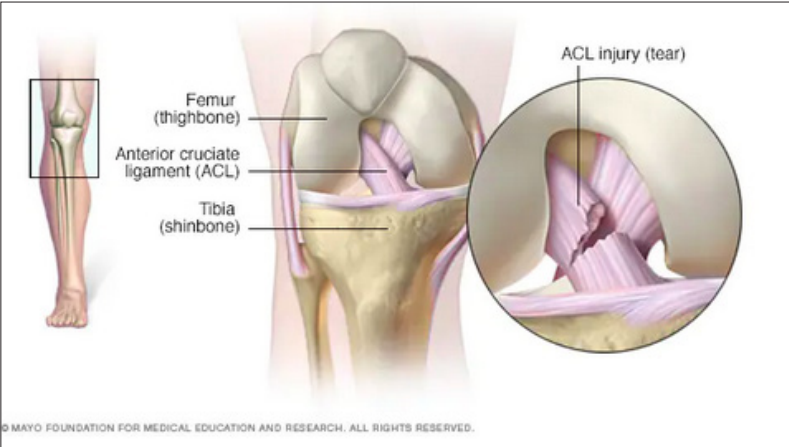


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MAYO CLINIC
A model of an injury to the ACL.

Researchers in this study found that athletes experienced ACL hypertrophy in the leg habitually loaded more than the other before, during, and after puberty. These findings demonstrate that the ACL can be “trained” to become larger, thus becoming less prone to injuries.

When asked what the main takeaway from this study is, DeClercq said, “I would say that there’s potential for the ACL to be trained and that gives implications for injury prevention.”

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WXOU brings 2021 Fall Main Stage to the Habitat

TORI COKER

Marketing Director

On Thursday, Sept. 16, WXOU brought their Fall Main Stage concert to The Habitat stage in the Oakland Center.

The concert has become a staple tradition for the station over time. As a result of COVID-19, however, OU's campus went without the welcome event last year.

WXOU Program Director Jayme Starr played a big hand in the evening's execution this year.

"The Fall Main Stage is an event that [...] we like to do to drag as many new kids in as possible," Starr said. "Being able to have an event to get the attention of new students [and] maybe students who kind of forgot about us — we do it every single year depending on the state of the world, and this is our first event post COVID-19, so [we've been] really striving for hopefully a good turn out this year."

The prolonged absence of live music has not been unique to OU's campus, of course. This past summer has marked a surge in the revival of touring after quite some time without in the face of the pandemic — and WXOU feels proud to be part of that moment, reintroducing students to live music.

"It feels really good, because music is such a unifying thing," Starr said. "We can all bond together as an OU community through music, which is really special."

The evening began with a performance from opener Ellen Wallenfang, a senior at OU studying voice and jazz in the School of Music, Theatre and Dance. Wallenfang welcomed attendees to the event with a soulful voice against keyboard, performing a stirring rendition of Sara Bareilles' "Gravity" as well as an original song.

Next up was Diminished Harmony, a band composed of three OU students — Phillip Christiansen, Katherine Lengyel and Cayla Stus. The trio joined forces in 2020, with their Main Stage performance marking their debut.

"I really hope [the audience] saw three people up there just looking to really bring the joy of music to people," Christiansen said.

Following powerful renditions of "Don't Stop Believin'" by Journey and "Somebody That I Used To Know" by Gotye, Stus then performed two original songs of her own, before she and Christiansen closed out the set

with covers of "When I Was Your Man" by Bruno Mars and "enough for you" by Olivia Rodrigo.

Folk band The Heartstrings Project then took the stage as the headliners of the event, their three-part harmonies and acoustic stylings washing over the Habitat with a fierce warmth. Songs like "just a lil bit" and "run" marked memorable moments in the set, successfully producing great applause from the audience. The trio — made up of brothers Luke and Elias Wygodny as well as Marina Pires — told stories about their own origins and that of their music between songs, inviting the audience in and establishing a palpable intimacy within the space.

"It feels very nice to sing and play for people in person, so thank you for being here," Luke Wygodny said onstage.

The event also featured raffles for two different ticket prizes — those aged 21 and above could enter to see Tyler Henry from E!'s "Hollywood Medium with Tyler Henry" live on his upcoming tour, and a raffle to go see Disney Channel alums Aly & AJ live in concert was open to all ages. Several winners went home with pairs of tickets to the latter — and while most raffle tickets went toward seeing the band, those interested can look forward to WXOU giving away the Tyler Henry tickets soon over social media.

The show closed out with a reminder from Starr that more Main Stage events are on their way in the near future. Students who wish to keep up with any news on these events can follow WXOU on Instagram @wxou to stay tuned for more information.



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
The Heartstrings Project headlining WXOU's
2021 Fall Main Stage concert.

OU student Sarah Denha travels to Marine Biological Laboratory

TANNER TRAFELET

Senior Reporter

As reported by Oakland University News, Sarah Denha — an OU doctoral student studying biomedical sciences — traveled to Massachusetts over the summer to participate in one of the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL)'s neurobiology courses.

Iraqi by birth, Denha immigrated with her family to the United States in 2013. Denha lived in California for a year where she earned her GED diploma, before moving to Michigan in 2014 and enrolling at Macomb Community College shortly after. She then transferred to OU where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry.

Five years later, she enrolled in OU's master's degree program in chemistry, and in 2020, she changed her area of study to biomedical sciences. It was after this flurry of academic decisions that Denha found herself in a position to participate in the MBL course titled "Neurobiology: Mechanisms and Advanced Approaches." A five week course, Denha was one of the 18 selected students who collected data, engaged in experiments and presented their work in various neurobiological fields.

Having received funding from OU and the Grass Foundation — a not-for-profit foundation centered on facilitating research of neuroscience — Denha also discussed the importance of OU Biochemistry Professor Dr. Adam Avery's assistance in developing her academic goals.

"I had no research experience (before graduate school), but with Dr. Avery's mentoring and one-to-one interaction, I learned fast," Denha told Oakland University News. "I gained so much confidence and within a year I presented my work [on spinocerebellar ataxia type 5] at the international American Society for Cell Biology Conference. I did virtual conferences during COVID and met others who are interested in my area of research. Dr. Avery encouraged me to apply for the Marine Biological Laboratory course, which helped me make more connections and see opportunities after I finish my Ph.D."

Denha and Dr. Avery have worked together outside of their research on spinocerebellar ataxia type 5 — Denha was featured as a co-author on Avery's 2021 article which was published in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*.

In the MBL course instructed by faculty from Yale University and UC Berkeley — which also had a Zoom

guest lecture from 2003 Chemistry Nobel Prize winner Roderick MacKinnon — Avery believed that Denha found experiences that positively affected her development as a person and scholar.

"Sarah has been a great success story," Dr. Avery told Oakland University News. "She's worked hard and embraced opportunities to grow in her field. I think being accepted into an exclusive, high-caliber program like the MBL course really shows her potential as a scientist. She had the chance to learn from top scientists in the world and came away with a renewed sense of identity and purpose."



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU NEWS
Doctoral student Sarah Denha travelled to Massachusetts over the summer to participate in a neurobiology course at the Marine Biological Laboratory. She was one of 18 students accepted into the course.

With work ranging from NIH-funded examinations into spinocerebellar ataxia type 5's effect on gene mutations to experiments using electrophysiology to do a field electrical recording of a mouse's hippocampal neurons, Denha is drawn to academic life wholeheartedly. The pursuit of gaining a more complete understanding of the molecular underpinnings of neurological disease is what drives her.

"I love the novelty of research," said Denha. "I love the challenge of looking at data and trying to figure out what it means. And I love knowing that my work has the power to positively impact people's lives."

Career Fair 101: Your guide to preparing for career fairs

SARAH GUDENAU

Features Editor

Maybe you've been to an Oakland University career fair, or maybe you've been too nervous to go because you just don't know where to start. How do I sign up? What do I bring? What am I supposed to wear? Fear not, Career Fair 101's got you covered. Career Services' very own Career Ambassador Program Coordinator Colleen Williams tunes in with some helpful tips and tricks.

Getting Started: Finding a Fair

First thing's first, you need to pick an event. The easiest way to find out what's happening is to check Handshake. If you haven't already, create an account. Once you sign in click "Career Center" in the top right corner to find upcoming career fairs, or click "Events" and search for career fairs.

OU has two virtual upcoming career fairs. The Virtual Fall Career Fair 2021, which is open to all majors, is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 28 from 3 to 6 p.m. Find employers in fields such as business, liberal arts, human resources, health sciences, natural sciences and nursing.

The Virtual Engineering and IT Career Fair 2021 will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This fair is for students

from the School of Engineering and Computer Science only.

Once you find the fair that works for you, you can register for it right on Handshake with the click of one button.

Williams' Pro-Tip: Keep an eye open for employer meet and greet visits, and other smaller scale employer events that will take place in person.

How to prepare

Have your resume ready! Schedule an appointment on Handshake with a Career Ambassador or swing by the office at 154 North Foundation Hall to have your resume reviewed.

Williams' Pro Tip: The Career Studio also offers a variety of Career Fair Prep Chats with topics ranging from resume tips to completing your Handshake profile to practicing your elevator pitch. Check them out on Campus Labs or go to the "Events" tab on Handshake.

What to wear

You may not be in-person for upcoming career fairs, but you do want to dress at least your top half professionally over Zoom! Opt for clean, pressed business attire such as suits, slacks, blouses, button-ups and dresses. Check out page seven of Career Services' Interviewing Guide for more detailed advice.

Williams' Pro Tip: Stay tuned for

OU's Suit Up with JCPenney Events for 60% off select career dress apparel, shoes and accessories.

What to bring

In the case that a fair is in-person, you should bring multiple copies of your resume to hand to employers. If you're attending an online fair, you can upload your resume to your Handshake profile and make sure to check off "visible" so that prospective employers can see it.

Williams' Pro Tip: Set your privacy settings on Handshake to

"Community" to attend group sessions. Then, your profile will be visible to employers, students and alumni from a variety of colleges and universities.

If you're feeling nervous about signing up, you're not alone! Talk to other students who have been to fairs, check out Career Services' Resource Library and above all, be confident in your abilities and what you have to offer. Happy networking!



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Career Services offers a variety of workshops and Prep Chats to help students prepare for career fairs. Students can visit the office at 154 North Foundation Hall or schedule appointments via Handshake.

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Vaccine mandate update: Procedures for enforcement, faculty concerns

JEFF THOMAS

Editor-in-Chief

A month after OU's announcement that the vaccine mandate was being expanded from just residents to all students and personnel coming to campus for work and class, faculty and students still have unanswered questions about the mandate. The main question being how exactly is the mandate being enforced. So, what do we know?

Since the Aug. 23 roll out of the mandate, there's been specific dates set for when shots have to be completed and uploaded to the Graham Health Center portal. Initial deadlines were set as first shot by Friday, Sept. 3 and second shot for Moderna and Pfizer by Friday, Oct. 1. On Saturday, Sept. 4, a Campus Communications email announced a deadline extension of one week to Sept. 10 for first shots and Oct. 8 for second doses.

On Aug. 26, guidelines for religious and medical vaccine exemptions were announced. The medical exemption form involved two steps -- getting a licensed and qualified medical provider to complete the OU student medical exemption request form and the student filling out and submitting their respective student medical exemption request. For religious exemptions, students had to fill out the religious belief exemption request. Faculty and staff had separate forms to fill out for religious and medical exemptions. Additionally, anyone granted an exemption is subject to weekly COVID-19 testing. Testing became available for students on Monday, Sept. 20.

On Sept. 13, a President's Perspective email was released to the campus community in which President Ora Pescovitz encouraged students to "please make sure you're doing all you can to remain healthy, and protected from contracting or spreading the highly contagious Covid-19 virus. Please make sure you are vaccinated, and wearing a mask when indoors. The vaccination rate on campus is steadily increasing, and we expect to meet our goal of a fully vaccinated campus." This email is the most recent formal update from the administration on the mandate.

According to the latest information from the university's COVID-19 Dashboard as of writing, 73% of students (10,511) have uploaded their status with at least one dose, 9% of students (1,279) have received medical or religious exemptions and 18% of students (2,608) have not uploaded. For campus employees, 76% (2,188) have uploaded at least one dose, 3%

(96) have received exemptions and 20% (588) have not uploaded.

It is worth noting that a portion of the students who have been non-compliant with uploading their documents are taking entirely online courses and therefore not coming to campus, so they are technically not violating the mandate. The exact quantity of these students is unknown by the university.

Despite the Sept. 10 deadline, non-compliance with the mandate didn't lead to any disciplinary action being taken from the university. Instead the university reached out to those non-compliant to check in and encourage them to upload their documents.

"After that deadline, we sent an email to all students who had yet to upload something to the portal to show that they had at least begun the vaccination process ... [And those that] did not have an approved exemption on file," Dean of Students Michael Wadsworth said. "... An email was sent out to all of those students reminding them of the mandate, encouraging them [to] within the next week upload their information to the portal if they had been vaccinated."

It is unclear at this point what is going to happen to students who still haven't complied once we pass the Oct. 8 deadline. The speculation based on communication from the university has been that those non-compliant individuals will be dropped from their courses. A mass-dropping of non-compliant students seems impossible given the way the mandate is currently being enforced.

The university has tied compliance with the vaccine mandate to the student code of conduct, which means due process is involved before any disciplinary action is taken for non-compliance. This would suggest a case-by-case analysis and hearing for each of the more than 2,000 students who currently haven't complied or been granted an exemption before disciplinary action is applied.

"If somebody is charged with an alleged violation ... [they] would have the opportunity to come in for a meeting with our office and we would engage them in the process," Wadsworth said. "Students have choices. They can either say, 'Okay, I'm in violation, give me a sanction' ... Or students have the opportunity to say, 'I am not in violation, I don't think I've violated the student code of conduct.' They have the right in that process to choose a conduct hearing. That's where there would be a conduct committee hearing. Typically, that's anywhere from four to six people that would hear the case and determine whether

the student is responsible or not responsible for a violation."

A lack of clarity from the administration concerning procedures for enforcing the mandate has led to criticism and discontent from OU AAUP faculty. The union criticized the mandate roll out for being too late, as OU was two to three weeks behind other in-state public universities in announcing its mandate. The Aug. 23 announcement effectively made it impossible for students to be fully vaccinated before the scheduled Sept. 2 start to the semester.

"There are concerns because we started so late," OU AAUP President and Associate Professor of History Karen Miller said. "... If we had ruled this out at the beginning of August, there would be a reasonable expectation to have everybody vaccinated before the first day of classes ... Now we're looking at [Oct. 8 as] when they're going to start doing investigations and put students in front of conduct boards ... And it's just awfully late."

The percentage of exemptions is another concern for faculty, not just for the possibility of spread, but also because the Delta Variant of COVID-19 can be devastating for those infected. Currently OU is at 9% exemptions, the majority of which are religious exemptions. For comparison, University of Michigan is at 2% total exemptions.

"My concern is that you're going to get [students] who, for whatever reason, don't believe in vaccinations out there in an environment with a whole lot of COVID and are going to bring it onto campus," Miller said. "Now,

you're supposed to be tested once a week ... My concern is if the testing regime breaks down, and these kids who don't have COVID vaccines are getting COVID, bringing it onto campus, and exposing people in the OC or in the classroom or in the gym ... We could turn into a COVID hotspot ... Not to mention people who don't get vaccinated and then get really sick. Because apparently the [Delta Variant] does make you really, really sick."

While faculty have been involved in the process of preventing the spread of COVID-19 on campus, enforcing mask mandates and social distancing in their classrooms, they have been specifically told not to inquire about a student's vaccination status.

"We are not allowed to know if there's anyone in the class who is unvaccinated," Miller said. "We are told eventually, we will get the wrong numbers. So you will be told if you have a class of 25 students, that one of them is unvaccinated ... Hypothetically, that is supposed to happen."

With a little over two weeks to go until the Oct. 8 deadline, the university is going to continue reaching out and encouraging students to participate in the mandate.

"We have some online educational modules that we're going to send out to those students dealing with COVID-19 vaccination and general information," Wadsworth said. "There's going to be at least two more times where we're going to try to engage students before we get to that [Oct. 8] deadline ... The last thing we want to do is lose any students for any reason."



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH

Doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine made available by OU. With 18% of the student body still not compliant with the vaccine mandate, what do we know about how the university is enforcing the mandate?

People of OU: Figure skater, PR student, Madeleine Gallagher

LAUREN REID
Content Editor

She’s been Tinkerbell, Snow White and a plethora of other iconic Disney characters during her days doing “Disney on Ice,” worked with Apple TV as a figure skater choreographer and lead skater, won Intermediate National Pairs champion (figure skating) and a Pewter Medal at the Junior National Championships in 2016 — but she’s also pursuing her a degree in public relations (PR) at Oakland University.

Madeleine Gallagher first laced up her skates as a hockey goalie, starting at the local learn-to-skate club in her hometown of Bay City, MI. She transitioned to figure skating when she was four.

“The dream slowly faded when I realized hockey players don’t wear the pretty dresses,” Gallagher said.

What called her to the Detroit area was pairs skating — when a coach mentioned he had a male student looking for a pair partner. Gallagher began skating with him when she was 11, and eventually became the Intermediate National Pair champion in 2012.

Training at the Detroit Skating Club (DSC) prior to attending OU, Gallagher mentioned most skaters that train at DSC come to OU — it was the perfect fit.

“I remember I was leaving practice early to come to a campus tour — I was so excited,” Gallagher said. “[But] training kept going and I was coming to the end of my senior year, and I was dying out on the competition part, [when] I found out ‘Disney on Ice’ was coming through the Saginaw area.”

Gallagher auditioned for “Disney on Ice” when she

was 17, saying it was “love at first skate,” but didn’t hear back for awhile.

“I graduated high school and [figured] I’d get a head start and go to college,” Gallagher said. “I loved it, I had a great time. I had all my sheets and my dorm stuff, had a roommate — I was ready to go. Then I got an email in the parking lot after my class [from ‘Disney on Ice’] and I was like ‘oh no.’ So I returned all my school supplies and dorm materials and traded it in for two big suitcases.”

With “Disney on Ice,” Gallagher travelled around North America, South America, the Middle East and Western Europe — playing princesses Ariel, Belle, Snow Shite, Anna and even Tinkerbell and Nala from “The Lion King.”

“My favorite was Tinkerbell,” Gallagher said. “Even though she didn’t have any lines, she got to fly — I had a harness. I [also] had a wand full of glitter. I thought I always looked the most like her, too.”

Once COVID-19 hit, and Gallagher was sent home from Spain during “Disney on Ice,” she was motivated to continue working on her degree.

She started as a Liberal Arts major, but fell in love with PR during her time touring. Gallagher did a lot of the PR and promotional work for “Disney on Ice” and realized she wanted to go to school for it. When tour started back up, Gallagher made the decision to stay behind.

“I [want] to get this [PR] degree — I’m finally in it and I’m not going to stop,” she said. “I really enjoy the classes and being able to learn, instead of the day-to-day showbiz.”

When it comes to career goals, Gallagher hopes to become a production assistant and slowly move up. She loves figure skating, but wants to be in the choreography, movie realm.

This summer, she worked with Apple TV on a film — to be released next Christmas.

“I can’t get into too much detail, but I was the figure skater choreographer and lead skater,” Gallagher said. “It has quite a few big stars — I had a great time working with them, putting together a skating team and falling into the movie business. I’m working on integrating that business into my work schedule.”

All in all, Gallagher is extremely grateful for OU. “I love the small classes, the flexibility — there’s something about it that’s home for me.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADELEINE GALLAGHER
Gallagher skates across the ice as Tinkerbell during her time on “Disney on Ice.”

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Peace Day Concert celebrates Indigenous

Created by the United Nations in 1981, the International Day of Peace is observed around the world each year as a commitment to fostering a culture of peace. Last Sunday OU celebrated the holiday as the School of Music, Theatre and Dance (SMTD) hosted the fourth annual Peace Day Concert. In celebration of OU's recently adopted Land Acknowledgement Statement, this year's concert featured the music and culture of the Indigenous peoples of America.

"In celebrating Oakland University's new Land Acknowledgement Statement, we thought it was important to have indigenous North American music today," Associate Professor of Music Mark Stone said. "You heard indigenous North American music and saw the dance and heard the prayers [of] the land this university is on ... This was about celebrating the land that our university is on ... And it was a way to show thanks and respect, gratitude to our Native American brothers and sisters through this concert."

The concert took place outside on the Varner Courtyard Stage. A beautiful sunny evening, an audience of all ages and backgrounds gathered in the courtyard to see featured performers Kevin Locke and the band Spirits Rising.

Locke (Lakota) is a prominent musical performer, author and educator from South Dakota who has been performing around the world for about five decades. He's known for hoop dancing, playing the indigenous Northern Plains flute and traditional Native American storytelling.

Spirits Rising are a musical duo from Metro Detroit comprised of Alice Sun (Powhatan) and Joe Reilly (Cherokee). Their music combines traditional Indigenous music with elements of jazz, folk, blues, hip-hop and rock. During Sunday's performance, the group was backed by SMTD faculty members Marion Hayden, Gayelynn McKinney and Mark Stone.

The event began with a short introduction from President Ora Pescovitz. She welcomed the audience, thanked the performers and SMTD for organizing the event and read OU's Land Acknowledgement which was officially adopted last May. Following the concert, she reflected on the significance of the event.

"It was a wonderful concert to celebrate Peace Day," Pescovitz said. "We had the opportunity, of course, to read our [Land Acknowledgement Statement] ... What a terrific way to celebrate with two amazing performances that really represented our commitment to our [Native American communities] and to represent Oakland University's commitment to our culture, and to really represent all the things that are important as part of our values."



Following Pescovitz's introduction, Locke took the stage donning a colorful pink-purple shirt, a white-yellow-red-blue skirt, mountain goat moccasins and deer hoof stockings. He began his performance by telling the story of the eagle, an Indigenous creation myth. Throughout his hour-long set he incorporated this kind of storytelling combined with music and dance to educate and entertain the audience.

The music Locke performed consisted of vocals combined with flute playing, with occasional backing track accompaniments of drums or rhythm guitar. After several songs and stories about the Indigenous people of Michigan, his set culminated with a Hoop Dance.

Performed as a prayer, the Hoop Dance told the story of unity among humanity through different colored hoops being combined into different shapes including flowers, a sphere and eagle's wings. After concluding his dance, Locke invited the audience up towards the stage and passed around hoops. He then led the audience in a second Hoop Dance, teaching some basic choreography to the crowd and helping them participate in his prayer.

"The whole idea is to create an awareness of the oneness of humanity," Locke said. "I think it's really important to see. I'm not interested in conveying a tribal or cultural specific message. But to the average North American person, the indigenous culture

culture, Land Acknowledgement Statement

in North America is the most foreign exotic culture to them. So then it's, it's really a good way to explore this theme of the oneness of humanity."

A short intermission took place following Locke's performance. Spirit Rising's performance then began with a prayer being led by Indigenous elder Jerry Cleland. Cleland stressed the importance of our stewardship over the land and how we must do better for the earth and each other.

Their musical set began with songs dedicated to healing among humanity and the desire to "deepen decolonization." Much like Locke's set, unity among people was a theme here. The band's instrumentation included three part vocal melodies, acoustic guitar, keyboard, upright acoustic bass and drums. Their sound was contemporary with elements of rock and rhythm and blues throughout the set.

Highlights from the set included Wayne Cleland coming out on stage in full Native regalia — a headdress, bird feathers, moccasins, deer hoof stockings and clothing made of various fabrics and strands of animal pelts — to dance alongside the band's music, an all woman song where the two male members of the band exited the stage so the women could perform a song about women supporting and looking out for each other and Cleland leading the crowd in a dance circle.

The event concluded with all of the musicians taking the stage to perform a new composition created by Spirits Rising and Locke specifically for the concert. Book ended by flute solos from Locke, the track was perfectly in line with the theme of the concert with lyrics like, "make today a day of peace, may our hearts be open wide."



Looking Back: Oakland University's glow up

BRIDGET JANIS

Managing Editor

To be independent is something everyone strives for in life. It's what an after break up glow up is all about. When Oakland University decided to break up with Michigan state and started undergoing the final stages of separation, they had a glow up of their own.

With the goal of separating completely from Michigan State University by January 2, 1970 -- all William Sturmer, the one representing the University Steering Committee at the time, was waiting on was a signature from the Board of Trustees.

Once both universities were separated, they were able to grow at a much faster rate. While this looked like it was going to be a problem back then, that the administrators wouldn't be able to keep up, things ended up working out just fine.

The next part of the OU glow up, was changing their image. Before OU meant representing being a Golden Grizzly, we were known as the Pioneers. Back in the 80s, a lot of students didn't even know how to describe what a Pioneer was.

OU announced in 1983 that they were looking to change their mascot name to something better, more catchy. Both the nickname and logo needed an upgrade and OU was asking students to lend a helping hand.

There was a campus wide contest was set in

place to find the perfect name for the dreamy Oakland University. The athletic department on campus was sponsoring the contest giving people the incentive to enter.

"The change will let us do more publicity. It will also be easier to create an animal or something else. It's hard to think of a logo when you are thinking of a Pioneer," Paul Hartman, the Athletic Director at the time said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLDENGRIZZLIES.COM
The current logo for Oakland University, the Golden Grizzly.

The goal was hopefully to make OU more recognizable so it stood out among the community better. It was going to be an easy adjustment because back then, not a lot of things said "OU Pioneers" on it.

"We want a name that will last a long time," Hartman said. "We could probably make the change right away, but it probably wouldn't be a very good idea to change the name right in the middle of the school year."

The only difficult part of this big of change was the gymnasium floor, but the athletic department was the majority of the people that wanted and asked for a change.

Students were able to enter the contest with just their nickname idea, then the top ten were picked to come up with the logo to go with their nickname. The finalist won a \$50 prize. Golden Grizzlies won the contest, and the history of OU was changed.

"I am very excited about the change. It's hard to relate to Pioneers in sports," Stan Blackford, the Sports Information Director at the time said. "When I think of a Pioneer, I think of turn of the century Pioneers crossing the great prairie."

Since these developments and changes OU has been thriving with its independence and new logo, and will continue to do so in the years to come.

This article was written using The Oakland Post's archives. These archives are available to the campus community via the library in the front of The Oakland Post's office..

2021 Immigration Film Festival kicks off with 'Missing in Brooks County'

SARAH GUDENAU

Features Editor

On Sept. 16, Mexican Independence Day, Oakland University's Department of Modern Languages and School of Nursing kicked off the annual Immigration Film Festival. Participants were able to attend the event in person at the Oakland Center or join virtually to watch the documentary "Missing in Brooks County," followed by a Q & A with award-winning Co-Director and Producer Jeff Bemiss.

The Immigration Film Festival celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month, which is recognized nationally from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

"The Immigration Film Fest is an effort to promote understanding," said Associate Professor and Film Fest host Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo, Ph.D.

"Missing in Brooks County" centers on rural Brooks County, Texas, where more migrants go missing after crossing the Mexico-United States border than anywhere else in the U.S. Due to the treacherous deserts of the area, many immigrants die of dehydration and exposure.

The documentary highlights the many perspectives surrounding the issue in the county, including the heartbreaking stories of two families searching for their missing loved ones, the frontman of the South Texas Human Rights Center Eddie Canales, the forensic anthropologists working to identify the remains found in the region, law enforcement agents and local vigilante ranchers.

"We wanted to treat the audience as intelligent," Bemiss said. "We didn't want to preach to them. We wanted to just show them what's going on and let people make up their minds, but in order to do that, they have to see what's going on, so we tried to make it a 360 degree view and let everybody have their moment to say their piece. Let the audience decide what kind of country they want to have and what kind of policy they want to have about their border."

The story, though, was not intended to be a 360 degree view of the problems in Brooks County when it began. Bemiss and Co-Director and Producer Lisa Molomot met at Trinity College in Hartford Connecticut where they were both teaching. The two had heard a radio documentary about forensic scientist Lori Baker at Baylor University and wanted to make a short film about her.

Starting on the project, they reached out to Baker and she invited them to Falfurrias, Texas, where they had never been.

"We said, 'Alright, can you show us the border?'" Bemiss said. "She [Baker] said, 'Oh no, Brooks County isn't even a border county — it's 70 miles away. This is where the problem is.' I think it was that moment where the film began to pivot in our minds. We realized that the story that really needed to be told was the story of what was happening in Brooks County."

The 2021 Immigration Film Festival will continue with the viewing of Rodrigo Reyes' "Purgatorio, viaje al corazón de la frontera" on Thursday, Sept. 23, a Round Table on Immigration with experts, activists and state representatives

on Thursday, Sept. 30 and lastly, a discussion of Alex Rivera and Cristina Ibarra's film "The Infiltrators" on Wednesday, Oct. 13.

Hispanic Heritage Month at OU will also be celebrated with the visit of Mexican-Jewish writer Jacobo Sefami on Thursday, Oct. 7 in Founders Ballroom A of the Oakland Center for a conversation about Jewish communities in Mexico, followed by a discussion titled Hispanics in the Automotive Industry later that same day.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MISSING IN BROOKS COUNTRY
The 2021 Immigration Film Festival kicked off with a viewing of the documentary "Missing in Brooks County." The film explores Brooks County, Texas where more migrants go missing after crossing the Mexico-United States border than anywhere else in the U.S.

Q&A with Rio and the Rockabilly Revival band member

D'JUANNA LESTER
Senior Reporter

Paige Grider — an Oakland University student — is a saxophonist in the band Rio and the Rockabilly Revival (RRR), which is up for several Josie Music Awards. Grider talks about her band and how her time at OU has helped shape her into the person she is now — an award-winning rockabilly.

D'Juanna Lester, The Oakland Post: How would you describe your time at OU?

Paige Grider: I have been at OU for a while, as a music education major with a minor in jazz studies. Right now I am completing my degree as a student teacher in the Macomb area. OU has been a great place for my education, and if I went back in time, I would still choose to come here.

Did you make important connections?
I have made many connections with students and staff in the OU music department, and some of the students will be close friends for a long time. In any music department, you get to know a

lot of people on a very personal level — that's just the nature of the department. It was another OU student that told me about the opportunity to play with RRR, so I am so grateful for that. My saxophone professor, Dr. Heisler, is the reason I can play at the level I do, as well as other professors that have helped me train my listening skills, music theory and the ability to collaborate with other musicians so well.

How did the band come together?

I joined the band back in 2017, but the band has been in existence for ten years now. I actually joined without knowing what I was getting into. One day I got a message from a friend in the OU music department that was playing with RRR as a fill-in. His message said something along the lines of "hey, this group needs a saxophone player for a gig." To me, that means a group that will just be playing in a lobby as background music for an event. For those kinds of gigs, you just bring some music and perform on the spot — often not meeting the other musicians until the performance. When I messaged our music director Sean, he started talking about an audition and I had no idea what I walked into, but man, am I glad I did!

What genre of music suits you best?

I would say the best way to describe our genre is early rock with a bit of twang, but we do covers from all genres, as well as original songs of varying styles.

How did the band come up with its name?

The lead singer is Rio Scafione herself, which makes me a rockabilly! The revival, however, is not as if we are "reviving" rockabilly — I wouldn't say it needs to be "revived." What we are going for is that vibe of a revival tent — the churches that claim to heal the sick by laying hands and channeling the spirits to do so. The band is not rooted in religion, but that is the vibe. We actually pay tribute every show to Rev. Jimmy Snow, who was famous for preaching that "rock and roll is a contributing factor of the juvenile delinquency of today!" Rio has even written him letters thanking for his words that inspired our show. He has yet to respond, haha.

Describe how you feel about the upcoming award show.

I am very excited for the 2021 Josie Music Awards Show! We have been nominated a few years in a row, winning awards every year we have



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAIGE GRIDER
OU music education student Paige Grider is the saxophonist in the band Rio and the Rockabilly Revival. The band has been nominated for numerous Josie Music Awards.

been nominated. In 2018, we were not only nominated for three awards (and won "Entertainer of the Year"), we were also asked to perform as the openers to the entire show. We played an RRR original, "Runaway Train" with our infamous stunt. The energy of the crowd was unreal, and I have never been so honored!

Student Max Folino's film in 2021 Freep Film Festival

TANNER TRAFELET
Senior Reporter

Uploaded to Youtube on Dec. 5, 2020, "Small Town Syndrome" is a reflective short film about Oakland University student Max Folino's life in his hometown New Buffalo, Michigan. As reported by the Oakland News, the film — having won "Best Student Film" at the OU Grizzdance Film Festival — will be included in the 2021 Freep Film Festival, which runs from Sept. 22 through Sept. 26.

"I would not have had the ability or drive to create my film if it weren't for the OU Cinema Studies staff," Folino said to Oakland News. "My first film class at OU was with Professor Julia Yezbick. By the following year, it was in her class in which I created 'Small Town Syndrome.'"

A point of particular pride for Folino was his film's participation in the Freep Film Festival's "Real Fresh" competition. "Small Town Syndrome" is one of the only ten short films selected by the festival's jury as quality enough for the "Real Fresh Showcase." Out of a field of 26 total student submissions — from universities such as OU, Michigan State University, Wayne State University, University of Michigan and the University of Windsor — Folino's film was selected as some "of the best documentary work from our region's colleges."

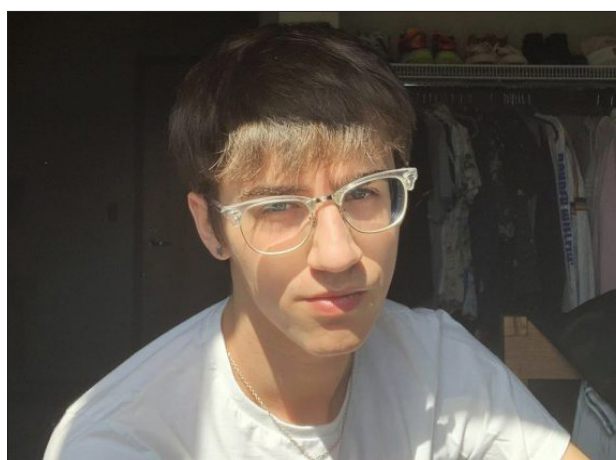


PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY NEWS
OU student Max Folino. His short film titled "Small Town Syndrome" will be include in the 2021 Freep Film Festival.

"It has been construed as pessimistic, and that's okay. The film is meant to be interpreted and related to in any way the viewer seems fit," Folino said to Oakland News. "I won 'Best Student Film' at Grizzdance Film Festival this year and to think that I would have another opportunity to be included in another film festival in the first place is seriously shocking. I am so grateful to the university staff for nominating my film and I am still recovering from

the shock of learning my film was included in the festival's Real Fresh Competition."

The short film features Folino's personal narration, and centers on unrelenting snapshots of the rainy, dejected grayscale of New Buffalo. A chronicle whose uniqueness is found in its inanimate scenes — the film is curiously devoid of human life — with only the shadow of Folino appearing for a few sparse seconds.

However, upon a completed viewing of the film, one is hard pressed to not have gained an insight into Folino's perception of the subdued landscape that is New Buffalo. Even if one had not lived in a small town themselves, this film provides a brief but mellowing insight into having one's existence consist of a few square miles on the southeastern coast of Lake Michigan.

The 2021 Freep Film Festival will feature more than 35 screenings of feature, short films and feature length films during its Sept. 22 through 26 duration. COVID-19 precautions have caused the festival to eliminate "walk up" ticket sales on the days of the events, and include various methods of screening films such as indoor, outdoor, and virtual venues. For anyone planning to attend, the assorted indoor screening venues are enforcing a vaccine mandate (unless an attendee can supply a negative COVID-19 test from within 72 hours), as well as a mask mandate unless eating or drinking.

A Grizzly's Guide to a Healthier Y(OU):' debunking THAT Minaj Tweet

GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH

Campus Editor

Salutations! My name is Gabrielle Abdelmessih. I am a junior majoring in Biomedical Sciences and minoring in Journalism with the goal of becoming a physician and effective communicator of factual information surrounding science, public health and medicine. Over the past seven months since I began working for The Post, many of my stories have concentrated on those subject areas, which is why I am so excited to share with you that I am starting The Post's first weekly public health column—"A Grizzly's Guide to a Healthier Y(OU)."

I'm starting this column in the hopes of improving the health, health literacy and awareness of affordable and accessible healthcare resources of the campus community while also debunking medical misinformation. Now more than ever, the careful communication of public health information is crucial to our wellness. I'd also like to point out that since I'm no Doogie Howser, everything I write will be backed up by experts in healthcare and other credible sources.

We're going to talk about COVID-19, mental health, healthcare accessibility, sexual health and so much more. If you have a question you'd like answered or a certain topic addressed, email me! My goal is to focus on what would be most helpful to you. With all of that said, let's jump right in.

In a tweet to her over 22 million followers,

rapper Nicki Minaj shared an anecdote about her cousin's friend in Trinidad who allegedly became impotent and experienced orchitis — the medical term for swollen testicles — after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. Nicki Minaj, though not anti-vaccine, has not yet been vaccinated, citing this claim and a desire to do more research as contributing factors in her decision. The viral tweet sparked international conversation about the COVID-19 vaccine and fertility, causing many public health experts to speak up and debunk the rapper's claims.

Dr. Sanjay Gupta, neurosurgeon and chief medical correspondent for CNN, told "New Day", "I have no doubt that this [orchitis] is something that has happened to this individual, and also have no doubt really that it's not related to the vaccine."

Dr. Gupta also underscored that Minaj's friend's cousin's case of orchitis was an accompanying condition along with his vaccination, not a side-effect of the vaccine.

"You have got 32% of the country of Trinidad vaccinated, you're going to have people who have concomitant issues with the vaccine that have nothing to do with the vaccine. So, I don't think that that's a problem people are going to read about — that vaccine causing orchitis or swollen testicles. That's not a thing. That's not something to worry about," Dr. Gupta said.

He also noted that COVID-19 vaccines do not cause infertility, citing research released by The Journal of American Medicine (JAMA) on the subject.

"You have nearly 200 million who've received the shots in the United States, billions of people around the world, this is not an issue," Dr. Gupta stressed.

Dr. Gupta also mentioned that orchitis can be caused by a lot of things, but not the COVID-19 vaccine.

"I appreciate her [Nicki Minaj] wanting to do the research. It's out there. I wish her cousin's friend well, but that's not related to the vaccine. It may be related to another type of infection that could have been prevented by a vaccine, but not the COVID-19 vaccine," Dr. Gupta said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH
Campus Editor Gabrielle Abdelmessih is starting this column with hopes to improve health & awareness on campus.

Jenny Han books to be adapted to Amazon series

D'JUANNA LESTER

Senior Reporter

Jenny Han, author of the "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" series, has exciting news for fans. Her series "The Summer I Turned Pretty" will be adapted to a show on Amazon Prime.

"To All the Boys I've Loved Before" is a book trilogy that was recently turned into a trilogy of movies on the streaming platform Netflix. The series, starring actors Lana Condor and Noah Centineo, was a smash hit, and her 2009 through 2012 book series is now getting picked up by Amazon Prime. While there is no release date yet, Han is so excited for her book fans to finally see her characters come to life on the screen.

"The Summer I Turned Pretty" is a trilogy that first debuted in 2009, with the sequel "It's Not Summer Without You" following in 2011 and the final book "We'll Always Have Summer" concluding the series in 2012. Like "To All the Boys I've Loved Before," "The Summer I Turned Pretty" is a coming of age young adult (YA) romance series. The series isn't just about the main character's romantic struggles — it also touches on the relationships between mothers and daughters, as well as first heartbreaks, friendships and the discovery that can come from a perfect summer.

The series is about the main character Isabel "Belly" Conklin and her struggles with a confusing summer and a love triangle between

two brothers. Belly, her brother Steven, her mother, her mother's best friend Susannah and Susannah's sons Conrad and Jeremiah share a beach house every summer.

Belly navigates friendship, loss and love throughout the course of the summer. She begins to turn heads in the first book after turning sixteen, and she has to navigate that all-important year in a teenage girl's life.

Throughout the series, readers get to read about Belly's journey with complicated emotions, long distance friendships and of course, the messy love triangle. It wouldn't be a rom-com series without romantic tension and drama!

Readers spend the series wondering which brother Belly will end up with while also relating to Belly's journey of insecurity and self-discovery. In the second book, the audience sees points of view from both Belly and Jeremiah.

After the success of "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" on Netflix, many fans are excited to see how this series will be executed on screen. This also raises the question of how accurate it will be to the books. While Netflix did a better job with adapting this series in comparison to other book-to-screen adaptations, there were many important things left out from the books.

For example, there was the plot of Lara Jean grappling with her mixed race identity missing entirely from the "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" movies. That's a very important part of her character, and it could've made others

struggling with that feel less alone. As a Jenny Han super fan, I often wonder if there will be time to fit more of the books into the screen with a TV show format instead of a movie format.

There isn't much information out about the Amazon show yet, but there are updates on casting. Lola Tung will star as Belly. Jackie Chung will be playing Laurel, Belly's mother, with her best friend Susannah being played by Rachel Blanchard. Christopher Briney will be playing Conrad, Belly's longtime crush, and his brother Jeremiah will be played by Gavin Casalegno. Han wrote the pilot episode and will be an executive producer on the series.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
Jenny Han Book Adapted to Amazon Series.

Texas' Gov. Abbott oppresses reproductive freedom

BRITTANY KEARFOTT
Sports Reporter

Our flag flies the same colors since our founding: red, white and blue. While this hallowed emblem of our nation has remained a constant of our ideals, has our government undergone many tumultuous changes? What do these changes mean for the future of reproductive freedom and *Roe v. Wade*?

When the United States' founding fathers left Britain's rule, they came to find a place of more self-control — meaning freedom of free speech, religion, liberty, due process and more.

On May 5, 2021, the state of Texas passed Senate Bill 8, which went into effect Sept. 1. This sparked a nationwide outrage — mainly the female identifying population and their allies.

Senate Bill 8 — also known as the “Texas Heartbeat Act” — relates to the practice of abortion. Under this act, abortion is legal until six weeks of pregnancy. After six weeks, it is illegal once a steady heartbeat rhythm is present.

Many people find this problematic because one usually does not know they are pregnant until at least four weeks into the pregnancy — when missing a routine period — giving two weeks at most after finding out, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) explains during her breakdown of the biological reproductive system in an interview on CNN.

Gov. Abbott spoke about rape and incest being not applicable in this situation because of the six weeks. In Texas, rape and incest are both considered federal offenses. However, the path to justice for sexual assault is not always linear and can be a taxing process for the victim.

So, is the Texas government acting in the best interest of its citizens, or are they trying to regulate women?

The majority of moral and ethical views against abortion take foundation from religious practices. Where does the line between church and state get drawn if religious views determine what others can and can not do with their bodies? Regardless of if one practices religion against abortion or not, they have to abide by the laws created by those with those views.

In a perfect world, we would have exceptions with a better timeline than 6 weeks. There is no world where the perfect scenario would play out. True choice is no longer an option in Texas.

While the medical practice we all know is relatively new, prior *Roe v. Wade* procedures and remedies to end pregnancy have been around since ancient times. Abortion still took place and threatened the lives of those who attempted to do it themselves. Performing the procedures is safer than the alternative.

Some argue to just put the child up for adoption. Our child services system is already flooded with children in need of foster care and adoption, why subject another child to the horrors of a broken system?

We say a lot about the fetus, but what about the mother who has to carry the child? The trauma she must live through repeatedly with doctors appointments, pain, body change, birth, etc. — all because she was denied the ability to get this procedure to terminate a pregnancy she did not want?

What about the person carrying the child?

People are more than the children they carry, and the reproductive organs they possess.

Nobody cares about your fantasy football team

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL
Sports Editor

As football season gets underway, I must offer some of you a humble reminder: nobody cares about your fantasy football team.

It's called fantasy football for a reason. It's not real. It has no implications on real football or real life in general.

So, when a big name player gets injured, don't whine about how your fake team is now doomed.

Recently, the Baltimore Ravens lost three running backs to season-ending injuries. One of them, J.K. Dobbins was entering his second season and was poised for a breakout campaign.

So when we suffered a torn ACL in the team's final preseason game, you couldn't help but feel for the guy. He had put in all that work in the offseason and in training camp, but it was all for naught.

You have to feel for the Ravens too. This is a team with Super Bowl aspirations, and their potent rushing attack is what makes their offense. They still have superstar quarterback Lamar Jackson, but he's going to have to carry the offense now.

But a lot of people didn't care about that — “No, Dobbins was on my fantasy team!” many people cried. It's sad how many people think this way.

ESPN's Adam Schefter tweets about player injury designations on Sundays. If you scroll through the replies to those tweets, often the first ones you'll see will ask if they should start a player listed as questionable in fantasy.

These players are human beings. They have lives and families — but these people don't care. They are looking to profit off these players.

If you want to run your own fake football team, go play franchise mode in Madden. You can be a pretend-GM in that game without any moral repercussions because it's a video game. The players names and likenesses are real, sure, but you can treat the AI as horribly as you want.

I haven't played fantasy football since I was in high school. I thought it was a waste of time. Having to keep up with it while I had more important things to do just made me become uninterested in it.

I figured that since it isn't real, and has nothing to do with actual football, why bother?

I'd rather watch real football. Real football is beautiful, both the NFL and college football. I've been following along with all the action since I was about seven years old. It has become a tradition for me every weekend.

I know I've spent a lot of this piece bashing fantasy football. If you truly enjoy fantasy football, keep playing. I'm not going to deter you from doing something you love. If you're having fun, don't let me stop you.

Just keep in mind: NFL players aren't playing solely to rack up stats for your fantasy football team. They're out there playing to win a championship for their team. They're trying to put bread on the table for their family.

So next time a player suffers a major injury and they happen to be on your fantasy team, keep your whining and complaining to yourself.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CNBC.COM, TAKEN BY LUCAS JACKSON / REUTERS
Texas Governor Greg Abbott speaks in Dallas, Texas



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLEACHER REPORT AND SCOTT TAETSCH/GETTY IMAGES
Ravens' running back J.K. Dobbins suffers a torn ACL in their final preseason game last month.

Volleyball wraps up non-conference play

CHRISTIAN TATE
Sports Reporter

The Golden Grizzlies split the first two of three matches last weekend in the Green and White Classic.

The Oakland University volleyball team finished up their non-conference schedule with a packed double-header last Friday against Central Michigan and Michigan State in the Green and White Classic Tournament in East Lansing.

Head Coach Rob Beam expected quite the challenge, but planned to meet it with excitement and fervor.

“This is an outstanding weekend of volleyball for us,” he said. “Both Central Michigan and Bowling Green were selected as the preseason favorites to win their respective divisions in the MAC. Additionally, Michigan State is as physical at the net as any team in the country. Each of these teams is experienced, well-coached and will test us in their own ways. I am excited for the challenge ahead.”

“Challenge” was definitely the right word for those two games, as the Grizzlies looked to take down two very solid teams. Central Michigan boasts a record of 5-4 and a tournament sweep at the Chippewa Invitational. Although CMU fell to DePaul University in straight sets during the Bradley Invitational — with DePaul being a team that the Grizzlies defeated in four sets last weekend — CMU is bolstered by two dynamic players in freshman libero Aly Gurtiza and senior outside hitter Savannah Thompson.

Michigan State, despite not playing since Sept. 4 due to match cancellations, boasted a 4-2 record and two talented players in seniors Naya Gros and Rebecka Poljan. Gros leads the nation in blocks per set with 1.94 and Poljan ranks third in the nation with a hitting percentage of .500.

The first game against Central Michigan was an all-out war that ended with the Golden Grizzlies coming out on top after five sets in a 3-2 victory. Although the Grizzlies would give up the first set in a 25-22 loss, they would roar back and mount a great run that would see them take the next two sets with totals of 25-21 and 25-23 respectively.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSE JUAREZ
Lindsay Wightman broke the school record for most career digs against Central Michigan in the Green and White Classic.

CMU would then find their footing and win the fourth set with a score of 25-14, but would eventually lose the fifth set in a nailbiter with a score of 15-13. After a break to recharge, the Golden Grizzlies would gear up to face the Spartans next.

Senior defensive specialist Lindsay Wightman broke the school record for most career digs in the victory.

After giving their all in the five sets against the Chippewas, the Golden Grizzlies would fall in three straight sets to the Spartans after giving a valiant effort. The first set would come down to the wire as both teams picked apart holes in the defense, but the Spartans would eventually edge the Grizzlies out for a 26-24 victory. The next set ended in a 25-13 win for the Spartans, as well. The Grizzlies would show a lot of heart and give it their all in the final set but came up short in a 25-20 loss to the Spartans, ending the day with a record of 1-1.

The Golden Grizzlies volleyball team returned to the court on Sunday against Bowling Green to finish up the weekend, where they were swept by the Falcons to wrap up non-conference play. Conference play begins Friday, Sept. 24 at 6 p.m. when they travel to take on Youngstown State.

Women's Basketball: 2021-22 schedule

CHRISTIAN TATE
Sports Reporter

The Golden Grizzlies will host 11 out of 22 conference games in the O'Rena and will be up against some very stiff competition this season.

The Golden Grizzlies non-conference schedule consists of a total of seven games beginning with their home opener on Tuesday, Nov. 9 against Toledo. After that, they have a matchup against Niagara on Nov. 12.

After this two game stretch in the O'Rena, the Golden Grizzlies will go on to face two Big Ten opponents in back-to-back games against Michigan on Nov. 22 and Michigan State on Dec. 8.

The Golden Grizzlies will then get on the road to face Central Michigan on Dec. 7, and will close out the non-conference portion of their season with two games in the Las Vegas South Point Holiday Hoops Classic against Marshall on Dec. 20 and Campbell on Dec. 21.

Opening the season up with four straight home games, they will face Youngstown State on Nov. 18, Robert Morris on Nov. 20, UIC on Dec. 2 and will round off the homestand with a game against the Horizon League Tournament runner-up IUPUI on Dec. 4. These games, along with every league game, will be broadcast live on ESPN3 and ESPN+.

After this stint of home games, the Golden Grizzlies will then hit the road for a four game stretch starting with Milwaukee on Dec. 30, preceded by a New Year's Day game against Green Bay, followed by a date with Purdue Fort Wayne on Jan. 6. The road trip will conclude with a face-off against Cleveland State on Jan. 8.

After that, the Golden Grizzlies will host defending league champion Wright State on Jan. 13, followed by a showdown with Northern Kentucky on Jan. 15 before playing back-to-back games against rival school Detroit Mercy in the annual Metro Series competition on Jan. 20. They then will start another road stint, traveling to play Calihan Hall on Jan. 22.

The road trip continues as the team heads out for a tour of rematches with Robert Morris on Jan. 28, Youngstown State on Jan. 30, IUPUI on Feb. 4 and finally UIC on Feb. 6. After this, the Golden Grizzlies will conclude the home half of their schedule with a four game home stand against Green Bay on Feb. 10, Milwaukee on Feb. 12, Cleveland State on Feb. 17 and their final home Senior Day game against Purdue Fort Wayne on Feb. 19.

The conference regular season concludes for the Golden Grizzlies with two conference road games against Northern Kentucky on Feb. 24 and their final game against Wright State on Feb. 26. After this, they will prepare for the Horizon League tournament.

The tournament begins on March 1 and continues until March 3 at various different campus sites, with both the semifinals and championship games taking place at the Indiana Farmers Coliseum in Indianapolis, Indiana from March 7-8.

Last season, the Golden Grizzlies concluded their 12-12 [12-8] season in the championship quarterfinals with an 86-64 loss to the eventual tournament runner-up, IUPUI. With new team captains Kahlaijah Dean, Breanne Beatty and head coach Jeff Tungate returning to help lead the program, the team's outlook is hopeful as they look to compete in the Horizon League.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELYSE GREGORY
The Oakland University women's basketball team has released their schedule for the 2021-22 season.

Men's Soccer defeats Dayton in shutout win

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL

Sports Editor

The Oakland University Men's Soccer team shutout the Dayton Flyers 3-0 on Wednesday at the Oakland Soccer Field. The game was previously scheduled for Tuesday at 7 p.m., but was postponed due to severe weather in the area.

The game started off quiet with both teams passing the ball to each other. Then, in the 19th minute, forward Charlie Braithwaite scored off a feed from Noah Jensen to take a 1-0 lead.

The rest of the first half was pretty uneventful. Oakland did keep the pressure on, though — having seven shots on goal to Dayton's three. Fouls were 5-2 in favor of Dayton.

The Golden Grizzlies picked up right where they left off in the second half, spending much of the first three minutes in Flyers territory.

Then — in the 55th minute — the Grizzlies struck again. Forward Mikey Kettelman scored on assists from Jensen and forward Ville Ahola to make it 2-0.

In the 67th minute, midfleider Mohammad Jamal Issa went down with an apparent leg injury — he left the game and was replaced by Cameron Wilde. Head Coach Eric Pogue said Issa's injury was just cramps.

As well as Oakland's offense played, their defense deserves some credit, as well. The Flyers couldn't get anything going offensively

thanks to the defensive pressure from the Golden Grizzlies.

In the 79th minute, midfielder Owen Smith went down hard on his head after going for a header. A foul was called on Dayton's Seth Antwi on the play. Smith would leave the game and be replaced by Jensen.

Pogue said the team is pretty sure he has a concussion.

"I think [Antwi] headed the back of his head, and then I think he fell [headfirst]," Pogue said. "That one was pretty bad."

A minute later, Kettelman scored his second goal of the game to put the game out of reach. Ahola was credited with his second assist of the game on the goal.

The Grizzlies won 3-0 — it was their first non-conference win of the season.

"It's just continuing the momentum," Pogue said. "[That's] two games in a row that we that we got results — both on our home field — [and it's] important that we protect our own field. I think we built on our performance against Fort Wayne, and we played well in that game, but I thought we played even better in this game and I thought we managed it well. Dayton is a dangerous team with a lot of power and athleticism, and I think that we have to manage it the right way or it turns south on you. [I thought] we did a really nice job."

Pogue was pleased with the team's overall performance, but said there are still some

things they need to work on.

"Obviously every game there's room for improvement, whether you win or lose," Pogue said. "But I think there were more positives to take away from this game than negatives. [There] were areas that I thought we can continue to get a little bit better at, and we'll address those."

The next home game for Men's Soccer will be against the University of Illinois-Chicago on Saturday, Sept. 25. The game starts at 1



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSE JUAREZ
Mikey Kettelman and Charlie Braithwaite celebrating a goal.

FALL 2021 PAYMENT DUE DATE

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S FALL PAYMENT DUE DATE: AUGUST 15, 2021.

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