

# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

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Golden Grizzlies dominate baseball at home against Rochester University.

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Multi-million dollar deal in works to acquire more classroom space

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PHOTO BY STANLEY TU

# THIS WEEK

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



**DRAG QUEEN BINGO** Student Program Board brought a special night of games and fun prizes to the Oakland Center on Tuesday, March 15. Story on pages 10-11.  
*STANLEY TU / PHOTOGRAPHER*



**5 KEEPING CLASSROOMS**  
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*Photo/Oakland University*



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# THE OAKLAND POST

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## POLL OF THE WEEK

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT RECENT UNIVERSITY CHANGES TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS?

- A) WHATEVER
- B) I'M CONFUSED
- C) I AGREE WITH THE CHANGES
- D) I DISAGREE WITH THE CHANGES

## LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHICH UPCOMING MUSIC RELEASE ARE YOU MOST EXCITED FOR?

**32%**

A) CHARLI XCX

**4%**

B) MAREN MORRIS

**48%**

C) RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS

**16%**

D) FATHER JOHN MISTY

# OUWB at risk because of lack of classroom space

**JOE ZERILLI**

*Senior Reporter*

At the Feb. 17 Oakland University Senate meeting, it was revealed that the OU William Beaumont (OUWB) School of Medicine is at risk of losing accreditation. This stems from a lack of classroom space for students.

The Office of the Provost provided a statement about the lack of space:

“Space has been an ongoing problem for OU since its inception and OU has been in a severe space deficit since the early 90s. We have added buildings as we add programs but we have never kept pace with enrollment. We do not have enough teaching or research space available right now for our current needs. OU has been looking at buildings off campus to meet our needs for almost 10 years.”

OU has struggled to make progress with space requests even with enrollment being down. Since Winter 2019, enrollment has decreased 12.3% from 18,057 students to only 15,839 students in Winter 2022.

Losing accreditation means that a school is unable to meet the minimum standards and goals typically set by the state or an independent accrediting agency. When accreditation is lost, there is an almost immediate impact on the faculty and staff of the school.

OUWB must uphold the standards set by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). LCME is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and is a leading accreditation

organization for medical education programs that lead to an MD degree.

LCME has their standards available online for the current academic year and the next academic year. Standard five for LCME is educational resources and infrastructure, and the tagline reads as follows:

“A medical school has sufficient personnel, financial resources, physical facilities, equipment, and clinical, instructional, informational, technological and other resources readily available and accessible across all locations to meet its needs and to achieve its goals.”

In that standard it states a medical school must have “buildings and equipment sufficient to achieve its educational, clinical and research missions.” As reported from the Office of the Provost staff, OU is managing 226 academic space requests.

In regard to the amount of citations OU has received, the Office of the Provost responded:

“OU did not receive any citations from the State of Michigan. The accreditation of medical schools is done by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). OUWB has received two citations about the lack of space.”

OU first learned of the accreditation dilemma on Feb. 1, when the Provost and Interim Associate Provost for Operations met with OUWB leadership and a LCME consultant.

“OUWB was developed as a partnership with Beaumont Health Systems and lack of space has represented an unresolved issue throughout its existence. The lack of space however, became much more perilous after the program received two consecutive unsatisfactory marks on our LCME

accreditation report.”

In the recording of the Senate meeting, Provost Britt Rios-Ellis said, “OUWB has had a space deficiency citation twice in two consecutive cycles, which puts us at a serious risk of going into probation which is frightening at best.”

“I also learned that we have been making promises since the medical school was established that haven’t been kept, and the LCME is now really putting their feet down.”

OUWB already has accredited programs with strict space requirements and wants to develop other accredited programs in the future. As discussed at the Senate meeting, OU has the lowest space allocation per student and the lowest amount of space funded per student of all Michigan public universities.

To help combat these space requests and to avoid losing accreditation, OU is discussing the purchase of Baker College of Auburn Hills.

In addition to the lack of classroom space, OUWB has also experienced issues with storage for their records and collections such as the Hicks Collection — an early collection of literature produced by women and about women. Due to leaking in Kresge Library — where the collections and records are stored on the bottom floor — a lot of them are beyond repair.

“There’s been impacts due to both the cafeteria as well as other plumbing and roof leakage, and we’re having a real problem and some of those collections are priceless,” Rios-Ellis said. “I’ve been hearing from a number of faculty in the library that this is just such an issue.”

## University Housing Director Jim Zentmeyer retiring

**JEFF THOMAS**

*Editor-in-Chief*

Longtime Director of University Housing Jim Zentmeyer is set to retire on April 1, ending his 36-year career in higher education.



PHOTO BY ELYSE GREGORY  
Soon-to-be-retired University Housing Director Jim Zentmeyer.

Per OU Director of Media Relations Brian Bierley, Zentmeyer says he’s had a great career, has enjoyed his time with students at Oakland and is now ready to focus more time and energy on his family.

Senior Vice President for Student Affairs & Chief Diversity Officer Glenn McIntosh provided the following statement on Zentmeyer’s departure from the university.

“I can confirm that Jim Zentmeyer is retiring effective April 1, 2022. He has been an outstanding leader and advocate for students throughout his tenure. His list of accomplishments include oversight of the design and construction of Hillcrest Hall and major infrastructure renovations to Ann V Nicholson Apartments, Vandenberg Hall, Van Wagoner Hall and Hill House. He also instituted an academic support services component throughout campus residence halls. He also provided stellar management for the health and safety of students throughout the Coronavirus pandemic. I have enjoyed working with him throughout the twelve years. A national search will occur to hire a successor.”

Zentmeyer began working for OU 12 years ago in Jan. 2010. Prior to coming to OU he worked in some capacity with housing at State University of New York at Albany, West Chester University, Wagner College, University of Illinois at Chicago, Bowling Green State University and Kent State University.

During Zentmeyer’s tenure, residence halls at OU

saw considerable expansion with the construction of Oakview (opened 2013) and Hillcrest (opened 2018) halls. Beginning in 2020, he was also tasked with implementing somewhat-controversial measures for the containment of COVID-19 in the residence halls.

In the past year, Zentmeyer became a controversial figure for his involvement in the termination of several student-housing employees involved with the student-activist group Oakland United Student Workers Coalition (OUSWC).

Last spring OUSWC organized and successfully leveraged the possibility of a large student protest outside of President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz’s presidential housing Sunset Terrace to save university housing jobs. The university acquiesced to the group’s demands and then retaliated against the student organizers by firing them from their housing positions.

In the year since losing their jobs, student organizers report being blacklisted from other employment opportunities on campus. There is a First Amendment lawsuit between the fired OUSWC organizers and the university and Zentmeyer currently unfolding in court.

Last month, Assistant Housing Director Yoel Joa left the university after 10 years. Joa was Zentmeyer’s second in command, and the only other OU housing employee in the room when Zentmeyer fired the OUSWC organizers.

# SEHS introduces Initiative for Eradicating Racism

**GRACE LOVINS**

*Senior Reporter*

The School of Education and Human Services (SEHS) has begun to house a new initiative on campus aimed at tackling racism from an educational and community standpoint — The Initiative for Eradicating Racism (IER).



PHOTO BY SOPHIE HUME  
OU students at a Black Lives Matter demonstration in April 2021.

The roots of the initiative began to form in February 2020 as conversations surrounding antiracist scholarship and actions were discussed between Robert Martin, Ph.D., special lecturer in SEHS, Danielle Ligocki, Ph.D., assistant professor in SEHS and Chaunda Scott, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Organizational Leadership within SEHS.

After the murder of George Floyd in May of 2020 and the sparking of nationwide protests in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, the initiative became official and began their work to raise awareness regarding racism and its overdue eradication.

Scott, Martin and Ligocki began with a micro to macro picture in mind. The three started off within SEHS, working with colleagues across the school. They have additionally partnered with outside organizations to provide an educative stance within the community on racism and racial injustice.

Their vision statement notes the founders in SEHS recognizes the role that needs to be played in dismantling racism and states their responsibility to educate the campus and community, ultimately beginning racial healing in the community.

Since the founding of IER, the initiative has been involved with various events and speaking engagements such as panel discussions with the Center for Civic Engagement and educational videos made with the Galileo Institute for Teacher Leadership. Their biggest event so far was the fall symposium, held in September 2021, focused on dismantling racism in higher education, featuring keynote speaker Bettina Love, Ph.D.

While the ideas behind the Initiative for Eradicating Racism will remain the same, the founders aim to create the Center for Eradicating Racism in the near future to serve as a hub for research, teaching and service both on campus and within the community.

Martin, Scott and Ligocki reflect on the impact of such an initiative both from a professional and personal perspective. For Ligocki, she observed first-hand during her teaching career the mistreatment of marginalized students. She entered higher education with

the goal of helping to create a future generation of teachers who would not behave in that way.

Martin states that, for him, this initiative and dedication to condemning racism allows for representation in a major way.

“This initiative means the world to me personally and emotionally because I have spent most of my life being in and out of predominantly white circumstances and feeling like I needed to represent and to be the lone voice,” Martin said. “I accept that and realize that there’s some good that can come from that, but it is extremely exhausting. It is so encouraging to me that an interdisciplinary team of brilliant people can come together and dedicate themselves professionally and personally to this problem, this original sin in our nation that needs to be taken care of. It is a professional responsibility but it is much more an emotional and personal commitment for me.”

Scott notes the formation of this initiative means proudly and confidently taking a stand to eradicate racism and sharing that message as broadly as possible. She states that while the responsibility falls on everyone, the initiative is here to get the conversation started.

The IER Antiracism Statement, signed by the founders, reads:

We, the faculty and staff members leading and supporting the Initiative for Eradicating Racism (IER) housed in the School of Education and Human Services at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan unequivocally condemn all

forms of racism. We condemn the recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Philando Castile and Ahmaud Arbery along with the numerous killings of Black people over the past decades who have been slain or harmed unjustly by law enforcement officers and white supremacist vigilantes. We as well condemn the recent racial incidents against Black students in area public schools in the United States and the racial discrimination presently against Black students and individuals in Ukraine who are being denied access to transportation to flee from Russia’s war on Ukraine.

Moreover, we proudly, passionately and confidently utilize the IER as our platform to speak up and out about systemic racism and white supremacy in our classes, scholarship and programming, and we stand in solidarity with the many protestors, scholars, students and individuals worldwide who condemn racism and support the #BlackLivesMatter movement mission and vision.

Furthermore, we remain dedicated to our commitments as antiracist educators who are leading and supporting an academic antiracist initiative. We also accept that we must engage in antiracism work with humility and develop action-oriented efforts in order to make strides against eradicating racism. Therefore, we extend an invitation to our administrators, faculty, staff, students, community partners and community members to support us in this critical endeavor.

## Greek Council and LVC organize Day of Service

**JOSEPH POPIS**

*Senior Reporter*

Volunteer at Greek Council and the Leadership and Volunteer Center (LVC’s) Day of Service event on Wednesday, Mar 30 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m in the Habitat. Event tables will be set up with a different service project at each.

Some of the service projects include: coloring bookmarks for the Pontiac Public Library, making air balloons and spring baskets for the Randall Residence for senior citizens, making dog toys out of t-shirts for local animal shelters and creating get well cards for a child in need.

“It’ll be a very great pop-in, pop-out aspect where you can stay in connect and communicate, talk and chat, which is not a lot you get when you’re halfway virtual halfway in person,” Greek Week Chair of Greek Council

Keyara Pepper-Cameron said.

President of Greek Council Bailee Gierman mentioned this event brings the Oakland University community together while doing something for the greater good. She also highlighted giving back to the community and OU’s campus.

“I think, first and foremost, it’s bringing togetherness,” Gierman said. “It is a public event. It’s not just exclusive to the Greek community. We are having children, and the administration will be coming out. It is just getting together and socializing, as well as doing something for the greater good. Greek life is kind of not everybody’s favorite — but I feel that by doing this, we can show we’re more than what people think we are: we’re established. We’re giving back to the community, and we’re giving back to the Oakland campus as well.”

Keyara Pepper-Cameron states that this event will let the community know

what the Greek community brings to campus. It is also another event following spring break for students to participate in, since she mentioned most events take place earlier in the year, so it’s a nice change.

Additionally, Gierman emphasized that OU students give back to the community quite a bit. This event will show new OU students they can come out, meet people and have a great time.

“Oakland students give back to the community a lot,” Gierman said. “I think bringing that to the eyes of newer students within the university is helpful. We do have other events. It’s like a whole week long, so they can come out to meet with us, we can meet with them and just have a great time. We want to create memories as well as give back to the community.”

According to the Greek Council GrizzOrgs page, “Greek Council looks to branch communication between each Greek organization

here at Oakland University, as well as represent Greek Life among the University. Ultimately, the Greek Council looks to display Greek Life as striving for excellence in scholarship, sisterhood/brotherhood, philanthropy, social, leadership, and campus involvement.”

For more information, check out Greek Council and LVC on GrizzOrgs.

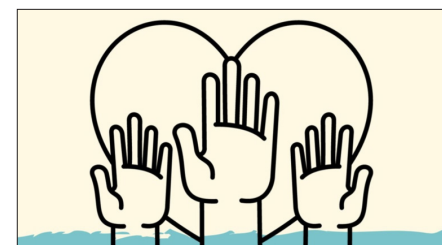


PHOTO COURTESY OF GREEK COUNCIL & LVC  
Greek Council and LVC’s Day of Service is scheduled for March 30.

# Spanish Department retains most in-person classes

**SARAH GUDENAU**

*Features Editor*

Since the return to in-person classes at Oakland University, the lack of classroom space has become more apparent. The Spanish Department in particular felt the impact of the space deficit, but faculty have since worked out a plan for the majority of classes to remain in-person for the Fall 2022 and Winter 2023 semesters.

Most of the Spanish classes are held at South Foundation Hall (SFH). However, the building closed on Feb. 1, 2021 in preparation for the \$40 million renovation and expansion, which has since been delayed.

While the building's closure was not expected to have a significant impact on campus operations initially due to classes and activities being remote, the delay and return to in-person proved otherwise. Administration said occupancy of SFH is expected by December 2023.

The lack of classroom space due to the closure was a challenge for planning classes for the upcoming semesters, and faculty and students alike were shaken by the possibility of a majority of classes going online.

"The initial situation, to put it clearly, it has affected everybody in the College of Arts and Sciences, and everybody has been creative to figure out a way to find classes," Associate Professor Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo said.

The entire Department of Modern Languages

was originally affected, but because Spanish is the largest program in the department, the program felt the greatest impact. However, the problem has since been alleviated as classroom space has been found for most courses.

"The 1000, 2000 [level courses] — hardly any of that was put online, so all of them [were] continuing to be on site and it affected more of the upper level courses, but we've been working very hard on that and we've been able to find room for most of them, so the initial situation looked like many of the advanced courses were going to have to be online — mainly for the fall, not so much in the winter — but we've been able to find room so it's really not that big of a deal now," Campoy-Cubillo said.

As of March, only four or fewer Spanish classes will potentially be online for the Fall 2022 semester. The shock, though, had concerned faculty and students because of the importance of face-to-face conversation when learning a language.

Student Rebecca Schwartz is a Spanish major who plans to become a professor. While she is a first year student, she is a junior by credits, so she currently takes upper level courses.

"I think that a foundation of education is having in-person and human interaction — I think that's important," Schwartz said. "For me, personally, I would prefer in-person classes, but with languages specifically, I think there's an extra degree of difficulty when learning a language that you don't naturally speak at home virtually ... so much of it is based on that interaction and being able to hear

someone else's inflection or to read their social cues or to have a connection with someone to even feel comfortable speaking in front of them because it's intimidating speaking a second language."

Having seen classes fully online on MySail while planning for the upcoming semester, Schwartz decided to transfer from OU to the University of Illinois Chicago. While many classes have since changed to be in-person, some of the classes Schwartz must take will still be held online at OU, and she would prefer in-person classes for her major.

"A lot of uncertainty and there's not a lot of prioritizing [of the Spanish Department at OU] and also too, it sometimes feels like there's, not that there's not a lot being done because I know there's lots of professors who fight for the classrooms and fight to have the classes on schedule, but I feel like that in and of itself is a message as well. Why did the professors have to fight so hard and have to get to the point where they have to find classrooms? ... I think that speaks volumes."

Despite the obstacles, professors are adapting to the space changes. Meanwhile, they have also worked to lower the cost of textbooks to make the program more affordable and accessible for students, Campoy-Cubillo said.

"Everybody has had to figure out how to address this temporary situation, but we're resilient here, right? We've been resilient with the pandemic and now we'll be resilient during the construction," Campoy-Cubillo said.

# Creative Writing program hosts Faculty Alum Reading

**D'JUANNA LESTER**

*Senior Reporter*

The 2022 Faculty Alum Reading took place at 5:00 p.m. in the Oakland Center on Wednesday, March 16. With a virtual and in-person hybrid format, two alumni and a faculty member from Oakland University's Creative Writing Program joined students for a special reading.

The event was the third reading in a series celebrating the Creative Writing Program's 10th anniversary. At the reading, Professor Peter Markus and alumni Suzanna Honda and James Braun each read pieces from their published works, shared information from their experiences at OU and answered questions from students.

Books were sold and the attendants were able to get them signed by their authors, and there was a Q&A session as well to conclude the event.

Braun presented first and talked about how his heart is always in the fiction genre.

"I wrote a book in non-fiction and I wrote a book in poetry," Braun said. "It wasn't where my heart was at — fiction is where my heart is at the moment. Find the words that mean the most to you. You take that and let the words carry you, following where those words take you. Sometimes it fails, but it's worth that."

Braun read from his book "What the River Gives Back to Us." The book has two voices, and he read from each.

The first voice is of a character in a funeral home at their mother's funeral. Braun read through the character as they watch their father in a boat on the river, and the storytelling gives the audience visuals, almost like they're in the scene.

Honda started by talking about her first day in Markus' writing class and the lessons she has

learned from him. She then read from her poetry book "When We Were Birds," a story in memory of her friend. The book will be released later in 2022 by Porkbelly Press, although there is no official release date yet.

"When We Were Birds" gives the audience earthy visuals, as well as many other sensory details using nature. Birds are used as a symbol for girls throughout the story.

Markus has written several novels, including fiction, poetry and a memoir. Markus read several entries from his poetry collection book "When Our Fathers Return to Us as Birds."

The book is a process of grief. It contains 53 stories, and according to Markus, there are even more.

"These are all about characters that I've lived with for about a decade of my life," Markus said. "In my basement somewhere, somewhere there is a folder or a drawer, and there's another 150 stories that will never see the light of day in book form."

During his reading, Markus reiterated the importance of writers paying attention to their surrounding world.

"I would not have written this book if I hadn't been paying attention," Markus said.

Markus talked about how he grew tired of making things up to write fiction, so he decided to take a break from it. He ended up writing a memoir about his time teaching in Detroit.



PHOTO BY JEFF THOMAS  
Professor Peter Markus speaking about his work and the love he has for his students at last Wednesday's faculty/alumni reading.

# OU may purchase Baker College of Auburn Hills for \$8.15 million

**JOE ZERILLI**

*Senior Reporter*

Because the Oakland University William Beaumont (OUWB) School of Medicine is at risk of losing accreditation due to lack of classroom space, OU is looking to acquire Baker College of Auburn Hills to reduce the issue and remain accredited. The purchasing price would be \$8.15 million, with an expected additional million in renovations and a \$500,000 annual operating cost.

Baker College of Auburn Hills is located at 1500 University Drive, Auburn Hills — about a five minute drive west of campus. If purchased, the 141,245 square foot building would provide a temporary solution to OUWB's issues, but OU as a whole would still require more classroom space.

The Office of the Provost has stated that the building consists of 59 classroom and lab spaces, a bookstore space, a large library with six reservable study rooms and two computer labs, four conference rooms, a kitchen, a student/event space, 81 offices, faculty and student lounge spaces and support rooms (CSITS, storage, public safety).

The building will also be rented out to tenants at the same time to help pay for the building. The Office of the Provost says this will not interfere with daily operations, and is rather a demonstration of strong commitment to stewardship of place and an opportunity to build community relationships.

In regards to how the tenants will utilize Baker College, the Office of the Provost said:

“Tenants at the Baker College site would rent offices and [have] access to the conference room

and student center for events. The site has a suite of offices with a conference room which would allow rental of space without impacting the rest of the building utilized by students and faculty.”

Baker College would need an update to the sprinkler system in order to be up to code, which would be achievable by August 2022. OU says they have a clear picture of what Baker College will need over the next 10 years.

It is unsure who would fully occupy the building, but the new physician assistant (PA) program is being considered to launch there with full faculty, staff and students. This would be the home site, meaning the PA team would not need to travel back and forth to the main campus.

For access to the offsite campus, discussions about bringing back the Bear Bus to transport students were brought up, but there is no confirmation yet.

In addition to OUWB, the university is considering holding classes for the School of Music, Theatre and Dance at the new Baker Campus during the Fall 2022 and Winter 2023 semesters. The second-floor classrooms at Varner Hall will be renovated during the time, and the Baker campus can be used for certain classes that don't require considerable moving time.

A potential backup plan includes renovations to O'Dowd Hall — the renovations are expected to cost more for O'Dowd compared to Baker — as the Registrar's Office would move to Wilson Hall once those renovations are completed. This would free up about 4,000 square feet and provide some relief, but not enough for additional educational or

research growth.

OU has stated that the Baker project would not affect current campus projects — such as Wilson Hall and South Foundation — that are aiming to introduce more classroom space.

The Office of the Provost said: “In order to gain more classroom spaces on campus we would either need to build a new building or renovate existing space. OU does not have unused empty space to renovate currently. Both building new space and renovating existing space is costly so a source of funding would be needed.”

Even with enrollment being down, OU still has many space issues and one way the Office of the Registrar is addressing them is scheduling hybrid classes to share rooms. OU is still going to seek new sources of enrollment to “ensure optimization of our robust cadre of programs” as enrollment is OU's leading source of income.

“At this time, we are optimizing the schedule offerings, in number and format, to minimize the lack of classrooms having a negative impact on students. We hope that South Foundation Hall and the purchase of this additional space at the Baker College Campus will help address our classroom needs. We will still have space needs that are not met even with the purchase of Baker College Campus. Specialized spaces like research laboratories, and studio space for the visual arts etc. have been requested but we are unable to meet those with the proposed purchase.”

Tours have been provided to faculty and staff who may use the space.

## Professor joins GSA Task Force to promote diversity in scientific research

**RACHEL YIM**

*Senior Reporter*

Dr. Mi Hye Song, an Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at Oakland University recently received an invitation from Genetics Society of America (GSA) to serve on the GSA Awards Audit Task Force.

Founded in 1931, GSA is a professional membership organization for scientists, educators and researchers in the field of genetics. It serves as a source of information to support the professional development of its members throughout their careers and to foster a diverse and inclusive international community of scientists.

According to Dr. Swathi Arur, Chair of the Awards Committee for GSA and associate professor at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, the Task Force serves to “propose changes to current awards slate.”

This Task Force consists of ten other faculty members from other universities and colleges all across the country. They met three times virtually via zoom in February and March 2022. All the suggestions by this Task Force were forwarded to the GSA Board Meeting in

May 2022. Later, the GSA will continue collecting feedback from the larger GSA community through an open suggestion box and a series of more specific focus groups during these sessions.

In the Awards Audit Task Force, all the members carefully reviewed the Society's awards portfolio to improve diversity among awardees, clarify criteria for each award and identify any gaps in the program where new awards could be proposed.

The awards presented by GSA are the followings:

- DeLill Nasser Award for Professional Development in Genetics
- Early Career Poster Awards
- GSA Undergraduate Travel Awards
- James F. Crow Early Career Researcher Award
- Presidential Membership Initiative
- Victoria Finnerty Undergraduate Travel Awards
- Edward Novitski Prize
- Elizabeth W. Jones Award for Excellence in Education
- Genetics Society of America Medal
- George W. Beadle Award

- Rosalind Franklin Young Investigator Award
- Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal

These awards acknowledge achievement in a range of areas relevant to genetics practice, such as inventiveness, education, service, accomplishment and commitment to the profession.

According to Dr. Song, researchers at Oakland University – R2 institute in Carnegie Classification –face challenges due to limited research resources compared to those at R1 institutes.

“I was the only advocate representing the R2 institute in these Task Force meetings,” she said. “I felt responsible to speak up for the challenges we [researchers from R2 institutes] face in the R2 institutes like OU. So, I wanted to bring the GSA community's attention to the other side of diversity-challenges in terms of research environments.”

According to Dr. Song, there is a lack of diversity across R1 and R2 institutes in the field, including the research environment and other challenges at R2 institutes. In hopes to create a more fair and equitable condition in the research field, she proposed to create an R2-focused research award during a committee meeting.

“Although there won't be an imminent resolution to address broad diversity issues in the GSA Awards system, if more and more people engage in promoting diversity, inclusion, and equity in scientific research, more awareness will be raised,” she said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND.EDU  
Dr. Mi Hye Song (pictured here) was invited to serve on the GSA Awards Audit Task Force.

# University efforts to promote affordable course materials

**GRACE LOVINS**

*Senior Reporter*

During the 2019-2020 academic school year, the average cost of materials and textbooks for a full-time undergraduate student reached almost \$1,300 at public universities. At OU, the baseline tuition rate falls between \$467 to roughly \$585 per credit hour, factoring in differential rates and upper and lower level course rates.

The average cost of course materials equates to the cost of over two credit hours at OU. While these rates are unique to the university, the issue is observed across the country. Nearly 66% of students nationwide will avoid purchasing textbooks, when possible, due to pricing.

To combat the expense of course materials, primarily textbooks, OU launched the Affordable Course Materials Initiative (ACMI) maintained by a group of faculty known as the ACMI team.

The efforts to implement affordable course materials began in September 2017 with the formation of the College of Arts and Sciences Open Educational Resources (OER) task force. OER includes educational resources available in the public domain or that hold an intellectual property license which allows for free use and repurposing.

In February 2019, after resolutions were passed and the initiative was

endorsed, the ACMI was officially launched and the ACMI Team was formed. Julia Rodriguez, ACMI team lead and OU libraries associate professor, states the Provost initially funded ACMI with \$5,000 to aid in the transition to low or no cost courses.

Rodriguez notes part of ACMI's work lies in helping faculty members transition their courses to no or low cost, meaning the textbook materials can be accessed free through OER or the cost of the materials is \$40 or less.

The ACMI team began providing stipends in winter 2020 to incentivize faculty members to convert their courses to low or no cost. The team is accepting applications for the third round of stipends until April 13. Beginning the fall semester 2022, students will be able to see which course offerings are considered low or no cost as they register through MySAIL.

OU Student Congress (OUSC) has also been involved in the push for more affordable course materials, utilizing their organization's platform to bring attention to the increasing expense of college and necessary materials.

Murryum Farooqi, OUSC student body vice president, and Andrew Romano, OUSC student body president, state OUSC matched the university's \$5,000 funding after they were informed about the return on investment, which Rodriguez notes was between approximately \$14,600 and \$40,000 in fall 2020.

Farooqi additionally noted that the matched funding was also a push-back against the university saying that if a student organization is able to match this value, OU should be providing more to fund the initiative.

OUSC has additionally promoted the implementation of affordable course materials through their own organizational efforts. This semester, as part of their Trash the Textbooks campaign, they created 30 textbook scholarships, between \$100 and \$200, to aid in reducing the cost of course materials.

They additionally created a Trash the Textbooks petition calling for the university to invest in ACMI and implement Inclusive Access — textbook programs that allow students to choose to have their course materials purchased when they pay for tuition, resulting in a 40-80% decrease in cost as they are bought in bulk instead of individually — with \$250,000 towards cost reducing programs.

Jeremy Johnson, OUSC speaker of the legislature, states that OUSC's work to lower the cost of college for students expands beyond aiding ACMI. They intend to continue advocating for increased employment wages for students working on campus as well as promoting Inclusive Access.

Johnson, Romano and Farooqi all note that one of OUSC's consistent goals is to lower the cost of college.

Aiding the promotion of affordable textbooks with ACMI served as a major step towards achieving this goal and raising awareness regarding this added expense for students.

For more information regarding ACMI, students and faculty can visit the library guide to ACMI on the OU Libraries website.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD  
The average cost of course materials equates to the cost of over two credit hours at OU.

## OneStream Panel to provide insight into tech industry

**JOSEPH POPIS**

*Senior Reporter*

Next week on March 30, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., join a panel discussion with OneStream Software LLC — presented by Women in Business. Five panelists, including their recruiting manager and recruiting administrator, will be in attendance. Students can interact with the panelists and ask questions throughout the event.

Founded in 2010, OneStream Software LLC is a software company headquartered in Rochester, MI. OneStream is sending several representatives in various positions to discuss workplace culture, services, and career paths within the industry.

Vice-President of Women in Business and organizer of this event, Julia Jodoin, highlighted their mission of spreading awareness, alongside assisting and empowering members.

“Our mission is to assist our members with professional development, as well as empower them,” Jodoin said. “Even though this is more about spreading awareness, specifically from women that are in the workforce, this is open to anyone regardless of major gender identity. We don’t discriminate here.”

Jodoin attributed her motivations for organizing

this event were a lack of representation of women in technology, but also mentioned careers in technology are still obtainable for non-information technology (IT) or computer science majors.

“When I declared my major in management information systems (MIS), I realized there’s somewhat of a lack of representation in the technology world on the female side of things,” Jodoin said. “So really, my primary motivator was trying to find those connections that are involved in the technology space, [to] show that this is still a good career path if you find the right company.”

Participants of this panel event can better understand careers within this company. In addition, Jodoin states this event can show students some possibilities for future career paths.

Since many members of Women in Business are freshmen and sophomores, this event will be great for them to see possibilities in technology fields as they continue to decide what careers and industry they’d like to pursue.

Jodoin states all Women in Business events, including this one, are available for anyone to attend.

“Regardless of their major — if they’re from the School of Engineering and want to come, if they don’t identify as female, they can still come. It’s just our speakers and events are generally more about spreading awareness for women in the workplace,

but anyone can come.”

For those interested in attending this event, visit GrizzOrgs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WOMEN IN BUSINESS ON GRIZZORGS  
On March 30, Women in Business is hosting a panel with OneStream Software LLC to explore careers in technology.

## OU's Ukrainian community ask for financial assistance

**ARIANNA HEYMAN**  
Senior Reporter

As the war between Russia and Ukraine rages on, the Ukrainian students and faculty of Oakland University have been pleading with OU's administration for financial assistance.

Due to the extension of visas for Ukrainian nationals by the Biden administration, Ukrainian students are now extending their stays in the United States as it is unsafe for them to go back to their home country.

"I've been asking the administration to let them take classes and drop tuition so they can use their time here to grow intellectually," Professor of Biology Taras Oleksyk said. "[It would] really not cost the university anything at all — just let them stay in classes and then we, as a community, will take care of their living space."

Currently, the university has nine Ukrainian students, but Oleksyk specifies that only four of the nine students are in need of a tuition waiver.

One of these students is Zlata Bilanin. Bilanin is here through the American Semester Abroad Program. Under the guidelines of this program, Bilanin is unable to apply for traditional methods of financial aid and can only work up to 20 hours per week at an on-campus job.

"As an F-1 student, I cannot work [full-time] to cover my tuition by myself, so there is no way for me to cover my tuition," Bilanin said. "The only chance [for] the tuition to be covered so I can just continue my studying is [for the] university to actually help me."

It is the hope of students like Bilanin that OU will extend their goodwill and allow these students to continue studying, which would be of little cost to the university.

"That would mean a lot because then I would be able to continue my education. My parents are currently

[in] the state where the war is happening, so I'm supposed to help them — not another way [around]," Bilanin said. "My parents cannot help me right now. They need to think about [the] refugees that are staying at their home, so unfortunately I need to help myself."

Bilanin believes that the university's response to this crisis will be a good indicator of its degree of care for the plight of its international students.

"[It would show] that the university cares about helping people that are in need. As Ukrainian students — we are in a situation where we cannot continue our education in our homeland," Bilanin said. "What OU will do with that [situation] as an institution gives indication to students and how [the] university [cares for] their students in that way."

If OU refuses to waive tuition or provide additional support, students like Bilanin will either be forced to return to their country in unsafe conditions or attempt to gain access to other programs abroad.

"As I don't have any opportunity to cover the tuition by myself, I would need to [return] back to Ukraine," Bilanin said. "[Or] find other opportunities abroad, but I need to plan my education and I'm in a position [where] I need to plan right now [because] my country is being invaded."

So far, the university has not yet come to a decision on how to best support its Ukrainian students. According to Brian Bierley, director of media relations, Provost Britt Rios-Ellis said that the leadership team is considering many options, but these options are still just conversations at this point in time.

"I know sometimes these things take a long time when it's run as business as usual, but I would like to point out that this is not business as usual," Professor Oleksyk said. "I think that we need to think about what we can do now or we will regret not making these decisions earlier."

## OU AAUP, OUSC co-sponsor Labor United panel event

**SARAH GUDENAU**  
Features Editor

The faculty union, Oakland University's Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (OU AAUP) and OU Student Congress (OUSC) held their first collaborative event, Labor United, on Wednesday, March 16 in the Oakland Center. Five panelists offered historical, personal and contemporary perspectives about the labor movement across employment fields, followed by a Q&A.

The guest speakers were OU Professor of History Dan Clark, AFL-CIO Midwest Director Stephen Cousins, OU alumnus and USPS employee Quinn Malecki, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) local 58 organizer LaMarr "Bear" Jones, and Wayne State University (WSU) Associate Professor of Graphic Design and current American Association of University Professors and American Federation of Teachers (AAUP-AFT) President Danielle Aubert.

In light of issues surrounding labor unions on OU's campus especially since the September 2021 work stoppage and the recent unfair labor practice charges between OU AAUP and the university, the purpose of the event was to give the OU community a larger context about the labor movement.

"In the last five years, or more so even two years, there's been enormous changes in the labor movement, and so hopefully we'll be able to give people a window into trying to understand what happens when they suddenly confront labor unionizing at their local coffee shop, or what happens when workers go out on strike, why do teachers go out on strike, and all those kinds of questions," OU AAUP President Karen Miller said.

The intentions to educate not only surround faculty and staff, but also OU students, a concern particularly important to the OUSC. In spring 2021, the Oakland United Student Workers Coalition (OUSWC) advocated for student jobs.

"The big message is having conversations about collective action, having conversations with other employees and talking about wanting to have improved working conditions, wanting to have more say in your workplace ... We want to encourage people to have those conversations. We want to encourage people to have a voice in their workplace and how things run and not be scared to approach

their bosses," OUSC Student Body President Andrew Romano said.

In addition to the discussion and Q&A, there was a raffle for students to win Chartwells gift cards, as well as snacks and swag. Free water bottles with symbols that represent the solidarity between OU AAUP and OUSC were also available.



PHOTO BY STANLEY TU  
Danielle Aubert speaks during the panel discussion at the Labor United event.

"There's been a lot of, especially at our university, adversity when it comes to administrators mainly — university administration has shown a lot of adversity in the last year toward collective action, collective bargaining and labor unions," Romano said. "Students have seen it, faculty have seen it, so it's kind of like a way to show unity, support one another and show that collective action."

While this was OUSC and OU AAUP's first co-sponsored event, the two organizations hope to team up for more initiatives in the future that can inform and help the campus community.

"We are hoping to create a more interactive community on campus," Miller said. "COVID has been very hard on all of us, and so we think that Oakland has enormous potential. We think one of the best ways to develop that potential is by creating a good working relationship between the students and faculty. We should start thinking of ourselves as a community."



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
Professor Taras Oleksyk has asked OU's administration to provide financial assistance for the university's Ukrainian students.

# People of OU: Streetwear fashion designer Michael Sana

ALEXANDER GUSTANSKI  
Senior Reporter

Creating high-quality clothing that generates real change is designer Michael Sana’s personal mission.

In Jan 2021, Sana used his interests in sports, fashion and marketing to create Sana Detroit, a local fashion label. Since having started the brand, Sana has amassed thousands of followers, used proceeds to donate to local charities and even ran a pop up store at the Somerset Mall in Troy, MI.

Sana first began practicing graphic design, video production and photography during his high school years. Around that time, he also experimented with creating his own companies and running social media accounts. After graduating high school, Sana attended OU to pursue a degree in marketing. While on campus, he played hockey and soccer which deepened his love of sports.

He attributes his college years with helping him realize his goals saying, “I always knew I wanted to start my own company, and some of my teachers were really inspiring. I was always the kind of guy who would

have rather worked than go to school but I’m very happy I did it all and I kinda miss it now.”

After graduating in 2020, Sana was inspired by his heroes Virgil Abloh and Casey Niestat to create his own



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL SANA  
Michael Sana with Detroit Pistons player Isaiah Stewart.

viral streetwear startup.

“It started out as a fun little project. I just designed one Red Wings piece, I posted it on Instagram and said let’s start making clothes. We sold thirty shirts the first day and then thirty more another two weeks later” Sana said. He then released another piece and cemented the Sana Detroit Brand.

For Sana, his brand is not just about the product — it’s also about making an impact. Sana Detroit works with organizations like Say Play to donate ten percent of their proceeds to charity during some drops.

Say Play is a motivational learning center located in Detroit that helps underprivileged youth maintain a good grade point average and gives them a space to participate in recreational activities. The center is supported by Detroit’s major sports teams which ties Sana’s donations back into its athletic DNA. Sana also offers collaborators the ability to forgo their cut of a product and instead donate that amount.

Another core tenant of Sana Detroit is creating an experience for consumers. The focus on creating an experience goes hand in hand with quality according to Sana.

“Everything from the way the tag is cut, to the way the tag is on the shirt to the feel of the tag, to how it’s put on, it’s all part of the experience and it ups the value of the brand,” he said. “We sell the hoodies for \$118 because there’s so much that goes into it, but once people start touching it and feeling it and they receive the packaging, they truly can feel justified spending that money.”

The ultimate experience for fans was Sana Detroit’s month-long residency at the Somerset Mall. Sana and his friends took three weeks to assemble a fake burger restaurant. Guests would walk in and receive a ticket number, and ordered at the counter when it was called. Their order would be processed and delivered through a carryout hole to keep with the theme.

The popularity of the event put a lot of demand on Sana.

“There was more than one night where I was at the store until 7 a.m., left at 8 then showered and came back at 9 to open up the store.”

He went on to call it, “one of the best experiences of my life, but definitely the hardest month of my life.”

You can find Michael Sana on Instagram @michaelsana13 and @sanadetroit.



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For questions, please contact the Division of Student Affairs & Diversity  
Oakland Center, Suite 150 | 248-370-4200 | [studentaffairs-diversity@oakland.edu](mailto:studentaffairs-diversity@oakland.edu)



# Drag Queen BINGO



catches attention of many OU students

Representation on a college campus can do a lot for student's self esteem and how welcome they feel at school. Having fun events such as drag queen bingo can be inviting for everyone.

On Tuesday, March 15, the student program board (SPB) at Oakland University put on drag queen bingo featuring Monique Heart in the Banquet Rooms in the Oakland Center (OC) from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

"One of the things the Student Program Board really tries to do, and it's pretty difficult actually, [is] we really want to try to hit a diverse group of students," President of SPB Joshua Robinson said. "So we really aim to hit not just one specific, niche group of students — we try to really expand out."

SPB likes to collaborate with groups such as the Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC) and the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) on OU's campus. This event helped recognize the LGBTQ+ with a fun, on-campus experience.

Heart competed on the tenth season of RuPaul's Drag Race in 2018 and placed eighth place on the show. She also was on "RuPaul's Drag Race: All Stars" season four in 2018-2019 where she was the runner-up, and the first season of "RuPaul's Drag Race: UK Versus the World" in 2022.

Heart has accomplished so much since her first appearance on the show, and has since started a podcast called "Ace of Hearts with Monique Heart." Additionally,

she's been in multiple web series and starred in "Manic Moments with Monique Heart" and released her debut single in 2019, "Brown Cow Stunning."

To decide which drag queen to invite to the event, SPB took a poll amongst their group. SPB used a middle agent to connect with her and ensure her appearance at OU.

"We really just trust the people who are into this kind of stuff and enjoy "RuPaul's Drag Show" and enjoy drag in general," Robinson said.

The event had a huge turnout with over 200 students in attendance. The banquet rooms in the OC were full of OU students playing bingo and having a good time.

"There were a lot of students we don't typically see at SPB events, which meant a lot to me," Robinson said.

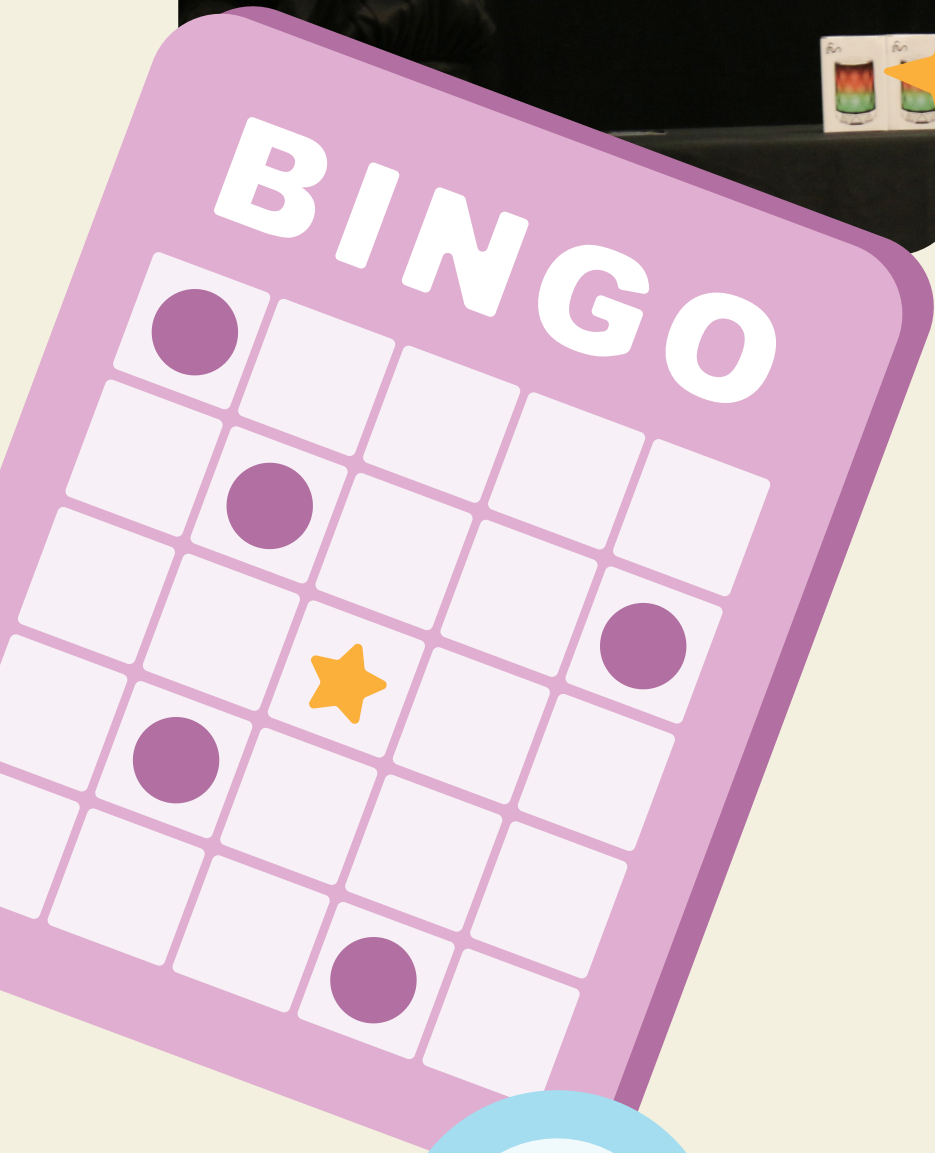
"We're really trying to hit the mass majority of students at OU — not having a repeat of people at each event and having a large turnout of new people is going to expose them [to our events]. They're kind of getting their benefit from the Student Program Board."

The bingo winners at the event had chances to win prizes such as Amazon Alexa speakers and signed Monique Heart posters.

While this was the first drag queen bingo event, there is always the drag show put on by GSA, which SPB will sometimes sponsor. This event was a big hit and next year, when the events are planned, the excitingly high turnout for this event play a factor.

Story by: Bridget Janis • Design by: Carolina Landeros • Photos by: Stanley Tu





# Mimi Cave's 'Fresh' felt like a hollow promise

ALEXANDER GUSTANSKI

Senior Reporter

## \*Spoilers ahead\*

Unfortunately, when I virtually attended the Sundance Film Festival virtually, I missed a few films that got a lot of attention. "Fresh" by Mimi Cave was one such film. Fortunately for me though, the film recently was added to popular streaming site, Hulu.

The aspect of this film that generated the most buzz and put it on the radar of many festival-goers was its thirty-eight-minute-long introductory scene. After watching the film, I can say — the opening lived up to all the hype.

The film begins with Noa (Daisy Edgar-Jones) going on a disastrous date and giving up on using dating apps to find a partner. Luckily for her, while at the grocery store, she meets Steve (Sebastian Stan) and the pair connect instantly. After going on an excellent date with Steve, Noa accepts an invitation to visit his remote vacation home where a dark secret is revealed.

This extended opening puts you on edge the entire time, and when

we finally learn that Steve is a cannibal that plans on strategically dismembering Noa, it comes as a genuine surprise.

Throughout the opening, there is some incredible cinematography and some excellent needle drops from artists like Blood Orange, Karen O and Blackway. Unfortunately, around the forty-four-minute mark, the film begins to derail itself.

After Noa's friend Mollie (Jojo T. Gibbs) begins to investigate Steve, we cut back to the basement where she is being held. Loud music can be heard playing upstairs and what follows is a bizarre and goofy scene of Steve processing the meat from a woman's leg while dancing.

After an incredibly tense intro sequence, the film decides it wants to become a comedy and completely kills the tone it was originally going for. I'm having a hard time understanding why this scene and a few others like it were placed into the movie.

Unlike other contemporary feminist films I've seen people compare this one too, like "Promising Young Woman," and the works of Julia Ducornau, they don't struggle with tone as much as "Fresh."

Speaking of comparisons, this film feels incredibly similar both in style and plot to Jordan Peele's

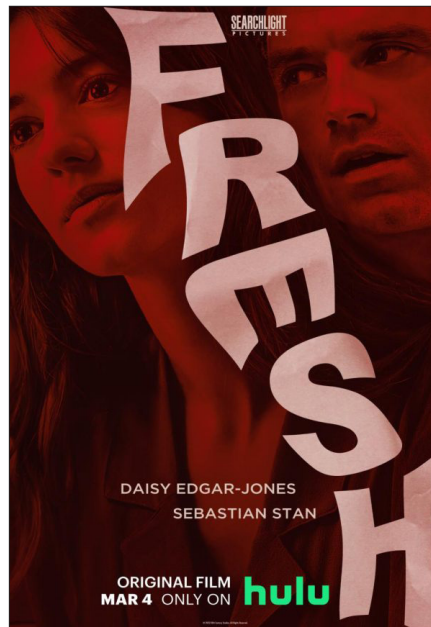


PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB  
"Fresh," starring Daisy Edgar-Jones and Sebastian Stan, explores the horrors of modern dating.

modern horror classic "Get Out." If I described the film as, a wealthy white person catfishes their partner to go on vacation with them, despite the wishes of their best friend, and ends up almost becoming the victim of an invasive surgery so their body can be sold to wealthy older white people, you wouldn't be able to tell the difference. Even the climaxes feel incredibly similar as Noa is rescued by Mollie and ends up killing Steve and his accomplice.

I suppose this film just ended up feeling like a hollow promise to me. Unlike its contemporaries, "Fresh" struggles to tell any meaningful message besides men on dating apps suck sometimes.

Even this message is flawed though as Noa doesn't even meet Steve on an app. There were so many interesting avenues this film could have gone down, maybe Steve could have been a closer allegory for Armie Hammer? Who knows.

"Fresh" is available to Stream on Hulu now.

Rating: 5/10

# Taxation on menstruation needs to be ended

ARIANNA HEYMAN

Senior Reporter

On Nov. 4 2021, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed HB 5267 — a bill which ended the 6% sales tax on menstrual products in the state. It is estimated that removing the tax on essential menstrual products could save families up to \$4,800 over the course of a lifetime.

"After years of trying to repeal this tax, I am proud that we are bringing people together to put Michiganders first and drive down costs on these essential products," Governor Whitmer said. "Everyone should be able to take care of their most basic healthcare needs without an unnecessary added financial burden."

The unnecessary taxation on menstrual products is part of a wider issue referred to as the "pink tax." The pink tax is not an actual tax, but a discriminatory economic practice which reveals, "common products and services marketed to women, ranging from razors and soaps to dry cleaning, often cost more than similar products marketed to men."

The taxation on menstrual products in particular is an especially egregious act. Menstrual products are essential and no one should have to make a choice between purchasing tampons and purchasing food.

"Research shows that low-income women bear the greatest burden from the taxation of menstrual products," Dr. Betsey Stevenson of The University of Michigan said. "Removing this tax makes our tax

system fairer and correctly recognizes menstrual products for what they are: necessities for health and hygiene."

So far, only 14 states have successfully repealed their tampon taxes, but that number needs to change. Repealing the tampon tax is critical for the health of menstruating women everywhere.

"If a person does not have regular access to these medically necessary products, it can be dangerous,



PHOTO COURTESY OF FOX 19  
Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed a bill that ended the 6% sales tax on menstrual products on Nov. 4, 2021.

even life-threatening, as well as increase the stigma associated with menstruation, especially for our young teens," said Gilda Z. Jacobs, president and CEO of the Michigan League for Public Policy Feminine.

In a study from the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, there were many explanations theorized as to why the pink tax has endured. These explanations included price fixing, tariffs and product differentiation.

The committee also did not deny that discrimination was a factor stating, "If sellers find that women are less price sensitive and therefore willing to pay more for a particular product or service, they are more likely to charge a higher price for a version marketed to women."

The pink tax system is unfair and unethical. Currently, federal law does not prohibit discriminatory pricing, but this needs to change. The price gouging on products for women proves that sexism in the United States is systemic.

Michigan and the 13 other states that have repealed their tampon taxes should serve as an example to the rest of the country. Repealing this tax can save citizens money, protect their health and avoid unnecessary financial burdens.

This change needs to occur at the federal level as well. The persistence of the pink tax unfairly targets women. It's time for the federal government to step in and outlaw discriminatory pricing based on gender.

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**ELIZABETH ANDERSON**  
discusses

### What Should the Work Ethic Mean for Us Today?

**March 24, 2022 | 7–9 p.m.**

Oakland Center, Banquet Room A

The work ethic was invented by Puritan theologians nearly 400 years ago. From the start, it contained contradictory ideas: one rationalizing the subjection of workers to drudgery for maximum profit; the other honoring workers for advancing human welfare and calling for their dignified and equitable treatment. Both ideas were developed and institutionalized over time in the U.S. and Europe, leaving a contradictory legacy for us today. I show how the neglected second work ethic tradition can be revived and updated for 21st-century American workers.



*Photo by David Paterson*

**ELIZABETH ANDERSON**

is Max Shaye Professor of Public Philosophy and John Dewey Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She is the author of *Value in Ethics and Economics*

(Harvard University Press, 1993), *The Imperative of Integration* (Princeton UP, 2010), and *Private Government: How Employers Rule Our Lives (And Why We Don't Talk About It)* (Princeton UP, 2017) and numerous, widely reprinted articles in journals of philosophy, law, and economics. She designed University of Michigan's Philosophy, Politics, and Economics program, and was its founding director. She is a 2019 MacArthur Fellow; she was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2008; she was named One of the World's top 50 Thinkers by *Prospect* magazine in 2020; and she was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2020.

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#### ABOUT RICHARD J. BURKE (1932-2012)

As the first faculty member hired at Oakland University, Richard Burke watched OU evolve from promising beginnings to a present day filled with possibility. To help bring those possibilities to fruition, he established the annual Richard J. Burke Lecture in Philosophy, Religion and Society.

# Grizz Gang needs to show up for every sports team

**BRIDGET JANIS**  
*Managing Editor*

Serving as OU’s student section, Grizz Gang attends games to be peer support and hype for their fellow Grizzly students. The Grizz Gang website states the group is the Grizzly spirit and passion to all home athletic events, but their photos of exclusively men’s basketball suggest otherwise.

For example, the men’s basketball team had a game nationally broadcasted on ESPN 2 last month and you bet the Grizz Gang section was packed. Anyone who was in the O’rena for the game that night experienced the best home-game environment for an OU sports team since the beginning of the pandemic. My question is: Why does it take a nationally-televised game for the Grizz Gang to show up and make their presence felt?

There are many sports at OU, and many student athletes putting their time and energy into their respective sport. All teams deserve the support of their school, peers and community.

I know that support from your peers can go a long way — this is all coming from an athlete who has competed at the collegiate level for the past four years. Hearing a crowd at your game or meet can be super impactful and inspiring to athletes, and can help push them to be better. It makes winning a game more rewarding.

When speaking with Ke’Sha Blanton, interim head coach of OU’s women’s basketball team, she mentioned how upset the girls feel, since they’re always supporting others, but not receiving the

same support from the campus community at their home games.

“They just want that support and it’s important you know, because every sport wants someone there cheering for them,” Blanton said. “These players work hard, everybody works hard.”

One of the senior players on the team recently tweeted at Grizz Gang, upset that they never came and supported her during her four years of being an athlete on the team.

“So many times you go on the road and have people rooting against you,” Blanton said. “When you come home you don’t want a silent crowd. You want someone there that is invested in the school and in the team.”

And no, it isn’t just women’s basketball that isn’t getting the support. Swimming and diving, volleyball, track and field, among others all struggle

to draw student support at their games.

With baseball season coming up, Grizz Gang should be putting forth the effort to support student athletes of all teams. Just going to the men’s baseball games is not enough — they should also be attending women’s sports.

When talking with Brittany Welch, a senior at OU on the women’s volleyball team, she talked a lot about how — especially coming off COVID-19 — her team has been looking for the support of their peers. With all the four years she has been on the team, Grizz Gang has not attended one game.

The volleyball team was not allowed spectators during COVID-19. Players were looking forward to having the community attend their home games again and make an impact from the stands.

“It honestly motivated the team to play better, just because when you have your student body present, we want to be the best we can be for them,” Welch said. “When we hear them cheering for us, and when we have people there we play better and we feel better.”

Women’s volleyball has about 15 to 20 home games a season, totaling to about 80 home games within the past four years that Welch and her team have never seen Grizz Gang at. The games are all either at night or on Saturdays, so the excuse of student class time conflicts doesn’t really hold up.

If Grizz Gang is claiming to be that supportive on their website, they need to show up and prove it. Actions will always speak louder than words. Unfortunately at the moment, the photos on their website speak for themselves.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRIZZ GANG'S WEBSITE  
The Grizz Gang, OU's student section, needs to show up at all sports — not just men's basketball.

## Oakland University crossword

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Across:

1. Radio station

5. OU mascot

8. Building with the food court

12. Get a sandwich

13. The tallest structure on campus

14. What every college student needs from Starbucks

16. Newspaper

Down:

2. The school you attend

3. Where a dining hall is located

4. A place to get tenders on campus

6. What color the normal parking spots are

7. Library

9. What color the overnight parking spots are

10. Oakland University

11. Where assignments are posted

12. Organization that puts on lots of events

15. Where to see the basketball games

## Men's basketball plan for the next season: pass the basketball

**REECE TAYLOR**  
Sports Reporter

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies Men's basketball season started off as one of the most promising since 2017. Led by Head Coach Greg Kampe, Oakland was 13-4, had grind-it-out wins over top-seeded Horizon League teams, and had a statement win over Oklahoma State, a Power 5 conference team. Oakland established that it was a threat, and every team was on notice.

Unfortunately, when teams notice you, they also study you. Due to Oakland's length and athleticism, they were unbeatable on the open court. The Golden Grizzlies forced a ton of turnovers and won in the open court. For weeks, Oakland would defend the perimeter and force smaller opponents into bad passes, cherry-pick, and score in the paint.

Oakland also had a major weakness: Passing. Oakland averaged double digits in both assists and turnovers, but defended well enough to hide their weaknesses, unfortunately teams began to notice, and responded by slowing the game down and forcing Oakland into a half-court team.

After a string of strong performances, Northern Kentucky was the first team to exploit this weakness on Feb. 4, forcing 17 turnovers to beat Oakland and committed only nine themselves. This performance provided a blueprint for the Horizon League to contain the Golden Grizzlies, and did so for the remainder of the season.

For instance, in the last five games of the Oakland men's basketball season, only two of them featured more assists than turnovers, including a 23 turnover performance against the same Northern Kentucky team on Feb. 20. In these games, Oakland also went 2-3 including a three-game home losing streak.

Oakland was a team that lived and died in transition. When they were able to play the passing lanes, they were the best team in the Horizon League. When they were forced into a set offense, they were neutralized. Pair this with a second-round exit in the Horizon League tournament, and the team must find an answer to climb up the ranks.

Simply, Oakland MUST learn to pass the ball. In transition, it was a "pass it to the open man" or "closest to the basket" offense. When forced to play against a 2-3 zone defense, players would try to drive and ended up getting stripped or would attempt a three-point shot, which Oakland was third worst in the Horizon League. Because of Oakland's desire to run and subpar three-point shooting, they were quickly figured out by opponents.

Going into next season, Coach Kampe must make consistent shooting and half-court a priority. This is not to say that Oakland shouldn't play their transition game, but to have multiple dimensions. If there are no surprises on the court, teams will know your game plan, and Oakland was exposed. Oakland will need to know that the best way to win in the half court is to share the ball and open up the floor, and combined with improved perimeter scoring, Oakland won't be trapped into a singular game plan.

Since joining the Horizon League in 2013, Oakland Men's Basketball has only one regular-season championship, that being the 2017 season. Oakland has one of the most talented rosters they've seen in years, but cannot afford to fall into old patterns. If Oakland wants to climb back into the elite of the Horizon League, they must learn to make adjustments again before the league figures them out.



PHOTO BY STANEY TU  
Sports reporter Reece Taylor has a plan for the Oakland men's basketball team to succeed in the Horizon League next season.

## Golden Grizzly women's basketball looks ahead to offseason

**BROCK HEILIG**  
Sports Reporter

The Oakland women's basketball team's season came to a close on March 7 when the Golden Grizzlies fell to the IUPUI Jaguars in the Horizon League Tournament semifinals.

The loss ended the Grizzlies' historic postseason run. The team advanced to its first Horizon League Tournament semifinal appearance in school history.

Oakland finished the season with a 15-15 overall record, and concluded the regular season with an 11-9 Horizon League record.

The season was full of ups and downs, but the storyline of the season came in early December when head coach Jeff Tungate was removed from the team in need of emergency surgery.

"It's tough when one day you're at practice, and the next day you're going to the ER, and the next day you're getting operated on," Tungate said. "I felt like this was a really special team and a really good group, and I felt like I was letting them down."

Despite missing most of the season, Tungate was no stranger to the team's success.

"I thought, obviously it was a season full of ups and downs, a lot of adversity," said Tungate. "And I really give our staff and our team a lot of credit for what they were able to accomplish because a lot of adversity was thrown their way, and they just kept rising to the challenge. [I'm] really proud of them for that."

Associate Head Coach Ke'Sha Blanton took the reins in Tungate's absence and led the team through adversity. Tungate gave Blanton a lot of credit after the season came to a finish.

"To be able to get the team to the semifinals through all that — it's a real credit to her," said Tungate. "That's never easy, and something that when she signed on, never expected to have to do, and she got them through the adversity."

The season was highlighted mainly by Oakland's Horizon League Tournament quarterfinal win over the second-seeded Youngstown State Penguins. The Grizzlies went on the road and defeated the Penguins, punching their ticket to the tournament semifinals in Indianapolis. Tungate called the moment "a great feeling."

"Anytime you can see your team with a water celebration, dancing, and doing all those kinds of things, it's just a great feeling. Great to see," said Tungate. "That's what makes all the adversity worth it."

Despite the successful season,



PHOTO BY ANNA DRUMM  
Jeff Tungate has returned to lead the Oakland women's basketball team once again.

Oakland has lost three key players to the transfer portal since the start of the calendar year.

Junior Alona Blackwell and freshman Olivia Sims entered the transfer portal in January, and senior guard Kahlaiah Dean as well as freshman guard Kendall Folley each entered the portal after the season concluded.

Speculating about why players enter the transfer portal is typically frowned upon, but Tungate knows that the transfer portal is here to stay.

"The age of the transfer portal is here," Tungate said. "Everybody gets in for different reasons... I just know that this is the age of college basketball in the year 2022."

The program will look to ride some of the momentum built this past season into next year.

"Winning is contagious," said Tungate. "I think the success we had two years ago carried over into this year where they want a little bit more, and you hope that the success they had this year makes them want a little bit more to where we just crank it up even another notch in our offseason workouts."

Tungate also knows that the team has some key pieces to replace.

"Obviously recruiting is a big part of that," Tungate said. "We've got some big holes to fill, that we make sure we do a good job in recruiting."

As for Tungate himself, the head man returned to the office this past week, as he tries to build strength and return to normal.

"[My recovery] is going good," Tungate said. "I was able to come back this past Monday, and I've got to do just a few hours at a time every day and build myself back up again because for three months I basically did nothing."

If next year's women's team has any resemblance to this year's team, it will be a tough, gritty group, ready to win basketball games.

# Softball blown out by Michigan State in last-minute matchup

**PAYTON BUCKI**

*Sports Reporter*

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies softball team suffered a tough 9-0 loss to the Michigan State Spartans on March 20 at Secchia Stadium in East Lansing, MI.

The game was scheduled after Oakland had their weekend series against IUPUI canceled due to inclement weather.

The Grizzlies began the first inning on the offensive side with three consecutive strikeouts. This bitter start left spectators wondering whether or not the Oakland team would be able to fire up their bats against the MSU defensive powerhouse.

The Spartans started their offensive game off strong with a double to left-center from the bat of Courtney Callahan. Despite strong subsequent hits from the MSU team, the Grizzlies displayed their stellar athleticism in the field, causing both teams to emerge the first inning scoreless.

Both teams continued to struggle offensively in the second inning. The board remained scoreless as neither the Grizzlies or Spartans were able to send hits out of the infield.

In the bottom of the third, the Grizzlies finally allowed the Spartans to score off an RBI single from Alexis Barroso. Barroso's hit advanced two runners home, placing the Spartans at a 2-0 lead.

The fourth inning saw a glimmer of hope for the

Grizzlies, as Cammie Brummitt advanced to first base due to a Spartan fielding error. Unfortunately, Brummitt's baserunning potential was never tapped into; the Grizzlies' offense finished the inning with two strikeouts.

In the bottom of the fourth, the Spartans looked to expand their lead. After beaming a single to right-center, Caitie Ladd advanced to first base for the Spartans.

Ladd stole second base and then advanced to third off a sacrifice bunt. The Grizzlies defensive team ended the inning as catcher Jen Krizka tagged Ladd out after an assist from third baseman Madison Jones.

In the fifth inning, the Grizzlies fought hard to gain control of the game. Although a hit to second base allowed Jessie Munson to advance to first, the Grizzlies failed to fire up their bats, causing them to emerge the inning scoreless.

The Spartans sealed the game's outcome in the bottom of the fifth inning. After a two-run RBI double to left-center from Alexis Barroso and a defensive error from the Grizzlies gave up another run, the Spartans grew their lead.

MSU's fifth-inning rally continued as a subsequent error and walk from the Grizzlies defensive team allowed the Spartans to load the bases. Then, freshman Kayleigh Roper stepped up to the plate.

Roper sent a fly ball past the fence, gaining four runs for the Spartans in the process. This walk-off grand slam ended the game, securing a 9-0 win for the MSU team via mercy rule.

Oakland will play their next three-game series against Youngstown State University on the Oakland Softball Field in Rochester on March 25-26. Oakland must be prepared for a challenge as they handle the poised Penguins, a team that walked away as the Horizon League's regular-season champion in 2021.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS  
Oakland softball lost via mercy rule to the Michigan State Spartans on Sunday.

# LaGrand dominates NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships

**CHRISTIAN TATE**

*Sports Reporter*

Three-time Horizon Athlete of the Year and two-time Swimmer of the Meet winner, senior swimmer Susan LaGrand qualified for the NCAA Championships and competed this week and during the weekend in her trials and put in a great showing.

LaGrand qualified for the NCAA Championships with her 200-yard backstroke time, where she broke her own school record with a time of 1 minute, 53.66 seconds [this time broke LaGrand's previous school record and time that she qualified with last year, which was 1 minute, 53.9 seconds].

She opened up her second-straight NCAA championship with a showing in the 200 IM trials at the McAuley Aquatic Center on Georgia Tech's campus, leaving with a trial time of 1:57.84 [good enough for a 43th placement overall].

In her second performance of the championships, LaGrand tied her own school record setting time in the 100-yard backstroke trials with a time of 53.08 seconds. Her time was good enough to place 46th overall in the trials, marking her second top-50 finish for the weekend.

Her showing in both of these events paled in comparison to her performance on the last day of the championships, where LaGrand capped off her record-breaking day with her best performance of the week. In the 200 backstroke preliminaries, LaGrand posted a time of 1:53.87.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS  
Susan LaGrand competing in a past meet. LaGrand represented Oakland at the NCAA Championships from March 16-19.

This time locked LaGrand into 26th place, her highest placed finish during the weekend, but this time was not even to allow her to qualify for the finals. Aside from that note, LaGrand still made history with her performance, as she became

the first woman in the history of the Oakland University swimming program during the Division I era to qualify for the NCAA Championships in consecutive seasons.

This NCAA championship performance is coming off the back of one of the best performances the Golden Grizzlies have shown after the Horizon League championships, where both the men's and women's teams picked up the 1st place finishes in every competition they competed in.

For the women's side of things, the race was not even close as they captured the top spot with 917 points [the next closest team was Milwaukee with a total of 598.5 points]. A big contributor to the continuation of this success that the Golden Grizzlies have enjoyed during this season of meets was Susan LaGrand.

Even last year, during the NCAA Championships, LaGrand notched two first place finishes in her heat of swimmers before setting a new school record in the 200-yard backstroke and finishing 16th overall as both the reigning Horizon League Athlete of the Year and Swimmer of the Meet.

With her apparent penchant for setting and then breaking her own records [she set a meet record during her unstoppable championship performance at the Horizon League championships with a time of 1:53.93 in the 200-yard backstroke], LaGrand has shown that she has no issues performing at her best when the lights are the brightest and she did no different this year.

# Oakland sports teams respond to Grizz Dome collapse

**MATTHEW SCHEIDEL**

*Sports Editor*

When the Grizz Dome collapsed on the morning of Saturday, Feb. 19, many of the Oakland University sports teams were left without a practice facility.

Baseball, softball, men's and women's soccer, track and field, cross country and golf were all left scrambling to find a temporary solution for a practice facility. Luckily, they were all able to make arrangements and have all made due.

Assistant Athletic Director for Facilities and Event Management Andy Adrianse offered the following statement regarding the displaced teams:

"It has certainly been an inconvenience for all of us, but our teams are very resilient and have done a great job adapting to the challenges we've faced," Adrianse said. "The use of the alternative facilities is also being factored into the insurance claim process."

Baseball Head Coach Jordon Banfield said back when the dome first collapsed that the team would be using an offsite facility, and by the looks of it, opposing teams have also let the team borrow their facilities while they were on the road.

Banfield added back in February that he "wasn't that worried about it."

The softball team hasn't had much need to practice with their travel schedule during the first

couple weeks of the season, according to Adrianse.

Both men's and women's soccer, meanwhile, have been training at the UWM Sports Complex in Pontiac. The men's soccer team has also been playing their home games there during the spring season.

Adrianse said both track and field and cross country have been using the Oakland Yard Sports Complex in Waterford.

"But with warmer weather approaching, they are starting to shift more and more outdoors or utilize other on campus options," Adrianse added.

Men's Golf Coach Nick Pumford said the dome collapse has had "minimal impact" on the

men's golf program.

"We use other facilities for our practice anyway," Pumford said. "We did use [the dome] two days a week to help with the financial costs since we didn't have to pay to use our dome, but overall minimal impact."

Pumford said the facilities the men's golf team uses are Carl's Golfland in Bloomfield Township and Evolution Sportsplex in Auburn Hills.

Women's Golf Head Coach Alyssa Gaudio-Guss said her team has used a variety of different facilities, including the same two facilities the men's team primarily uses.

"We've had a few places, a few avenues that we can go to and do things, and it has been nice to not feel like we had nowhere to go and nothing to do," Gaudio-Guss said. "So having those options, which we already had them in place because we weren't in the dome everyday. It's just that trying to get time on campus is tougher at times. So at least we already had those in place. We just had to add the days that we typically are on campus into our schedule off campus."

Gaudio-Guss said they typically use offsite facilities when they travel anyway, so nothing has changed in that regard.

"It's a little bit different whenever we go travel somewhere [since] we are using the facility we're going to anyway because that's where the tournament is," she said. "So that's where golf is probably the most different in that regard."



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD  
The Grizz Dome has been fully re-inflated, but it will still be a while before it can be used again.

## Tennis rolls past Lake Superior State in home opener

**CHRISTIAN TATE**

*Sports Reporter*

In their first home match of the season, the Oakland Golden Grizzlies tennis team displayed a level of dominance rarely seen, winning the matchup against the Lake Superior State Lakers with a score of 7-0 at the Oakland Tennis court.

Yasmin Glazbrook and Nirva Patel were featured in and contributed heavily to the victory, showing off their talent yet again this week alongside uber-talented teammates such as freshman Liza Mladentseva, freshman Tegan Heaton, and senior Jillian Milano.

The Golden Grizzlies grabbed a hold of the controls for the game from the very start, earning the doubles victory to take the 1-0 lead before launching themselves into singles play against the Lakers.

The Golden Grizzlies secured their doubles wins at the number one spot in the rankings, with Yasmin Glazbrook and Nirva Patel winning their match 6-4 while Mladentseva and Milano notched their 6-3 victory during the second matchup.

In singles play, the Grizzlies yet again started dominating the Lakers, rolling through the matches en route to their six straight victories to close out their 7-0 win while maintaining all top three spots in the singles rankings. The Golden Grizzlies were kept in the top spot by Liza Mladentseva, who won

both her sets with scores of 6-1.

Yasmin Glazbrook notched the second spot in the singles rankings, recording two set wins with scores of 6-1 and 6-0, while Nirva Patel occupied the third spot after winning both her sets with 6-1 and 6-4 scores. Jillian Milano [with scores of 6-2 and 6-0], Tegan Heaton [with scores of 6-2 and 6-2], and Mia Melnizki [with scores of 6-1 and 6-4], held strong and won their respective spots



PHOTO BY JOSE JUAREZ  
Nirva Patel gets into her stance while the opponent gets ready to serve against LSSU on March 19. Photo courtesy of OU Athletics.

on the ranking for the team.

While Patel and Glazbrook shone bright on the tennis team's Florida trip, they are not the only ones making new milestones and reaching new heights on the team. Tegan Heaton has notched seven straight singles wins on the season, with this performance making it her eight straight singles win.

This sensational streak by Heaton has contributed to the amazing run that the Golden Grizzlies have been on this far, as this win marks the third straight victory and their sixth win in their last seven matches. The Golden Grizzlies, with this record, improve to 6-4 on the season, while the Lake Superior State Lakers have dropped to a 3-5 record on the season.

After this matchup, the Golden Grizzlies will face-off in one more non-conference match before opening up their Horizon League play on Sunday, March 27 at 1 p.m. In that match, the Golden Grizzlies will be facing the Valparaiso Beacons, who are 6-8 on the season so far and coming into the matchup against the Grizzlies looking to stop a six-game skid on their home turf.

At home, the Beacons have been much more consistent [with a record of 5-3 at home] than they have been on the road [with a record of 1-5], and the Golden Grizzlies will look to continue their supreme play against them.

## Baseball scores series win over Wright State to open conference play

**REECE TAYLOR**

*Sports Reporter*

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies Baseball won a three-game series 2-1 against the Wright State Raiders on March 18-20 in Dayton, Ohio.

The Golden Grizzlies entered Nischwitz Stadium looking for their first win against Wright State since 2018, he Raiders wanted to keep their momentum from their first series win over Indiana State. This was the first Horizon League series of the season for both teams.

In game one, Oakland was aggressive at-bat, forcing an error to get the first of many batters on base. Oakland advanced two runners into scoring position after a sacrifice bunt, putting them on second and third base. Graduate infielder Brad Goulet would hit a single, allowing the two runners to score, giving Oakland a 2-0 lead in the third inning. Senior pitcher Bryce Konitzer controlled the pace of the game, not allowing a single run through eight innings. Oakland would score four unanswered runs until the ninth, where Wright State would mount a brief comeback, scoring two, before ultimately falling to Oakland 4-2.

The win gave the Golden Grizzlies their first win over the Raiders in four years.

Game two, which was the first of a doubleheader, saw a much more prepared and focused Wright State. The Raiders scored in the first inning, but would go on an amazing run in the third, scoring seven runs, three of which were home runs including a 3-run homer. Oakland would fight back, but the offensive onslaught continued in the fifth, where Wright State went on to score four more. Despite the Golden Grizzlies' best efforts, including a home run from freshman Brandon Nigh for their second run, Wright State would take game 2 with a score of 14-2.

In the final game of

the series, the first four innings were all Oakland. The Golden Grizzlies would score in the first, third, and fourth to lead 4-0 and pressure the Raiders. Wright State forced their way to home plate after the four unanswered runs, bringing the score to 4-2 until Oakland scored off a double in the fifth to put the score up 6-2. Oakland held on to a 6-3 lead until the bottom of the ninth, where an error would allow Wright State to close the gap 6-5. Despite the dramatic moment, Oakland would hold on and win the game 6-5, and win their first conference series of the year 2-1.

Oakland's pitching struggles were evident in the final two games, giving up a combined 19 runs, but were able to improve upon previous encounters both from pitching and from run support. The Golden Grizzlies are continually getting on base and their aggression is forcing teams to beat them defensively.

Oakland will face Bowling Green Falcons on the road on March 22, before returning home to face Horizon League rival Purdue- Fort Wayne Mastodons on March 25-27. The Golden Grizzlies will face the 2-17 Mastodons on their quest for two straight series wins. In a season where Oakland is looking to build momentum, they will have to take each series one game at a time.



PHOTO BY STANLEY TU

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

## Men's track star Jimmie Williams on breaking records and building a legacy

**PAYTON BUCKI**

*Sports Reporter*

Oakland University track runner Jimmie Williams began his last indoor track season on Jan. 21 at Indiana University's Gladstein Invitational with one of the worst races of his life.

"When I got done running, I looked up at the board defeated," said Williams. "I was upset with myself, but my coach and I reflected on it a lot afterward."

The following week, Williams walked into the Saginaw Valley State University fieldhouse with his head held high. To calm his nerves, he completed warm-ups whilst listening to music.

"I would be more likely to forget my track bag at home than my headphones," Williams said. "My headphones are extremely important to me because music helps me stay focused before a race."

As the men's 400m race drew closer, Williams closed his eyes and took a deep breath. He prayed to his parents, the two individuals that made his athletic career possible.

"My parents are my biggest inspiration," Williams said. "They motivate me to get better every day."

Williams felt at peace as settled into his starting block. At the fire of the starting gun, he ran with his heart.

Once he crossed the finish line, securing a first-place finish, Williams knew time was on his side. With a 46.85 second finishing time, he had just shattered the OU 400-meter school record.

"I felt really good to follow up a terrible race with a record-breaking time," Williams said. "I was proud to have run my best 400-meter time ever that day."

Williams is no stranger to success in the sport of track and field. Along with breaking the 400 school record last month, the sprinter anchored the men's 4X400m relay at the same meet, securing yet another OU record.

Despite his athletic finesse, Williams' dream of college running almost didn't happen. In fact, Oakland University was the only school that gave him an athletic scholarship offer.

"Oakland was the only school that gave me a chance," Williams said. "I'd like to thank Coach Rice, Coach Behnke, and Coach Skeete for believing in me."

Evidently, the potential OU's coaching staff saw in Williams has come to fruition. The senior track athlete boasts a lengthy list of accomplishments.

Williams is especially proud



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS

Jimmie Williams has blossomed into one of the most decorated runners in Oakland track and field history.

of breaking three conference records during indoor track season and winning Outdoor Track and Field Athlete of the Year in 2022. However, Williams' favorite personal achievement was competing in the 2021 NCAA Division I East Outdoor Track Preliminary Round.

"It's a big deal to compete at preliminaries," Williams said. "You're going against athletes who want to go pro."

Although Williams' athletic career at OU will come to a close this fall, he has a list of goals he wants to accomplish.

"I hope to break 45 [seconds] in the 400 race and 20 [seconds] in the 200 race," Williams said. "Most importantly, I want to make it to the NCAA Nationals."

With his athletic goals defined, Williams is uncertain where life will take him after graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from OU. While he plans to put his degree to use, he ultimately aspires to become a professional runner.

"I have options after graduation," Williams said. "But my dream is to be a professional runner."

Williams plans to leave behind a lasting legacy on OU's Track & Field program. His most profound influence resonates within the men's 4X400m relay team.

"I am very proud of Gabe, Ray, and Justin [of the men's 4X400m team]," Williams said. "We pick each other up. This is definitely the best 4X400m team I have ever been a part of."

Williams is extremely grateful to the OU's Track and Field coaching staff for providing him with the chance to make his athletic dreams a reality. As he finishes up his final year with the team, Williams finds solace in knowing that his successful athletic career will leave a long-lasting impact on Oakland's Track and Field program.

Baseball dominates Rochester University thanks to offensive explosion

BROCK HEILIG  
Sports Reporter

The Oakland baseball team defeated Rochester University, 14-4, on Wednesday afternoon at the Oakland baseball field.

The Grizzlies got on top early and never looked back, putting the game well out of reach before the Warriors could get any runs on the board.

The Grizzlies threatened in the home half of the first, but were unable to capitalize

Leadoff man Seth Tucker was awarded first base on a hit by pitch. Tucker then showcased his blazing speed by stealing both second and third base.

Rochester's starting pitcher Nick Gajewski rebounded after his shaky start and struck out the side to keep the Grizzlies scoreless after the first inning.

Brandon Heidal got things going for the Grizzlies in the bottom of the second inning with a double in the left-center field gap to give Oakland two runners in scoring position with no outs. Brandon Nigh brought both runners home with a nearly identical left-center field double of his own to give the Grizzlies a 2-0 lead.

A Warrior error brought Nigh home from third a few batters later. Cam Post blew the inning open with a two-out, two-RBI single to give the Grizzlies a 5-0 lead.

The two teams went quiet in the third inning, and the Warriors couldn't get any momentum in the top half of the fourth inning.

Post drove in another run for Oakland with an

RBI double off the left field fence. He then scored on a Rochester pickoff attempt which hit Post and ricocheted into right field.

Rochester was able to limit the fourth inning damage to just two runs and trailed 7-0 going into the fifth inning.

The Warriors threatened in the top of the fifth inning, but once again failed to bring any runners around, and they remained scoreless through five innings. In the bottom of the fifth, Nigh and Thomas Green combined for back-to-back solo home runs to put the Grizzlies up, 9-0.

Oakland extended its lead to 10 in the bottom of the sixth inning when Post scored on a passed ball. Heidal continued a strong day at the plate with an RBI double later in the sixth inning.

Oakland continued to blow open the game in the sixth inning when Nigh connected on yet another hit, a two-RBI single, giving the Grizzlies an astounding 13-0 lead. Rochester threatened in the top of the seventh inning with two runners on base, but once again came up short.

The Grizzlies brought one run across in the seventh inning. Gabe Lux pounded an RBI single up the middle, scoring Post, and putting the Grizzlies up, 14-0.

Rochester finally got in business in the top of the eighth inning with a Connor Romine double to give the Warriors two runners in scoring position. Both Warriors scored on a sacrifice fly, followed by an error, and Rochester had its first two runs of the game.

The Warriors added two runs in the top of the ninth

inning, but it clearly wasn't enough. The Grizzlies had this game locked up long before Rochester even began scoring.

Nigh had a career day at the plate. The freshman totaled four hits and five RBIs, as well as two runs scored.

Post also showcased his abilities at the plate with three hits, three RBIs and three runs scored.

The Grizzlies are now 4-10 on the season. Oakland will host Purdue Fort Wayne in a three-game series starting Friday, March 25.



PHOTO BY STANLEY TU  
Cam Post when 3-4 with three runs scored in Oakland's 14-4 blowout victory over Rochester University on March 16.



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# Ten years of 'Gravity Falls,' an animated phenomenon

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It's official — we're all getting old. We're fastly approaching the 10th anniversary of an iconic, revolutionary animated show, "Gravity Falls."

Premiering in June of 2012, "Gravity Falls," written by Alex Hirsch, was a comedy show that aired on Disney. Its run lasted for two seasons, the final episode airing in February of 2016.

The premise of the show followed twelve year old twins Dipper and Mabel Pines. They are sent to live with their great-uncle Stan in a mysterious town called Gravity Falls for the summer before they turn thirteen.

The show was a comedy, but also had very dark elements and imagery. It pushed the boundaries of what could be shown and discussed in a children's Disney show. With bloody, haunting imagery, dark plotlines and anomalies, the show touched on many different themes in its short, two-season run.

Season one sets up a perfect episodic structure for the series, along with advancing characters. Most of the season operates with Dipper trying to solve a mystery



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB  
"Gravity Falls" first aired on Disney channel in June of 2012.

surrounding some creature from the journal he finds in the woods. Mabel's plot usually focuses on her latest summer crush. The twins go around the town, interacting with characters like Soos, Wendy and Stan, then there's an action scene.

There are some episodes where the primary villain, Bill Cypher, appears to cause tension and break the formulaic status quo. This is how to write a villain. Someone who manipulates the other characters, breaking the episodic format. Funny. Inquisitive. Charming. He's easily believable as a villain because of his skills to manipulate characters using their deepest desires and fears (not to mention switching the orifices of someone's entire face!)

The finale of season one ends with the Pines family winning back the Mystery Shack — their home for the summer — from child mastermind Gideon Gleeful, who's way too gleeful for his own good. Just when you think Gideon's arc is closed as the second villain of the season, he comes back for season two.

Season two! Where do I start? For one, the arcs of so many characters

besides Stan and the twins are explored. Soos' depressing backstory with his father, Wendy's insecurity, the love triangle? It's so much expanded on for such a short season!

The mid-season finale changed the course of the show. Breaking the status quo, the story takes the characters on a wild ride with sad moments, shocking discoveries and mysteries revealed. The episode ends with a shocking plot twist that blends all of the mysteries of season one and leads into the mayhem that is the rest of the season.

The show ended with a bang. This series finale was one of Disney's most well done finales. It perfectly wraps up the arcs of just about every character, even the recurring comedic ones. With the end of summer, and an epic final battle, our heroes are faced with several external and internal conflicts.

In just two short seasons, "Gravity Falls" managed to do a lot with its airtime — the perfect blend of freaky weirdness and heartfelt journeys about growing up.

**Rating: 4.5/5**

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