

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

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PHOTO BY SOPHIE HUME

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AYMAN ISHIMWE / PHOTOGRAPHER



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POLL OF THE WEEK

WHICH SUMMER MUSIC RELEASE ARE YOU MOST EXCITED FOR?

A) BILLIE EILISH
B) TYLER, THE CREATOR
C) LORDE
D) OTHER

LAST ISSUE’S POLL

WHERE WILL YOU BE THIS SUMMER?

26%
A) CHILLING AT THE BEACH

36%
B) HANGING OUT AT BONFIRES

7%
C) CONCERTS/ SPORTING EVENTS

31%
D) AT OU FOR SUMMER CLASSES

CORRECTIONS CORNER: In our previous issue, we referred to the Oakland United Student Workers Coalition (OUSWC) as the Oakland University Student Workers Coalition, which is incorrect.

The Oakland Post corrects all known errors of fact. If you know of an error, please email editor@oaklandpostonline.com.

BOT raises tuition 4.2%, adds master's programs

LAUREN KARMO

Managing Editor

A 4.2% increase in tuition rates was the focus of the Oakland University Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting on Monday, June 21. The additions of two new master's programs and a report on alumni success were also discussed.

President's report

President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz opened her report with an acknowledgment of OU's student athletes for their success this past academic year. OU athletics was awarded its fifth McCafferty Trophy — a total sports award given to the Horizon League institution with the most performance points.

OU's men's and women's swim and dive and men's golf teams were highlighted for their success in their championships, and OU shared the McCafferty Trophy with Youngstown State.

"We've already accumulated the third most trophies in the league history," Pescovitz said. "So there is no question that the Oakland University Golden Grizzlies are indeed champions."

In addition to athletic success, the president's report also shared results of a recent survey conducted by the senior director of career services, Wayne Thibodeau. The survey measured alumni career success from a sample of 5,095 graduates from 2010 or 2015.

"Oakland University has moved up and ranks an impressive third among Michigan universities that employers want to hire talent — meaning

they hire our students with internships, co-ops and full time jobs," said Glenn McIntosh, vice president of student affairs and chief diversity officer. "Our students have character. They have talent. They have a strong work ethic, and they are dedicated to being exceptional in their career field."

Tuition increase

In a unanimous vote by the BOT, tuition prices will be raised this year following last year's freeze due to COVID-19.

Vice President for Finance and Administration and Treasurer to the Board of Trustees John Beaghan proposed a budget of almost \$261 million for fiscal year 2022 (FY2022), which demands a 4.2% tuition increase.

This budget is a \$14.9 million expenditure increase from last year, which is attributed mostly to the need to replenish the financial reserves. The budget for fiscal year 2021 relied on the financial reserves in order to impose a tuition freeze — a near \$7 million expenditure.

"The total proposed FY2022 budget is relatively comparable to the budget two years prior, FY2020 — an increase of only \$4 million after two years," Beaghan said.

The budget in fiscal year 2020 was more than \$257 million. Fiscal year 2021's budget was considered an anomaly, which is why the BOT looked to fiscal year 2020 for comparison while creating this year's budget.

Addition of master's programs

Beginning fall 2022, graduate programs in

social work and business analytics will be available to students.

The department of sociology, anthropology, social work and criminal justice saw a need for a master's in social work (MSW) from both students and the labor market. This program offers two tracks — a traditional two year program for those without a bachelor's in social work and an advanced one year program for those with.

"OU's MSW program will seek accreditation to offer a high quality MSW program to prepare students to become licensed in social practice for research," Maria Beam, director of social work, said.

The master of science in business analytics is a rebranding of a concentration in an existing graduate program in information technology management. This new business analytics program will follow the 4+1 model that many business graduate programs boast, and will be easier for prospective students to find through name recognition.

"We place students [with future employers] even before they finish for the most part, so they're being paid anywhere from \$60-75 [thousand starting salary], in that range," said Vijayan Sugumaran, chair of the department of decision and information sciences.

The next BOT meeting will be on Thursday, Aug. 12 at 2 p.m.

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OU Professor leads research on Swimmer's Itch

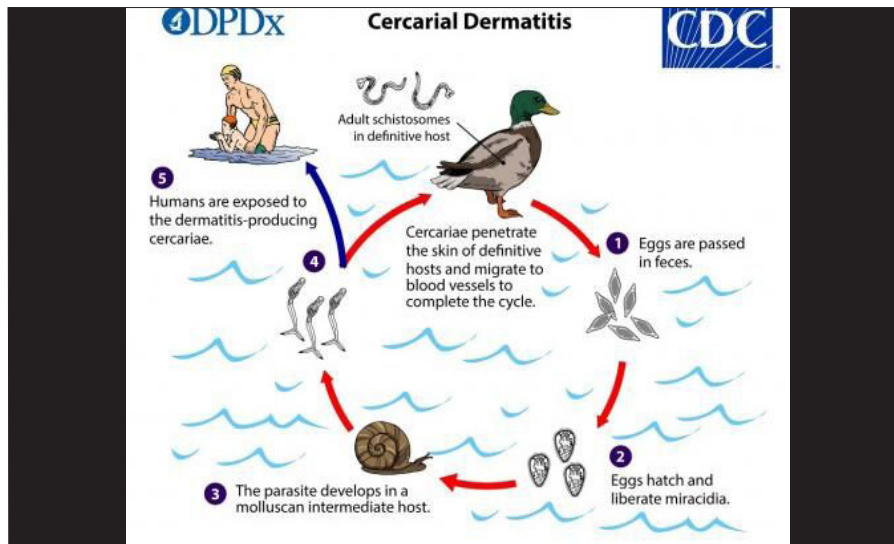


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL
The CDC graphic for the cycle of Swimmer's Itch.

GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH
Campus Editor

Picture this: You've spent the day swimming in one of Michigan's many lakes. After a while, you notice red, itchy blisters forming on your legs. What are these blisters? How did this happen?

The red, itchy blisters form a rash called cercarial dermatitis, colloquially referred to as Swimmer's Itch and are caused by parasitic activity in the water. Cercariae of certain species of schistosomes (larval form of a parasite that requires two hosts to complete its life cycle) penetrate the skin and enter the blood vessels of waterfowl.

Parasitic eggs located in the feces of the waterfowl are then released into the water that hatch into miracidia that develop in their intermediate hosts, snails, before producing the cercariae that infect the parasite's second host, waterfowl. Sometimes, the parasite may attempt to penetrate the blood vessels of an unviable second host: humans. The parasite burrows in human skin, causing the rash, but it cannot survive in humans and advance in its life cycle.

These parasites "like to move towards light up towards the surface of the water which is where ducks and geese would be floating and swimming, and they are trying to infect a bird," Dr. Thomas Raffel, an associate professor at Oakland University, said. "They [the parasites] can't complete their life cycle in a person, but they'll still try to penetrate our skin which is the mechanism of infection causing the Swimmer's Itch."

The incidence of acquiring Swimmer's Itch is unpredictable, but there may be factors that increase the likeliness of get-

ting it. Dr. Raffel was part of a research team that investigated how wind conditions influenced the incidence of acquiring Swimmer's Itch at a private Crystal Lake beach in northwestern Michigan, the Congressional Summer Assembly (CSA) Beach.

Over the course of four summers, lifeguards at CSA beach recorded various data points, including the total number of swimmers and self-reported Swimmer's Itch cases, water temperature, wind speed, as well as wind direction.

The researchers analyzed this data and found that swimming by CSA Beach in the morning or on days with direct on-shore wind perpendicular to the shoreline indicated the greatest risk for acquiring Swimmer's Itch. The light produced at sunrise may cause the increased presence of avian schistosome cercariae in the morning, and the wind may shift these cercariae towards the swimming areas near the beach. It is important to point out that is not the wind that is directly increasing the risk of acquiring Swimmer's Itch, but rather how the wind is moving the water carrying the avian schistosome cercariae that humans could be exposed to.

While these results may not be applicable to other lakes or locations within Crystal Lake due to their own unique biological natures, it is significant that the data collected at CSA was consistent over a long duration of time. Further research on the subject is needed.

To reduce the risk of acquiring Swimmer's Itch, the Mayo Clinic recommends avoiding swimming spots that are marshy or where Swimmer's Itch is common, not feeding ducks near swimming spots, and rinsing exposed skin to clean water after swimming.

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The graphic features a large, stylized 'O' and 'P' in maroon. Below them are social media icons for Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat. The text 'YOU CAN FIND US ON' is written in maroon and black. At the bottom, 'VISIT US ONLINE' is in black and maroon, followed by the website URL 'WWW.OAKLANDPOSTONLINE.COM' in maroon.

OU's new digital marketing certificate program

AUTUMN PAGE

Marketing Director

Oakland University Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) teamed up with the Digital Marketing Institute (DMI) to bring a new digital marketing certificate program.

OU PACE is mostly a non-credit certificate based program where individuals can get smaller credentials for things like promotions or upskill. Assistant Director of PACE, Amy Olind, reached out to the DMI and began working on what this program would become.

"I started on this digital marketing project maybe three years ago because I knew this was something that was going to be important," Olind said.

Olind feels as though this program was needed to bridge the gap in OU's curriculum.

"We saw a gap within the programs across marketing in the School of Business, public relations and communications," she said. "We noticed that they cover a little bit but not nearly at the depth that we think employers are looking for."

PACE monitors what employers are looking for in order to provide those skills at OU. This program isn't restricted to enrolled OU students, any community member can enroll in the program.

"We are constantly doing market research for what employers are looking for that are going to give people a heads up when they go to look for a job," Olind said.

This program is offered two different ways: on demand and synchronous (live) meetings. The dates for the program is still being worked on, but registration for the on demand course is open. Synchronous meetings will be held in fall 2021.

Program cost is \$1,350, which includes course materials and one exam. Financing is available but no financial aid for students enrolled at OU.

The certificate program is a 10 module learning experience with 30 hours of video content, and once started, the individual has six months to complete it and the certifying exam.

Covered content includes marketing, social media marketing, search engine optimization, paid research using Google ads, YouTube and display

advertising, email marketing, website optimization, Google analytics and digital marketing strategies.

The DMI exam is three hours long and is a dual certification. The individual has a certificate from both the Digital Marketing Institute and the American Marketing Association (AMA). The exam is held at a designated Pearson Vue testing center and a 60% or higher is needed to pass. The fee to retake the exam is \$70 when booking the next testing appointment.

The AMA certificate will have to be renewed every three years, which is cost friendly. The renewal is like any other certification where a certain number of continuing education hours is required. Continuing education hours don't have to be through AMA programs, the hours can come from programs like an Adobe workshop on marketing. The renewal cost hasn't been defined at this time.

"We're still trying to work out the details with them [AMA] about the cost — if there's a renewal cost it's generally \$100 or less," Olind said.

More information on PACE and this program can be found on the PACE website.

HHB awarded 2021 Best of Rochester Award

BRIDGET JANIS

Features Editor

The Human Health Building (HHB) on Oakland University's campus is an environmentally-friendly building that stands out in the Rochester community. People recognize this building and all it has to offer.

The HHB has been awarded the 2021 Best of Rochester Award in the category of science by the Rochester Award Program, a community based awards program that community members are asked to nominate contenders for each specific category.

"The Human Health Building was a real benefit to the Rochester community because it offers such excellence in science instruction and producing graduates that go off in the community and create change in the community," Kevin Ball, dean of OU's School of Health Sciences said.

Rochester Award Program was created to recognize the accomplishments of local businesses throughout the community. There are multiple ways that the information is gathered to help determine the winners of each category. By the data provided by the Rochester Award Program and the third parties that help out, the community is able to recognize the best of Rochester.

"It will add to the already reputation of a beautiful campus," Dr. Judy Didion, dean of

OU's School of Nursing said. "That's one thing I hear all the time when I tell people where I work."

The HHB is designed for the students. Completed in September 2012, the HHB became the main resource for OU's School of Nursing and School of Health Sciences. It's people-



NOORA NEIROUKH

The impeccably designed structure has been open to students since 2012 and is still receiving recognition.

friendly design provides plenty of open space for students to use and natural light coming through the windows.

"It's a nice addition to the campus," Didion said. "But it also kind of brings in the balance between nature and academics by having a university setting that respects the actual natural resources outside with the way the building is

structured with the windows and the gardens and the wetlands along the road."

The HHB is made with renewable materials, advanced air quality, water conservation system and geothermal heating and cooling system. It is certified as Michigan's first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum University Building in 2013.

"Some people will say it's a little out of character with the traditional parts of campus but I think where its place it's kind of on its own," Didion said. "For me when I think about health care, which is what the building houses, all the health sciences and nursing, and you think about innovation and advancement and it's kind of symbolic of that because it's a very innovative structure."

Oakland University has provided such advancements within this building that better the community and the people within it. Giving the students an opportunity to study in different ways that the other buildings may not be able to offer.

"I think this building is an extraordinary place," Ball said. "It really is a very welcoming building with its brightness in the upper parts of the building with lots of windows and open, but at the same time it's a really smart building. It has the LEED platinum abilities to manage energy in the building and it serves all of these purposes."

OUBW students face down anti-Asian hate

RACHEL YIM

Staff Reporter

In May, Asian American Heritage Month, the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA) at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) created a mental health campaign in an effort to raise awareness and to address the recent increase in hate crimes against Asian Americans.

This mental health campaign featured OUWB community members sharing their answers on APAMSA's Facebook page to questions regarding how they felt about the recent hate crimes, what changes they hope to see and what positive advice they had for fellow Asian Americans who have endured this past year and are affected by these tragedies.

As a national organization of medical students, APAMSA focuses on addressing health disparities of Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) communities. Through local, regional and national activities, it aims to promote health in APIA community and help healthcare workers understand how to care for APIA patients in a culturally sensitive manner. It also provides avenues for medical students to meet.

Following several hate crimes across the U.S., the executive board of APAMSA is focusing on the rise of hate and injustice against Asian Americans, according to Michael Ko, rising M2 and president of APAMSA.

"The recent hate crimes were a difficult pill to swallow," Ko said. "It almost felt like a natural progression from the vitriol that came from the previous president and the media. It was frustrating that these attacks were happening and that they were initially being ignored by mass media."

Deeply embedded in the history of the U.S. and its culture, the country now needs new approaches to its law enforcement, justice system and community involvement to end

racism. Additionally, one of the keys to resolving racial disparities is comprehensive social change by understanding and embracing the cultures of other people.

"I think that it is important to avoid trying to pretend that everyone is the same," Ko said. "With different cultures and race inevitably comes different life experiences and world views, and pretending that all of these people are the same as each other only serves to erase these people's experiences and pretend that there are no injustices on the basis of race and culture."

Jenny Nguyen, rising M2 and vice president of APAMSA, also contributed to this campaign. She was born in rural Vietnam and grew up in the heart of "Little Saigon City," Westminster, California. Growing up she had to experience various challenges, including racial bias and discrimination from her fellow classmates and others.

"When the hate crimes started appearing in nearby cities, I was scared for my parents' safety," Nguyen said. "My mom and aunt work at a nail salon, and to know that a murderer decided to go into someone's workplace with the intention to kill was frankly terrifying."

As future physicians, Ko and Nguyen hope to see not only the Asian American community becoming more active in fighting injustice, but also to educate more people about racial and cultural differences while ultimately providing the best care for their patients.

"We need physicians who will be willing to understand a patient's story, their unique upbringing, and lifestyle, and in turn, create creative, empowering ways to help these patients manage their disease," Nguyen said. "Thus, serving the minority population requires empathy, patience due to language or health literacy barriers, and a willingness to learn and meet patients' needs. And I hope that I can one day be the kind of physician who encompasses all these qualities and can treat patients as if they are my family member."

Study finds resistance training beneficial for Type 2 diabetes



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY NEWS.
Measurements of grip strength using a handgrip dynamometer can inform research about health in those with Type 2 diabetes.

GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH

Campus Editor

A study recently published in the journal *Sports Medicine* found that resistance training is beneficial in improving glycemic control, body fat percentage, as well blood lipids in those at risk for diabetes.

While previous research has indicated that resistance training is an effective intervention for glycemic control and cardiometabolic health for people with Type 2 diabetes, this study focused on determining the effects of resistance training on cardiometabolic risk factors in those at risk for Type 2 diabetes and researching effective resistance program characteristics that are associated with preventing it.

According to Dr. Elise Brown, an assistant professor in OU's School of Health Sciences and co-author of the study, resistance training consists of "types of exercises that you would think of like weight training and using resistance bands using your own body weight such as push-ups, pull-ups, and sit-ups. You're essentially producing a force against an external resistance, whether that resistance is a barbell or whether that resistance is the floor if you're doing a push-up. It involves a muscular force producing a force against a certain resistance."

The study's lead author is Dr. Raza Qadir, a recent OUWB graduate, and the co-authors include Dr. Brown, Taylor Todd, a student in the School of Health Sciences, and Dr. Nicholas Sculthorpe, a professor in the School of Health and Life Sciences at the University of the West of Scotland. Brown also mentored

Qadir throughout this project as a part of the OUWB Embark program, which allows medical students to gain project management and research skills while working with a faculty mentor.

"[Qadir] was an excellent student to work with," Brown said. "He's the first embark student that I've worked with, and he definitely set the bar really high."

Data was pulled from clinical trials in which participants underwent resistance training and from clinical trials in which the participants did not in order to compare cardiometabolic outcomes.

The data, analyzed by Sculthorpe, indicated that patients who used free weights or resistance bands at intensities above 60% one-repetition maximum, with 10-15 repetitions at a time, showed the most significant improvement in cardiometabolic outcomes. Additionally, the data indicated that resistance training over the course of a 12 week period or more is effective in lowering blood sugar, body fat and blood lipids of people in patients at risk for Type 2 diabetes.

Exercise recommendations of the American Diabetes Association and American College of Sports Medicine for adults with Type 2 diabetes agree with these findings.

When asked what the main takeaway of this study is, Dr. Brown emphasized early prevention and exercise are key.

"As long as individuals do not have any contraindications to exercise or resistance training specifically, everybody should be doing resistance training starting as early as possible, to help prevent cardiometabolic diseases, specifically type two diabetes," Brown said.

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The people behind OU's Land Acknowledgement Statement

JEFF THOMAS
Editor-in-Chief

In what Campus Communications deemed “an explicit gesture intended to cultivate a mutually beneficial dialogue,” Oakland University officially adopted the OU Land Acknowledgement Statement last month. The statement reads:

Oakland University resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. The land was ceded in the 1807 Treaty of Detroit and makes up southeast Michigan.

In recognizing the history and respecting the sovereignty of Michigan's Indian Nations, Oakland University honors the heritage of Indigenous communities and their significant role in shaping the course of this region. Further, we recognize the wrongs done to those forcibly removed from their Homelands and commit to fostering an environment of inclusion that is responsive to the needs of First Peoples through our words, policies, and actions.

The preservation and perpetuation of customs and traditions of Indigenous nations are essential to our shared cultural heritage. A deep understanding of Native peoples' past and present informs the teaching, research, and community engagement of the university in its ongoing effort to elevate the dignity of all people and serve as shared stewards of the land.

The land acknowledgement passed through the OU Senate on Feb. 18, and was presented to the Board of Trustees on Apr. 8. By officially enacting the acknowledgement on May 5, OU joins a number of institutions across the country in this step toward the inclusion of Indigenous communities.

While the process of getting the statement enacted progressed through the OU administration relatively quickly during the winter semester, years of work went on behind the scenes.

A grassroots initiative, this acknowledgement moved from students to faculty to the administration. The inception of the land acknowledgement was actually work that OU graduate Tara Maudrie (tribal affiliation Sault Sainte Marie tribe of Chippewa Indians) turned in for a course with Honors College Dean Graeme Harper.

“I spoke with Tara at an American Indian Health and Family Services event, at which she told me about writing it for [Harper's] class,” Associate Professor of English Andrea Knutson said. “She then sent it to me — I posted it on Facebook, and that's when Professor Rajae occurred responding telling me Tara was a student of hers and that we should talk about getting it formally adopted.”

This moment that connected Maudrie, Knutson and Assistant Professor of Public

Health Mozhgon Rajae occurred in August of 2019. Maudrie had graduated at that point, so Knutson and Rajae took the next steps of bringing Indigenous voices into the process of progressing the land acknowledgement.

Soon Assistant Professor of English Megan Peiser (tribal affiliation Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) and English STEP student Ashleigh Dubie (tribal affiliation Cherokee) were brought on board. Their voices lifted the project — but there was still more to do.

“I'm not Indigenous, and Andrea is not. So [there] was a keen awareness that this shouldn't be an acknowledgement that's just driven by non-Indigenous peoples,” Rajae said. “Megan and Ashleigh both contributed, but [there was still this question of] how do we create this with a larger community having input? We took a draft and we shared it with [Indigenous] folks and then got feedback and made modifications.”

With that bigger picture in mind, this core four of Knutson, Peiser, Rajae and Dubie continued the delicate work of drafting the statement. With such emphasis and weight behind each individual word, Knutson referred to the multi-year writing process as “the most intense work with language” that she'd ever done.

“It had to go slowly. It had to emerge out of conversations with native communities,” Knutson said. “We had to get language from them ... we had to hear what they wanted from land acknowledgements. We were absolutely committed to making sure that the land acknowledgement didn't devolve into just rhetoric.”

To ensure they achieved their goals, the group made the language tangible by acknowledging specific Indigenous communities and accurately reflecting history.

“It's very rooted in history, tribal identity, tribal names [and] location, which is what we really wanted,” Dubie said. “We didn't want a watered-down generic statement ... that's more harmful than not having one at all.”

Peiser expanded on this point and the group's mentality while crafting the language.

“We worked to ensure that the Land Acknowledgement spoke up for the land, and for the living work and experiences of Indigenous peoples of Waawiantanong (Detroit),” Peiser said. “Together we crafted the Land Acknowledgement to accurately reflect the violences perpetuated against Native and Indigenous Peoples of what is currently called Michigan, and intend it to stand as both a clear recognition of those atrocities, and a promise of better and different relationships with local tribes and the land by [OU].”

The next step in the drafting process was



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASHLEIGH DUBIE

From left to right: Andrea Knutson, Megan Peiser and Ashleigh Dubie doing research while drafting the land acknowledgement statement.

collaborating with OU's administration to adjust and advance the land acknowledgement.

“The Land Acknowledgement Committee worked with Deans Joe Shively and Kevin Corcoran in the College of Arts and Sciences, Faculty Senate, and the DEI Office,” Peiser said. “Most of this work was actually teaching — educating those in leadership positions who Native Peoples of Michigan are.”

Administrative adjustments made to the land acknowledge document were mainly to make the statement more specific to OU. Interactions between the two sides during negotiations were collaborative and respectful.

“There was no draft that was signed off on without it going back to our committee,” Knutson said. “At every stage, whatever happened to it, whether it was a minor tweak, or a sort of bigger reorganization ... everybody understood that no draft moved forward without the okay of our committee.”

When that Campus Communications email announcement made the OU Land Acknowledgement Statement official, there was definitely a sense of pride in what had been accomplished. Outside of the usual satisfaction of a job well done, Dubie had deeper reflections about what the statement means for her as an Indigenous student.

“For me it's important because OU has been where I've been studying, which obviously has a close place to my heart ... and yet it, up to this point, had not really acknowledged Indigenous people,” Dubie said. “We want our schools to be a safe haven for us ... it didn't feel safe for me as an Indigenous person, because [this] piece was missing.”

As big of a step as the land acknowledgement is, it's a foundational step that the committee wants to see built upon.

“Oakland needs to step up with money

and real resources,” Peiser said. “We need scholarships for Native students ... we need to hire more Native faculty ... We need a cross-departmental program for Native students and settler students in Native arts, ecology and more. And to fully fund them — not ask Native faculty to beg for support ... Allies need to step up and take on that work. I hope our administration will.”

For OU, the first steps in delivering a more inclusive campus for Indigenous students is going to be following up on the goals outlined in the Campus Communications release. Tangible commitments like displaying the statement on OU websites, integrating it into courses and delivering the land acknowledgement statement at events were all outlined in the email. Right now the administration is working on completing and expanding those goals.

“I'm working with Glenn McIntosh, our vice president for Student Affairs, and also our chief diversity officer, to really see how we can engage folks within the community,” Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Britt Rios-Ellis said. “[We're considering] some type of an ongoing event that would honor Native Americans ... Native American History Month or some other activity. I also think that we are exploring, putting a [permanent plaque of the acknowledgement] in a very public place ... so that it helps the community understand where we come from.”

For anyone interested in advocating for Indigenous people, the main advice from the committee is to find people and collaborate.

“Start working together,” Rajae said. “This is how the land acknowledgement started, we started talking together. Individually, I'd been thinking about this for a couple years before this before we started working together ... so there are folks who care about similar issues. And once you start getting together, you can start making things happen.”

School of Music Theater and Dan

After eight months of preparation, Oakland University's School of Music, Theatre and Dance (SMTD) kicked off its outdoor presentation of "Patience, or Bunthorne's Bride" by Gilbert and Sullivan on Thursday, June 24 in the Varner Hall Courtyard.

The two-act comic opera satirizes elements of British culture such as love, military culture and (most notably) the Aesthetic movement of the late nineteenth century. The Aesthetic movement — characterized by "art for art's sake" — focused on beauty or aesthetic values rather than social or

moral themes in art.

In the opera, Bunthorne pretends to be an Aesthetic to impress women, but really seeks the heart of titular character Patience, a village milkmaid. However, Patience is not charmed by Bunthorne, and later, an actual Aesthetic, Grosvenor, is introduced.

"'Patience' is a wonderful show to do following the pandemic," said Dr. Drake Dantzler, director and assistant professor of voice at OU. "The light-hearted fare and tuneful show are so joyous and exuberant that you can't help but be happy. To be able to work

on this show and then present it to the audience after such a difficult year is a heart-warming opportunity."

Besides its comedic relief, "Patience" suited the outdoor venue. In order to abide COVID-19 safety measures and social distancing protocol, students performed on a 72-foot outdoor stage. Chairs were stationed in the grass as the audience sat among the trees.

"Both acts take place outdoors in the show," said Kerro Knox 3, scenic designer and associate director of the School of Music, Theatre and Dance at OU. "The first [act] is outside the



ce presents 'Patience' in the park

castle, and then we move into the woods later on, so we had a theme that works.”

While the show’s outdoor setting made it easy to transition theatrically, the venue posed a new set of obstacles to the cast and crew — particularly sonic issues. Vocalists had the added challenge of projecting great distances over the orchestra in an acoustically difficult environment while competing with other sounds like car horns and airplanes.

The weather was another challenge to the show, “namely wind, rain, heat and for this one, caterpillars!” Dantzler said.

Thursday’s performance had some drizzle before the show, but crew members mopped the stage in time for the 5 P.M. start. The seats at Thursday’s performance were filled.

“We’re hungry to perform and the audience is hungry to see a show, any kind of show,” Knox said. “This is fun, this is as good as anything we do without compromises for it. We made the outdoors an asset.”

However, due to the inclement weather, Friday and Saturday’s performances were cancelled. The crew instead used the time to restage the show in the Recital

Hall for rescheduled performances on Monday and Tuesday.

Indoor performances were allowed at 50% capacity and only attendees who were unvaccinated were required to wear masks and social distance. Due to the change, more tickets were available than at the outdoor venue.

“The pandemic is challenging for everyone, but the students showed tremendous resolve and energy in creating a show in this environment,” Dantzler said. “I couldn’t be more proud of them and their work.”



Story by Sarah Gudenau
Design by Bridget Janis
Picture by Ayman Ishimwe

Recent grad brings accessibility to The Post's history

TORI COKER

Contributor

Determined to leave the paper better than she found it, Emily Morris completed a newly organized library housing the paper's 62 years of archives ahead of her graduation this past May.

Having possessed a natural talent for news writing from a young age, Morris' journalistic experience dates back to positions at hometown publications in Sandusky MI beginning when she was just 14. Upon arriving at Oakland University, she worked as both a reporter at the Post and news director at WXOU before settling into the managing editor position at The Post for her senior year. In the midst of rolling with the punches COVID-19 threw the paper's way, she began to satisfy her inner history buff by sifting through the paper's archives.

"History is just something that I've always been really interested in," Morris said. "I'm one of those people that could always watch a documentary – I love getting into things like that – and it was just the same feeling as that."

She found herself frequently coming across familiar faces and names in past issues, as well as tracing the origins of longstanding rumors she'd heard surrounding campus lore – such as the tale of cars so often plunging into Bear Lake. The deeper she dove into these past issues, the more desire she felt to make them available for those beyond the staff surrounding her to enjoy.

"It was like giving back to The Post a little bit, because I felt like I had gained so much experience

and so many connections and friendships through it," she said. "I was just going through things and appreciating what we had and kind of understanding the organization more, and I just thought it was really great. I wanted other people to be able to easily do that, too."

With a previous effort by former Post employee Cheyenne Kramer to organize the archives having been offset by the 2017 construction within the Oakland Center, Morris got to work on picking up where Kramer had left off, purchasing additional supplies to make the archives more accessible to students passing through the office.

The result of the yearlong process is a set of three bookshelves at the front of the Post's office, stocked with binders that neatly organize 62 years' worth of storytelling from students. Campus-goers are encouraged to enjoy this easily accessible display at the head of the fall semester, and until then they may enjoy the additional collection of issues, original photography, and old-school paper-making templates at Kresge Library, where Morris teamed up with archivist Dominique Daniel in preserving such artifacts for all to enjoy.

"Oakland is really proud of its heritage and does share a lot of that, but for the people that want to dive a little deeper, clarify some of those details, and hear firsthand what happened at any time [throughout] Oakland's history, that's what the archives are for," she said. "I think the only thing I can really hope for is that there's at least a few other people that get as much enjoyment out of it that I did."

Morris graduated this spring, taking with her a

communication and journalism degree, improved knowledge of AP Style and a wonderfully supportive community around her. She could not be prouder of the lasting impact she was able to have on the paper through her reorganization of the archives – well, almost.

"We don't have a copy of the first issue ever," she said. "It's cool that someone kept something as early on [as the third issue], but at the same time, I would definitely really like having the very first one as part of the collection. If somebody has held on to a copy for 60 years for some reason, we could hold onto it for them!"



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY MORRIS

Emily Morris strikes a pose in front of The Post's archives. Thanks to her hard work, The Oakland Post archives are now accessible to the campus community.

Gender and Sexuality Center open during the summer

SARAH GUDENAU

Graphic Designer

The Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC), Oakland University's LGBTQIA+ resource center, is dedicated to the retention and graduation of queer students — and that doesn't stop during the summer.

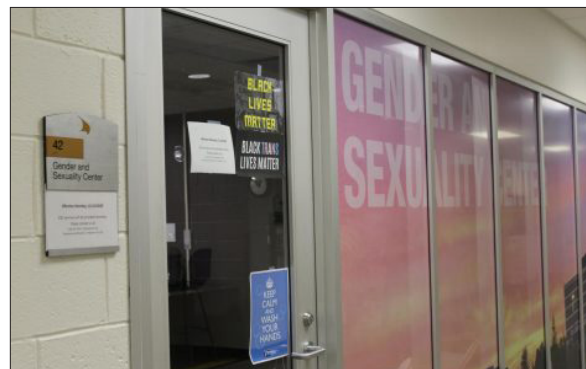
The GSC offers many initiatives and services such as its Lending Library, the Out on Campus Initiative, Pride Month celebrations, Lavender Graduation and more.

Out on Campus is a campaign to make OU a safe, accepting and welcoming campus for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The initiative's goals are to break down barriers, share knowledge and show support.

One effort to reach these goals is SAFE (Students, Administrators and Faculty for Equality) on Campus. SAFE is a training program that classes, student organizations or departments can request to learn more about LGBTQIA+ terminology and how to better support these identities within their own community.

Another initiative is the peer mentoring program, which pairs mentees with student mentors who provide academic and personal support. The mentee positions are usually meant for first year and new transfer students, the GSC is opening the program to second year students for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year.

"We know that, especially for first year students



AYMAN ISHIMWE | PHOTOGRAPHER

The entrance to the OU's Gender and Sexuality Center, located downstairs in the Oakland Center.

this year, their experience was not the norm for sure and so we want to provide an opportunity for them to adjust, especially once all of the social aspects come back," GSC coordinator Grace Wojcik said.

The GSC is best known for its Pride Month celebrations which take place in March when, traditionally, more students are on campus. OU's Pride Month 2021 mostly took place online, with events such as virtual panel and information sessions with subjects ranging from hot topics in LGBTQIA+ media to fostering inclusivity for transgender students at OU.

OU's Pride Month also included the 37th Annual Women and Gender Studies Film Festival featuring "Kiki," as well as drag queen bingo with Alyssa

Edwards from "Rupaul's Drag Race."

"We saw a lot more people at Pride Month opening," Wojcik said. "This was the largest Pride Month opening we've ever had. We had over 100 people."

Each OU Pride Month concludes with Lavender Graduation in April, a special event to recognize and congratulate graduating LGBTQIA+ seniors. Students receive a rainbow tassel to be worn at their graduation commencement and they can invite friends and family to celebrate.

While Pride festivities already happened at OU, the GSC is still operating during world Pride Month and throughout the summer. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and hosts daily virtual office hours via Google Meet for anybody who has questions or just wants to stop by to chat.

"We are still able to serve students in that way, and if students have other needs that maybe they should speak to someone about a little bit more privately, that's totally fine as well," Wojcik said. "I'm always happy to set up one-on-one time with students. Even if we're in the virtual space, that's totally something we can do."

The GSC also provides opportunities for student employment. Students interested in assisting in the office can apply on Handshake.

To stay updated on GSC events, check out the Google Calendar, email gsc@oakland.edu or visit the <https://oakland.edu/gsc/> for more information.

Honoring the Honors College's record breaking graduating class



MAGGIE WILLARD | PHOTOGRAPHER

The Honors College's sign outside of Oak View Hall. The Honors College class of 2021 was the largest in history.

TANNER TRAFELET

Staff Reporter

In recent years, the Oakland University Honors College (HC) has asserted itself as one of the premier components of OU's secondary education experience. A brief recollection of the last three years serves as clear evidence to this claim. In 2019, the

HC welcomed an incoming freshman class with 663 students and two-thirds of those students with a grade point average (GPA) over 3.9.

In 2020, the HC enrolled more than 2,000 students with an academic dispersion spanning nearly 50 academic programs. These past two academic years have set the stage for the groundbreaking graduating class of 2021.

Despite the outbreak of COVID-19 and subsequent turmoil, the 2021 HC graduating class did not allow external influences to hinder their progress towards a degree.

This year's 2021 HC graduating class, as first reported by Oakland University News, featured 164 graduating students, the most ever for an HC graduating class. In addition to this record, 83 of those students were 'Presidential Scholars.' This title requires a GPA of over 3.9, and a strenuous amount of community service that highlights the student's commitment to both their attainment of academic excellence at OU, and to the betterment of their communities.

An important part of the HC is the Honors College Council, which advises the HC, manages Senior Thesis Proposals, and oversees the events and programs.

OU Professor of Political Science Matthew Fails, served on this council and offers his unique perspective on this year's graduating class.

"I think that the Honors College is a real point of pride for the University," Fails said. "It gives real, tangible benefits to the students that have graduated from the Honors College. To that extent it is a credit to kind of students that OU has been able to attract in the past 5-10 years. We have more and more students that meet the academic standards for the HC, continue to stay enrolled in the Honors College and graduate from it."

Despite Oakland University largely shutting down in-person learning for the 2020 academic year, the graduate classes of

both the HC, and broader university chose to invest in their futures, and put in the work. Fails took particular pride in that the students that he, and other faculty advisors mentored this past year.

"It was a distinct experience, between [my experiences as a professor] with the whole graduating class, and with my role as a Honors College Thesis Mentor. I had two students that I mentored graduate this winter, both of whom did thesis projects under my direction," Fails said. "To be perfectly honest, I missed not being able to physically sit in my office together [with mentored students], or sit around a table in a conference room and talk about their projects."

The amount of work and dedication the transition to online learning, specifically for graduating students with high-level, instructor interaction heavy courses was something that Fails reflected upon again. Already strenuous academic standards of the HC, combined with the external issues, created a scenario student and faculty worked together extensively on to solve.

"Although we weren't physically present, I found that that part of the mentoring process for a thesis project [during the pandemic] went better than how I thought it would go. I think that we were able to replicate the kind of one-on-one attention, problem solving, and data collection [from pre-pandemic], although I don't think that many preferred to graduate from university with so much having been done virtually."

'The Reason I Jump' can uplift an entire community

D'JUANNA LESTER

Contributor

Netflix has had an iffy reputation when it comes to representation of marginalized communities — along with Hollywood and the entertainment industry itself. With this in mind, I was barely optimistic when I discovered Netflix was releasing "The Reason I Jump," a documentary based on the novel by Naoki Higashida, who has Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Seeing as I have this disorder myself — and several of these "documentaries" have been ableist, harmful movies from the perspective of the parents, not to mention Hollywood's continued allowance of stereotypical tropes in the (very few) forms of representation we're allowed to have — I knew I had to watch this movie as soon as it dropped.

Unlike Sia's movie, "Music," which dropped earlier this year, "The Reason I Jump" wasn't surrounded by controversy

before its release. That being said, I figured there was a chance this movie would be good.

Given that I'm autistic, but not nonverbal, I knew I wouldn't be able to relate to every aspect of the real people featured in the documentary, so I'm not the best person to say if this was 100% accurate. Although, based on what I hear from many people within the community, it was a very well put together documentary.

There were several parts I was able to connect to: the stigma within religious communities, the isolation, the fear of feeling like a burden. All of those emotions struck a chord within me — it's a movie I'd recommend everyone check out. It goes deep into the minds of autistic people and how a lot of us see the world.

It's no secret that we act and see things differently from neurotypicals, which often leads to bullying and harassment from not only peers, but adults.

Another great thing about this documentary was it included stories from different cultures and races. Most

representation of autistic youth — real or fictional characters — has been white men. Netflix itself suffers from that problem.

The idea of intersectionality seriously comes into play during this documentary. There was representation in terms of disability and race, which was awesome to see. It's something that should've been happening, so it's great to finally see it.

It was also unique to hear about the religious aspect of intersectionality. Growing up autistic and religious is something that's not very common to talk about, so hearing how different stigmas affected those kids based on religious grounds was enlightening.

The last part of the documentary touches on the stereotype that autistic people don't feel empathy, while going to great lengths to show how much we do. This part impacted me the most, because it showed a common difficulty: processing emotions. Our brains work differently, so we process emotions differently. They're harder to express for us, so I really enjoyed

watching that topic discussed.

Overall, I think anyone could learn something from this documentary. It's something everyone should watch at least once.

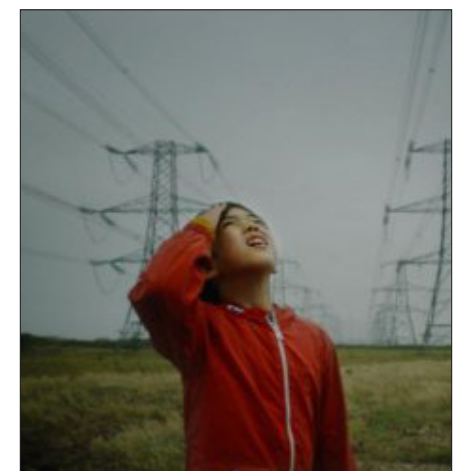


PHOTO COURTESY OF ROTTEN TOMATOES
"The Reason I Jump" is available now on Netflix.

U.S. should focus on PA, Hamas, not Israel

TANNER TRAFELET
Staff Reporter

As reported by the Associated Press June 22, 2021, the Palestinian Authority (PA) has arrested yet another activist over his online criticism of the PA's policies, and violent suppression of political opponents. Relations between the United States (U.S.) and Israel are at a crucial point following the recent change of Israeli government, and the downturn in violence resulting from the recent flare up of violent conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Following former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's exit from the nation's top political post, the U.S. has been placed in a unique position to mediate the Israel-Palestine conflict. The U.S. can continue to maintain its status quo support of the Israeli state, or it can focus on the real problems in this situation — Hamas and the PA.

Hamas, considered a terrorist organization by the United States and European Union, indiscriminately fired rockets into Israeli civilian areas during its recent 11-day conflict with Israel. These rocket attacks killed more than 200 Israelis, and violated international law that prohibits the specific targeting of civilians, and use of indiscriminate lethal force in civilian areas.

Hamas exercises political and military control over the Gaza Strip, which the

Freedom House organization assigns a 11/100 on the 'Freedom Scale' which measures how free daily life is in a country or territory. The Palestinian Authority recently canceled their first elections in 15 years in face of a perceived loss for Mahmoud Abbas' party to the political arm of the Islamic militant group Hamas.

With the PA exercising limited control over areas of the West Bank and Gaza, the people under the control of the Palestinian authority have not had the ability to vote in 15 years. Upon rudimentary contemplation of an election, the PA's dictator canceled the elections once confronted with a potential loss, which reasonably constitutes non-democratic behavior.

Israeli responses to attacks by the PA and Hamas have long been plagued by the question of force proportionality, with specific emphasis placed on the most recent 11-day conflict. Meaning, is the force that Israel responds to the PA or Hamas with similar in level to the force leveraged against it? In the recent exchange of Israeli airstrikes and Hamas rocket attacks, the Israelis leveled a 12-story building containing the Gaza offices of the Associated Press Al-Jazeera new networks. Also contained in this building were private apartments and a blood testing lab.

Israeli airstrikes in the overcrowded Gaza strip often cause civilian casualties, such as an Israeli airstrike targeting



PHOTO COURTESY OF APNEWS.COM

New Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett acknowledges the press while being sworn in earlier this month. With Israel's new leadership there is chance for improved stability in the region.

'Hamas's underground military infrastructure', which ended up killing 42 people, including 16 women and ten children. To compound this killing of civilians in pursuit of destruction of Hamas military infrastructure, less than 24 hours before the Israeli military conducted an airstrike on refugee camp located Gaza, killing ten women and children. The stated objective of this airstrike was the killing of 'senior Hamas officials' who were residing in the camp, although these individuals were

not confirmed as having been killed.

U.S.-Israel relations are poised to undergo a positive change, since Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and U.S. President Joe Biden share similar priorities on issues such as Palestine, relations with neighboring Arab countries, and Iran. Echoing back to the shared views that former U.S. president Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu held, it may be most beneficial for the U.S. to facilitate more hard peace agreements between Israel and its neighbors.

Being Christian is no excuse for being homophobic

KYLIE COHEN
Contributor

June is LGBTQIA+ Pride Month. While this is a time of celebration for LGBTQIA+ Americans, it's important to remember that there are still politicians who are fighting against equal rights for the LGBTQIA+ community. Many of these politicians use Christianity as a catalyst for inequality, perpetuating outdated anti-LGBTQIA+ beliefs.

In a study conducted by The Center for American Progress, 91% of religiously affiliated Republicans are in support of anti-LGBTQ ideas. Republican legislators are currently supporting "30 bills in 21 states that would ban transgender students from participating on sports teams that conform to their gender identity."

Similarly, there are a number of religious groups who have been at war with LGBTQIA+ equal rights legislation, such as The Equality Act, which would ban discrimination based on sexual identity and sexual orientation.

Now, in understanding the Christian homophobia, it's essential to understand

the foundations of these hurtful ideas in the religion. In the Bible, homophobia occurs as early as the book of Genesis. One of the most poignant verses condemning homosexuality comes from Leviticus 20:13, which states that if a man were to have a sexual relationship with another man, "both men have committed a detestable act. They must both be put to death."

According to Insight for Living Ministries, holy laws such as these were most likely written around 1446 B.C. Although LGBTQIA+ people are not criminalized for their sexuality and gender identity in America, to this day, many LGBTQIA+ Christians have been encouraged to "treat" their sexuality with conversion therapy.

According to author Eve Tushnet, Catholic doctor Joseph Nicolisi states in an interview that if a teenage boy admits he is homosexual to a priest, that priest should respond, "You have a choice; if you don't want to be gay, there are things that you can do."

This perpetuates the belief that God does not accept those that identify as LGBTQIA+. It plants the idea that

one's sexuality is wrong, and should be changed. This belief that homosexuality is a sin not only promotes hate, but it also has influenced the dangerous practice of conversion therapy.

Conversion therapy includes a wide range of practices. The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims explains that in extreme cases conversion therapy can include "treatments such as electroconvulsive therapy, aversive treatments using electric shocks or vomit-inducing drugs, and exorcism or ritual cleansing (often involving violence while reciting religious verses)." These practices can be highly traumatizing, causing lasting adverse mental and physical effects.

Currently, there are 18 states in the U.S. that allow religious exemption laws directed toward the LGBTQIA+ community. These laws include giving adoption agencies the right to denying same-sex couples to adopt, business refusing to service customers based on gender or sexual identity, and allowing medical professionals to deny members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Similarly, in June of 2020, the

Trump Administration finalized a healthcare rule that would not protect people from discrimination via sexual orientation or gender identity.

These regressive laws do real harm and are at odds with Christianity. Kindness and love are the backbone of the Christian faith. While there are eleven Bible verses that condemn homosexuality in the Bible, hundreds of verses exist that promote God's love and acceptance for all.

For example, in Ephesians 4:32, we are instructed to "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." This idea sharply contrasts with the hateful behavior directed toward members of the LGBTQIA+ community by Christians.

Rather than being cruel to the LGBTQIA+ community, Christians should accept and love them for who they are, just as God loves and accepts everyone. For a religion founded on forgiveness and love, it's disappointing to witness fellow Christians judging, rejecting and harming non-cisgender people. Quite simply, many Christians could be "more Christian."

The new Conjuring movie took a different route



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GUARDIAN

Protagonists Ed and Lorraine Warren stare forebodingly at what horror awaits them.

BRIDGET JANIS
Features Editor

Whenever you see “based on a true story” before a horror film, it all of a sudden becomes scarier to watch. The Conjuring universe is filled with true stories from Ed and Lorraine Warren’s life as they protect others from demonic creatures.

In the latest Conjuring movie, “The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It” The Warrens are doing something that has never been done before, claiming demonic possession as a defense in the court of law.

The story follows Arne Johnson (Ruairi O’Connor) as he offers the Devil inside of him from David Glatzel (Julian Hilliard). Then, Johnson and his girlfriend Debbie Glatzel (Sarah Catherine Hook) are living with Debbie’s boss, Bruno (Ronnie Gene Blevins) as Johnson starts to act up and the Devil begins to take over.

Johnson murders Bruno during a period of possession, and Ed (Patrick Wilson) and Lorraine Warren (Vera Farmiga) want Johnson to claim to be innocent during court for being under possession.

Throughout the film, the Warrens discover Johnson was the second person to be put under a curse, and that the curse needs three victims to be completed. Fighting for both their lives and Arne’s, the Warrens must fight within themselves to make it out of this situation alive.

Farmiga and Wilson are the heart of The Conjuring films and their performances each time are worth the watch. You can tell how much effort they put into every film, and it pays off every time.

This movie had a lot to offer with Ed and Lorraine’s background, which was very heart felt. This is something viewers have been asking for, and “The Conjuring” delivered. However, in some moments, it was a little too much and it shifted focus from the Devil to their relationship.

What bugged me most about the plot was

the ending. While it is understood that Ed is also cursed at this point and the attention is shifted to him, there was no need for the “final fight” between the Devil and Lorraine to be so romanticized.

This movie stands out amongst the other Conjuring movies because of its demon. In the past, the demon was more defined, such as Annabelle or the Nun, more specific to that film. In this one, the demon was just referred to as the Devil. This was a change up in the Conjuring universe that can make it harder for this film to have a prequel like the others did.

The film kept the audience invested with tension without overly relying on jump scares. It seemed to be more along the lines of a thriller movie rather than a horror. There was more tension this time around compared to the other films. While “The Conjuring” containing Annabelle will always be the favorite in my heart, this film is way better than “The Conjuring 2.”

The end credit scene with the actual audio recording of David Glatzel’s exorcism was a nice surprise and addition.

The consistency throughout “The Conjuring” films is something that makes these classics. While they aren’t all connected, they have similar camerawork, lighting and music throughout all the films to add certain missing connections. While it was obvious “The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It” wasn’t directed by James Wan like the others, it still lived up to the high standards for this horror series.

The Conjuring universe it still going strong and has a bright future ahead. Since not every movie needs to be connected it leaves open to what story can happen next, the timelines of the prequels and the main films aren’t even in order.

I will be looking forward to the next Conjuring movie, and I hope Wan comes back to direct it.

4/5 stars

‘Jubilee’: The sad girl’s summer album

LAUREN KARMO
Managing Editor

“Jubilee” is the third album by the artist known as Japanese Breakfast, and it has the potential to dominate summer playlists.

In the same way Phoebe Bridgers’ “Punisher,” took over summer 2020 and Billie Eilish’s “When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?” took over the summer before that, this alt/indie album is truly iconic.

From her emo roots in Philadelphia, Michelle Zauner has always taken up space as one to know in the music industry. Now, with her third album under the name Japanese Breakfast, Zauner saw the opportunity — taking influence from Bjork and Kate Bush.

Lovingly produced under the same label as Phoebe Bridgers and Mitski — Dead Oceans — “Jubilee” twists the sad girl narrative we’re used to from not only the genre but from Zauner herself into something cathartic and optimistic.

Opening with “Paprika,” the listener is automatically transported into the world built inside this album. Invoking strong feminine energy with callouts to magic and running water, we get a taste of that eccentric pop Zauner promised. Quick chime riffs contrast with lilting vocals to create images of a fantasy world, setting the perfect tone for an album titled “Jubilee.”

The joy radiating from this album is contagious — the carefree beat in songs like “Be Sweet” and “Slide Tackle” really pull the listener in. Each song has so many components, it becomes an all-encompassing sensory experience — with each replay, there’s something new to notice.

Despite its upbeat and joyful tracks, the album is not exactly the kind of thing you can throw on as background noise. “Jubilee” is

thought provoking, emotional and, at times, totally gut wrenching (hello, “Posing for Cars”). It’s the kind of album you put on to stare at the sky and think about how small you actually are, not for hitting the pothole in the Dunkin’ parking lot at 40 miles per hour.

“Jubilee” is flat out interesting. Each song brings its own unique story inside this world established in the opening track, but even more than the lyrics, musically, Zauner has been able to do something totally new. She abuses repetitive motifs and ’80s-style synth melodies in an experimental way.

Track seven, “Savage Good Boy,” was a fast favorite with its reference to classic video game themes and its subversion of gendered terms. Zauner paints herself in the traditional male role as the billionaire breadwinner and “your man,” but still sings so sweetly despite calling herself the savage good boy.

“Posing in Bondage” and “Tactics” fight for recognition as the top ballad on the album, but both are just so powerful. The former twists the connotations behind “bondage” on its head by framing it as a good thing — comforting and close. “Tactics” has an old-school feel to it with influences of the late great Bill Withers.

There is something so humbling about albums totally written by the artist themselves — Zauner gifted her listeners with something so intimate and personal with “Jubilee,” which can be heard in every note and lyric.

The Korean American singer has had her fair share of influence on sad girl music beloved by women in their early 20s, but Zauner has been able to contort the genre into something new. She set out to stay “extremely weird” with this album, and she does so in the best way possible.

4/5 stars



PHOTO COURTESY OF BANDCAMP

Japanese Breakfast’s third studio album “Jubilee” takes eclectic twist on alt/indie pop genre.

Miguel Cabrera: The last icon in Detroit sports

JEFF THOMAS

Editor in Chief

For Detroit sports fans, it's been several long years of game days spent cussing at our TV screens. This current season for the Tigers hasn't been much different. With a 34-44 record, the ball club is struggling near the bottom of the AL Central division, and it isn't hard to see why.

With a scraggly pitching rotation, a controversial new manager and all the roster inconsistencies of a team in the middle of a "rebuild," the Tigers aren't giving fans much to tune in for. But if there is one must-see aspect of this season, it's watching a 38 year-old Miguel Cabrera chasing career milestones of 500 home runs and 3,000 hits.

Signing with the Tigers in 2008, Cabrera has been the one staple of Detroit baseball for the past 14 seasons. His time here has spanned generations of fans and players. As a Tiger, he has played alongside other big names like Pudge Rodriguez, Curtis Granderson, Justin Verlander, Max Scherzer, Prince Fielder, Ian Kinsler and David Price.

Following an enormous contract, bicep, groin, knee, ankle and hamstring injuries have led to his declining numbers in recent years. All that money in exchange

for diminished on-field production has made Cabrera an easy target for frustrated Tigers fans.

Winning the Most Valuable Player award back-to-back years in 2012 and 2013, Cabrera was once the offensive powerhouse behind some of the greatest Detroit teams to never win a championship. Frankly, seeing the man take the field nowadays, it's easy to forget that he and Verlander were the franchise cornerstones driving the team to a World series appearance in 2012 and two ALCS trips in 2011 and 2013.

In 2012, he was the first player in 45 years to win the "MLB Triple Crown" as the league leader in batting average, RBIs and home runs. In all likelihood, Cabrera will be the last major-league hitter to ever earn that distinction.

The point of all this being that Cabrera is undoubtedly an all-time great baseball player. The man breathes rare air in sports history. He has earned his spot on any list of all-time great Tigers players. When he's gone, he'll be gone for good. The Tigers organization and their fans will dearly miss him, even if they're too shortsighted to see it that way right now.

In the twilight years of his career, during his 19th professional season, Cabrera keeps delivering captivating moments



PHOTO COURTESY OF CBS SPORTS

Miguel Cabrera hitting his iconic snow home run on opening day.

for fans. The blizzard home run he hit on opening day will be on highlight packages for years to come. His May 21 grand slam was easily one of the best moments of the Tigers' season so far.

Cabrera has maintained some of his old magic and that contagious smile as he approaches legendary baseball milestones of 500 home runs and 3,000 hits. Now sitting at 492 home runs and 2,911 hits, it's possible he could reach those goals this season if he stays healthy.

I know I'll be rooting for him in every

step of the way, every game and every at bat. Cabrera is the last true sports icon that we have in Detroit. While I'm excited as hell that the Pistons just won the NBA draft lottery, there's no guarantee we'll be getting another one anytime soon. We might as well unclench our jaws and let Miggy's indelible charisma and flare for the moment carry us through another miserable baseball season.

Pistons win Cade Cunningham lottery

CHRISTIAN TATE

Contributor

NBA history was made when the Detroit Pistons won the lottery and captured the rights to the first selection of the 2021 NBA Draft on June 22. This marks the first time in over 50 years that the former championship-level franchise has earned the rights to pick first.

The Pistons' lackluster season record of 20-52 awarded them a 14% chance to win the draft lottery, and luck indeed smiled upon them. The Pistons have been in "NBA limbo" ever since the end of the 2007-2008 NBA season.

The team made its sixth consecutive Eastern Conference Finals appearance in the 2008 NBA Playoffs, which would end up being our final one for a tortuous 13-year period. It hasn't been all bad, though. There have been bright spots here and there—like the drafting of former All-Star caliber big man Andre Drummond and the team's 2016 NBA Playoff berth. However, Pistons fans like myself crave the success we once enjoyed. This lottery win could provide us with an opportunity to see the summit of NBA glory once again.

The acquisition of the first overall selection comes with a variety of options on who to draft. The expectation from the basketball world at large is that the organization will select consensus top player in the draft class, Cade Cunningham. Cunningham—the Texas-born NCAA superstar who averaged 20 points,

six rebounds and over three assists per game for Oklahoma State—is already being dubbed the savior who will return the Pistons back to their former glory, and I am all for it.

I believe that Cunningham will be a perfect fit as the leading star of Detroit's young core. With veteran NBA power forward Jerami Grant and sophomore players like point guard Killian Hayes, center Isaiah Stewart and small forward Saddiq Bey, I believe the sky's the limit for the future of the Pistons. Just thinking about the team's future starting five gets me giddy and excited.

With Hayes' potential in playmaking and the skill he's already shown on defense, a potential two-playmaker backcourt with Cunningham seems like a dream for the Pistons and a nightmare for the rest of the league. I can just imagine the stellar pick and roll finishes that Stewart will be able to take advantage of with an extra playmaker like Cunningham on the floor.

I haven't even begun to mention the kick that Cunningham could give to the team's defense. With his 6-foot-8 frame being slotted into the lineup, their okay defense could skyrocket if he fulfills his potential on that side of the floor.

Although the Pistons are expected to take Cunningham with the first pick, they could surprise everyone by selecting one of the many other promising prospects in the 2021 NBA draft pool. With players like Gonzaga's Jalen Suggs and USC's Evan Mobley being available, this year's star-



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE FREEMAN/ NBAE

The Detroit Pistons won the NBA Draft Lottery, giving them the rights to the first overall pick for the first time since 1970.

studded NBA draft could hold the key to a winning future for a franchise that has long since left its glory days behind.

OU student headed to the Tokyo Summer Olympics

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL
Sports Editor

When you come back to campus this fall, there's a chance you'll walk past a U.S. Olympian.

Kate Nye, an Oakland University student majoring in health science, will be headed to Tokyo next month to represent the U.S. in the Olympics as a weightlifter. Nye found her love for weightlifting through CrossFit.

"I was a gymnast for 11 years, basically my whole childhood, then I decided to quit when I was about 15," Nye said. "Then after I quit, I gained a lot of weight, and decided to go into CrossFit to get back into shape. Then through CrossFit, I found weightlifting, and it kind of just built from there. By the time I went to youth nationals in 2016, I decided to take weightlifting on full time and quit CrossFit."

According to NBC, Nye won the 2019 world title in the women's 71 kg/157 lbs. division and became the youngest women's world champion, but she will move up to the 76 kg/167 lbs. category so she can compete at the Olympics. She is currently ranked fourth in the world in that division.

The 22-year-old chose Oakland mainly because it was close to home. Hailing from Oakland Township, Nye needed a university that could accommodate her training schedule.

"I wanted to pursue a weightlifting career first and foremost," Nye said. "So [Oakland] ended up being pretty much the best option at that point in my life so I could stay home and focus on training instead of getting wrapped up in an on campus experience. So honestly it was just the best option for me at the time, but I've really come to love OU and I'm really glad I ended up here because it's allowed me a lot of freedom in my life [that] I feel like I wouldn't have had if I went somewhere else."

Nye has recently opened up about her struggles with mental illness. She said she's able to manage those struggles by not putting too much stress on herself.

"I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder in the summer of 2019," Nye said. "It was pretty rough at the time, being undiagnosed and just kind of dealing with it without any help or understanding of my symptoms. But when I got that diagnosis, it gave me the opportunity to get better."

"Right now I really just try to stay in tune with what's going on with my



SOPHIE HUME | PHOTO EDITOR
OU student Kate Nye will be competing at the Tokyo Olympics.

mental health and try to live my life accordingly. I think a lot of people deal with mental health issues and I think if you can manage them and not put too much on yourself and not be too hard on yourself, it can really help. I have good days and bad days, but mostly good days now."

Nye likes to read and spend time with her dogs in her free time.

"I have two German shepherds that I love, Theo and Danny," Nye said. "They're my world. Then I also have really gotten back into reading over the past year, and most recently me and my husband started gardening so that's been interesting."

Nye said she is "honored" to represent her country in the Olympics.

"I've always been really proud to be an American," Nye said. "I think that paired with my greatest passion which is obviously weightlifting, there's nothing that could be better and a bigger dream of mine, than to represent the red, white, blue on the Olympic platform."

The Tokyo Olympics begin July 23. Nye's division will compete on Sunday, Aug. 1 from either 1:50-4 p.m. or 7:50-10 p.m. (Japan Standard Time).

Golfer Thomas Giroux talks goals, trying not to get caught up in successes

LAUREN REID
Content Editor

With an end goal of turning pro and playing on the PGA Tour, senior golfer Thomas Giroux is looking ahead and trying not to get caught up in all the tangible success.

Giroux had an outstanding season — even amid COVID-19 — including receiving Individual Horizon League Champion, Men's Golfer of the Year and shooting a season average of 72.5.

"[The success] feels good, but I try not to get too caught up in it," Giroux said. "At the end of the day — I'm trying to turn pro and that's my end goal. It's nice to have all the success and be reminded that I can do it, but I try not to dwell on it too much."

Setting personal goals is more important to Giroux than the material successes.

"[Goal setting] is more of a personal thing," he said. "I set goals and measure success on if I achieve those goals or not. It's not so much if other people are judging me as successful, but more if I judge myself as successful."

Giroux picked Oakland for a combination of reasons: he liked Coach Pumford and his style, got along with the team and it wasn't far from Canada — where he's from.

"[Coming to Oakland] was a big adjustment from high school because once I got to OU I was living on my own and had some more responsibilities," Giroux

said. "It was nice, though, that we had organized practices — I could build my schedule around that. Things were very structured, but it was a lot more to handle."

Giroux's dad got him into golf, where they'd go to the park to practice. Today, he still views his dad as a solid role model and admires his hardworking attitude saying, "whenever I'm feeling down, or like I don't want to do something, I just remember how hard he works."

Alongside perseverance and hard work, Giroux also values the team motto revolving around belief, excellence, attitude and relentlessness.

"Golf is a tricky game — you always have to be on your toes," Giroux said. "You never know how it's going to go, so you have to be ready for anything."

As someone who's viewed as a leader on the team for the younger guys, Giroux takes on whatever role he needs to for the betterment of the team.

"[I like] to take on whatever role is needed at the time," he said. "Just adapting to the situation."

Overall, Giroux wants to make an impact on OU Golf, and be someone future golfers can look up to as he works toward the PGA Tour.

"I want golfers who come after me to look up to me and know — all that I've done, they can do, too," Giroux said. "Even though Oakland's not a big golf school, it doesn't have to be for you to be successful and play well."



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSE JUAREZ, OU ATHLETICS
Thomas Giroux at the United States Amateur Four-Ball Championship in May.

Golden Grizzlies win another McCafferty Trophy

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL
Sports Editor

Oakland University Athletics has won the Horizon League McCafferty Trophy for the fifth time since joining the conference in 2013, according to a press release.

Named in honor of James J. McCafferty, who served as the conference's first commissioner from 1979-80, the McCafferty Trophy is awarded annually by the Horizon League to a member institution compiling the greatest number of performance points, based on its finish in the league's 19 championship sports.

For the sports of men's and women's soccer, volleyball, men's and women's basketball, softball and baseball, points are awarded based on combined regular season (60%) and championship (40%) finishes. For all other sports, points are based on performance in the league championships.

Oakland tied with Youngstown State with 43 points, making them co-champions. The Golden Grizzlies finished at the top of the men's sports standings with 25 points, while the women gathered 18 points of their own.

Athletic Director Steve Waterfield said he is proud of everybody that made this happen.

"I'm proud of the student athletes, the coaches, the staff, not just athletic department staff but university staff," Waterfield said. "Because as we all know it was certainly a challenging year and to engage in intercollegiate athletics in such a challenging year ... I'm really just proud of everybody for the accomplishment. I told them at the beginning of the season just getting to competitions was going to be a success and not surprisingly the Golden Grizzly student athletes exceeded and not only got to the competitions but performed very, very well."

Waterfield cited "broad based excellence" as well as coaches that have found sustained success as reasons that Oakland is able to compete for the award every single year.

"We've got a number of sports programs that have success that contribute to winning the trophy," Waterfield said. "Not only do you have that broad base, but you have coaches that have been here and built sustained success and that to me is unique to Oakland. At this level to have so many Division-I head coaches that have been here not just years, but decades. Paul Rice, Pete Hovland, Greg Kampe, Jeff Tungate, Eric Pogue, and then ones that are newer have had success. Nick Pumford for



PHOTO COURTESY OF HORIZONLEAGUE.ORG

Oakland University Athletics won the McCafferty Trophy. This was the first time since 2018 that the Golden Grizzlies brought home the gold.

men's golf, Lauren Karn for softball and I'm missing some. So you add those two together and it creates that broad base. We're not relying on one or two sports, a lot of sports contribute to it."

Waterfield said the goal for Golden Grizzlies is to win the trophy every year.

"That's one of our key performance indicators, 'are we winning it or not,'" Waterfield said. "Now, if we don't win it

would I consider the season a failure? No, but what I do is say 'okay what can we do to put ourselves in a position to win it the next year.' You never take it for granted. One of the things I tell staff and coaches all the time is enjoy winning because it's tough to do. It's not easy to win championships and to win at a high level, no matter how often you win so enjoy that. So let's enjoy it."

SUMMER 2021 PAYMENT DUE DATE

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S SUMMER PAYMENT DUE DATE: APRIL 15, 2021.

Students who do not pay their balances in full or sign-up for a payment plan (and make the required installment(s)) may be dropped from classes and University housing (if applicable), and may be subject to late payment penalties and registration holds.

If you have questions or are experiencing circumstances that may prevent you from paying your account balance, please contact Student Financial Services at (248) 370-2550. We are ready to support you and help with your financial aid and billing options.

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