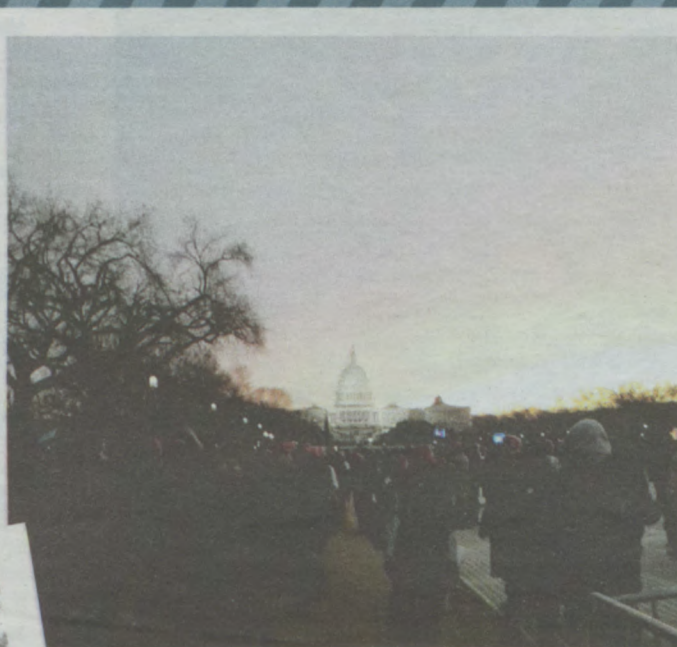


SNAPSHOT DC

FEATURING STUDENT SUBMITTED PHOTOS

PAGES 10 & 11



HONORING DREAMS

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PAGE 5



BACK TO BUSINESS

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PAGE 12



UNDER THE WEATHER?

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PAGE 14

thisweek

January 23, 2012 // Volume 39 Issue 15



onthe web

Three buses carrying 165 Oakland University students — including members of The Oakland Post — traveled to D.C. over the weekend for President Obama's inauguration. Go online to see a video of their experience.

www.oaklandpostonline.com



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

SHELTER FROM THE STORM // A squirrel avoids the snow as cold weather picks up on campus. This week started with a Wind Chill Advisory from the National Weather Service. How are you keeping warm?

DYLAN DULBERG // The Oakland Post

Submit a photo to editor@oaklandpostonline.com for a chance to be featured. View all submissions at oaklandpostonline.com

POLL OF THE WEEK

How do you pay for your health insurance?

- A** I am on my parents' plan
- B** I am covered through my employer
- C** I pay out of pocket
- D** I don't have insurance
- E** Medicare/Medicaid

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Which social media site do you frequent the most?

A) Facebook

32 votes | 55%

B) Twitter

18 votes | 31%

C) Other

3 votes | 5%

D) I do not use social media sites

5 votes | 9%

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

JANUARY 25, 1963

The university approved its official motto, "seguir virtute e conoscenza," which means to follow courage and knowledge. The motto comes from Ulysses' final words from Dante's Inferno.

JANUARY 29, 1965

A report was released announcing the towing of estimated 25-30 illegally parked cars in the fall semester.

JANUARY 29, 1979

Several members of student organizations complained about office space allocations for student groups in the basement of the Oakland Center. The groups felt that the allocated space was not large enough to meet their needs.



6

GREEN IS GOOD

The Human Health building implements numerous ways of staying "green", from a hydration station to heated sidewalks.



15

HAPPILY EVER AFTER

After both losing their spouses to cancer, a couple found each other and worked together to publish the book 'The Color of Rain.'



20

THANKS T'EO

Copy Editor Brian Figurski takes a tip from T'eo and mouth's off about the do's and don'ts of imaginary friends.

**BY THE
NUMBERS**
HEALTH INSURANCE

317.26

million residents in
the US in 2013

16.3%

U.S. population
without health insurance

29.7%

of 18-34 year old U.S.
residents are uninsured

\$441

Average monthly cost of
Medicare hospital insurance

92.4%

of the U.S. population was not
hospitalized overnight in 2012

STAFF EDITORIAL

Enough to make you sick

President Barack Obama was inaugurated for his second term Monday and is faced with new issues.

During his second inaugural address, the president spoke of the need for Americans to "make the hard choices to reduce the cost of health care and the size of our deficit."

While we definitely need to work on depleting our deficit, the health care pitch was what stood out the most.

During the speech Obama said, "We reject the belief that America must choose between caring for the generation that built this country and investing in the generation that will build its future."

Mr. President, we couldn't agree more.

A September poll conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau indicated 48.6 million people were uninsured in 2012.

In a nation that, according to the World Health Organization, spends more per capita on health care than any other country, it doesn't make sense that so many go uninsured.

In the past few weeks, the halls of Oakland University have been filled with people hacking, coughing and sneezing. Many students have had to make the choice whether to attend class while sick, or take the risk of missing a lecture so early in the semester.

Many with jobs have a similar choice to make, whether to work sick or risk their own employment.

Many might claim the United States has the best health care in the world, and that people come from other countries to be seen by American doctors. But it's only the best in the world for those who can afford it, foreign or domestic.

Calling in sick can often hit the uninsured pocketbook three times — missing a day of work, spending money on the doctor visit and spending more on medicine.

Many might claim the United States has the best health care in the world, and that people come from other countries to be seen by American doctors. But it's only the best in the world for those who can afford it, foreign or domestic.

During Governor Mitt Romney's run for the presidency, he said uninsured Americans could easily get health care by visiting emergency rooms.

However, according to a survey by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the average ER visit cost \$1,318 in 2009. With many living at or below the poverty line, that isn't a small expenditure.

Of course, showing up to work or school is easier if people don't get sick in the first place.

If this country is to catch up to other civilized nations, we need to offer preventative health care.

For example, at Oakland University, some professors are placed on an outcome

based health care plan, meaning their coverage gets better depending on their lifestyles.

While we're not endorsing the program, it is another possible option.

The World Health Organization placed the U.S. in 37th place for national health systems, yet took first place in expenditure per capita.

The top 10 countries on the list all have either universal or publicly-funded health care and all spend far less on health care, because everyone chips in.

Most importantly, all those countries see not just the importance of treating the sick but in preventing illness in the first place.

The President was correct when he said the U.S. has some catching up to do in many areas if we want to remain competitive.

The best way to make sure we get there is to make sure everyone's healthy enough to do their part.

The staff editorial is written weekly by members of The Oakland Post's editorial board.

Email them at editor@oaklandpostonline.com



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The Oakland Post is always looking for fun and talented students to join our staff. Visit us in the basement of the Oakland Center or send a résumé, cover letter and clips to editor@oaklandpostonline.com to get involved.

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Letters to the Editor

Writers must provide full name, class rank, phone number and field of study. Please limit letters to 250 words or less. Letters may be edited for content, length and grammar.



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COLUMN

Make a difference: Run for president, VP, legislator

One of the greatest things that you could do as a student at Oakland University would be getting involved.

In my previous articles this school year, I've highlighted different aspects of how to do that, including people that you can (and should) talk to, places you can (and should) go and see, and organizations that you can (and should) talk to. But today, I'm going to tell you why you should run for Student Body President, Vice President, or become a legislator.

To describe what a legislator is, I'll tell you exactly how I see people who hold that title — someone who gets to be one of the 23 students (out of approximately 20,000) who are selected to represent the student body as a whole. This means they represent your voice as a student. They get to ultimately decide on how OUSC spends its



ROBBIE WILLIFORD
columnist

money, what kinds of programs or events OUSC puts on, and what techniques we utilize to efficiently run as an organization.

It's an honor to be one of these individuals simply because we wouldn't be a Student Congress without them.

Nothing would get done.

There would be no 24/7 library, no Bear Bus, no hammocks around campus, no Scantron machine — nothing.

To be the Student Body Vice President, you have to love to work with people. You have to want to help other people constantly, and you get to assist the Student Body President in his or her duties on a daily basis. You have the opportunity to chair the general body meetings and meet with the administrative members who want to hear what the students have to say.

Personally, being the Student Body Vice President is an amazing experi-

ence I would encourage anyone to pursue. The only catch is this — you have to run on a ticket with someone else as the Student Body President. You start as a team, you campaign as a team, you take office as a team and you finish the school year as a team. You help make up a cohesive unit that shapes the future, mission and vision of the organization. You get to put together a team of individuals that make up your executive board and further accomplish the goals that you set.

The Student Body President is the image of the organization. He or she is the person who ultimately advocates for each and every student who cares enough to make a difference. He or she is the person who becomes the ultimate leader. At the end of the day, whoever is the President is the one who shapes the rest of the organization. He or she sets the tone for everyone else to follow.

If you think that you have any inter-

est at all, please stop by the Student Congress office (basement of the OC, room 62) and talk to our Administrative Assistant, Emily Collins. She can give you all the information that you need to get involved.

If she isn't present, take one of her business cards with her contact information on it. Act fast — the cutoff date for you to run for one of these positions is Friday, Feb. 1 by 5 pm. So go now before you forget.

Lastly, I know what you're thinking: all of those things sound great and would look great on a résumé. But that's not why you should pursue it.

Do it because you want to make a difference. Do it because you want to get involved. Do it because you matter; your voice is strong. And through that, your voice can be heard.

Contact Student Body Vice President Robbie Williford via email rjwillif@oakland.edu

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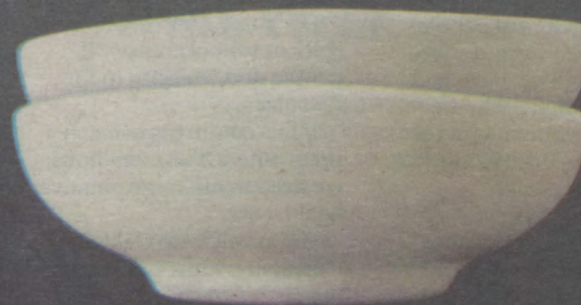
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DYLAN DULBERG/The Oakland Post

Keeping the dream alive

Gov. Rick Snyder, Daymond John speak at scholarship celebration

By Kevin Graham
Senior Reporter

The Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center were standing room only as Daymond John, entrepreneur and venture capitalist on the ABC TV show "Shark Tank," discussed his journey from being a kid in Queens to creating his own multimillion-dollar brand at Monday's Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Celebration.

John was the keynote speaker of the event, which also featured an appearance by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder.

The scholarship honors students who contribute to understanding and goodwill among cultures. The event also celebrates the legacy of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Empowerment

Snyder took the stage first and discussed how King's vi-

sion for the civil rights movement was multifaceted.

"If you looked at what Dr. King spoke about and what he represented, it was about equality, it was about empowerment, and it was about opportunity," Snyder said. "That's something that each one of us needs to stay focused on."

Snyder said person-to-person interaction needs to be at the heart of this.

He went on to outline some initiatives being implemented at the state level, covering topics like jobs, social work and health services.

He said that change still goes beyond government.

"If you look at it, it's not just the work of those of us that have been around a long time, it's how we create role models and mentors for the future," Snyder said.

The next part of the ceremony honored three OU students who spread the mes-

sage of multiculturalism and acceptance during their time on campus.

Steven Wynne, a senior majoring in English and German education, was honored for his work with the Honors College and with the LGBTQIA community both inside and outside of OU. In the Honors College, he challenges students to confront their stereotypes about the LGBTQIA, Hispanic and African-American communities.

Following his time at OU, Wynne hopes to teach.

"My further goal is to learn how they teach over there and hopefully take my teaching techniques they use abroad in Germany and other European countries and hopefully revamp how we teach foreign language and other subjects," Wynne said.

Charlie Lapastora, a junior majoring in communication, spreads the message of diversity in part through his

time slot at noon on Tuesdays on WXOU.

"There is so much garbage and negativity in this world and especially in the media," he said. "With my show, I want to shed light on issues that many college students face and bring a positive message."

Bria Ellis, a sophomore majoring in philosophy and political science, works within OU's LGBTQIA community serving both as vice president of Students Advocating for Gender Awareness and V-Day, an organization hoping to bring the "Vagina Monologues" to OU.

In the future, she hopes to make an impact in international law.

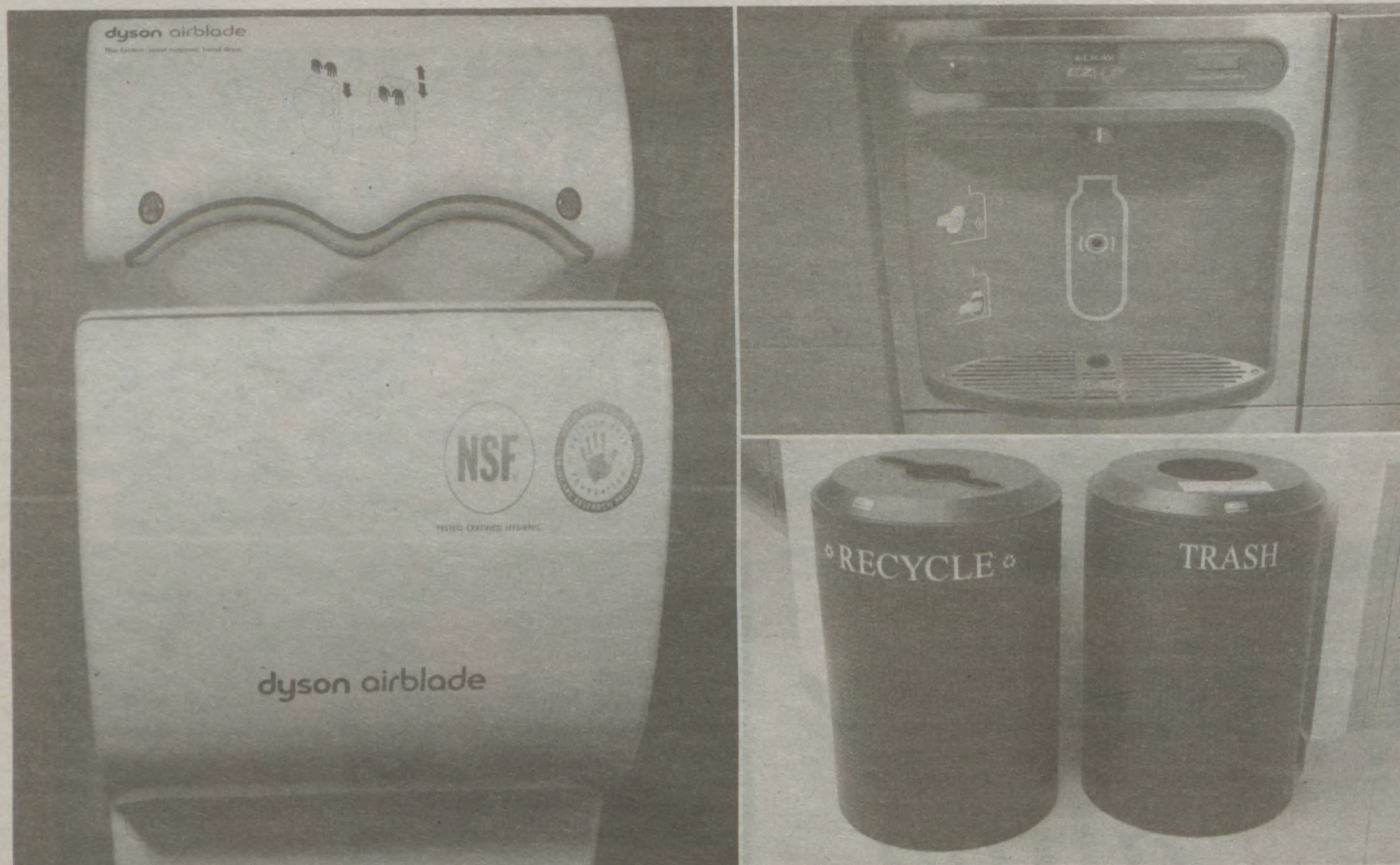
"I want to charge people who are doing the sex trade, who are doing the slave trade and who are killing all of these people for basically nothing and they think they can just get away with it," Ellis said.

1. Gov. Rick Snyder presents junior communication student Charlie Lapastora with the Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Award.

2. Daymond John, creator of the FUBU clothing line and venture capitalist on ABC's show "Shark Tank," was the keynote speaker at the event.

3. Snyder presents Steven Wynne, a senior majoring in English and German education, with his \$5,000 scholarship award.

4. University president Gary Russi speaks with sophomore philosophy and political science student, Bria Ellis, after receiving her award.



ALLEN JORDAN/The Oakland Post

The Human Health Building, which opened in the fall 2012 semester, cost \$64 million and took two years to construct. Among the green features of the building include a geothermal system, recycling bins, water stations, hand dryers and heated sidewalks.

Testing the system

Green features of Human Health Building currently going through adjustment period to determine progress

By Allen Jordan
Staff Reporter

In the fall 2012 semester, Oakland University opened the Human Health Building, which not only provides students with a new medical education environment, but also implements green features new to the campus.

Putting it all together

The \$64 million, 173,500-square-foot project took two years to construct.

The U.S. Department of Energy awarded OU a \$1.5 million grant as part of the implementation of a geothermal system, including the installation of solar panels to the roof of the building.

"Our main goal with this was to provide students with a new learning experience," said Terry Stollsteimer, associate vice president of facilities management.

This feature is a system made to stabilize the temperature of the building by using the natural temperature of the earth's core and cutting utility costs by 50 percent, according to Stollsteimer.

A test of time

The system is currently going through an adjustment period, and this semester is a good test to determine progress, according to Siraj Khan, director of engineering.

"It gets chilly every now and then but I can really attribute that to the abundance of windows. It's understandable though because the geothermal system is new and, like with everything else, has its kinks," said Cheryl McPherson, assistant dean of finance and administration for the School of Nursing.

Additional eco-friendly features

Along with the new heating and cooling technology, a heating system was installed in the sidewalk outside of the building to cut costs on salt usage on campus.

"It minimizes our need for salt and using more chemicals around the building," Constance Jones, manager of custodial and grounds department, said.

Other green features include the con-

tinued use of separate recycling and trash bins already used around campus in an effort to encourage students and staff to be more eco-friendly through recycling, Jones said.

"We don't want to put all the pressure on the students and staff, so in a joint effort with waste management they pick up the materials and separate them at their site," Jones said.

Stollsteimer said going green is a lifestyle that you have to be willing to take it upon yourself to support.

Campus developments

As far as other developments with upgrades to facilities, Stollsteimer and his office have their sights set on Dodge Hall with the addition of a trigeneration micro turbine system.

This system will provide energy to the building while kicking it back into the electric grid.

Spreading the word

Visitors from other universities, such as Grand Valley State University, will stop by OU's campus March 8 to preview the new technology as part of a venture among universities to discuss upgrades to campuses.

For more information about other eco-friendly features of the Human Health Building, visit

www.oakland.edu/facilities

POLICE BRIEFS

Student contacted by inmate

Police met with a female student Jan. 11 at 4:12 p.m. due to an intimidation report. She said her ex-boyfriend was recently incarcerated and gave her phone number out to other inmates.

The student told police one inmate had already contacted her, and she said she does not know how many other inmates may have her number.

She told police she was scared the inmate's current girlfriend would attempt to locate and harm her.

The student plans to change her telephone number and does not want to pursue criminal charges at this time.

Fire alarms set off in the OC

Oakland University police officers responded to the Oakland Center Jan. 17 at 7:23 p.m. in response to a fire alarm.

Police met with several employees who were painting the doors outside of the Banquet Rooms with lacquer paint, and the mist from the paint guns caused the smoke detectors to activate.

Due to the alarms activating, the building was evacuated.

Dispatch attempted to reset the fire alarms, but they reactivated due to the remaining mist.

For safety precautions, Cafe O'Bears and the west area of the OC were temporarily closed.

MIP citation issued near Ann V. Nicholson Apartments

Police were on routine patrol near the Ann V. Nicholson Apartments Jan. 19 at 12:55 p.m. when they encountered a female student holding a bottle containing alcohol.

When the student saw OUPD, she hid the bottle behind her back and handed it to another person. Police asked the student how old she was, and she began to walk away from them.

Police caught the student and discovered she is 19 years old.

The student acknowledged that the bottle contained alcohol, and said she had six shots before the police found her.

The student consented to a preliminary breath test, which resulted in a .192 blood alcohol content. She was issued a citation for underage drinking.

— Compiled by Natalie Popovski,
Campus Editor

Proposal to make Greek life directly funded on the table

By Kevin Graham
Senior Reporter

The Student Activities Fee Assessment Committee is considering changes that could include adding Greek organizations as a presence on the committee in the future.

Every student pays \$27.50 each semester into a Student Activities Fee that is split between eight different directly funded student organizations.

Members of the committee include The Oakland Post, Student Program Board, Student Congress, WXOU radio, Student Video Productions, Student Life Lecture Board, Club Sports and the Student Activities Funding Board.

All other student organizations are funded out of the 24 percent portion given to the

SAFB for this purpose.

Going Greek?

There is a movement within SAFAC looking to possibly include Greek organizations as a directly funded group underneath the SAFAC umbrella.

According to Student Program Board Chairman Nick McCormick, having Greek organizations as part of the committee just makes sense.

"Greek organizations and Greeks in general make up a large part of student life, and I know two percent sounds weird, but two percent is quite a lot in the scope of how many students are involved in student organizations and in the scope of how many student organizations they make up out of the total percentage," he said.

There are currently 419 stu-

dents involved in Greek life.

McCormick, a member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, said Greek organizations would join through the Greek Council.

The Greek Council consists of the 15 Greek fraternities and sororities on campus. Each organization appoints its president and two delegates to the Council, McCormick said.

SAFB Chairman Brandon Hanna said he does believe Greek organizations should take on a larger profile on the campus.

"I think Greek organizations on campus need a better and bigger representation," Hanna said. "One thing that I think needs to happen for Greek organizations is for them to have their own office. Many other universities have their own

Greek office, usually in their union center."

Hanna would like to hear from the Greek organizations themselves on what their needs are before moving forward.

"SAFAC as a whole has not been contacted by these Greek organizations," he said. "I think we can't really do anything until Greek organizations bring the issue to SAFAC as a whole and then we can address the issue from there."

Tightening belts

In order for Greek organizations to join SAFAC as a committee member, the current amount of funding given to directly funded organizations would have to be repropor-tioned.

In order to examine the feasibility of this, SAFAC chair and Student Congress President Samantha Wolf has asked each organization to do an examination of their budgets.

"I really want to push everyone in SAFAC to look at their budgets and see if they are spending the students' money

effectively," Wolf, a member of Alpha Delta Pi, said. "If they are doing that already, fantastic. But I think there is always room for improvement."

Wolf said the committee can only make recommendations to OUSC, and they can choose to place the issue on the ballot for a student vote during Student Congress elections in March.

SAFAC FUNDING PERCENTAGES

- Student Program Board: 28 percent
- Student Activities Funding Board: 24 percent
- Student Congress: 16 percent
- WXOU: 11 percent
- Oakland Post: 7 percent
- Student Video Productions: 5 percent
- Club Sports: 5 percent
- Student Life Lecture Board: 3 percent
- Special Projects Fund: 1 percent



American Red Cross

Blood Drive at OU

When: Tuesday, January 29th, Wednesday, January 30th, and

Thursday, January 31st

Time: 9:00am—9:00pm

Where: Rooms 126-127, 128-130 of the Oakland Center

Help save someone's life by donating blood for those in need! Please visit www.redcrossblood.org and type in sponsor code: oublood to schedule an

appointment.



SNAOU
Student Nurses Association of OU





STEPHANIE SOKOL/The Oakland Post

During last semester, the Student Organic Farming Program opened up stands to sell the fresh produce they grew. The group received a \$20,400 grant that OU will match.

Student Organic Farming Program receives \$20,400 grant

By **Stephanie Sokol**
Local Editor

The Americana Foundation awarded the Student Organic Farming Program with a \$20,400 grant which will be matched by the university.

The money the group received will be used toward work with farm expansion and maintaining staff, according to Fay Hansen, associate professor of biological sciences.

The foundation behind the grant

The Americana Foundation's website, their mission is to "support educational and advocacy programs that address the preservation of American agriculture, the conservation of natural resources and the protection and presentation of expressions of America's heritage," according to the foundation's website.

The group provided the grant to SOFP after visiting Baldwin Center and seeing what goes on there, according to Hansen.

She said the foundation supports a number of local sustainable farming projects in the state.

"This funding is really important to us because it will fund our farm manager, Jared Bogdanov-Hanna, for close to full-time, which we really need because of our farm's expansion," Hansen said.

The SOFP received a grant in 2011 from Learn and Serve America, through the Midwest Compact Consortium, aimed at "development of the student farm's aca-

demic and service-learning programs," according to Hansen.

That grant made it possible to hire a farm manager, though this funding is the program's first from a private foundation.

"The program and club teach people about where their food comes from and how to work with the environment," assistant farm manager Billy Purri said. "(Working at the farm) has been a great real-world experience, and this grant will help us be more efficient."

The goals of the group

The SOFP works to "raise awareness about food choices, sustainability and health for OU students," providing organic, farm-grown food for sales at the campus farm stand, as well as the Pontiac area, according to Hansen.

Community efforts include volunteering at the Baldwin and Kennedy Centers in Pontiac. Hanna plays a role in overseeing farm projects.

"My responsibilities include day-to-day work at the farm as well as leading projects and working with students," Hanna said. "The farm was student-initiated in 2008. Every year the farm has grown, and we've had a lot of fun. It's a great way to get exposure and hands-on learning with local food."

Contact Local Editor *Stephanie Sokol* via email at sasokol@oakland.edu or follow her on Twitter @StephanieSokol

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January 30

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Oakland University Career Services
154 N. Foundation Hall | 248-370-3250

Cruising right up to the COBO Center

Students display car at this year's Auto Show

By Misha Mayhand
Multimedia Reporter

The Oakland University Society of Automotive Engineering is displaying their new 2013 open-wheeled race car at the North American International Auto Show for the third year in a row.

The race car, Grizzlies Racing 2013, or GRX3, is on display in COBO Center in downtown Detroit from Jan. 18-27. Jason Murgagh, marketing and business manager for SAE, said he contacted the Auto Show back in August to reserve a spot.

Planning ahead

Murgagh said since they first attended the Auto Show, the group has kept in contact with show workers to help them secure spots each year.

With the show being a big event, Murgagh said it was imperative for SAE to get a booth.

"Because this event is a significant event for the auto industry, I figure it's a good opportunity to get our name and the school's name out there," Murgagh said. "However, we ran into a little hiccup because of the construction being done to COBO Hall."

Instead of being on display in Michigan Hall as it has been in the past, the student organization will be on display in the basement of the COBO Center along with other Formula SAE organizations.

"It's almost like a mini-competition," Murgagh said.

The norm for the group

Outside of displaying GRX3 at the NAIAS, the student organization competes in



design contests, according to SAE president Tom Garvey.

"We have to completely design, build and test an open-wheeled race car, all in a year," Garvey said. "Not only do we design a four-wheel car, we also have to create a background for it."

Garvey said a presentation for the car is a must in the competition, during which they have to sell themselves to a panel of judges.

"We create a mock-company and we're judged on how well our mock-company is," Garvey said. "We're pretty much a mock-business model preparing ourselves for the real world, so we do these competitions every year to get the experience."

Garvey said the student org is continuously growing and business students are getting involved as well.

"There is a lot to engineering besides building and design," Garvey said. "There is an entire sales presentation involved and a lot of finances, as well as, marketing."

On a typical day, SAE mem-

bers hang out at their garage, which is located next to the OU Police Department, working on upcoming projects.

Remaining visible

SAE participates in additional auto events besides the NAIAS.

Garvey said because SAE participates in a lot of shows, he has been working closely with the business school.

"We go to the Concours d'Elegance car show, it's one of the biggest auto shows in Michigan and is well-known around the world," he said.

SAE also participates in the Woodward Dream Cruise.

"We have a spot outside of Duggan's Irish Pub on Woodward in Royal Oak," Garvey said. "We've actually had several news interviews with local stations like WXYZ Channel 7 and WDIV Channel 4 because of our station outside of the Irish pub."

He said the group goes to many local auto racing events based around Metro Detroit, and has hosted on-campus events with Chrysler.



Garvey said this year, OU faculty and admissions will also be accompanying them at the Auto Show and the Grizz mascot will make an appearance Jan. 23.

Contact Multimedia Reporter Misha Mayhand via email at mmayhand@oakland.edu or follow her on Twitter @MishaMayhand

TOP Members of the Society of Automotive Engineering describe how the Grizzlies Racing 2013, or GRX3, works to visitors of the Auto Show.

BOTTOM (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) Lauren White, a senior studying accounting and business management for SAE, Ali Rizvi, a senior studying finance and accounting and treasurer for the group and Collin Gillespie, a freshman studying mechanical engineering and power train engineer for the group.

MISHA MAYHAND/The Oakland Post

SNAPSHOT DC

FEATURING STUDENT SUBMITTED PHOTOS

WRITTEN BY NICHOLE SEGUIN
DESIGN BY FRANK LEPKOWSKI

Three buses full of 165 students ventured to Washington D.C. Sunday evening to see U.S. President Barack Obama be sworn in for his second term.

The trip, organized by the Student Program Board and Student Activities Funding Board, cost \$75 per student. The fee included transportation, snacks and an all-day Metro pass.

Once there, students were allowed to do whatever they wanted, so long as they made it back to the buses for the 9 p.m. departure.

"I was very impressed with all of the students making it back in time to the Metro station," said Owen O'Connor, one of the students arranging the trip. "Everyone was very responsible and aware of the time to get

back even with the hundreds of thousands of people in the subways."

While most students went to the National Mall, others used the opportunity to tour the city and opted out of viewing the inauguration activities.

Ten students were also selected via a raffle to win VIP passes, which granted them standing room tickets closer to the Capitol building.

Kaitlyn Carnaghi, a senior studying medical laboratory studies, was one of the students selected. Though she said some people were able to go up further than she was permitted, her overall experience was enhanced by being closer to the Capitol and away from the general public.

"We were in a gated-off section, standing in a bigger crowd that was away from the general public," she said. "It was really neat because we had been in the general public beforehand and the view was so much better. I've never been to D.C. before, so that's why I chose to go on the trip ... it was a great experience and I'm really glad I got to go."

Other events throughout the day included the Inaugural Parade and the Inaugural Ball.

Contact Editor-in-Chief Nichole Seguin via email at naseguin@oakland.edu or follow her on Twitter @naseguin



PHOTO BY MATT DRYGALSKI



PHOTO BY MATT DRYGALSKI



PHOTO BY MATT DRYGALSKI



PH



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PHOTO BY LAUREN BAUER



PHOTO BY KAITLIN CARNAGHI



PHOTO BY KARA LESLIE



PHOTO BY AMERA FATTAH



PHOTO BY KARLEY BEATON



PHOTO BY SAM WOLF

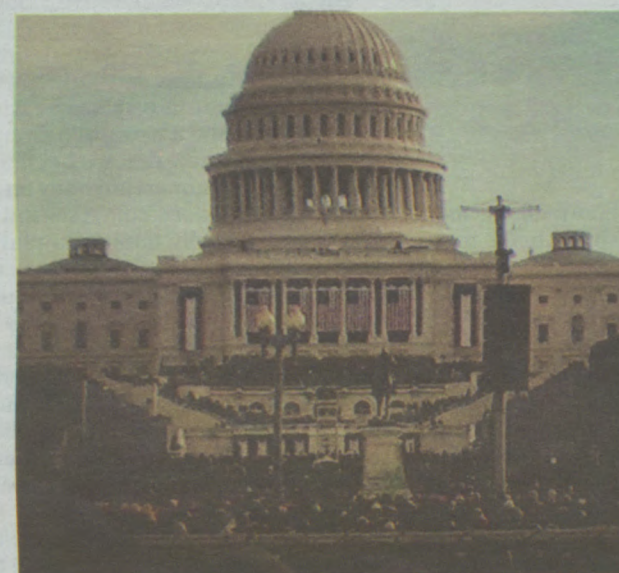


PHOTO BY LAUREN BAUER



PHOTO BY KRISTIANA HILA

Catching lightning in a bottle

Erika Polidori looks to repeat her success from last season

By Allen Jordan
Staff Reporter

Production, patience and leadership — Oakland University softball team and College Sports Madness Preseason Player of the Year candidate Erika Polidori will test all three this year as they look to rebound from a 10-38 campaign in 2012.

Numbers never lie

Polidori, a junior from Brantford, Ontario, Canada, earned an All-Summit League first-team selection last season leading the Golden Grizzlies in batting average (.379), hits (44), runs (23), slugging percentage (.647) and on-base percentage (.451).

She also recorded 15 RBI, while stealing 17 bases and was tied for first on the team in home runs (6) and doubles (9) on her way to her second all-league selection.

America's pasttime sport seems to be a natural fit for the Canadian native.

"Every aspect of the game appealed to me when I began playing," Polidori said. "No matter if it was defense, hitting, or pitching, I wanted to do it all."

Originally starting out as a guard playing basketball, Polidori caught on to softball after participating on a travel team put together by a close friend.

After lettering in basketball at St. John's College along with volleyball, track, rugby and soccer, softball ultimately drew the nursing major's attention where she now plays catcher and outfielder.

Enhance your calm

Coming into the year, the offseason for the Golden Grizzlies saw a change in coaching duties for OU after the resignation of former head coach LaDonia Hughes.

That paved the way for 500 game-winner and Michigan native, UC Riverside Head Coach Connie Miner, who brings 22 years of coaching experience after nine years on the west coast. She showcases a new approach to the game for a team looking for a fresh start with a new face.

Joining the team after the beginning of the school year, Miner has preached patience and relaxation to her new



DYLAN DULBERG/The Oakland Post

Erika Polidori (MIDDLE) crouches during a game against Concordia last October. Polidori has a .954 career fielding percentage.

"EVERY ASPECT OF THE GAME APPEALED TO ME WHEN I BEGAN PLAYING. NO MATTER IF IT WAS DEFENSE, HITTING, OR PITCHING, I WANTED TO DO IT ALL."

Erika Polidori,
Junior catcher and outfielder

group of players.

"She has really been pushing us to be patient and we have been pretty receptive," Polidori said. "It's been a real bonding experience after last year where we struggled a lot with our chemistry."

Part of the philosophy that Miner wants to instill in this year's squad is more of a family atmosphere, where accountability for everyone will serve as motivation to earn the Summit League Championship.

"I use the example of acting as a fist," Miner said, describing a sense of togetherness among her players. "Things can only happen if we work together and act as one unit."

Lead-off hitter

After battling injuries throughout the year, OU finished on a positive note. They won two out of three Summit League series, playing .500 to close the season.

The program will look to Polidori along with preseason all-league selections Jackie Kisman, Erin Galloway and Shannon Cleveland to help carry that momentum into this year with a healthy team and a new philosophy.

"I let them know that we need to be the best team amongst anybody on and off the field," Miner said. "A season like last year can really damage a player's confidence, but if you give them that sense of security that they can bounce back it all will be a distant memory."

After finishing the fall schedule undefeated at 4-0 and hitting .538 and six RBI including a game-winning single against Michigan-Deaborn, Polidori will be looked upon to take a different approach to being the driving force behind runs and wins.

"I need to be more vocal as a leader this year," Polidori said. "It's good that they see my production on the field but I will look to speak up and make my presence known amongst the team off

the field as well."

"She is our definition of balance and it's something I want to spread through the team," Miner said. "She has the physical skills to push our team to be better, now we encourage her to challenge her teammates on a vocal level to bring out their full potential."

The OU softball team will open up its regular season on the road next month taking on Presbyterian in the Georgia State Tournament.

Contact Staff Reporter Allen Jordan via email at ajordan12@oakland.edu or follow him on Twitter @aj128

FAST FACTS

Class: Junior

Major: Nursing

Height: 5-4

Positions: Catcher and outfielder

- All-Summit League first team selection
- Finished 2012 with 14 multi-hit games

The leading lady of lacrosse

Desiree Messina was voted 2013 Preseason Player of the Year

By Lindsay Beaver
Sports Editor

After trying out for her high school lacrosse team in her sophomore year because it "seemed like something fun to do," Desiree Messina has gone on to make a name for herself in the sport.

Messina grew up in Macomb and attended Notre Dame Preparatory. As a health science major in her senior year at Oakland University, Messina manages to keep a fair balance between work and play.

"Being a student athlete is tough," Messina said. "It takes a great understanding of time management skills and being focused and dedicated to both."

Her dedication to lacrosse begins behind the scenes. Messina trains at Real Detroit Muscle in Troy seven days a week.

"I do weight training and endurance training," Messina said. "Practices are an hour and a half long, four days a week. We practice basic drills, plays and strategies."

Racking up awards

In December 2012, Messina was voted the Women's Collegiate Lacrosse Associates Preseason Player of the Year for the upcoming season.

"I put a lot of pressure on myself to perform at the highest level possible," Messina said. "My mindset during a game is very focused. I'm very determined and motivated to help myself and my team play to the best of our abilities."

Leading up to her senior year, Messina already had a number of honors under her belt. She won All League three years in a row, made first-team All-American and was voted 2012 Midfielder of the Year.

"I have never met someone who works as hard as Desiree," junior goalie Lauren Pattah said. "When she has a goal, she works to achieve it."

Down but not out

The road has not been easy for Messina. Lacrosse is a physical sport, and she has the battle scars to prove



Photo courtesy of Desiree Messina

Desiree Messina sat out her freshman year due to injury, earning her redshirt. She finished last season with 77 goals and 33 assists, earning her 2012 Midfielder of the Year.

it. She has broken multiple bones and blew out her left knee two different times, tearing her ACL, MCL and meniscus.

"Injuries are tough both mentally and physically," Messina said. "To have to work hard to recover and come back to play is a major thing to take on."

Despite her injuries, Messina has helped continue the Grizzlies' streak of excellence. The women have been Northeastern Division Champions every year since 2007. For four seasons, 2009-12, Oakland has earned the title Women's Collegiate Lacrosse League Division II Champions.

"She's fought through so many ob-

stacles and just keeps battling back," Pattah said. "She comes back stronger and more motivated with each season."

Head coach Towbey Kassa has seen Messina work her way back to the top after being riddled with injuries.

"She's worked very hard on the field to get where she's at," Kassa said.

A leader on and off the field

Messina and her teammates are quick to shower each other with praise. While she credits them for much of her success, Messina's leadership skills help her teammates as well.

"She is always encouraging and knows just what to say to motivate

"MY MINDSET DURING A GAME IS VERY FOCUSED. I'M VERY DETERMINED AND MOTIVATED TO HELP MYSELF AND MY TEAM PLAY TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITIES."

Desiree Messina,
Senior midfielder

players to play to their potential," Pattah said. "She cares so much about her teammates, doing everything in her power to help them, both on the field and off the field."

Messina's presence on the field helps bring the team confidence.

"She has such a high lacrosse IQ and such awareness on the field, that it's calming for the rest of us," Pattah said. "You just know that good things are going to happen when she's on the field."

Kassa calls Messina a big piece of the puzzle for the Grizzlies. Her hard work and leadership have brought her to where she is today.

"All of her success is because she worked hard," Kassa said. "She's a great person that any coach would like to have."

Continuing success

Up until this point, Messina's lacrosse career has come with its share of memorable moments. Two seasons ago, Messina made the game winning goal with two seconds left to beat Michigan State University.

Messina called that game one of the most memorable moments of her career, tied with the moment she received the All-American award at the National Tournament just a couple weeks ago.

Showing her diversity beyond the lacrosse field, Messina played hockey for 10 years. She loves kids, she said, and coaches girls' lacrosse at Troy High School.

While her career at Oakland is in its last chapter, this won't be the end of her lacrosse playing. According to Messina, she has plans to continue to play after college.

"I love the sport and everything about it," Messina said. "I can't imagine not playing."

Contact Sports Editor Lindsay Beaver via email at ltbeave2@oakland.edu or follow her on Twitter @lindsaybeavs



Photo Illustration by DYLAN DULBERG/The Oakland Post

While the best way to prevent the flu is through vaccination, over-the-counter medicines are available to treat symptoms of the sickness.

Look what flu into Michigan

Nationwide flu outbreak spreads through southeast side of the mitten

By Kevin Graham
Senior Reporter

It's a common sight — students coughing, having to walk up to the professor's desk a little too often to get a tissue and looking like they'd rather be in bed.

These are the telltale signs of flu season.

Every year, the coming of the season brings with it a set of questions — how prevalent is it, what can be done to prevent it and what to do if we get it?

Flu statistics

Nancy Jansen, director of Graham Health Center, said the flu is having a bigger impact right now than it did this time last year.

"There's some increase in the clinic here, and I'm hearing reports from departments that there is more flu-like illness," she said.

There have been seven cases of flu-like symptoms such as fever, chills and aching causing people to go to the emergency room in the past week in Southeast Michigan, according to data provided by

the Michigan Department of Community Health as of Jan. 17.

Statewide visits to healthcare providers showed 4.5 percent of visits were due to influenza-like activity. That number was 2.8 percent for southeast Michigan. Both bodily and respiratory alerts have increased compared to this time last year.

Bob Ortlieb, a spokesman for Beaumont Health System, said visits to Beaumont's Royal Oak campus had increased significantly, due in large part to influenza.

"In the last 10 days, our volume of patients that we see at our emergency center in Royal Oak has increased 25 to 30 percent," Ortlieb said. "Of that, each day we're seeing a couple of dozen flu cases, where we are confirming that the patients indeed have a strain of the flu."

Oakland County Health Officer Kathy Forzley said there has been an increase in flu-related activity over this time last year in the county.

"We don't really have any idea in terms of numbers other than when we hear from hospitals that they're getting a surge because more people are coming into the ER or being admitted for flu," she said.

"We know those things are happening,"

Forzley said although high flu numbers are hitting earlier this year, in the past, they've seen flu numbers peak as early as October and as late as May.

Bill Ridella, director and health officer at Macomb County Health Department, said although they are not tracking cases, there are several indicators that the flu is having an effect in the county.

"We are seeing more people that are coming into emergency departments and hospitals and doctors' offices and also absenteeism from school," said Ridella.

Prevention

The best way to protect against flu is to get vaccinated.

"The strains that are on this year's flu shot are a very good match to the strains that are circulating in the community," Forzley said.

Flu germs can survive on surfaces up to eight hours, according to estimates from the Centers of Disease Control.

Jansen pointed out that flu shots do not have an immediate effect.

"It takes up to two weeks for your body

to develop more antibodies toward that specific virus," she said.

For those that have not yet been immunized, Jansen recommends the following:

- Wash hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub.
- Try to frequently clean surfaces commonly touched by multiple people.
- Don't sit by someone you think might be sick (six foot rule).
- Get enough sleep, exercise and eat healthy.

If you have the flu

The major sign of flu is fever. Jansen said students can get disposable thermometers at the Graham Health Center.

"A temperature of 100 is a red flag that you may have the flu, especially if it came on suddenly and you're achy and really tired," she said.

If people come in within 48 hours, antiviral medication is available to treat the flu, Jansen said.

Contact Senior Reporter Kevin Graham via email at kpgraham@oakland.edu

TREATING THE FLU

Local hotlines

Beaumont:
888-375-4161

Macomb County Health
Department:
586-466-7923

Oakland County Health
Department:
800-848-5533

Vaccination locations

Here's a list of vaccination providers in the area. The dollar amounts provided represent cost without insurance.

Graham
Health Center: \$20

Macomb County Health
Department: \$15

Oakland County Health
Department: \$20

A real-life 'Brady Bunch' story

Couple shares story of love and loss to help others cope

By Shannon Coughlin
Web Editor

Rochester couple Michael Rand and Gina Spehn's experience has been called "a real-life 'Brady Bunch' story."

They found one another after each losing a spouse to cancer. Together, they merged their families and learned to love again.

Lending a hand

Since Michael and Gina came together, the two have made it their mission to help other families cope with cancer.

They co-founded the New Day Foundation for Families in 2007, which, in partnership with Beaumont Heath System and with the help of donations, provides financial assistance for

young families affected by cancer.

Last September, the duo held the "Evening Under the Stars" at Meadow Brook Hall to raise money. Combined with the foundation's annual golf outing, the event brought in over \$100,000.

At one golf outing, a man who had recently lost a family member to cancer noticed how happy and hopeful the Spehn children looked. Michael remembers the man coming up to him and saying, "I can't tell you what this means to me to know (my kids are) going to be okay."

Seeing positive reactions from other families inspired Michael and Gina to share their unique experience in a dual first person perspective book.

Hope after tragedy

"The Color of Rain," which hit shelves in 2011, took about a year and a half to write.

"He (Michael) said to me, 'you know what the difference be-

tween everybody else who says they're going to write a book and us is? We're actually going to do it,'" Gina said.

Their book, now a New York Times best-seller, helped further the success of the New Day Foundation for Families.

Michael and Gina signed books, and held a discussion at the Rochester Barnes & Noble on Thursday. A group of friends, family and local fans came to discuss the book and share some of their personal experiences.

The couple talked about how in the midst of loss, people often feel they have to meet a certain expectation of what grief is supposed to look like.

"There's no doubt about it. Grief will find you. You don't have to go looking for it," Michael said.

The Spehns said there is a sense of guilt about laughing too soon after a tragedy, but Michael and Gina insisted that smiling is natural and it is not a dishonor



SHANNON COUGHLIN/The Oakland Post

Gina and Michael Spehn of Rochester sign copies of their book about finding hope and love after loss, at the Rochester Barnes & Noble Thursday.

to lost loved ones. People giggle again, and it's okay.

"Not only do they giggle but they cry and they love again," Michael said.

Big screen and beyond

In 2011 Michael and Gina appeared on "The Today Show" to discuss their story. The segment caught the eye of producers in L.A. who asked to turn the book into a Hallmark movie.

"The Color of Rain" screen-

play is currently being written. Production could begin as early as April.

Michael and Gina said they hope their story helps others find hope.

"It's to give people that permission and that hope that you can live, and you should," Gina said.

For more information about the foundation or how to make a donation, visit www.foundationforfamilies.com

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GO GOLD!!

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Guard the Grizz
and Car Smash 10:00PM

Saturday 26

Tailgate 1:00PM

Men's Basketball 5:00PM

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www.oakland.edu/comehome

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Vocal performance major
Amandalynne Walker performs
in 'Sour Angelic' at Varner
Recital Hall Jan. 19.

CREATING CRESCENDOS

DYLAN DULBERG/The Oakland Post

Freshman performs the works of favorite composer, receives Appleton Fund

By Katie Phelan
Staff Intern

As a freshman, Amandalynne Walker has already starred in "Hairspray" and performed the works of Giacomo Puccini.

Earning a degree in music is the first step for Walker, a vocal performance major, in a long list of goals that includes Broadway shows, The Julliard School for Music and singing opera.

"A teacher of mine told me that if I could imagine myself doing something other than music, I should go do it. I can't imagine that, so I am here," Walker said.

Growing up, Walker had many musical influences like Reena Fleming, "The Sound of Music" and Luciano Pavarotti, but it was not until she discovered opera that she was truly inspired.

"Everything I ever listened to was empty until I heard Puccini's works," Walker said. "From then on, a new door was opened to great operas and a new way to love music."

Before coming to Oakland, Walker was cast in various musicals, including "You're in Town," "Hairspray" and "Annie Get Your Gun," where she played the lead role of Annie Oakley.

According to Walker, she would not be majoring in music if it was not for her high school voice teacher, Alta Dantzler, with whom she worked while enrolled at Rochester High School.

"She has opened my eyes, my heart and doors to things that are possible for the future, and as my first voice teacher, I couldn't have asked for more," Walker said.

Walker is now part of the Symphony Chorus and Chorale at OU.

"Everything I ever listened to was empty until I heard Puccini's works. From then on, a new door was opened to great operas and a new way to love music."

Amandalynne Walker,
Freshman

Walker is also the recipient of the Betty and Shelly Appleton Critical Difference Endowed Fund, which was established to provide financial support for students majoring in political science, music or dance.

Walker's practice schedule varies from day to day, depending on the academic strain from classes.

"Occasionally I will take a break and sing for enjoyment," Walker said. "Practicing is work, not play time; it deserves all my attention."

Along with classes and rehearsals, Walker performed in "Sour Angelic," a famous opera by Puccini, at Varner Recital Hall Jan. 19.

"I am amazed that I have the chance to perform my favorite composer's work as a freshman in college," Walker said.

The music program at Oakland is just the place for Walker to be, according to associated professor of music Michael Mitchell. He said many music performance students go on to get a Master of Music in Vocal Performance degree, or they move to different areas of the country or to Europe.

"Oakland has a strong vocal program and is known nationwide for producing terrific classical singers," Mitchell said.

Contact Staff Intern Katie Phelan at kpphelan@oakland.edu

WHAT'S IN YOUR OFFICE? THAYER JONUTZ

Written and Photographed by Kailee Mathias
Staff Intern

Thayer Jonutz is an assistant professor of dance technique, choreography and theory. Jonutz's career has taken him to Tonga, Japan, Mexico, the Philippines, South Korea and India. He is the director of OU's Repertory Dance Company. His administrative office, located in Varner Hall, showcases his dedication to dance and family.

1. Jonutz displays a family calendar his wife made.

2. Leaning in the corner of his office are excess pieces of marley that were cut off when the new floors were set. Marley is what is used for the dance floors in Varner Hall. "I do performances in really weird places, so it helps to have some extra marley around just in case," he said.

3. "In a dance office we have a stockpile of DVDs and CDs," Jonutz said. The DVDs are used to send dance festival submissions, or copies are given to dancers in rehearsals to help them practice. The CDs come in handy around performance time because for every show, they need a master copy of their music and a backup copy. "We go through CDs really fast here," he said.

4. Jonutz keeps papier-mâché water containers on the floor beside his desk. "These were used in a piece I choreographed and performed in. They're supposed to be an abstract representation of people in Third World countries carrying water," he said.

5. He displays artwork by his 7-year-old daughter, Alana.

6. Jonutz has an extension cord in his office but will not be using it for electrical purposes. The extension cord will be used as a prop in a brand-new piece he is choreographing for the Repertory Dance Company.

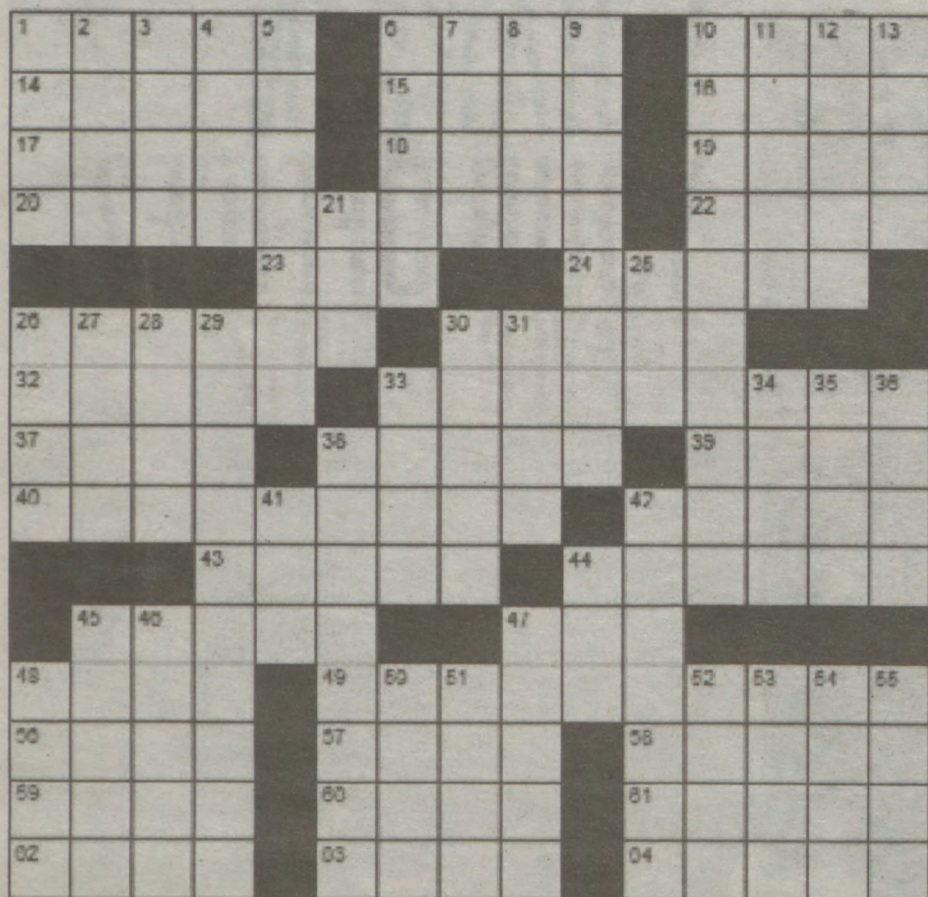
"Since I'm in the dance department, you'll notice I don't just have books or filing cabinets, I have props."

Thayer Jonutz, dance professor



WEEKLY PUZZLES

Answers are available online at
www.oaklandpostonline.com



ACROSS

1. Muscle spasm
6. How old we are
10. Temporary living quarters
14. Challenger
15. Snare
16. Hodgepodge
17. Alpha's opposite
18. Attraction
19. Connecting point
20. Spoilable
22. Outlay
23. "___ the season to be jolly"
24. Float
26. Not on target
30. Handrail post
32. Fragrant oil
33. Brazen
37. Average
38. Late
39. Church alcove
40. Unclearness
42. Drive
43. After ninth
44. Charisma
45. Sudden burst
47. Knight's title

DOWN

1. Prune
2. Frost
3. Affirm
4. Wise men
5. Spackle
6. Collection of maps
7. Food
8. Nobleman
9. A racetrack
10. Make peace
11. Detached
12. Center

13. He writes in verse
21. Concealed
25. Record (abbrev.)
26. Mother
27. Bit of gossip
28. Knife
29. The state of being clean
30. Not south
31. Countercurrent
33. Entice
34. Not closed
35. Utilized
36. Arid
38. Unmelodious
41. Obtain
42. Dreamlike
44. Perish
45. A river through Paris
46. A group of lions
47. Scatter
48. Add
50. Send forth
51. It ebbs and flows
52. Angel's headwear
53. Hens make them
54. Wings
55. Caribou

APPLY TO GRADUATE

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JANUARY
25

OAKLAND.EDU/GRADUATE

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This one's for Steve Kneeeve

We can all learn a lesson from Manti Te'o — or at least try to

By Brian Figurski
Copy Editor/Raconteur

Manti Te'o, a remarkable college football star at Notre Dame, and his complex imagination have recently been under fire. The thing is that I don't see the big problem with this. In fact, this burst of creativity is the kind of spurt most people could really use these days.

Being more of a cat and yoga kind of guy, I admit when the story first broke about Te'o, I blew it under the rug. Brian to football is like Taylor Swift to a steady relationship — they just don't mesh well together. But when I was told in clear detail about his fantasizing of the death of an imaginary girlfriend, I realized Te'o and I, we're basically the same guy, except his life has been successful.

Manti Te'o, I completely understand. I've done this plenty of times. I still do it every Christmas. When my family pesters me why I am perpetually alone, my "girlfriend" is "overseas with her family in Kosovo," or "serving time for soliciting herself to an undercover officer."

More than often I pull the inverse Te'o — instead of making up a girlfriend, I actually deny her existence to the general public.

"Why hello, beautifully proportioned waitress. Yes I will give you a ridiculously inflated tip. No, I do not have a girlfriend. Who's this sitting next to me? My sister, of course. You saw us kiss earlier? We're European, it's a cultural thing. You saw us kiss extensively over the course of a minute? The deep south of Europe."

Or perhaps I just have commitment issues.

This story reminds me a lot of old friend from high school, Steve Kneeeve. Steve Kneeeve was a compulsive liar, a habit that developed early in his childhood where he was raised on a potato farm with his parents and three siblings.

SATIRE



Brian Figurski gets a game of ping pong in at Bumpers with his best imaginary friend, Steve Kneeeve.

Photo illustration by DYLAN DULBERG/The Oakland

"MORE THAN OFTEN I PULL THE REVERSE TE'O — INSTEAD OF MAKING UP A GIRLFRIEND, I ACTUALLY DENY HER EXISTENCE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. 'WHY, HELLO BEAUTIFULLY PROPORTIONED WAITRESS...'"

Steve would lie constantly out of habit and dug himself into holes that were impossible to climb out to the top. His holes just got deeper. The most remarkable trickery he ever pulled was at his job at Choo-Choo's, a sandwich shop transformed from the caboose of an abandoned train. Don't Google that because it has since shut down and there is no traceable evidence of its existence.

In an instance during the summer, he request-

ed a week off to return home for his mother's birthday. Steve forgot that he told his manager that his parents were dead. The birthday of his mother was to mourn graveside in the weeklong tradition of his religion, a branch of Islamic faith called Cthulhuism originated in the late 1700s.

His manager was a huge H.P. Lovecraft fanatic and called Steve Kneeeve's bluff on the phony religion, which Steve rebutted with, "it's not my fault! I have epilepsy!" and fell to the floor faking a convulsion. He was promptly fired.

This was the tragic tale of Steve Kneeeve's life, until he was eaten by a pack of wild bears. Bears that invaded the treatment center where he was undergoing chemotherapy. For butt cancer. Cancer of the butt cheek.

I couldn't go to his funeral because it was the same day as production night.

To be honest, I'm thinking of, you know, dedicating this semester to Steve Kneeeve. Writing the best I can write. Just trying to do my best to help my newspaper be honest and truthful. Just like Manti Te'o.

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