

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Rochester, Michigan

Volume 47 | Issue 30 | April 13, 2022

UNDEFEATED IN THE HORIZON LEAGUE

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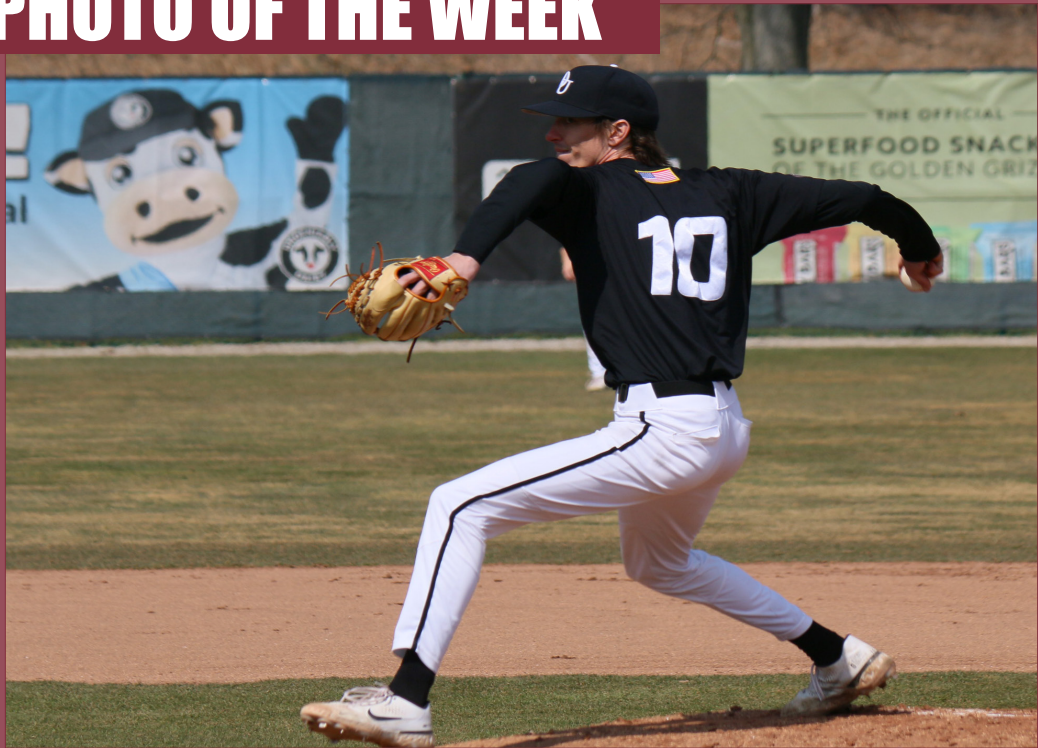
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PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH

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THE OAKLAND POST

EDITORIAL BOARD

Jeff Thomas
Editor-in-Chief
jdthomas2@oakland.edu

Lauren Reid
Content Editor
lrreid@oakland.edu

Bridget Janis
Managing Editor
bridgetjanis@oakland.edu

EDITORS

Sophie Hume Photo Editor
sophiahume@oakland.edu

Matthew Scheidel Sports Editor
mscheidel@oakland.edu

Gabrielle Abdelmessih Campus Editor
gabdelmessih@oakland.edu

Sarah Gudenau Features Editor
sgudenau@oakland.edu

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Olivia Chiappelli Senior Reporter
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Brock Heilig Sports Reporter
Payton Bucki Sports Reporter

DISTRIBUTION

Sam Poudal Distribution Director
spoudal@oakland.edu
Ryleigh Gotts Distributor
Brandon Sams Distributor
Melanie Davis Distributor

ADVERTISING

Tori Coker Marketing Director
toricoker@oakland.edu

ADVISING

Garry Gilbert Editorial Adviser
ggilber@oakland.edu
248.370.2105
Don Ritenburgh Business Adviser
ritenbur@oakland.edu
248.370.2533

Michelle Kaljaj Ads Director
ads@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.4269

Leticia Santos Ads Assistant

VOTE AND CONNECT AT:
oaklandpostonline.com

POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE OAKLAND POST SECTION?

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- B) FEATURES
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- D) OPINION

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE ACTOR TO PORTRAY BATMAN?



Good night Oakland Post, I'll see you in my dreams

JEFF THOMAS

Editor-in-Chief

This week we publish the last issue of Volume 47 of The Oakland Post. It's the last issue that I'll produce as Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of The Oakland Post.

I'm here with this letter to express some deeply-felt gratitude and acknowledge the people that helped me and The Post along our way this year, and to share my thoughts about what has been an absolutely incredible year for our small independent student-run newspaper.

I'm starting this letter with the acknowledgements. If you don't care to read these, skip to the next text that isn't italicized.

To our Content Editor Lauren Reid — thank you for giving so much of yourself to this campus community. You simultaneously served as the President of PRSSA and the Content Editor of The Post during the most successful year that either organization has had. We couldn't have done it this year without your leadership skills and organizational expertise. You will always have my gratitude. Every person in this organization is better off for having worked with you.

To our Managing Editor Bridget Janis — thank you for always sticking with me and The Post. During the dog days of the fall and winter semester, you never failed in lifting the staff's spirits with your infectious energy and sense of humor. You used your talents to set new standards for our page design and write the best articles of your long Post career. You will always have my gratitude. Every person in this organization is better off for having worked with you.

To Garry and Holly Gilbert — thank you for your guidance as professors and your support of The Post's staff. My time as your student refined my views on journalism and skills as a writer. Holly, your features writing course handed fire to this caveman — it brought me out of the cold. Garry, your ethics courses taught me that facts and objectivity come first. I hope one day I can be fortunate enough to use my success to help other people the way that you two do.

To The Post's Business Adviser Don Ritenburgh — thank you for helping me with the finances and making upgrades to our office. Your administrative knowledge is second to none and your dedication to OU's students is an inspiration. You are a credit to the professional staff at this university. I'm fortunate to have gotten to work with you. I will miss being able to tell people that I have a business adviser.

To our Features Editor Sarah Gudenau — thank you for always going above and beyond the call of duty. The work you did mentoring your reporters this year was exceptional. Features produced many of our best-written articles this year. I am proud to have witnessed your journey in our organization. You will always have my gratitude.

To our Sports Editor Matthew Scheidel — thank you for making our sports coverage top notch this year. Under your leadership, The Post's sports section became the authoritative news source on coverage of OU athletics. It was a pleasure witnessing you do the work that you love to do. You will always have my gratitude.

To the rest of my staff — I'll miss you. I couldn't be more proud. Be well and keep fighting the good fight for this campus community. Remember that

we're journalists because we care about other people. Let that compassion and humility continue to guide your work.

To my successor Gabrielle Abdelmessih — believe in yourself and never underestimate what you give to other people by believing in them. Your time as EIC will be what you make it. Be sure to keep your eyes open next year, you won't want to miss a thing.

To Peter Markus — I have said plenty of odd things to you over the past couple years, naturally it's made all the difference. Thank you for extending a hand when I needed something to grab onto. I am grateful to have experienced your passion, generosity and levity.

To Annie Gilson — your friendship and support has been a blessing this year. Thank you for believing in me. Your relentless advocacy for your students has been an inspiration to witness firsthand. I will always cherish the time I spent learning the craft of writing fiction with you.

To Alison Powell — thank you for helping me refine my voice. I cannot articulate in words how much my perception of writing has been deepened by studying with you. I understand myself and I understand the things I need to say because of you. I will always cherish our time together at OU.

To my mother Kari Thomas — thank you for always being a beacon of integrity in my life. I wouldn't be a journalist today without the values that you instilled in me. I love you.

To my sister Lindsey Quinn — thank you for always setting the example of what's possible if I work hard and do the right thing. You're the best person that I know, I couldn't have asked for a better older sister. I love you.

To my grandparents Dick and Willa Jean Wisniewski — I love you. Thanks for providing stability and a place for me to live during all the craziness of the past couple years. Thanks for being two of our most dedicated readers. It was a joy bringing you a copy of The Post every Wednesday. I worked hard to make you proud.

To my brothers Jake and TJ Thomas — for some reason the thought of your stupid faces motivates me. I love you jabronis. I'm quite sure being your older brother is the most important thing I've done in my life.

To my big cousin Eddie Colby — thank you for showing me what we give to other people when we're brave enough to share ourselves. I love you always.

Everyday is a good day when you're editor-in-chief of The Oakland Post. It was a thrill and a privilege to lead this incredible group of OU students for the past year. Together we exceeded every expectation, we always answered the call for this campus community.

Working with such a talented group, often the best thing I could do was get the hell out of their way. I gave people the space they needed to be themselves and the support to succeed in doing work that mattered to them.

In return I received the gift of getting to watch these outstanding individuals grow personally and thrive in their professional roles with The Post, and the campus community received 30 exceptional issues of top-notch student journalism. Our work this year mattered because we busted our asses and made it matter.

In my time as EIC, we published over 600 articles and more than 70 letters to the editor. Journalism, facts and truth telling were at the heart of everything

we did in Volume 47. We never once compromised our belief in those three things. We centered the people that make up this campus community, we gave them a voice and asked the questions that they wanted answered.

The result was elevated discourse around key issues facing the campus community. We managed to move leaders at the highest levels of this university toward transparency and accountability to the people that they are supposed to be serving.

This approach took The Post to unprecedented levels of readership and online engagement. I am happy to report that, by the end of the winter semester, The Post will have exceeded 430,000 pages views on our website since I took over as EIC. This is more than double our previous yearly average for page views.

From the first issue I put out last May, to our final issue this week, we pushed ourselves to do our best work. We went from 16 page issues, to 20 pages, to 24 pages and finally to a 28 page issue that was published April 6, 2022.

We did this to make this university that we love a better place for this campus community. We all sacrificed this year because we wanted to make this university better not just for us while we were here, but for future generations of OU students.

If there's one thing that's become painfully evident during my time as EIC, it's just how badly this campus community needs this newspaper. This whole year at OU has been a case study in just how important local journalism is.

I challenge any students reading this to answer the call. There's a ton of opportunities working at The Post. Our organization takes people from all different majors and walks of life. If you've got the right talents, then this is the organization to be in if you want to make a difference at OU.

Our highest service in life is to other people. To have touched one person's life is a hell of an accomplishment and I was fortunate as EIC to have my work touch the lives of many people. I cannot thank you all enough for the new happiness that I feel in my life.

Well, here we are at the end. One paragraph for a lifetime. Of course, there are hardly any words left. It's been one year of my life, being EIC is the best job that I've ever had. I gave my heart, my soul and a fair bit of my hairline to this newspaper. In return, The Post filled me up. It's over and I'm sure I'll feel sort of empty for a while. I don't know what I'll do next, but I don't worry about it too much. There's always more in life. And I've got no regrets. I gave my all to you people. I did my best.

Love always,

Jeff Thomas

Editor-in-Chief, Volume 47, The Oakland Post



THE OAKLAND POST

OSI, Student Affairs move unilaterally in restructure of student-led SAFAC orgs

JEFF THOMAS

Editor-in-Chief

A significant restructuring of SAFAC that takes independence and agency away from student leaders and puts more power in the hands of OSI Senior Director Jean Ann Miller was announced to presidents of the SAFAC orgs in a meeting last Thursday.

The restructuring, which will be implemented over the summer, dictates that SAFAC orgs will no longer follow the leadership of democratically-elected student leaders in Oakland University's Student Congress (OUSC), and will instead be under the direct supervision of university administrators in the OSI.

Under the proposed restructure, the SAFAC presidents will become a new group, entitled by Miller as the "OSI Programming Council."

"SAFAC is coming under OSI," Miller said. "It might [still] be called SAFAC, or right now it is being referred to as the OSI Programming Council. All [SAFAC presidents] will still be a part of that. It's going to be co-led by [Coordinator of Leadership and Service Programs Daryl Blackburn], and myself. Daryl is going to do the leadership piece and I'm going to do the programming teams."

Student Affairs and the OSI have apparently worked behind the scenes in recent weeks formulating the restructure. Student Body President Andrew Romano spends several hours meeting with Miller every week, and said he was not consulted at all about the restructuring of SAFAC.

"When [last Thursday's SAFAC presidents] meeting was made, I asked [Miller], 'What's the meeting about?'" Romano said. "She told me she couldn't tell me."

According to Romano OSI/Student Affairs' planned restructure of SAFAC is in direct violation of SAFAC and OUSC bylaws for altering the structure of SAFAC.

"[The planned restructure] unilaterally ignores all the rules and agreements we have between Student Affairs, the Board of Trustees and the OSI," Romano said. "In general, if you want to change bylaws, because SAFAC's bylaws are a part of [OUSC's] constitution, [SAFAC presidents] have to agree with a majority. It might have to be a supermajority, so you're talking six out of eight votes [from SAFAC presidents]. And then you have to have [OUSC] agree to it. And then every Oakland University student [has to be] given the opportunity to vote in a referendum and they have to agree to it. And then it comes to a constitutional change [that] the Board of Trustees is also asked to approve."

The fact Miller is moving ahead unilaterally with the proposed restructure, without following the procedures outlined in OUSC's bylaws or receiving

approval from OU's Board of Trustees (BOT), is especially troubling to student representatives in OUSC.

"My biggest concern is that ... once you throw away rules, you open the door for anyone to break the rules and get away with it," Romano said. "The lack of accountability there is very concerning ... It feels like every student right that we've been granted is being violated right now ... [It's a] concerning door they're opening. I don't know how [Miller] has the authority to override the Board of Trustees who have granted [OUSC] these powers and our bylaws and constitution."

SAFAC orgs are the largest student-run organizations at OU. They are organizations that have been historically designated by students as being important enough to receive small portions of the stipend of tuition collected from every student (currently \$28.50 per semester) to perform specific tasks.

For instance: The Oakland Post receives funds to publish a student newspaper, OUSC receives funds to act as a governing body and advocate for students, WXOU receives funds to run a student radio station, Student Program Board (SPB) receives funds to coordinate events for students and so on.

The reasons given by Miller for restructuring SAFAC were budget cuts to the OSI. She explained during the meeting that positions such as assistant director and graduate assistant are being cut from the OSI.

The apparent solution to OSI having less resources and staff is for the eight student-run SAFAC orgs to now come directly under their supervision, while also adding representatives from Resident's Life Association (RLA) and OU's fraternities and sororities to their new programming council consisting of SAFAC Presidents and other student leaders.

Miller and her staff insist that this new restructuring would allow for OSI staff to better support student leaders in the SAFAC orgs.

"This is all going to help us come together," Blackburn said. "[The SAFAC orgs are] serving the student body in different ways, but we're serving the student body. And as part of [student] leadership in a learning [environment], we want to be here to give [students in SAFAC orgs] the opportunity to be better at it and grow with it."

Miller responded to questions about why OSI staff weren't supporting SAFAC leaders better throughout this school year.

"I take responsibility for being woefully neglectful [with SAFAC training], especially last summer, in giving [SAFAC presidents] all the tools [they] needed to be successful," Miller said.

The idea of more collaboration was appealing to some student leaders.

"Overall, I think it's a good thing,

especially since we have had such little opportunity for collaboration, [and] such a little opportunity for leadership development for people who are gonna be looking for that," WXOU Director Mary Rae.

Questions raised during the meeting about why the proposed increase in leadership support would be impossible under the current model of SAFAC, which features more autonomy and independence for student leaders, went largely unanswered.

It appears that the plan for the new SAFAC/OSI council is to have an annually-selected student chair to serve in the role that OUSC's democratically-elected student body presidents have traditionally served, acting as a liaison between the SAFAC presidents and the administration.

Details given during the meeting about the restructure of SAFAC were vague. This is apparently because, Miller and her staff haven't yet figured out exactly how this new programming council is going to operate.

"The other thing that I'm [predicting] is probably having to write some new guidelines associated with [how the new programming council is going to] function," Miller said. "One of the things I would like to see is a chair among the [SAFAC presidents]. It will be applied on a rotating basis. Each year somebody will get voted in for a year-long position as student chair ... We need to look at the [established SAFAC guidelines] and then look at this model and see how we can incorporate both of them together."

Another major issue discussed during the meeting was SAFAC orgs receiving their allocations of the SAFAC funds. To this point in the semester the university had withheld the transfer of those tuition dollars — a transfer that usually takes place in February every winter semester.

While Miller would not provide an explanation of what the hold up was, she did say that the money had been transferred to OSI last Monday and that all she had to do was transfer those funds to each individual SAFAC org. As of this writing, those transfers have not happened.

During the meeting Miller assured SAFAC leaders that allocations had not been changed, that SAFAC orgs would be receiving the correct percentages and that the orgs added to her new advisory council would not be receiving SAFAC funds.

"Nothing's been touched in terms of the [SAFAC allocations]," Miller said. "[Each SAFAC org's allocation] money remains the same percentages."

Due to the funding questions revealed last fall about Miller soliciting and receiving tens of thousands of tuition dollars from the SAFAC orgs to fund the OSI, she made it a point during Thursday's meeting to assert that the OSI was not receiving any more SAFAC

funds under the proposed restructuring.

"To clarify, OSI is not receiving any of the [SAFAC funds] among these organizations," Miller said.

Then immediately following the meeting with the SAFAC presidents, Miller kept the current chair of Student Activities Finance Board (SAFB), a SAFAC org that exists solely to fund GrizzOrgs, so she could tell him that he would be providing \$5,000 from SAFB's account to fund a recent event featuring comedian Preacher Lawson without other SAFAC presidents being around. This occurrence was consistent with the story that raised eyebrows last fall.

Of the SAFAC tuition allocation money — Special Projects Fund receives 1%, Student Video Productions receives 4%, Club Sports receives 6%, SAFB receives 27%, Student Program Board (SPB) receives 27%, OUSC receives 15%, The Oakland Post receives 7%, Student Life Lecture Board receives 3% and WXOU receives 10%.

The context about how the SAFAC funds are distributed is important because Miller said during the meeting that going forward, her goal is to make SAFB independent of OUSC oversight. This action has precedent, as in recent years a similar move was made to give SPB independence from OUSC. However, SAFB's operating independently of OUSC is controversial and was rejected by the student body when it was proposed formally in an OUSC election.

"When I first joined [OUSC] I was actually a big fan of the idea of SAFB being independent," Romano said. "But your perspective changes when you actually work with SAFB and you talk to people working in SAFB ... If you break off SAFB, then they're not elected anymore by the students ... There's no way to tie them to an election and there's no way to tie them to rules really ... So when you start taking away the democratic process of it, they don't really have any accountability from the students. Then it's just the OSI controlling what they want."

By moving SAFB out from under the supervision of student congress, OSI would be able to lobby for SAFB funds without having to consult democratically-elected student leaders in OUSC.

With SPB's already established independence, if SAFB were made independent from OUSC then Miller would have easier access to 54% of the total SAFAC allocation, which is equivalent to hundreds of thousands of tuition dollars every school year.

While Miller didn't say his name explicitly during the meeting, it was made clear to the SAFAC presidents that Senior Vice President for Student Affairs & Chief Diversity Officer Glenn McIntosh supports this restructuring.

Sigma Xi hosts annual banquet, lecture with David Good

GRACE LOVINS

Senior Reporter

Oakland University's chapter of Sigma Xi, the national scientific research honor society, hosted their annual lecture and banquet last Thursday, April 7 to present and celebrate scientific research conducted at OU. The lecture and student presentations were open to all of the campus community while the night concluded with the organization's banquet and induction ceremony for existing and incoming members.

This year's activities prior to the night's banquet ceremony consisted of a poster session, sponsored by the Center for Biomedical Research, where students presented their research through posters and were able to discuss their findings with other campus community members, along with a presentation from keynote speaker David Good.

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Britt Rios-Ellis, Ph.D., was inducted as an honorary member at this year's banquet along with roughly 30 students and 5 additional faculty members.

Gerard Madlambayan, Ph.D., vice president of Sigma Xi and associate



PHOTO COURTESY OF SIGMA.ORG
Sigma Xi is the national scientific research honor society.

professor of Biological Sciences, and Sarah Hosch, Ph.D., president of Sigma Xi and chief faculty adviser for undergraduate Biology, state that Rios-Ellis' induction demonstrates OU's support of research activities as part of the educational experience. As a newly appointed provost who began in 2021, her induction will continue the message of supporting research throughout her time at OU.

Sigma Xi exists at a national level to enhance the health of the research enterprise, foster integrity in science and engineering and promote the public's understanding of science for the purpose of improving the human condition as stated on the organization's website.

OU's chapter upholds these missions

by supporting undergraduate and graduate research opportunities through events that bring in researchers and lecturers to give presentations on their work, sending selected students to conferences including the annual Sigma Xi national conference, and providing students with the opportunity to present their research at this conference through posters or an oral presentation.

The lecture and banquet's keynote presentation, given by David Good, Biologist and founder of The Good Project, touched on topics that resonate with various fields such as anthropology, exploration and biological research. Good also discussed his current microbiome research, understanding the link between the microbes that live in and on us and human health, as well as his personal journey working with the Yanomami people.

"One thing we recognize is that our western lifestyle, with the processed foods that we eat, sedentary lifestyle, use of antibiotics, industrial toxins and pollutants, we have lost a huge part of what we call our ancestral microbiome," Good said.

"That greatly reduced biodiversity and functional diversity of the microbes is linked to a lot of chronic inflammatory

diseases that afflict mostly in western industrial societies. That's diabetes, obesity, crohn's disease, all these chronic inflammatory conditions that afflict us here at epidemic proportions and we're getting sicker. When you look at the Yanomami, they don't have all these diseases of the western industrial society. My investigation looks into the biological makeup of the Yanomami microbiome and its link to Yanomami diet and lifestyles and perhaps they have something that we've lost."

Good, a Yanomami-Venezuelan-American, states that, through his presentation, he hopes attendees are able to understand who the Yanomami people are and their importance as ancestral natives of the Amazon rainforest as well as the importance of understanding the composition of their microbiome.

"While anyone can Google the Yanomami and learn that, what I hope through my experience and my presentation, telling that through my eyes as a brother, as a son, as an uncle, as a nephew, I want to show the world the Yanomami through this familial connection so that they feel that they're not just looking at them as the other but also as inhabitants of the same planet and as part of the community," Good said.

OU CAIR program hosted its annual Easter event

RACHEL YIM

Senior Reporter

Americans share some of their national holidays with many other countries, Easter being one of them. As Easter Sunday is soon approaching, the CAIR (Creating American-International Relationships) program at Oakland University hosted its annual Easter event for the international students and their families at the Auburn Hills Christian Center on Saturday, April 9.

"It brought us together to share how each of us celebrates this holiday and how we have some common things we do as well as the different traditions," Petra Knoche, international adviser with the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO), said.

The event included a variety of activities. From coloring eggs and decorating eggs, an Easter egg hunt, photo booth section, games for prizes and foods representing different countries, international students and their families were provided with great opportunities to socialize with other people and share their home countries' own traditions of celebrating Easter.

"Honestly, I miss the students and our in-person events," Knoche said. "I love to see their beautiful faces, I love meeting their friends, spouses and children. Seeing their smiles and interacting with them, being able to listen to them, getting them out of their dorms or apartments to interact with others

and experience our culture here, helping them in any way I or our office can [makes] me happy. It has been rough the last two years as many appointments were virtual or people have their masks on, so I am super excited to get back to 'normal.'"

Boyun Kim, a South Korean international student in the Ph.D. program in the School of Education and Human Services at OU and a member of the CAIR program, was one of the attendees of the event. Spending her first year at OU during the COVID-19 pandemic, she said she's faced many difficulties in building relationships with other students at OU, especially those her age.

Joining the CAIR program and attending the events hosted by the program have helped her with socializing with others and provided her opportunities to enjoy college life.

"I simply received an email from the advisers, and that was how I first heard about this CAIR program," Kim said. "I think it's a great opportunity, especially because I'm not a local here. They host a lot of events, and they are so much fun."

Although coming from different backgrounds and cultures, the students from around the world were able to enjoy the day building new friendships as well as learning and sharing about other cultures' ways of celebrating Easter.

"It is adorable to see our students taking pictures with the Easter bunny or see them being competitive and getting as many eggs in the field at the egg hunt," Knoche said.

With the help of Beth Prueter, CAIR volunteer, and Alexa Lawlor from Connect the Nations and International Oasis, a non-profit organization that helps out international students, the event was successful, according to Knoche.

"We always look forward to getting more OU folks involved in our CAIR program, and anyone who is interested can email me," Knoche said. "To gain more information about this rewarding program, people can visit the ISSO website and sign up for the summer [program]."



PHOTO BY RACHEL YIM
International students at Auburn Hills Christian Center participating in Easter festivities.

OUSC, agreement reached for menstrual product distribution

ARIANNA HEYMAN

Senior Reporter

After prolonged discussion between Oakland University Student Council (OUSC) and Oakland University administration, an agreement has been reached to distribute free menstrual products on campus.

The menstrual products will be available in housing buildings and products already available in the Oakland Center will have new dispensers. Additionally, there are plans to install dispensers in high traffic academic buildings in the fall.

These buildings include the Kresge Library, Pawley Hall, Elliott Hall and the Human Health Building.

OUSC President Andrew Romano and Vice President Murryum Farooqi both cite Senior Vice President for Student Affairs & Chief Diversity Officer Glenn Macintosh as the primary reason why this initiative has been successful.

“VP Macintosh was able to help us get the ball rolling in terms of getting dispensers in the Oakland Center, getting products in the housing desks, as well as installing dispensers in a few high traffic buildings,” Farooqi said. “He was empathetic to the cause and definitely brought our spirits up when we were talking about the various things we wanted. His overall response was that a lot of the things we wanted — like products at housing desks, in the OC bathrooms in dispensers and dispensers in buildings — were all things that were very doable — which was kind of a shock to us after having spoken to other people in administration that pretty much told us the complete opposite.”

Without the assistance from Macintosh, there was fear from OUSC that distribution would never occur. OUSC has struggled to get approval for this initiative for some time. Romano said that he was surprised by the pushback he received from housing and maintenance faculty.

According to Farooqi, Housing Recruitment Manager Jenn Bonardelli told OUSC that providing free menstrual products was not a possibility because university housing is not permitted to distribute bandaids, pain medication, over-the-counter products or any other health-related products.

“[The] argument from housing [was] that they aren’t allowed to distribute medical related products,”

Farooqi said. “Tampons and pads are somehow medical but toilet paper is a-okay.”

Both Romano and Farooqi also had regular contact with Director of Facility Services, Douglas LaLone who relayed to them that he needed a guarantee that OUSC would be able to permanently provide the products and also be willing to refill the dispensers on campus.

“[LaLone said] he [would] bring [the matter] to the Vice President of facilities to determine all of the stakeholders involved,” Farooqi said. “LaLone also said that they also need to check with the legal department to see if there are any legal liability issues providing these items.”

“[It was] very confusing for us because we already do it in [the OC],” Romano said. “The weirdest part about this whole thing is they used to sell [menstrual products] in the bathrooms two years ago, so giving them out for free should not be a legal liability.”

LaLone told The Oakland Post that he has not spoken to the legal department because they did not respond to his original request.

“When OUSC first did this back in 2017 it took a week for them to get approval to do it in the OC and that was that,” Romano said. “We didn’t think we would have all of these controversies, especially since we have shown that we can do it— we’ve done it for five years now [in the OC]. We didn’t think it would be so controversial to do it in more buildings.”

After much debate with university administrators, the OUSC have managed to overcome various obstacles through partnership in order to accomplish the shared mission of supporting OU students by providing increased access to menstrual products.



PHOTO BY SARAH GUDENAU

Student Congress has partnered with other student leaders and administrators in Student Affairs to get free period products in bathrooms around campus.

OU faculty expresses concerns over course enrollment

D’JUANNA LESTER

Senior Reporter

With registration for the Summer 2022, Fall 2022 and Winter 2023 semesters underway, Oakland University’s faculty has expressed concerns over problems surrounding enrollment and course cancellations for the upcoming year.

OU administration is changing their rules regarding enrollment and policies for classes. This rule change includes increasing the enrollment minimum for courses. If the minimum is not met during enrollment, these courses may be cancelled.

“The Provost Office announced changes to enrollment two weeks ago,” said Amy Pollard, executive director of OU’s Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (OU AAUP). “There are a lot of ripple effects ... The big picture needs to be looked at before some of these rules are enacted.”

Department chairs are concerned about what the effect of cancelling some of these courses will have on students and their plans for enrolling in classes, graduation and their overall college experience.

There are also campus space concerns with both Varner Hall and South Foundation Hall under construction. With the construction, faculty worry that more classes will need to be offered online due to lack of space. Also, unwanted time slots for these classes, such as 8 a.m., are more common with this. Classes like these tend to have lower enrollment.

Additionally, the rule change results in the inability to offer a diverse curriculum. Courses that are popular tend to fill up quicker, and students may not see the courses they want.

Inclusive classes may have lower numbers, but are still necessary for certain degree programs. With these late changes, professors are working to finalize their summer plans.

“Enrollment is down. There’s no pretending that it isn’t. There are genuine financial concerns. How we deal with those financial concerns is really important,” Pollard said. “There is no final word yet. How do we make these changes in the correct lifetime but take into account the financial concerns of the university?”

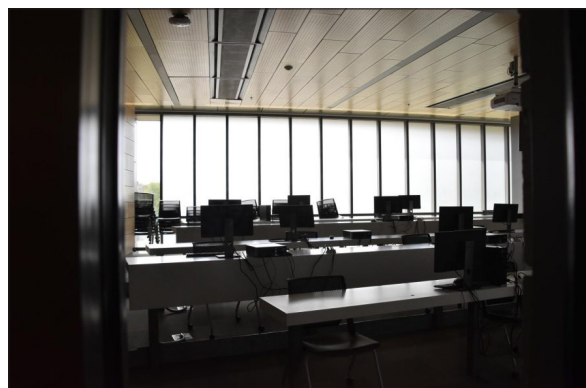


PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH

Course enrollment concerns pile up as we head into the summer.

According to OU AAUP President and History Professor Karen Miller, administration is insisting that the change is not as serious as faculty think it might be.

“Some programs aren’t significantly affected,” Miller said. “The university is trying to cut down on the number of sections available for us. Summer school classes were cancelled before registration began. We want to provide as efficient a ratio between students and faculty as we can. They don’t like running classes with small numbers of students, so we have this idea that classes are supposed to run at 80% capacity.”

The number of college-bound students is decreasing nationwide, which adds to the enrollment problem at OU.

Students in majors that do not have courses in a set order may be negatively affected. The courses that are not very popular could disappear, and many department chairs have expressed that it is important to keep these courses.

“If this were a five year plan, we could adjust. To have it just starting this summer, it’s like wait a minute, this is a course that’s only available every other year, and you want to cancel it? Maybe we should talk about this,” Miller said. “Right now I’m teaching a course that would’ve been cancelled with this rule. Next year I’m teaching a course in women’s history. I would hate to see it cancelled. I think it’s a course that people benefit from. College is a time where you can learn more about yourself and the world around you. I would like to see us foster that as much as we can.”

OUWB addressing space concerns that impact accreditation

JOE ZERILLI

Senior Reporter

On March 21, 2021, The Oakland Post released a story regarding the Oakland University William Beaumont (OUWB) School of Medicine's accreditation issues. The Post met with Steve Collard — vice dean of Business and Administration for OUWB — and Michele Jasukaitis — director of Communications and Marketing for OUWB — to further discuss the issues.

The first clarification mentioned by Collard was that OUWB is not at a serious risk of losing accreditation but rather was informed by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) about potential concerns.

"What the LCME has done by finding one of the elements within one of the standards as unsatisfactory is giving OUWB time to make progress in this area. OUWB is not at imminent risk of losing accreditation since we are addressing the issue and showing concrete progress towards our goal," Collard and Jasukaitis said.

In regard to communication with the OUWB community, OUWB said the community was notified when the school received full accreditation and notified of the issues brought up by LCME.

OUWB administration and OU administration have been working collaboratively to find solutions to the space issue. Since OUWB received full accreditation in February of 2020, OUWB and LCME have been in contact about the 12 compliance standards needed to be accredited.

The current and most pressing issue is space, but it has already been addressed, and OUWB feels it has a sufficient solution. Once the renovations on Wilson Hall

are completed, the Office of the Registrar will move to Wilson, freeing up over 4,000 square feet of space.

"We believe the additions to O'Dowd will be adequate to satisfy the LCME's concerns and to meet OUWB's immediate needs. We will be able to move our curriculum forward with the addition of flexible classroom and study space in O'Dowd Hall. The property at 1500 University Drive is not required for OUWB to satisfy the LCME but it might provide additional space in the future," Collard and Jasukaitis said.

Within O'Dowd Hall, the first floor — where the Office of the Registrar currently resides — will be



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
O'Dowd Hall is home to OUWB.

turned into mid-sized classrooms which can be divided into smaller areas. This space will be used to help first and second year students.

Collard said the OU administration has been helpful in finding and allocating space for OUWB to use, specifically the space in O'Dowd, but it was delayed slightly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. OU administration also helped find an architect to design the new space and assigned a project manager.

While enrollment has become an issue for universities across Michigan, the numbers don't affect OUWB as they consistently get 125 new students every August. Because of this, the space issues are not a new concept to OUWB.

"OUWB is a relatively new school. The student body at OUWB has grown from 50 in 2011 to 500 in 2018. There are always growing pains and always a need for continual improvement in a significant venture such as this. The University has done an admirable job with renovations in O'Dowd Hall, the Kresge Library and Hannah Hall to provide the resources needed to operate OUWB, and by any measure, it has been an extraordinary success for the University and the community," Collard and Jasukaitis said.

In terms of a backup plan, Collard said that because the plans at O'Dowd Hall are going as expected, there is no need to have such a plan.

"The objective is to demonstrate progress to the LCME. There is no specific deadline for construction. The design concept is on schedule. We have the space available. We are moving forward as soon as the preparations and necessary approvals can be completed," Collard and Jasukaitis said.

Financial Management Association hosts Retirement Workshop

JOSEPH POPIS

Senior Reporter

On April 7, the Financial Management Association (FMA) hosted a Retirement Workshop — featuring a presentation by speaker Robert Uptegraff, a professor in the finance department and advisor of FMA. Students were able to learn more about planning for retirement and how to handle their finances more effectively.

Uptegraff's presentation discussed topics such as: getting started, employer plans, common errors, social security, automobiles, mortgage, among others.

"This is just an introductory event so that people not necessarily from a finance background can learn more about the [value] of money, the power of compound interest and the power of starting early," FMA president Leandro Kacaj said. "It's really crucial, and we spend a lot of time studying it. I believe this event is more for the [campus] community, not just for the students of finance."

Kacaj mentioned attendees were able to learn more about various financial components — like the difference between various accounts, investments, tax benefits, etc.

To start his presentation, Uptegraff listed some ways individuals can get on the right track in terms of their finances, including having and maintaining an ethic of austerity, developing a written budget, having focused goals, getting and staying out of debt, paying yourself first every paycheck and being motivated to invest.

On the topic of credit cards and debit cards, Uptegraff prefers credit cards. According to Uptegraff, debit cards can leave you on the hook.

"I like credit cards better than I do debit cards — [only] if you can control your behavior," Uptegraff said. "Debit cards will leave you on the hook if someone hacks you and gets into your account. [With] a credit card, there is a limit — usually a 50 dollar limit to which you are responsible for. If you're worried about freely spending money, cap your limit. Ask your credit card company to cap the limit."

When discussing employer plans, Uptegraff

highlighted the employer match, calling it a "free lunch," as it doesn't happen often.

Additionally, Uptegraff prefers the Roth 401(k) employer plan compared to the traditional 401(k). This is due to the fact that the Roth 401(k) has tax-free withdrawals.

"Everyone of you should go with a Roth — invest in not getting a tax deduction," Uptegraff said. "Keeping it for a long period of time, the payoff can easily be 100 to 1. Keep that in mind, do a Roth instead of a traditional."

Some common errors that Uptegraff mentioned regarding investing and retirement include starting late, contributing to retirement accounts without managing investments and forgoing the company match.

"Take the lead, pay yourself first," Uptegraff said. "Be innovative, creative and motivated to do what you're doing and do it as early as possible."

Uptegraff also discussed life insurance, recommending buying term life insurance and saying, "life insurance — it's almost always sold, never bought. Very rarely does somebody go out and seek it. The best place to get it is your employer. It's cheapest, you get group rates — take advantage as long as you got that."

He also gave some advice on automobiles, like only buying a car you love, buying a certified pre-owned vehicle from a dealer with a warranty and keeping a vehicle longer. Uptegraff also presented on mortgages at the event.

To stay updated, follow FMA on Instagram at @fma_ou.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS
The Financial Management Association at OU hosted a retirement workshop last week.

OUSC President, Vice President participate in The Post's town hall

ALEXANDER GUSTANSKI
Senior Reporter

On The Oakland Post's Instagram account, at the request of the Oakland University Student Congress (OUSC), a story post was published inviting OU students to ask questions to the incumbent President, Andrew Romano, and Vice President, Murryum Farooqi.

Their answers are outlined below:

Q: "What are your top priorities for next year?"

A: We would be going into our next term with a huge advantage because of our experience, which allows us to have an ambitious but attainable list of tangible ways we plan to help students. Some of our priorities include:

- Increasing the number of green spaces on campus.

- Raising the wage.

- Lobbying for more state funding so tuition doesn't have to increase so much.

- Expanding accessibility to free menstrual products on campus.

- Adding an option for LGBTQ+ students to express their gender identity and sexual orientation on the OU admissions application.

- Providing students the tools they need to be sustainable.

- Expanding food options in the food court (including vegan, vegetarian, and halal options).

- Holding the University accountable on sustainability.

- Finding solutions to get election day off for students.

- Developing a self-reported absence policy (to give students sick and mental health days where they can miss class and not be academically punished).

- Co-sponsoring Indigenous Heritage Week at OU, co-sponsoring Arab Heritage Week at OU, co-sponsoring Asian Heritage Week at OU and co-sponsoring a Pacific Islander Heritage Week.

Q: "What accomplishment are you most proud of from this year?"

A: That's a tough question. We think it would have to be our work in textbook affordability with our Trash The Textbooks campaign. The absurd additional costs associated with course materials should not exist in higher education where students pay thousands of dollars in tuition already.

Student Congress was able to raise awareness and put this on the radar of many in upper administration. We donated to the ACMI (an initiative on campus that assists professors in converting their courses to use only low to no cost course materials), [and] the University now tells students which courses offer low-cost course materials when they register for classes, the University has committed to funding the ACMI, there is a dedicated donation area for the ACMI, Student congress gave

out 30 textbook scholarships and the University has given the initiative a lot more credit and publicity.

While Student Congress has had a history of lobbying for the University to act on textbook affordability, there has never really been any significant progress on the initiative until our administration. Of course, we want to give credit to Julia Rodriguez and the ACMI team for building the infrastructure and helping to educate us. Without them, we would have never been able to Trash The Textbooks.

Another accomplishment we are proud of is paying our workers and making sure student congress participation is accessible to all. Being a student is already insanely expensive with rising tuition costs and more, making it unreasonable to ask students to dedicate so much time and effort to Student Congress for free. We don't want our peers to feel like they have to choose between earning money at a job or working to make the campus a better place.

Q: "What kind of support are you providing/plan to provide for minorities on campus?"

A: When you look at what we have done and what we plan to do, it is clear we are very dedicated to supporting every group on campus. One of our main focuses is to make sure every student has a place for themselves at our University. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion are things our University speaks about often, and there are a lot of great groups/initiatives on campus that foster inclusivity.

A problem we've noticed however is visibility. Some groups are very represented on campus, but others are left behind. We celebrate Pride Month for the LGBTQ+ Community, Hispanic Heritage Month, First Generation Students' Week and African American celebration month — all of which are great. But what about the Asian, Indigenous, Pacific Islander and Arab American students at OU? Why is it that Oakland University's programming only celebrates a few select groups? It's adding insult to injury.

These unrepresented students are bombarded left and right with marketing for programs celebrating all of these other groups, and for some reason, they are left out. If a student doesn't see a place for themselves on campus then how can we expect them to want to stay? We plan to bring together student organizations, university community members and others to make planning committees for heritage weeks for these groups.

Furthermore, we can't ignore the glaring inequity that menstruators face on campus, the majority of which are women. Why is it that we have free BioButtons, facemasks, hand sanitizer, COVID-19 testing, condoms, kleenex, toilet paper, etc., but, when it comes to menstrual products, the stigma around menstruation (a normal bodily function

for half the population) continues to win?

It's time our University supplies free menstrual products in all women's and gender-neutral bathrooms. If we are re-elected, we will continue our work on this initiative and the implementation of free menstrual products will be expanded to many places on campus.

We also plan to support our campus LGBTQ+ community. OU used to be the leader in Michigan for being an LGBTQ+ friendly campus, [but] unfortunately, our ranking is slipping. One of the reasons our ranking has been slipping is due to the fact that we do not collect data on our LGBTQ+ students. Anyone on campus who wants to improve the Oakland experience for our LGBTQ+ community runs into this problem. Whether you are in Student Congress trying to find data to back an initiative, an employee of the Gender and Sexuality Center trying to find students to reach out to and provide resources to, or even a prospective Oakland Student searching for demographic information, it just isn't there.

The simplest way we can at least start the process of collecting this data is by having an optional question on the OU application that allows prospective students to express their sexual orientation. Until OU starts compiling this data, the campus community is flying blind when it comes to addressing needs and providing resources to our LGBTQ+ peers.

Q: "Is representation important to you?"

A: Representation is something we both think about often. It matters at all levels and in every aspect of what we do. It is one thing to talk about diversity, equity and inclusion, but it is a much larger task to actually achieve it.

We are most likely one of the most diverse and representative Student Congress tickets Oakland University has ever seen, and while we are certainly proud of this achievement, as well as the progress we've made in the last year towards becoming a more diverse, inclusive and representative Student Congress, we recognize that we can never truly represent and fight for the needs of all students unless we are proactive about connecting with our peers.

Diversity is not a task that can or should ever simply be checked off and marked as completed. Diversity and inclusion are about always leaving the door open for people to be heard. We value and will continue to value hearing from any and all students that want their voices to be heard — whether this manifests in the new heritage weeks we plan to work on, giving student organizations representation in a general assembly of Student Congress, or anything else anyone may suggest, our ears and doors are always open!

Q: "Is there a plan to make OU more environmentally friendly?"

A: Of course, sustainability is going to be at the forefront of everything

we do. The time to be ambitious with sustainability is now. Our world is facing countless environmental crises and it is the responsibility of universities to prepare their students for the future. Oakland University needs to do more now — not in 5 years.

Going forward, it is imperative that we treat sustainability as a priority on campus at every level. Integrating sustainability in this way cannot be done through committees alone. We need to have a dedicated office for sustainability at Oakland University immediately — we are one of the few universities that don't have a centralized sustainability office. Without a centralized office to coordinate sustainability efforts, groups and individuals working towards sustainability have found themselves chipping away at similar initiatives simultaneously without knowledge of each other, often resulting in redundancies and inefficiencies.

As our University discusses sustainability in more detail, we encourage them to review the millions of dollars they sign in contracts for projects and initiatives and work out ways they can push sustainability wherever they can, even if it is in small ways.

For example, the next time they renew their contract with OU Eats or the bookstore, why not add wording that requires vendors to offer paper bags? Or even better would be to require vendors to provide monetary incentives to customers who bring their bags. The same goes for technology contracts. Next time OU looks to purchase new technology, we want them to prioritize energy efficiency.

Most of all, we want OU to stop doing business with companies whose business practices are blatantly against OU's values — such as businesses that exploit workers. Frankly, it's tiring seeing all of OU's environmental responsibility handed over to students and faculty. Sure, we'll "Skip the Straw," but the university needs to do its part as well. If OU doesn't actually work to change the ways it does business, then our efforts will be in vain.

You can find the OUSC on Instagram at @ouscofficial.



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
OUSC President Andrew Romano and Vice President Murryum Farooqi answer questions asked via Instagram.

Meadow Brook Ball returns with Glitter and Gold after pandemic hiatus

GRACE LOVINS

Senior Reporter

After a two-year gap caused by the pandemic, the Meadow Brook Ball has finally returned to Oakland University. This year's ball took place on April 8 in the Meadow Brook Mansion at 8:00 p.m., offering dancing and entertainment for all who attended.

The theme of the ball was Glitter and Gold, highlighting the essence of the Golden Grizzlies. Tickets went on sale in February at the Office of Student Involvement ticket window for current students and 2020 graduates who were unable to attend the annual dance due to the pandemic.

The Meadow Brook Ball has been an ongoing tradition at OU since 1974, giving students the opportunity to dress up and enjoy a night full of dancing and activities while exploring the Meadow Brook mansion.

This year's ball —sponsored by Student Activities Funding Board, the School of Education and Human Services and Haig's of Rochester — offered various activities and forms of entertainment to engage with all students in attendance.

A tarot card reader was present to give attendees a sneak peek into their future, a harp player was in the beverage room to play for guests, as well as several photo opportunities like a mirror photo booth and an "animated" photo booth that turns your pictures into a flipbook.

Attendees were also free to participate in self-guided tours across the mansion with tour guides posted in

specific locations to offer information on the historic site. A caricature artist was present and students were able to take home a drawing on a coaster. For students looking for more relaxed activities, playing cards and coloring were offered in the game room.

While dressing to fit the theme was not a requirement, the Meadow Brook Ball committee announced a surprise "best dressed" contest to attendees with the most fitting attire. There were also giveaway prizes, open to attendees who remained at the mansion until the ball concluded, provided by Bakehouse 46, Nothing

Bundt Cakes, Emagine Theaters and Classic Lanes. As the night came to an end, students were offered goody bags as a "thank you" for attending.

Abigail Walsh, president of the Meadow Brook Ball Committee, noted her excitement to see the student body together again coming out of the pandemic. She stated that, while it's been a long time since OU student organizations have been able to host some of the most favored events, this year's ball was a really special way to return to the tradition.

Guadalupe Avalos, vice president of the Meadow Brook Ball Committee, reflected on her excitement for the ball, stating that she was looking forward to seeing the committee's hard work pay off and attending her first Meadow Brook Ball event.

"I'm super excited because this is the main thing I'm involved in on-campus, especially as a freshman, I've obviously never done anything," Avalos said. "I want to see something that I've worked really hard on [get] accomplished. I know there's going to be a few bumps along the road, but I just wanna see that experience and then, obviously, get dressed up and take pictures. I bought a really cute dress and I'm super excited."

While this year's ball is over, the Meadow Brook Ball Committee is looking for new members to join the organization for planning next year's event. Walsh states that she has enjoyed her time working for the committee and encourages students with an interest in event planning to take advantage of the opportunity.

Any interested students can visit the organization's GrizzOrgs page and request to join. Students can also visit the committee's Instagram page to learn more about future events and ticket giveaways.



PHOTO BY CHRIS ESTRADA
The Meadow Brook Ball returned last week after its pandemic hiatus.

Tai Verdes, Peach Tree Rascals headline SPB's annual spring concert

RACHEL YIM

Senior Reporter

The annual spring concert hosted by the Student Program Board (SPB) — an event aiming to reduce OU students' anxiety about the upcoming final exam week and the end of the semester — was a success. The concert featured Tai Verdes and Peach Tree Rascals, bringing in 500-600 attendees.

The concert kicked off with an opening by OU Gold Vibrations A Cappella.

"It was a really exciting thing, and I was really grateful for the opportunity," Larissa Diosdado, secretary of Gold Vibrations, said. "I was kind of nervous because I wasn't sure if people were going to like us since we sing a capella, but the audience ended up being really into it, and it made it super fun. We haven't had many opportunities to have performances like that due to COVID-19, so it was really nice to have to experience, and we all were just genuinely having fun with each other. I think our performance went really well, and you can definitely tell that we're all having a lot of fun with each other, which really warms my heart to see."

Their performance was followed by Peach Tree Rascals and Tai Verdes' performances.

"The concert after was incredible," Diosdado said. "Both artists did an amazing job at performing and being interactive with each other and the crowd, definitely an experience that I would consider a core memory."

Kaleigh Belz, vice president and annual events director of SPB, mentioned the crowd had amazing energy and the turnout was spectacular.

"It was an amazing night with a great turnout," Kaleigh Belz, vice president and annual events director of SPB, said. "All of our students seemed to enjoy it immensely and the crowd had great

energy — singing, dancing and getting involved with the music and the artists that were brought in."

According to Belz, SPB has been hosting the Spring Concert since around 2007. Their first step with getting the performers always involves identifying the availability of artists, what artists OU students might enjoy and moving on to working with agents of the artists. SPB has always tried to attract artists and talent that are on the rise, usually right before they go "viral."

"While this is an event that we try to put on annually, Oakland has never actually put on a concert of this magnitude outside of the amphitheater," Belz said.

Drake, BlackBear and KYLE are some examples of the artists the SPB booked for the past Spring Concerts.

"For this year, it's been a super unique experience, as we are coming back to in-person events, and we're switching away from our typical spring concert venue to be indoors and more heavily directed towards our students," Belz said. "I know SPB is looking forward to bringing more talent and artists to campus in the future, and we're always on the lookout for up and coming talent that the students will enjoy. Our goal is always to make programming fun and engaging, truly embodying the idea that campus can exist outside of just the classroom, and creating memories for students."

SPB will be hosting other events before the end of the semester according to Belz, including ZUZU African Acrobats for Stress Less on April 14. For more information, visit GrizzOrgs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TAIVERDES.COM
Tai Verdes and Peach Tree Rascals performed at the SPB annual spring concert.

People of OU: English teacher and Detroit Lions blogger Ryan Matthews

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL
Sports Editor

Most people are happy to be successful at one job, but Ryan Matthews is lucky enough to be successful at two.

Many know Matthews as the senior editor for Pride of Detroit, a Detroit Lions blog for SB Nation. But he is also an English teacher at Holly High School.

He's always had an interest in writing dating back to his high school years.

"The transition from my sophomore to my junior year, my high school went to trimesters, so it [created] the opportunity for all these new English classes that had opened up," Matthews said. "And that was like catnip for me."

At first, Matthews wanted to go into journalism, but he eventually decided that teaching was his calling card.

"I graduated in 2009, and I think just with the recession and everything I wanted to try to pursue something that had some more tangible financial benefits," Matthews said. "So that's why I went the route of teaching."

Matthews graduated from OU in 2016 as an English major and a history minor with a secondary certification in teaching and education. He called

his experience at Oakland "a great one," largely due to the professors he was able to connect with.

"Kathleen Pfeiffer specifically was instrumental in me really pursuing the thing that I wanted to do," Matthews said. "She really gave me a lot of confidence in who I was as a writer...I took a few of her classes just because I really enjoyed the discussion that we had in there."

Matthews got his start at Pride of Detroit in 2015 when the site was hiring and he applied to be an editor. He recalled a time where he took an editing test while he was working a shift at his then-job.

"I worked for Coca Cola full time when I was going to school at Oakland," Matthews said. "So I was like sitting in the backroom of a Meijer on top of a pallet of 12-Pack Coke cans, and I was editing this mock article that [the person who ran the site at the time] had sent me where I had to fact check everything and make sure it was in AP Style and stuff like that."

Matthews is a part of the Pride of Detroit podcast, simply called "The Pride of Detroit PODcast," with POD Editor-in-Chief Jeremy Reisman, and writer Chris Perfett. The podcast has

exploded in popularity, especially over the past year.

The PODcast crew streams the recording of the podcast live on Twitch [<https://www.twitch.tv/prideofdetroit>]. Matthews said his favorite part of recording the podcast is getting to interact with the community in between segments.

"Like earlier today, [Managing Editor] Eric Schlitt had passed along a letter that somebody wrote—and I'm not kidding you—it was at least 2000 words thanking us for the role that the Pride of Detroit podcast has played in their life," Matthews said. "I truly can't wrap my head around the impact that I have doing that stuff because I always feel like that's what's happening when I'm teaching in the classroom."

On July 2, 2020, Matthews was involved in a pretty serious car accident in which he suffered compound fractures to both his tibia and his fibula, as well as compartment syndrome. The surgeon who operated on his leg compared it to the injury suffered by former NFL quarterback Alex Smith in 2018.

"I remember one of the last things I did before I went in for surgery is—they brought me this clipboard and said 'Hey, can you sign this waiver?'

I was like, 'Yeah, sure. What does it say?' And they're like, 'Well, this is a waiver just in case we need to amputate your leg because it's in pretty bad shape,'" Matthews said. "And I was like, 'Oh, this is a lot more serious than I thought it was.'"

Matthews called the accident the most difficult obstacle he's ever had to overcome in his life.

"I think a lot of people get put in those situations and they come out on the other end and they have things to say like 'Yeah, it completely changes my perspective on things and I have this new lease on life and, and whatnot,'" Matthews said. "But it was the hardest thing that I ever had to do in my life from a physical standpoint, and without question from a mental standpoint."

Matthews said he's grateful for everyone who's helped him along the way, again mentioning the Pride of Detroit community.

"They're an incredibly supportive group," Matthews said. "And they really do take care of their own and it's what makes working and writing for Pride of Detroit even that much better because it's the sense of a second family that you kind of grow with."

People of OU: Musical artist and band frontman Rockim Williamson

ALEXANDER GUSTANSKI
Senior Reporter

Rockim Williamson is the frontman of Confidence, an R&B and rap group comprised of Oakland University students. Through his art, he wants to bring people together — which he believes is the purpose of his life.

Williamson began writing music in kindergarten and performing in third grade. He began releasing tracks online in sixth grade and has since gained notoriety.

He even owns a custom hat with his catchphrase: "Google Me," since he often encourages people to Google him to view his accomplishments. Williamson attended OU and lived on campus when he met his bandmates. During his freshman year, he looked to his music club to find members for a new band to compete in the 2019 Battle of the Bands on campus.

The group went on to win the competition, and performed as an opener for SuperDuperKyle and Blackbear at the 2019 Spring concert.

Williamson decided to take a break from school so he could take time to work and continue pursuing his music career, arguing that college is not for everyone and not a four-year-long race to a degree.

"After I realized that, there was a big load that was off of my shoulders," Williamson said. "School will always be there. However, this dream that I'm chasing, although it will always be there, the opportunity to grasp it won't always be there."

Williamson discussed how his music is inspired

by his Christian faith.

"I pray that everyone who comes across me in some way shape or form sees, hears and feels God through me. The things I create are much bigger than me. I pray that in everything I do, people are impacted by it, enjoy it and want to come back to it."

In spite of this, Williamson doesn't want to be called a Christian musician.

"A lot of people think I am a Christian artist or a Christian rapper simply because I refer to God as Jesus and reference a bunch of bible verses in my songs. But I'm really not a Christian artist, that's not the lane I want to be on and limited by. I try and make art for everyone. If not everyone, at least people who understand, [and] who will listen and be impacted by it," Williamson said.

Confidence and Williamson have some big projects in the works, and the band recently recruited a new vocalist. Williamson's dream is to perform with a choir, and he believes the new member is a step in that direction.

The group also has a large run of performances this summer. In addition to all of these developments with his band, Williamson is also working on his own clothing label which he says is dropping in the next two months.

Ultimately, Williamson said he owes his career to his collaborators.

"I give all credit to my band when it comes to preparing for a show and designing the setlist. I give everyone I work with — whether it be my band,

photographer, or videographer — I give everyone so much praise and so many flowers. Without the people that I work with, I wouldn't be doing any of this."

You can find Rockim on Instagram @rockim_w and Confidence @confidence.creates.



PHOTO COURTESY OF @ROCKIM_W ON INSTAGRAM
Rockim Williamson is a musician and frontman of the band Confidence.

People of OU: Organizational powerhouse Malaena Caldwell

SARAH GUDENAU
Features Editor

When Malaena Caldwell’s study abroad trip was cut short due to COVID-19, she never expected that setback to help her find a new passion.

Caldwell is a senior at Oakland University preparing for her graduation at the end of April 2022. With a major in French language and literature, she set her sights on studying abroad in France for a semester in 2020, hoping to find what she wanted to do post-graduation during the trip.

“I come from a single parent household ... and so when I realized I was going to study abroad, I was like, ‘I’m going to have to apply to every scholarship humanly possible,’ and I did,” Caldwell says. “I think I applied to nine and I was fortunate enough to receive six. [Because of] that, in tandem with my scholarship that I got out of high school, I was able to pay off my entire study abroad experience out of pocket without having to take out a loan.”

While earning scholarships to pay for her trip is one of Caldwell’s biggest accomplishments, that feat made having to come home in the middle of the semester even more difficult. Despite that disappointment, the dozens of scholarship essays that she had to write led her to her second major: creative writing.

“When I came home, I just felt confused and hurt and all those complex feelings, and one of my French teachers was like, ‘I really think you should look into writing — you’re a very strong writer,’ and I did not believe her,” Caldwell says.

While she was convinced that she was not a good writer, when she returned home, the Study Abroad Office offered a reentry scholarship asking students to write about their experience leaving their study abroad trips due to COVID-19. Caldwell won that award as well, and she took her professor’s advice.

Caldwell became managing editor of the Oakland Arts Review (OAR) and has since been seriously writing for two years now. She plans to earn her Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in creative writing at Oklahoma State University (OSU).

“Although I’m sad about my study abroad, I honestly feel like I needed my world and my expectations for the life that I was going to live to crumble to really

make way for what I wanted to do,” Caldwell says. “Everything just started snapping into place very quickly.”

In addition to her plan to earn her MFA, Caldwell is a semifinalist for the Fulbright Scholarship — a U.S. governmental program that sends ambassadors abroad to augment global interconnectivity. Participants conduct research, pursue graduate study or teach English abroad.

She has applied to be an English teaching assistant for secondary school in France and hopes to pursue that for a year before attending OSU.

Besides the constant scholarship applications and double majors, Caldwell stays busy with her involvement in the OU community. An “organizational powerhouse,” she also works as a Study Abroad Student Advisor, she’s the secretary of Sigma Tau Delta, she’s a cheerleader and she’s a member of many organizations from Phi Sigma Sigma to multiple honors societies.

With three running to-do lists at any given time and her best friend Google Calendar, Caldwell manages her packed schedule and above all, prioritizes school.

“I value my time so so highly,” Caldwell says. “When I’m at work, I’m at work, but when I go home from work, I do not think about work. When I’m at cheerleading practice, I’m at cheerleading practice. When I leave cheerleading practice, I don’t think about cheer. I think that’s the only way — compartmentalization — to be able to handle a very busy schedule because letting things bleed together is only going to make it feel more overwhelming.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF MALAENA CALDWELL
French language and literature and creative writing double major,
Malaena Caldwell.



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BRIDGET JANIS

Journalism Major & Graphic Design Minor, Managing Editor: I've worked at the Oakland Post for four years now. I have seen many people come and go throughout my time, and seen a lot of changes to the newspaper throughout the years. My favorite time at the Post was honestly during the pandemic last year. Michael Pearce was Editor-in-Chief and Emily Morris was the Managing Editor (I hope I made her proud), and I would go into the office every week with just us three, with literally a notes page open on my phone of things I had to talk to them about — things I would randomly think of and things going on in my life. They became such influential people in my life, I can't imagine not meeting them. I am forever grateful that the Post brought us together. Also, I was so lucky to have Carolina Landeros by my side this year. She made coming into the office for production fun, and is the best designer I've ever met. All three of the people mentioned above are truly my best friends and I'm glad to be leaving college with them by my side.

REECE TAYLOR

Creative Writing (Screenwriting) Major, Sports Reporter: One memory that will always stick with me is the day I showed up to a Men's Basketball press conference completely disheveled. It was my first one, bought some popcorn, and was sitting in an upper row. It should also be noted that I was in a short-sleeved shirt in the middle of the winter with a jacket and beanie. I just looked like a fan. Went into the press conference and saw everyone in much better apparel than whatever I dragged from the bottom of the hamper, which is also now covered in popcorn. The press conference went great, but the lead up to everything was the exact opposite of what I expected.



GRACE LOVINS

English and Journalism Major, Senior Reporter: I transferred to OU during the height of the pandemic and ultimately only had 1.5 in-person semesters. During the 2021 fall semester, I had the honor of joining The Oakland Post as a reporter and I can't even begin to say how much working for The Post has helped me become engaged with OU. The beginning was a little rough to be honest — I had to find offices and buildings I'd never heard of, contact organizations I didn't know existed, I mean I really didn't even know what GrizzOrgs was until my third week in. My favorite memories working for The Post have been the opportunities to meet so many new people, seeing what exciting things were happening on campus that I never would've known about, and working alongside such an encouraging group of people. I only wish I could've been a part of this group a little longer.



CAROLINA LANDEROS

Graphic Design Major, Graphic Designer: While I only joined the Oakland Post this past school year, it has been one of my favorite experiences throughout my four years at Oakland. I thoroughly enjoyed working alongside Bridget Janis, the one and only Managing Editor (and my best friend) every week to design our fabulous center spreads. With the Post being my first design job, it was so cool to finally get to see my designs being published for others to see. I remember designing my first center and being so excited, that I brought home a copy to my friends and family. Ever since then, I bring them a copy every week and get to watch them be just as excited as me. The Oakland Post brought so many memories and friendships that I will forever be grateful for.

Seniors of The favorite memories



LAUREN REID

Public Relations & Strategic Communication Major, Content Editor: I started at the Post in January 2020, and remember always heading straight to the back of the room to sit with Maggie Willard for budget meetings. Back then, I never could have predicted how much I'd be pushed — both professionally and personally — the way I was at the Post. I think a lot of us feel that way — it's been so cool to see everyone grow and work alongside one another for so long. I was consistently stepping outside of my comfort zone, learning how to speak up, reaching out to others for help and figuring out who I want to be, and how I want to be seen by others. If it weren't for the Post, I certainly wouldn't have felt connected to the campus community like I do today, and wouldn't have met some of my closest friends. Although I won't miss looking over 30 stories each week, I'll certainly miss the people.



MATTHEW SCHEIDEL

Journalism Major, Sports Editor: My favorite memory during my time at The Oakland Post was just being able to be in the office with my colleagues again. I started as a sports reporter during the winter 2021 semester and there could only be a certain number of people in the office because of the pandemic. When we could finally be in the office again in the fall of that year, it finally felt like I was a part of this organization. No offense to the previous regime of The Post, they did all that they could given the circumstances. It was just so nice to actually meet the people that I worked with.



JEFF THOMAS

Creative Writing (Poetry) Major, Editor-in-Chief: People make memories. You remember being with them and how they made you feel. I have been blessed this year to have received many beautiful memories of love, friendship, hard work and collaboration from my wonderful colleagues at The Post. COVID-19 was really hard on our little independent newspaper. We made do during the 2020-2021 school year, but being able to return to the office and be together in person was a big part of what made this year so special for our organization. Truly, I'm thankful for everyday that I got to work with this group. Here, I'll keep a million small magical moments that occurred while we all worked together in our office private. While all the memories of this year will remain near and dear to my heart, there are a few that stand out. I will never forget the feeling of being on the picket lines during our coverage of the OU AAUP work stoppage, being able to film and document the picketer's march through the heart of OU was incredible. I'll never forget the afternoon that I had with our Photographer Ayman Ishimwe, covering OU's Peace Day Concert. And of course I'll never forget going to my first OU men's basketball game, sitting at the press table with our awesome Sports Editor Matthew Scheidel while I took social media videos for our fabulous Marketing Director Tori Coker, and the score of the game being tied 69-69 with 4:20 left in the second half.

Post share their s of being Posties



MAGGIE WILLARD

Marketing Major, Photographer: I've been a photographer at the Oakland Post since the fall of 2019, and I've made so many memories here. I had the opportunity to attend so many events that I never would have gone to if it weren't for the Post, which I'm so grateful for. My favorite memory from my time here was back in 2019, a few weeks after I started, I decided to take photos of a concert that was being held in the Habitat. This was completely out of my comfort zone at the time, but I ended up being so happy with how the photos turned out. These photos ended up being the cover for that issue, and I remember being so proud and showing all of my friends that I got my first newspaper cover. That feeling never got old, and every time I have gotten a cover since then I have always been so proud of myself.



SARAH GUDENAU

Journalism Major, Features Editor: My favorite Post memory was the first event I ever covered, which was an outdoor opera. I was working as a Graphic Designer at the time, but contributed some stories too, as that's what I really wanted to do. I was so nervous to attend an event and interview people there, (Covid really got me too comfortable with Zoom), but it was so exciting and so much fun! Ayman Ishimwe took some amazing photos, and the story was my first to be a center spread. Because I can't just pick one, I've got to say, production days are also my favorite. I love being surrounded by such a hardworking team, and I'm forever grateful for the Post staff who have become not only coworkers, but also friends.



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DT - Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus
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VR - Virtual

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Meet former OU softball player Sidney Rayba

PAYTON BUCKI
Sports Reporter

As the semester draws to a close, Oakland University senior Sidney Rayba encourages students to follow their passions and take care of their mental health.

As a former college softball player and talented singer, Rayba understands the importance of working hard while simultaneously prioritizing her personal happiness.

Rayba discovered her passion for softball in the second grade. As her love for the game grew, so did the time commitment.

Once Rayba began playing travel softball, she began having to make sacrifices in order to achieve her dream of competing in college. Instead of hanging out with friends and attending social events, most of Rayba's time was spent practicing and attending softball tournaments.

When Rayba was recruited to play on the Oakland University softball team, things only got more difficult. The athlete's schedule was packed with workouts, practices, games, travel tournaments and meetings.

"A lot of people don't understand how hard athletes must work — it is like a full time job," Rayba said. "People think athletes get things handed to them, but that's just not true."

Rayba played for Oakland's softball team during her first three years of college. Throughout her collegiate softball career, she made a lot of good memories with the team.

However, despite her love for the sport, Rayba decided to take a break from playing on the university's team this season for personal reasons. Rayba says stepping away from softball was extremely tough, yet she is proud of her decision.

Believe it or not, softball is not Rayba's only impressive talent. The Oakland student is also a talented singer.

"My mom always says I could sing before I could talk," Rayba said.

Rayba's grandpa helped fuel the natural performer's passion for singing, allowing her to sing Disney songs on his radio show. By the age of seven, Rayba had begun competing in talent shows.

At the age of 14, Rayba decided to try out for "The Voice" the first time, making it all the way to the third round of preliminary auditions. By 16, Rayba had auditioned for the show again, this time making it to the fourth preliminary round.

"The producers would say I had

a good voice, but they had cast too many brunettes or teenage girls," said Rayba, "By then, I decided that TV might not be the best fit for me."

So, Rayba started performing her talent in a new way. Rayba began singing the National Anthem at high school sporting events, even getting the chance to perform at Jimmy John's Field and Little Caesars Arena.

"When I entered college, I began singing the Anthem at on-campus sporting events," said Rayba. "I absolutely love it."

As Rayba prepares to graduate this April with a Bachelor's Degree in Communication, she is ready to begin her professional career.

"I am very fortunate to have secured a position in Digital Marketing for a corporate real estate investment firm," said Rayba. "Although I never imagined I would be working in real estate, I am very excited and happy."

Rayba explains she decided to pursue a degree in Communication early in her high school career. Even though the field often receives a lot of hate and skepticism, Rayba believes there is more to the humanities than most people realize.

"There is often a lot of negativity towards Communication and Business majors, especially on social media," said Rayba. "But I disagree — both fields are so broad and give individuals the opportunity to be creative in a professional setting."



PHOTO COURTESY OF SIDNEY RABA
Sidney Rayba speaks about her time on the OU softball team, her auditions for "The Voice" and her focus on mental health

Richard Wilson dies at 93

JOE ZERILLI
Senior Reporter

As first reported on Meadow Brook Hall's website, Richard Wilson — son of Matilda Dodge Wilson and Alfred G. Wilson — died in March 2022. Richard was the last direct heir to Matilda and the last child who grew up at Meadow Brook Hall.

Richard obtained his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics from Michigan State University (MSU) in 1951. He also spent the early parts of his career working with his older sister Frances at her horse racetracks in both Michigan and Florida.

Later in his life — once Meadow Brook Hall became a museum — Richard spent time at the Hall during special events, often talking about his stories at Meadow Brook as a child. Richard had often spoken about what it was like growing up in an American castle.

"It was a wonderful place to grow up. We rode horses, hunted pheasants and deer, swam and did just about anything we wanted to do. I really liked the hidden staircase — leading from Mr. Wilson's room to the lower level — as a kid. I would get my friends in there and turn out the lights. It was pitch dark. I'd scare the heck out of them. I thought that was great fun," Richard said to OU Magazine in 2004.

Richard loved to remain connected with the Hall and in an 1998 Oakland Post issue said, "My only connection with Meadow Brook now is through my heart." He volunteered for fundraisers such as the Meadow Brook Concours d'Elegance, and staff such as curator Madelyn Rzakowski described Richard as "introspective," "humble" and "hilarious."

Meadow Brook has plans to honor the memories of both Richard and his sister Barbara on the property. With the construction of the Visitor Center for Meadow Brook on the horizon, big plans are set to honor the Wilson family and legacy through it.

The legacy of the Wilson family started when the family first got involved with OU. In 1957, Matilda and Alfred donated the estate, its accompanying buildings and \$2 million to MSU to establish what is now Oakland University.

Their namesakes are forever engraved in the university, with Wilson Hall being named after Matilda and Dodge Hall being named after Matilda's first husband John F. Dodge. The donated money was used for the construction of North

and South Foundation Halls, further expanding their impact on OU.

Wilson wanted to show her commitment to the school early on, as she gifted every person of the first ever graduating class a diamond ring. Wilson went beyond OU in terms of community involvement, and she became the first female lieutenant governor in Michigan's history.

Matilda's generosity was a prominent characteristic of her personality, and an excerpt titled "The Responsible Philanthropy of Matilda Dodge Wilson" is available online. Meadow Brook Hall consistently tries to continue the wishes of the Wilson family.

"Meadow Brook Hall remains committed to education with museum programming; summer camps; hosting classes and free tours for OU students; internships; preservation of natural resources and land with our all-volunteer Garden Club supporting the gardens; woods and rare plants and trees on site; equal rights for all and access to voting and government and helping those in need," Rzakowski said. "We can always do better and try harder, and we are incredibly inspired by the Wilsons' interests in these issues, plus fighting for peace, civil rights, healthcare, safe and affordable housing."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEADOW BROOKE HALL
Richard Wilson, son of Matilda Dodge Wilson, died in March 2022 at 93.

OU PR class promoting “Healthy Starts Here” campaign at Recreation Center

OLIVIA CHIAPPELLI

Senior Reporter

Oakland University’s External Public Relations (PR) class is promoting the campaign “Healthy Starts Here” to inform students of all the fitness and wellness opportunities the Recreation Center (Rec) has to offer, with the main goal of making all students feel welcome.

The “Healthy Starts Here” campaign — originally created in 2020 — aims to communicate that any individual’s version of “health” can start at the Rec Center.

“Unfortunately, people think that the gym isn’t the environment for them. We want to encourage our OU community by informing them the OU RecWell provides for every lifestyle and embodies health and wellness in many ways, they have something for everyone,” says Gabrielle Rodela, one of the OU students behind the “Healthy Starts Here” campaign.

The campaign aims to make the Rec more approachable for OU students who may find the thought of going to the gym intimidating. In order to accomplish this, the campaign utilizes many welcoming tactics.

Some of those tactics include: posters with informational QR codes displayed throughout the resident halls and Oakland Center, an SMS automated messaging service which notifies students of special events or group fitness classes offered at the Rec and athlete testimonials displayed on the Rec’s Instagram.

The campaign will also create “beginner videos”

which students can view before going to the Rec, as well as host a 360 virtual tour of the Rec on their website showcasing the locations of everything the Rec has to offer.

“Whether it be a tour, demos on how to use equipment or how to sign up to attend group classes or sports activities, we want to provide students with useful information so it is not as daunting to try something new,” Rodela says.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
A student group taking External PR is orchestrating a campaign to showcase the Rec Center’s offerings, and help students feel comfortable.

Overall, the PR campaign the students have put together aims to increase awareness of the Rec’s programs and services that go beyond fitness alone. The Rec offers many student well-being programs and fitness opportunities that are often not as well known.

The campaign will promote student wellness at OU by advertising programs like the Green Bandana Project, iPause, Bright Light Therapy, Pet Therapy, Student Wellness Coaching and more.

“I think something that a lot of the OU community doesn’t take advantage of are the programs and services the OU RecWell offers that aren’t just the gym. It can be intimidating to join a gym but the OU RecWell offers opportunities to be healthy through means that aren’t just physical which students have at their disposal,” Rodela says.

The campaign shows what OU students can gain from going to the Rec as opposed to an off-campus gym. Some advantages include, but are not limited to: free Rec membership as an OU student and free access to all special events, group classes and fitness equipment — amenities which often cost extra at an off-campus gym.

“We really want to reach the underclassmen because they will start the positive trend and cycle of information moving forward,” Rodela says.

Grace Lee, another OU student behind the campaign says, “I know personally when I work out I do feel better mentally and physically, so this campaign is saying, ‘If you want to go on a journey of being healthier, this is a great place to start.’”

Pandemic learning: reflection from a mother with a son on the Autism Spectrum

AUTUMN OKUSZKA

Contributor

Roberta J. Okuszka, 53, remembers the first day of virtual learning vividly. Waking up at 7:30 a.m., making her son breakfast and helping him to get ready to reconnect with the outside world via Zoom. Now picture — today she awoke at 5:40 a.m., and while she still makes her son breakfast, she will no longer sit by his side day in, day out, ready to conquer the world. Today is the first day of in-person learning since March 2020 for her son Austin, 23, who is autistic.

Okuszka grew up in Ferndale, Michigan, and graduated from Hazel Park High School. She met and then married her now-husband Robert J. W. Okuszka, and gave birth to Austin in 1998.

Austin was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in 2003 when a teacher noticed he was displaying common signs of being on the spectrum. Okuszka then took on the role of being a stay-at-home mother, to ensure that she’s available whenever Austin may need her.

One of the things Okuszka didn’t expect Austin to need her for though, like many parents during the COVID-19 pandemic, was to be a schoolteacher.

“I had to learn everything. I had no idea how to set up the Zooms, or how to do Schoology [online learning program],” Okuszka said.

While virtual learning was a difficult transition for all parties involved, Okuszka and Austin’s situation was a bit different. While most parent’s could rely on their children to navigate virtual learning on their own, Okuszka had to sit by Austin’s side everyday to help him not only learn through Zoom classes taught by teachers, but independently as well.

Okuszka and Austin’s school day lasted from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. five days a week from September 2020 until August 2021. While that may seem like a grueling

schedule, it wasn’t all bad, according to Okuszka.

Okuszka made sure that breaks were taken often, including what she believes to be Austin’s favorite subject, his lunch break.

“I would either make him a sandwich if he wanted or he would get soup, and he would come out to the living room and watch his TV show that he wanted to watch during his lunch hour,” she says.

While becoming a teacher for her son was a learning experience in itself, Okuszka said she learned things she didn’t know herself in Austin’s lessons.

“I learned some stuff too, like, I would learn about stuff that he was learning about that I didn’t know about so that was pretty cool,” Okuszka says.

Even the people around them noticed how strong Okuszka and Austin’s relationship was the day’s they were virtually learning.

“Both Austin and my wife had a very good working relationship day in and day out,” Robert, Okuszka’s husband, says.

Of the subjects Okuszka learned alongside Austin, her favorite class had to have been choir, which she took herself as a student at Hazel Park High School.

“I enjoyed that, to sit there and watch him sing. I would videotape him and send it to his aunt’s, they were all happy and excited for him,” she says.

Although it may have seemed like time was moving slow at the time, the time soon came for Austin to return to in-person learning. While that was already a big change, a huge change also accompanied Austin’s return to in-person learning.

“The huge change was that he was going to a new school, one that he hadn’t been to before, with a new teacher,” Okuszka says. “He wasn’t too excited because we always told him that when you go back you’ll go back to your previous school, but that changed big time.”

Okuszka said that while it was a new change for him, Austin adjusted well.

“He missed school. He loves school, so all in all he was excited to go back,” she says.

Alongside attending a new school, Austin is also learning new things, such as gardening and woodworking. Okuszka even received a Christmas gift from him at Christmas time that he had woodworked himself.

While Austin’s biggest worry was going to a new school, Okuszka’s biggest worry involved what caused them to have to learn virtually in the first place.

“I was anxious because of the virus. Anxious for him to go back, because you still get notifications that there’s so many cases, so that’s nerve wracking,” Okuszka says.

Okuszka feared that Austin could contract COVID-19 through his school, and she experienced a few close calls throughout this school year.

“We did get a notification once that a kid in his classroom had tested positive,” she says.

Austin didn’t have to miss school that time because they said that there was enough distance between him and the infected student that he was fine to keep attending school.

While Okuszka did learn new things that Austin was learning himself, Okuszka also took lessons from her experience helping him learn virtually.

“You just have to have patience, because it’s not always gonna go smoothly,” Okuszka says. “Take breaks, because sometimes with an autistic child, or even an autistic adult, they can’t sit there for hours on end doing work so you have to take breaks.”

Okuszka also learned that it was hard work, but that the hard work was definitely worth it saying, “it was worth it to see all the stuff that he could do, all the stuff that he enjoyed doing.”

Austin is enjoying his time having some sort of normalcy from in-person learning, but Okuszka misses their time together.

“I enjoyed sitting there with him doing his work, sometimes. Sometimes, I didn’t. But most of the time I did,” Okuszka says.

Seniors shine one last time at final dance recital

ARIANNA HEYMAN

Senior Reporter

Four years of hard work paid off for the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) dance majors this past week. On April 5 and 6, the seniors in the dance program at Oakland University performed their senior recital at Detroit Country Day School.

“The performance has a wide array of movement vocabulary and stylistic choices, but the pieces share something in common — a small part of each choreographer is left on the stage,” senior Maddie Parker says. “Everything from the music to costumes to lighting is spectacularly unique, but that is what makes the show enjoyable and easy to watch. No two pieces are alike in that sense, but they all are unified by the fact that the seniors, no matter what they have gone through, have somehow made it to the end together.”

The recital was a culmination of six group works and six solos. The senior recital is different from other shows because it does not feature faculty work or guest artists.

“I would describe the Senior Dance Recital as a true cultivation of what each senior has learned and applied over the last four years,” senior Madisyn Boussie says. “Not only this, but I would describe the show as a true insight in terms of what the next generation of young artists has to offer and showcases each individual style that the seniors have worked so hard to develop over the last four years.”

The seniors have spent months working on their routines to ensure perfection as this was the last opportunity they had to showcase the skills and artistry they have gained throughout their time in the program.

“Each piece was crafted from September through March, and each senior received feedback from a specific faculty member within the dance department to help fine tune their choreography and get guidance or suggestions when stuck,” Parker



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU MAGAZINE
Dance majors performed at their senior recital on April 5 and 6.

says. “They each worked with their cast of dancers to build the piece and rehearsed weekly throughout the school year to get the piece performance ready.”

The weekly rehearsals went beyond simply perfecting the technical aspects of the dances. Each senior choreographer holds at least one rehearsal per week — each lasting anywhere from one to two hours.

According to Boussie, the rehearsal process was demanding, yet rewarding.

“While the actual rehearsal process may seem short, the choreographers work endlessly outside of rehearsal times to create choreography, find and prepare music scores, design costuming and more,” Boussie says. “While all of these tasks are very demanding — it is so rewarding to walk into rehearsals each week and see our own work come to life. It is also a very vulnerable experience, as through our work, the seniors are sharing their most vulnerable emotional perspectives with our peers and faculty members.”

The recital was also a chance for reflection for the seniors as they relished in the bittersweet moment.

“The group piece that I choreographed, ‘Away with Myself,’ meant a lot to me, and I asked my cast to be vulnerable and to allow me to be vulnerable with them,” Parker says. “When I was watching them perform the piece for the last time, I was actually sobbing backstage because of what the piece and process meant to me. I was able to reminisce about my time in the program and how far I had come. It’s sad to think about leaving, but I know that I’m ready for what’s to come.”

Grading Brigid Kemmerer’s amazing ‘Cursebreaker’ series

D’JUANNA LESTER

Senior Reporter

Books 40, 41 and 42 for the year are none other than Brigid Kemmerer’s legendary “Cursebreaker” series. The dark fantasy series will indeed continue as Kemmerer has announced the spin-off “Forging Stars Into Silver” will be released on June 7 of this year.

This “Beauty and the Beast” retelling is one of my all time favorites in the Young Adult (YA) fantasy genre, and I want to review and grade them. Each book is stunning with lovable heroes and intriguing foes. These books work well as series, but also hold their own as separate identities. This will be a spoiler-free review.

“A Curse So Dark and Lonely”

The one that started it all. This is how you write a first book to a series, opening it up with immaculate world-building and characters that make you want to keep reading. The blend of real world and fantasy settings is what makes this story unique to others in the genre.

Our book is split into two points of view (POVs) — Harper and Rhen. Harper is from Washington D.C. and gets kidnapped, ending up in Emberfall with Rhen and his commander, Grey, in the midst of war with Karis Luran. With this being the final season, Harper must break the curse.

Rhen and Grey were cursed to keep reliving the same season by an enchantress, Lilith. Lilith is the best fantasy villain I have ever read! When you read about

her, yes, she’s horrible and gruesome, but also kind of a genius. Watching her torture the trio, especially that scene in the arena with Harper? Priceless.

Not only is the book captivating, it also has a lot of disability representation — Harper herself has Cerebral Palsy.

Grade: A+

“A Heart So Fierce and Broken”

Well, my heart is definitely broken. After the events of “A Curse So Dark and Lonely,” the second book is from Grey’s POV, and that of a new character: Lia Mara, the daughter of Karis Luran from the first book.

Lia Mara is the opposite of her mother — she’s kind and gentle. A princess with no throne, as her little sister will be the next queen. The relationship between Lia Mara and the characters I’ve grown attached to felt natural. Her joining the main group on their journey didn’t feel forced.

The conflict of choosing between her kingdom and her heart as war is declared between Shyl Shallow and Emberfall? Beautiful. Lia Mara and Grey were great protagonists, and they seem like opposites at first. As we read as, we see how their relationships with their siblings, and each other, shape the conflict in a beautifully written way.

Grade: A++

“A Vow So Bold and Deadly”

This book was definitely deadly. And gory. And soul crushing. The final book is where all of the conflict and complex emotions building up inside of these angst characters come to a head.

As the two kingdoms wage war, we see how Lia Mara, Grey, Rhen and Harper are all dealing with the consequences of the first two installments. Getting four POVs in the book was something I needed. I missed Harper’s boldness and Rhen’s angst.

Reading this had me wanting to yell “Talk to each other!” to literally all of these characters because there’s so much they want to say to each other but can’t. That scene in Harper’s room rips me apart every time, as well as the ending. This was a spellbinding end to a great series.

Grade: A+



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLOOMSBURY PUBLISHING
The Young Adult fantasy “Cursebreaker” series by Brigid Kemmerer.

A word from the women behind The Post's editorial board

BRIDGET JANIS

Managing Editor

LAUREN REID

Content Editor

Coming into the 2021-22 school year as managing editor and content editor, we knew our place on the editorial board mattered, and we wanted to make a difference.

We've had such an amazing staff of hardworking writers, designers, editors, distributors, photographers and business-related teams (ads, marketing), and notably, most of the staff is women — it has been so inspiring to see them shine in their respective roles.

Historically, many managing and content editors at The Post have been women, and there have also been a handful of female editor-in-chiefs throughout the years. Each academic year, it is up to these individuals to inspire their staff and take care of things behind the scenes, more than the outside reader would know.

As women representing the staff on the editorial board, we truly hope we've made previous iconic female posties proud. We certainly modeled our leadership after you, and hope we made the office a more welcoming place for the women that were on staff this year.



PHOTO BY CAROLINA LANDEROS ALONSO
The Post's 2021-22 Content Editor and Managing Editor, Lauren Reid and Bridget Janis.

We are both so grateful to have been a part of The Oakland Post's legacy — Bridget having worked here for four years, and Lauren for two — and sincerely hope we made our mark on this spectacular staff and our campus newspaper.

The Post is a paper that gives everyone a chance, everyone an opportunity to say what they want to

say, be heard and speak up. The Oakland Post isn't just about one or two people, it's about all of us, and we're so proud of everyone on staff this year for the work they did.

This year, we valued compassion, trust, honesty, kindness and hard work, and set out to create a culture of acceptance and camaraderie at The Post. As we came back to the office after a year of remote work, we prioritized cultivating this friendly environment, and are confident it'll be carried on in the years to come.

We're especially proud that this year Bridget pushed for 24, then 28 pages in our print issue (after starting at 16 pages), and both goals came to fruition. Lauren also worked with a plethora of talented contributors and was able to get their work published frequently.

Additionally — each section of The Post has grown to hold four reporters each, which allows for a diverse array of voices and additional opportunities for students to hone in on their writing skills.

Overall, The Post has been amazing to us because we had each other and our excellent team, and we're so grateful for our time spent here. We hope we made a difference, even if it was just through editing and designing everything behind a screen.

So thank you to the past women, the current women and the future women of The Oakland Post. We truly can't wait to see what the future holds for this organization.

Our totally casual conversation about 'Harry's House'

OLIVIA CHIAPPELLI

Senior Reporter

LAUREN REID

Content Editor

Where were you when you first heard Harry Styles' new single, "As It Was"?

Olivia: Personally I was not in my best state.

Lauren: I was laying in my bed, so funny enough, my best state. I did ascend. I had candles lit, wish I had incense in there. It honestly felt like I was meditating and the opposite of meditating at the same time.

Olivia: Well — I was sitting in the Rec Center. Literally the first time I've been in that building. Ironically, I was waiting for your sibling to finish her dance rehearsal in there — that still doesn't really feel like an explanation, but I was there. It felt like I was waiting for my child to get done with their lessons at Goldfish Swim School. The chlorine smell was very strong — I didn't even see the pool.

Lauren: Oh yeah I used to go to Zumba there, vibes are off for sure.

Olivia: Nice view though.

Lauren: Okay but I will say to get us back on track — the "Harry's

House" energy is superior to the "Fine Line" energy for me.

Olivia: WOAH.

Lauren: Is that a hot take? The "Harry's House" album cover makes me feel like I'm dancing with Harry on a wooden floor barefoot in a studio apartment and we're married, of course, and we might be poor but we still have our love.

Olivia: Yeah definitely, the "Harry's House" album cover was shocking in its subtlety. Harry stepping into beige and neutral tones — a definite vibe shift, but a welcomed one. I did go straight to hsfashionarchive to search for his flowy fit. It was a full Molly Goddard look — very 70's Jane Birkin French countryside — and I will be exclusively channeling that energy this summer.

Lauren: Oh absolutely, you just NAILED that explanation. I would like to cosplay his fit as well. And I would also like to be in that music video — I'd do virtually anything to share a rotating platform with Harry.

Olivia: I was silently screaming under my mask while I was watching in the Rec. I'm almost thankful people didn't have to witness my reaction in full. Being in public definitely made me have to reign it in. When he started undressing on those twisty ramps he

was actually in a penguin exhibit — I did see that on Twitter.

Lauren: TWISTY RAMPS!!! I'm also just obsessed with the lyrics. Perhaps a really basic take, since I normally don't hear explicitly ~lyric slander~ online, but I'm praying "leave America, two kids follow her" is about my life idol, Olivia Wilde.

Olivia: When I heard him half rap "leave America, two kids follow her" while running on that spinny treadmill I actually had to pause the video. I think you received a text — I was hysteric.

Lauren: Absolutely justified. I'm also hoping for another "Fine Line"-esque (the song, not the album) cinematic, immersive, soul changing, cosmic, uplifting, emotionally crushing musical experience on "Harry's House." Hearing Harry tell me I'll be alright has altered the trajectory of my life and the risks I'm willing to take.

Olivia: I want Stevie Nicks to praise this album like she did "Fine Line" because I love when music greats love him. It

almost feels like I am the one receiving the compliments.

Lauren: I know he said the album has no collabs, but if he had a song with Joni Mitchell I'd collapse on the spot, *wink wink.*

Olivia: Bringing the "Harry's House" reference all the way back home.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST
Harry Styles' third album, "Harry's House," will be released on May 20, 2022.

The Oscars 2022: best and worst dressed

OLIVIA CHIAPPELLI
Senior Reporter

Well over a week has passed since this year's Academy Awards ceremony, so I have had time to truly marinate my thoughts and opinions and now feel ready to express some hot takes — on fashion.

Don't get me wrong, I did also anxiously anticipate who would take home those beloved Oscar statuettes — but that is for a different time.

As I was waiting for the tried and true Film Updates Twitter account to post their live red carpet updates and trying to predict which direction celebrities would take with their sartorial choices, I was struck by Zendaya's entrance — and my best dressed list starts there.

I got the reference immediately because I am archive fashion obsessed — take Sharon Stone at the 1998 Oscars. An oversized Gap button down tucked into a Vera Wang satin skirt. Consequently rewriting red carpet norms for women by blending masculine and feminine, designer brands with retail fashion.

This move was highly criticized at the time, with people calling it “inappropriate” for such a formal event — especially for a woman — but has since been recognized for being ahead of its time. Which is why Zendaya's Valentino rendition was such a perfect statement to make given the intense spotlight that shines on her every red carpet move.

The next person on my best dressed list was a total surprise for me. I absolutely adore this actress, but don't usually pay that much attention to her fashion choices. However, when it came down to it, she showed up.

And that actress is Olivia Colman — wearing a high-necked, shiny, sliver, pleated, billowy sleeved Dior Haute Couture look, I thought I was looking at Dakota Johnson. I just loved everything about it instantly, it was such a bold move for her personal style, and I support it.

Colman was nominated for her role in “The Lost Daughter,” in which Dakota Johnson also stars — perfect curtain bangs and all — but my usual red carpet favorite was absent from the night. However, Olivia Colman covered for her fashion wise, and for that I say thank you.

Now time for my worst dressed — and for that list there are many — but I will spare you and limit my

victims to two.

Amy Schumer in Oscar de la Renta will start us off. Her navy dress adorned with a crystal embroidered bow smacked on the front looked like those Disney Channel collab shirts we used to buy at Target with the necklaces printed on the front. That's all I have to say.

I am hesitant to include this next person on my worst dressed list because they totally redeemed themselves at the Vanity Fair after party — more on that later — but Venus Williams' Elie Saab dress hurt.

Its weirdly cut silver tubular neckline was giving alien spaceship and I just couldn't look past that. The metallic wrist cuffs only added to the bad. I am sorry tennis queen.

Back to the Vanity Fair Oscar Party — why are those outfits always so much better than those of the actual Oscars red carpet? If I chose to rate that event instead, this review would be way longer — but I don't know if that's for better or for worse.

Before I reach my 600 word limit, I would like to list some honorable mentions and those are: Timothée Chalamet's back, Kristen Stewart's shorts and Sarah Paulson's \$30,000 Bottega Veneta skirt.

You can decide whether those are best or worst.



PHOTO BY JEFF KRAVITZ
Zendaya's Valentino rendition at the 2022 Oscars award ceremony.

‘King Richard’ displays power of vision and persistence

JOSEPH POPIS
Senior Reporter

“King Richard” follows the life of Richard Williams (Will Smith), his wife Oracene (Aunjanue Ellis) and his daughters Venus (Saniyya Sidney) and Serena Williams (Demi Singleton), showing the early days of these two youngsters as their father navigates their lives and prepares them for stardom.

In the past, I haven't seen many sports films that focus solely on the adolescence of athletes, although I have always found it fascinating to see how athletes become the people they are today. An athlete's persistence, struggle and failures lead to success within their sport, and this film displayed that for the William's sisters.

From beginning to end, “King Richard” was entertaining. All of the characters had their own goals alongside their own struggles. I liked how the film presented two different periods in the characters' lives, and showed how hard work can dramatically change a family's life.

What made this film additionally great is that it focused on various relationships and the conflict and growth within them.

Taking place in Compton, California, one of the early scenes shows Richard practicing tennis with the girls on a low-end court, attempting to hone their craft. We often see Richard deal with rejection as no tennis club would accept his daughters, as tennis was a predominantly white sport, so they had to make do in order to work on their skill sets. Richard has a vision or “plan,” as he calls it, for his daughters that not many people see but him.

After Venus gets a coach and starts playing in junior tennis tournaments, the agents come calling to keep her in junior tennis matches and follow the path other pro players did.

Richard — who feared too much playing would burn Venus out — didn't want to take that path, and made it known how he felt. He constantly gave coaches a hard time with his antics, and in a sit down with agents, he made a fool out of them, making it an amusing scene.

Sometimes, when playing a sport at a high-level, athletes can be pushed too far. Their parents, coaches and agents push them to the brink, which can have dire consequences. Richard saw how detrimental this was, and he wasn't going to let that happen to his daughters.

Richard wasn't a perfect person by any means, he had his flaws, but he showed superb parenting characteristics. He made sure his daughters excelled in school — he and Oracene stressed the importance of academics. He instilled confidence, grit, persistence and a strong work ethic within them for their success. Richard also taught them the importance of being humble.

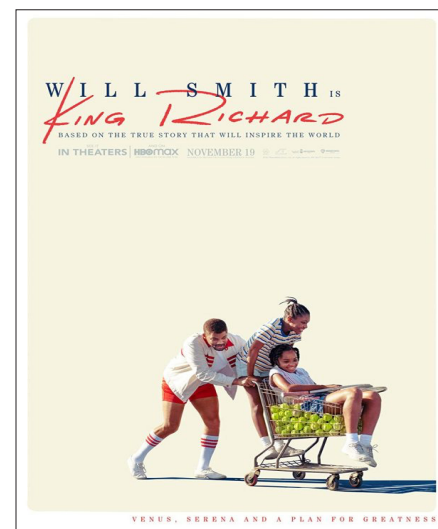


PHOTO BY IMBD

“King Richard” focuses on the upbringing of tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams.

A common theme in this film is sacrifice. Richard and Oracene worked around the clock to support their children. Oracene worked during the day, while Richard worked nights. While Venus was training with a coach, Oracene took Serena to practice independently to ensure she was also getting training. Venus and Serena sacrificed their time where they could be participating in other activities to focus on tennis.

In my opinion, Oracene was an underrated character. She supported her family and held down the house while Serena and Venus were with Richard. She was tough, loving and supportive of her kids' dreams while dealing with Richard — who was not always easy.

One thing that Richard constantly said to both Venus and Serena was to “have fun.” He always wanted his kids to enjoy their experiences playing tennis and not get lost in the pressure of the sport. I loved this quality, because having fun when you're a kid is vital, and it was awesome to see Richard make sure his kids were enjoying the process.

In one of the final scenes, at age 14, Venus goes toe-to-toe with the best player in the world. Even though she lost the match, she still won and gained a huge fan base, inspiring many young tennis players in the process.

Richard's vision came to fruition as his girls achieved what he had always planned, and that was just the start. Venus and Serena turned out to be some of the best tennis players in history. They went on to win many titles in tennis and inspired many more.

Will Smith won an Academy Award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role for his part in this film, even though that isn't what most people will remember most from his presence that night.

Men's golf coach preps team for Horizon League Tournament

REECE TAYLOR

Sports Reporter

On the heels of Oakland's appearance in the Horizon League Golf Tournament, men's golf Head Coach Nick Pumford is gearing the team up to defend the Horizon League Championship.

Pumford, who became Oakland's head coach in 2016, has led Oakland to three Horizon League



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS
Men's golf Head Coach Nick Pumford looking on at his team.

Championships, including a pair in the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. Pumford spoke to the Oakland Post as he outlined another big season for the men's golf team.

Though the prospect of winning his second back-to-back title looms over the next few weeks, Coach Pumford looks to take everything one tournament at a time, with his eyes on winning the upcoming Rutherford Intercollegiate Invitational on April 16-17.

"The number one goal is to win, I think that's first and foremost," Coach Pumford said regarding the Invitational. "But this is also a way to prepare for the Horizon League Championship."

Though the Golden Grizzlies are the defending Horizon League Champions, the number one seed this year went to the Wright State Raiders, which Coach Pumford sees as an opportunity.

"This year is a different scenario for us. We're the defending champions, but Wright State is the one seed this year, and they've beaten us all four times they've played us," Pumford said. "But this also takes the target off of our backs in the tournament and put it on theirs. Wright State is the team under the most pressure, so it gives us a chance to go out and play."

Though unaffected by the global pandemic this season, Coach Pumford noted how all of the team is vaccinated and following protocols ahead of the next two tournaments, and ready to defend the championships. The pandemic, though looming, hasn't affected the team as they've been available all

season and look to be ready for the championships.

Along with the team's availability, Coach Pumford also spoke highly of Senior Thomas Giroux, who looks to set records and lead Oakland to back-to-back championships.

"One bright spot of the season was our senior Thomas Giroux, who will break every school record by the end of the season. He hasn't placed lower than 7th and has won every individual golf award," Pumford said.

Giroux, who entered Oakland in 2017, looks to lead the Golden Grizzlies into the Horizon League Tournament.

Throughout the regular season, Oakland battled some of their toughest opponents, including a win against Horizon League rival Cleveland State, as well as being swept by the aforementioned Wright State. The Golden Grizzlies have persevered from the Elliot Cup in September to the Craft Farms Collegiate Invitational in March. Oakland's focus and determination this season came from impeccable coaching as well as some of the hardest working athletes in the Horizon League.

Though the season didn't result in a top seed for Oakland, Coach Pumford and the men's golf team are as confident as ever heading into the final regular-season tournament. Though Wright State is the top-ranked team, Oakland brings a mix of talent, poise and experience that will confidently challenge the talented opponent.

The Horizon League Championships will take place in Honey-in-the-Hills, Florida on April 24-26.

Women's golf finishes 8th at Delores Black Falcon Invitational

REECE TAYLOR

Sports Reporter

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies women's golf team wrapped up their regular season with an eighth-place finish at the Delores Black Falcon Invitational in Bowling Green, Ohio, on April 9-10.

The Golden Grizzlies finished the tournament with the team shooting 57 over par, as freshman Nateda Her leading the team at +4, which was tied for 13th highest in the tournament. Graduate student Amalia Shahzan came in second among Oakland golfers at +5. With the Horizon League tournament at the end of the month, Oakland looked to improve on their 4th place finish at Cleveland State last month.

The matchup featured several regional universities, including the host Bowling Green State University, Eastern Michigan University, and also included Horizon League rivals such as Youngstown State University and the aforementioned Cleveland State, among others.

In the first day of the tournament, Oakland shot 57 and 322 as a team to come in at eighth place, as temperatures stayed in the low 40's. The Golden Grizzlies weren't alone, as none of the 11 teams in the tournament were able to shake the cold, with the leading University of Akron and Bowling Green State ending the

day with a total of 307. Shazan and Her were two over to finish day one, but Oakland faced an uphill battle.

Day two saw much better temperatures as the Golden Grizzlies looked to make their climb. Her played up to her previous round as she remained two over as Oakland played 11 strokes better in the warmer weather. Unfortunately for Oakland, every team saw an improvement in their scores. Oakland's better performance didn't lead to a better position as they finished the tournament in eighth place in the standings.

The host Bowling Green State made the biggest jump in day two, as they were the only team to score sub 300 over the two-day tourney with a score of 288, and the only sub 600 team with a total of 595. Though tied with Akron after day one, Bowling Green State shot even as a team on day two, which gave them a 13 stroke lead over Akron, winning the Black Falcon Invitational, with Mackenzie Moore leading the way, shooting 1 under par for best in the tournament.

Though the Golden Grizzlies didn't win the tournament, Oakland's day two improvement gives the team a confidence boost on their way to the Horizon League Championships. The Golden Grizzlies, who were +57 par in the tournament, showed an 11-stroke improvement between the two days.

The Horizon League Championship takes place in Howie in the Hills, FL, on April 24-26. The Golden Grizzlies will look to take home the gold.



PHOTO BY JOSE JUAREZ
Amalia Shahzan finished second among Oakland golfers with a score of +5. Photo courtesy of OU Athletics.

An update on renovations to the Oakland Baseball Field

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL
Sports Editor

The scene at the Oakland University baseball field over the last couple of years has often been a grim one. When the weather is good, so is the field's surface — but when it isn't, it's a sloppy mess.

The field has been a topic of conversation for quite some time. In 2019, there was even talk of scrapping the baseball program altogether because of the field's condition.

But Athletic Director Steve Waterfield was having none of that. Rather than scrapping the baseball program, he chose to invest in it.

"It's more like we're going to double-down on baseball," Waterfield told Athletic Business. "I see a high percentage of us getting into the NCAA tournament, a really good recruiting base in our backyard and a long-time love of the sport in our area. The potential is there. We just have to get the facility right."

That support means the world to Head Baseball Coach, Jordon Banfield.

"Steve is great," Banfield said. "He and I have a great relationship. He's obviously the guy that hired me — I think I was the first coach that he hired as Athletics Director."

Later in 2019, the athletics department announced upgrades to the baseball facility. The dugouts have since been upgraded, along with a batter's eye being installed in center field. But there is still much more work to be done.

A drainage system was installed as

part of the renovations, but the field still floods whenever it rains, which makes it virtually unplayable. The field also currently doesn't have lights, which means the team can't play any night games at home.

However, Banfield says that isn't a huge concern for him at the moment.

"That'd be about third priority for me because it's generally too cold most of time to play at night in the spring in the Midwest," Banfield said.

"But certainly once you get into May and stuff like that, yeah, it's definitely part of it. Turf is priority number one, two and three though."

Now in 2022, Waterfield has new plans for the baseball field. The Northwoods League, which is a collegiate summer baseball league, has reached out to the university to potentially share the field.

The process is still in its early stages. Waterfield said the university is currently working with an architect to figure everything out.

"The hope is that we can come up with a concept and then develop a business model that would allow us to basically pay for the stadium through revenue sources, donations, sponsorships, Northwoods league rental fees, etc.," Waterfield said.

"So that our team would have a new stadium and the Northwoods league would have games and it would work out for everybody."

As far as the location of a potential new field is concerned, Waterfield said they would use the location of the current field no matter what.

"That's where we want it to be and that's where we plan it to be," he said.

Assistant Athletic Director for Facilities Andy Adrianse said external fundraising will be a primary factor in getting these renovation plans off the ground.

"Sufficient funds for each project need to be secured before large-scale renovations can be completed," Adrianse said.

"Fundraising the past two years has exceeded previous fundraising marks for the baseball program, so it is moving in a good direction."

Banfield says having a better field surface would "absolutely" help in recruiting.

"Everybody wants nice stuff," he said. "Everybody wants to be wowed by nice stuff. But aside from that, like we can just tell them that they don't have to spend their time getting a field ready for a game. How does it actually make us better? It lets us be on it [the field] more, it lets our guys be on it. And we don't have to be there at 7:30 in the morning for a 1:00 game when it rains."

Scheduled home games were never a given in years past. Entire weekend series were canceled. The team had to cancel a whopping nine home games in 2016.

The team has not had to cancel any home games due to field surface issues since Banfield took over the program in May 2020 [they had to cancel games last year due to COVID-19 issues].

"And that's just mostly from us working harder at getting the field ready," Banfield said. "My staff is out there hours and hours every day doing what we need to do to make

sure we can play."

Despite the condition of the field, Banfield said he's not making any excuses.

"You don't not have success," Banfield said. "It's a piece that's a part of where we want to get to. But if we keep complaining about our field all the time, that's just an excuse. You're not going to hear it from us. But I know that if I do my part and we do our part to get the program on the right track, we're going to continue to accelerate that [process] and have some success."



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
A plan to upgrade the Oakland Baseball Field is in the works.

Ice cream flavors word search

NEAPOLITAN
BUTTER PECAN
MOOSE TRACK
CHOCOLATE
CAKE BATTER
CARAMEL
COOKIE DOUGH

MINT CHIP
PISTACHIO
STRAWBERRY
SUPERMAN
VANILLA
ROCKY ROAD
FUDGE

E	I	I	R	C	A	R	A	M	E	L	V	P	M
O	C	O	O	K	I	E	D	O	U	G	H	I	O
N	B	S	U	P	E	R	M	A	N	N	E	S	O
E	C	U	L	A	N	E	T	R	B	N	T	T	S
A	O	T	T	S	L	M	B	U	A	T	A	A	E
P	S	R	A	T	T	L	M	C	B	U	L	C	T
O	A	E	A	I	E	R	I	N	M	O	O	H	R
L	R	I	R	F	R	R	A	N	L	C	C	I	A
I	P	I	U	I	G	F	P	W	A	H	O	O	C
T	A	P	R	R	P	M	C	E	B	V	H	C	K
A	M	I	N	T	C	H	I	P	C	E	C	K	R
N	F	U	D	G	E	I	N	A	I	A	R	L	C
R	O	C	K	Y	R	O	A	D	E	H	N	R	O
R	O	A	C	A	K	E	B	A	T	T	E	R	Y

Softball sweeps Metro Series to stay undefeated in conference

PAYTON BUCKI

Sports Reporter

Oakland University softball defeated the Michigan State Spartans 10-5 on Tuesday, April 5 at Secchia Stadium in East Lansing, Michigan. The Golden Grizzlies made the hour-long trip out west on Tuesday afternoon to take on the Spartans for the second time this season.

Michigan State got the better of the Golden Grizzlies in the first matchup back on March 20. Oakland failed to register a run and fell prey to the mercy rule after a seven-run fifth inning from the Spartans.

This game, however, went much better for Oakland. The Golden Grizzlies jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning.

Redshirt junior Lauren Griffith doubled to right center field, scoring Madison Jones. Then, Jen Krizka kept the inning going with an RBI single, scoring Cammie Brummitt.

Michigan State answered in the bottom of the second inning with two runs of its own. Zaquai Dumas connected on a two-run home run to even the score at two runs apiece.

Oakland blew the game open in the

top of the third inning. Six Grizzlies crossed the plate, giving Oakland a commanding 8-2 lead in the middle of the third inning.

Mia Konyvka kicked off the inning with a two-RBI single. Griffith and Jessie Munson scored on the single.

Shannon Carr then scored on an Allisa DiPrimia single, giving the Golden Grizzlies a three-run lead.

Jones then launched her fourth home run of the season, this one coming in three-run form. The three-run home run finished off a huge inning for the Golden Grizzlies.

The Spartans plated two runs in the bottom of the third inning. However, they were still in a considerable four-run hole.

Griffith recorded her third hit of the afternoon in the top of the fifth inning. Jones scored on the Griffith single, giving Oakland a 9-4 lead.

Michigan State added one more run in the bottom of the fifth inning, but that was all it could muster. Oakland's monster third inning was more than enough to secure the victory.

Griffith singled again in the top of the seventh inning to pad the Grizzly lead even more. The left fielder had a career day at the plate with four hits,

three RBIs and a walk in four at-bats.

Four Grizzlies had multi-hit games in the statement win over the Spartans. Jones, Griffith, Krizka and Munson all recorded at least two hits in the victory.

Oakland's win over Michigan State was its first since 2011.

The Golden Grizzlies are now 14-11 overall on the season and have won each of their last four games.

The nonconference slate is over now, however. Oakland will close the season with seven straight Horizon League series.

Oakland has still yet to lose a game in the Horizon League this season, boasting a perfect 6-0 record.

Oakland will look to keep its perfect conference record alive as it travels to Chicago to take on the UIC Flames in a three-game weekend series.



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
Sydney Campbell winds up to pitch against Detroit Mercy on April 10.

Baseball drops conference series for first time

CHRISTIAN TATE

Sports Reporter

The Golden Grizzlies baseball team tasted defeat for the first time in a Horizon League series during this 2022 campaign, falling 2-1 to the UIC Flames last weekend.

With this series loss, the Golden Grizzlies now sit with a 15-15 record [.500 record] on the year, with a 7-5 Horizon League record. Following the postponement of a Friday game, the Saturday matchup between the Flames and Golden Grizzlies morphed into a doubleheader.

This doubleheader was split down the middle, as the Golden Grizzlies took game one with a score of 6-5 before falling to the Flames in game two with a score of 5-2. In the first game, the Flames came out swinging like their bats were covered in their own namesake, notching three runs in the opening inning to take a commanding 3-0 lead.

The Golden Grizzlies fired back in the third inning, scoring their first run to bring the score to 3-1. Then, the Grizzlies capitalized on their momentum in the sixth inning to tie

the game up at 3-3 after scoring two runs. This started a race for the win between the Flames and the Grizzlies, as the Flames answered the two runs from the Grizzlies with a run of their own to retake the lead at 4-3.

The seventh inning saw the Golden Grizzlies score another pair of runs to recapture the lead with a score of 5-4. The Flames did not answer back in the bottom of the seventh, but they

would score and tie the game back up at five in the following inning. This prompted a game-winning play that ended up being a sacrifice fly from left fielder Michael Stygles that went out to the right field, allowing Grizzly center fielder Seth Tucker to score the game-winning run.

In the second game, the Golden Grizzlies struck first and fast after scoring the opening run in the first

inning to jump out to a 1-0 lead. The Flames responded in the third inning, scoring three of their own runs to jump out to a commanding 3-1 lead. The Flames' fourth inning went just as well as their third did, as they widened their lead on the Grizzlies by tacking on two extra runs.

In the seventh, the Golden Grizzlies tried to spark a comeback after scoring one run, but ultimately came up short as the Flames held steadfast to their lead to split the doubleheader 1-1 and go into a decisive game three on Sunday.

In the pivotal and series-defining game three, Oakland struck first again by scoring the first run in the opening inning. After a scoring drought that lasted the next three and a half innings, the Flames finally answered back with two runs of their own to take the 2-1 lead. These two runs ended up being the penultimate runs of the game, as the Flames carried that 2-1 lead to a 2-1 finish for both the game and the series, leaving out the victors.

The next time the Golden Grizzlies grace the diamond, it will be against the Northern Illinois University Huskies on Friday, April 15 at 2:30 p.m. in the Oakland Baseball Field.



PHOTO COURTESY OF @OAKLANDBSB ON TWITTER
Seth Tucker scores on a sac fly to score the winning run for Oakland in game 1 of their series against UIC.

Softball sweeps Metro Series remaining undefeated

PAYTON BUCKI

Sports Reporter

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies softball team went 3-0 in a three-game series against the University of Detroit Mercy Titans on April 9-10 at the Oakland Softball Field.

Game One

The Golden Grizzlies started off the series strong with a 4-0 win. Jen Krizka and Sydney Campbell proved to be the stars of the game, with strong hitting and pitching performances respectively.

Campbell found out the Titan's offensive tenacity early on in the game, giving up three hits in the first inning. Still, the Oakland team managed to escape the inning before the Titans got the chance to score.

Krizka gave the Golden Grizzlies the 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first after blasting a two-run homer over the center-field fence, allowing Madison Jones and herself to score.

Despite the Titan's offensive battle in the first inning, Campbell entered the second inning looking strong. The Golden Grizzlies' pitcher picked up three strikeouts in a row to cap off a quick inning.

To start off the bottom of the second, Maci Brown fired up the offense with a lead-off triple. With Brown in scoring position, Allisa DePrima blasted an RBI single to midfield to bring the Golden Grizzlies' lead to 3-0.

The third inning kicked off with yet another strikeout from Campbell. In the bottom of the inning, Shannon Carr hit a sac fly to allow her teammate Arienna Gramatico to score, pushing Oakland's lead to 4-0.

Campbell quelled the Titan's hope for a comeback, going on to record seven additional strikeouts, bringing her game total to a career-high of 11 strikeouts and

securing the 4-0 win for the Golden Grizzlies.

Game Two

The Golden Grizzlies entered day two of the series with a bang. The Oakland team captured the 1-0 lead early in the first inning after Lauren Griffith blasted an RBI double to left field.

The Titans battled back in the third inning. Taryn Peru fired an RBI single to tie up the game.

In the bottom of the third inning, the Golden Grizzlies were determined to regain control of the game. After a fielding error by the Titans' shortstop, Allisa DiPrima and Madison Jones scored back-to-back runs for Oakland to bring the score to 3-1.

Griffith hit an RBI single to keep the rally going for the Golden Grizzlies. Arienna Gramatico scored to bring Oakland's lead to 4-1.

The Titans fired up their bats in an effort to make a



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
Softball swept Detroit Mercy this weekend to stay undefeated in Horizon League play.

fifth-inning comeback. Piper Roth brought the score to 4-2 after hitting an RBI single to left-center.

In the bottom of the sixth inning, Maci Brown hit an RBI single to bring the score to 5-2. Jones closed out the game with a two-run homer to center field, securing the 7-2 win for the Golden Grizzlies.

Game Three

The last game of the series started off rough for the Golden Grizzlies, as the Titans took a quick 2-0 lead in the first inning.

The first two innings remained scoreless for the Oakland team, as they struggled to fire up their bats. However, the Golden Grizzlies sparked their offensive momentum in the bottom of the fourth.

Lauren Griffith hit a two-run double to right-center to tie up the game 2-2. Jen Krizka followed Griffith with an RBI single, allowing the Golden Grizzlies to take a 3-2 lead.

Shannon Carr continued Oakland's rally with an RBI single to shortstop. The Oakland team finished the fourth inning with a 4-2 lead.

The Golden Grizzlies continued to shine in the fifth inning. Cammie Brummitt connected on a two-run home run to the right-center, bringing the score to 6-2.

In the sixth inning, Madison Jones scored another run for the Golden Grizzlies after a fielding error made by the Titans' second baseman. The Golden Grizzlies completed their 3-0 series sweep with a 7-2 win.

Oakland Softball Team Head Coach Lauren Karn was extremely pleased with the weekend performance, saying, "We played as a team today."

Oakland will play their next series at the University of Illinois Chicago on April 15-16 in Chicago. The Golden Grizzlies must be prepared to take on the Flames, a team that has often proved to be a competitive matchup.

Oakland sneaks past Bowling Green in pitchers' duel

BROCK HEILIG

Sports Reporter

Oakland University baseball defeated the Bowling Green Falcons 3-2 on Tuesday, April 5 at the Oakland Baseball Field.

The bats were quiet in this one. The two teams combined to score just five runs on a total of nine hits. Luckily, Oakland tallied one more run than the Falcons to claim the tight victory.

Neither team was able to register a run through the first three innings of the game. Oakland's Quinton Kujawa was mowing down the Falcon lineup with ease.

Kujawa pitched five innings of shutout ball, only allowing one hit in his time on the mound. Unfortunately, the stellar performance didn't result in a win for Kujawa, due to the slow offensive start from the Golden Grizzlies.

"Getting [Quinton Kujawa] back out there was great," Head Coach Jordon Banfield said. "He looked like his old self... just pounding the sliders for strikes, really competing, doing a good job."

Brandon Nigh launched his sixth home run of the season in the bottom of the fourth inning, breaking the tie and giving Oakland a 2-0 lead.

Scoring continued to be hard to come by for both teams. The fifth and sixth innings were both scoreless on both sides.

Bowling Green tied things up in the top of the seventh inning. Brad Goulet committed a throwing error, allowing the first Falcon run of the game. Then, later in the top of the seventh inning, Bowling Green's Nathan Archer recorded an RBI triple which tied the game at two runs apiece.

Goulet made up for his throwing error in the



PHOTO BY STANLEY TU
Quinton Kujawa pitched five shutout innings while only allowing one hit in Oakland's win over Bowling Green.

bottom of the eighth inning. With Gabe Lux on base, Goulet singled, bringing home what turned out to be the game-winning run.

Nigh came out in the bottom of the ninth, shut the door on any Falcon hopes, and registered the save.

Banfield was pleased with the result, but he felt like he had a pretty good idea of what gave the Grizzlies so much trouble at the plate.

"[We] took some good swings off their starter, we were lining out a bunch," said Banfield. "They brought in a reliever — kind of a low-angle right-handed guy that gave us a bunch of problems, really probably should've got our left-handed hitters in there."

It didn't look pretty, but Banfield was able to recognize that a win is a win no matter how it looks.

"Not our best game for sure," Banfield said. "But anytime you win it's good. It's probably a good sign that we can get a win now and not play our best."

With the win, Oakland improves to 14-13 overall on the season. The Golden Grizzlies have won seven of their last eight games and are sitting comfortably in second place in the Horizon League behind Wright State.

Oakland seems to be figuring some things out, as it is now over .500 for the first time since late February.

Oakland will host Northern Illinois this weekend in a three-game series. The Huskies are sitting at just 6-22 overall this season.

Super fulfilling things to do this summer

TORI COKER
Marketing Editor

LAUREN REID
Content Editor

Yup — it's coming. Summertime. You may be absolutely thrilled, you may be tirelessly scooping middle school friend groups ice cream for four months, or you may be entering a quarter-life crisis.

Regardless of where you'll be this summer, here's how you can spend the warmer months.

1. Do absolutely nothing.

This may seem like a satirical cop out, but life experts say you can romanticize anything, so let's put that to the test. Tuck yourself into bed on April 26 and stay put until September. Use a mini-fridge as a nightstand, turn your phone off and just lay there flat like the grandparents in "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." Nothing can go wrong when you're doing quite literally nothing. "You only live once," just became "you only lounge only." #vibes

2. Connect with one Mr. Fulton on LinkedIn and get hired at Albuquerque's Lava Springs Country Club with all your dearest

pals, rising from kitchen staff to riches at the intervention of talent show rivalries before ultimately going back to your roots and reuniting with your baseball diamond dancing, basketball playing, fedora and capri-wearing besties.

Troy Bolton? Are you there?

3. Give yourself a fake life.

Not excited for what summer has in store? Who cares! Make up a completely fabricated alter-ego for yourself and live that storyline to the fullest. Who says you can't date Sebastian Stan and be spotted with him on the streets of New York — iced coffee in hand and absolutely serving in a lavender sundress? NOBODY! Mind over matter! Buy a ticket to NYC, buy that sundress and coffee and fully immerse yourself in your imaginary life.

On the outside, you're just someone taking a walk. On the inside, you're engaged to Bucky Barnes. Nobody needs to know (except maybe a mental health professional), but you just elevated your existence to new heights.

4. Listen to a vibey summer playlist.

You know those songs that are like — windows down! Love of my life in the driver's seat! Gloriously tan skin! En route to pick up a smoothie bowl then hit the pier! My-life-is-so-amazing-

nothing-tops-this-I-am-where-I'm-meant-to-be-under-this-California-sun! Those are so realistic. University Drive is literally the Malibu coastline. We've never been pale or single in our lives, CERTAINLY not both at the same time, so these songs really make us feel #heard.

5. Sit with the crippling, gut-wrenching idea that time will continue progressing even when you have no clue what direction your life is headed in — so what if you're wasting time? And then you've wasted so much time that you regret said time wasted when you're 30, and then 40, and so on.

When you realize after decades of predictability — you can technically do anything and go anywhere, but what if you don't? What if you don't take risks? What if you regret everything? What hobbies do you even have? What are your goals? Do you even have a purpose? Will anyone ever love me? I mean — not me, just everyone. I'm being general. This isn't an individualized fear whatsoever.

So — anyone else graduating this spring?

6. Re-read Lauren Reid and Tori Coker-penned satires.

You know that old saying about not fully being able to appreciate

something until it's gone? Well buckle up, folks — with Lauren's graduation effectively ending our satire-writing days, these highly comedic texts are on the cusp of becoming relics of the past.

We're so ready for the millions of clicks these babies are going to acquire over the summer — go ahead and crash the site as a symptom of how much you miss us. We're empaths, we can imagine the depth of this kind of loss.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BITMOJI
Tori and soon-to-be-graduated Lauren discuss some elite summer activities on their satire farewell tour.

SUMMER 2022 PAYMENT DUE DATE

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S SUMMER PAYMENT DUE DATE: APRIL 15, 2022.

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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