

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's
Independent Student
Newspaper

Dec. 6, 2017

BRING THE NOISE

An inside look at how Grizz Gang works, and
how they hope to take their cheers to LCA

PAGE 19

BAH, HUMBUG

Meadow Brook performs its yearly
run of "A Christmas Carol"

PAGE 10

WAR ON CHRISTMAS

Trump says "Happy Holidays"
undermines Christianity

PAGE 11

#WEARtheBEAR

Neal Ruhl speaks about running
new Athletics podcast

PAGE 18



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS // As finals week gets closer and closer, campus is teeming with the anticipation of the holiday break that is just over a week away. Some parts of campus are dressed fully in holiday spirit, reminding us that winter recess is near.

Photo // Taylor Stinson

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

POLL OF THE WEEK

Are you ready for finals?

- A HAHAAHAHA
- B I'm becoming a stripper
- C I have killer note cards
- D C's get degrees, amirite?

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST WEEK'S POLL

How much money are you spending for Christmas?

A) Everybody is getting a card

3 votes | 9%

B) Lol I'm straight up broke

16 votes | 47%

C) Santa has nothing on me

15 votes | 15%

D) Sending thoughts and prayers

10 votes | 29%

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

December 7, 1962

The Oakland Observer did a story on the bus that used to take students into The Motor City for a good time.

December 1, 1967

Students thought they saw an unidentified flying object hovering over campus... or so they say.

December 7, 1981

Students drank 80 proof whiskey with OUPD officers to raise alcoholism awareness.



6

TRAILER LIFE

Working in the "trailer park" has taught the employees a thing or two

Photo // Shelby Tankersley

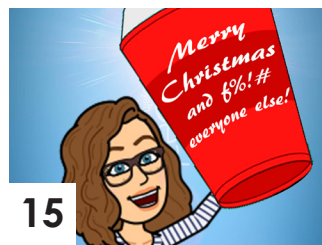


15

"COCO" FILLS BIG SHOES

Pixar's newest flick manages to be yet another great film for all ages

Photo // IMDb



15

RED CUPS

We don't care that it's been two years, we're still mad at Starbucks

Photo // Erin O'Niell

BY THE NUMBERS HIV/AIDS

1.1 mil.

People are currently living with HIV in the U.S.

50%

Of new infections have come from the Southern U.S.

18%

Decline in HIV infections since 2008

18,303

People were diagnosed with the AIDS virus in 2015 alone

www.aids.gov

Looking Back

Religion and working at OUPD

Looking back to an age-old debate about whether or not one's personal beliefs should enter the workplace

Cheyenne Kramer
Managing Editor

In 1978, the debate on religious freedom was brought close to home. Oakland University Public Safety Sergeant John Simmons was suspended after he refused to work on a Saturday.

Simmons was a Seventh Day Adventist, and his religion prohibited him from working on his Sabbath, which is usually observed on Saturday. On Aug. 4, he was suspended indefinitely for refusing to work from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday.

"It is a 24 hour, seven-day-a-week job," said one unnamed sergeant. "Not what his religious preferences allows him to work."

Oakland's police officers had three different shifts: days, midnights and afternoons. One sergeant worked a swing shift, too. With Simmons' refusal to work, it affected four different shifts of OUPD workers. People began to speak out against it.

"I can never have a Friday or Saturday off," said another unnamed sergeant.

Simmons, however, didn't agree with this. He told The Oakland Sail, the student newspaper at the time, that it wasn't uncommon for two supervisors to have the same day off when the former Director of Public Safety Earl Gray was in charge. Apparently, OU News, a publication handed out on campus run by the Office of Public Relations, felt as if some publications at OU were incorrectly reporting that Simmons' employment was terminated.

The Oakland Sail article does not state he was terminated, so it is unclear which publication OU News was referring to or not. There would have been no other student-run publication at that time.

However, in the OU News article, it was stated that Simmons was suspended due to "work schedule" issues and nothing more. According to the paragraph-long description, the issue was "being handled through normal problem-solving procedures for sergeants."

Some of the unnamed sergeants in The Oakland Sail's article claimed that the reason Simmons began a different schedule was because he was attending OU in efforts to get a nursing degree and would eventually leave the force. The sources remained unnamed so their jobs were not put in jeopardy.

When Simmons dropped the nursing program, some of them said "we realized that for the rest of our lifetimes we'd not have a Friday or Saturday off... it's an unfair labor practice."

Simmons disagreed with the other sergeants, saying he never intended on leaving the force.

"I was in pre-nursing," he said. "I have at least two or three years to go."

Simmons said his record was perfect on the

force, but he did note he was the only black supervisor on the force.

"We admire and respect his commitment to his religion," one sergeant said. "But it doesn't belong in this type of job."

Despite OU News saying he was not fired, they did post a job listing in the same newsletter for a public safety office, which gave people the impression that Simmons was being let go.

Students weren't very happy about his suspension.

There was a petition with over 700 signatures passed on to President of the university at the time, Donald O'Dowd during a meeting with the Vice President of Student Affairs and the Director of Employment Relations.

Sophomore Veronica Nichols, one of the students who started the petition, was at the meeting where O'Dowd was given the petition.

"O'Dowd commended us for doing the petitions and said he hopes they have a positive effect," she said.

"We admire and respect his commitment to his religion. But it doesn't belong in this type of job."

Unnamed sergeant
Oakland University Police Department

The student petition pointed out how there were no problems working with his schedule under Earl Gray.

Students pointed out that the "unrest" at Simmons observing his Sabbath occurred when Dick Leonard was appointed to Director of Public Safety.

This petition, however, said it was easy to speculate that Leonard may be partly responsible for these "sudden changes" in behavior.

Dick Leonard remained at Oakland University as Director of Public Safety. His son, Rick Leonard, is a sergeant in the Auburn Hills police force today.

There were four steps of appeals, and the one that he didn't pass through in Oct. 1978 was the third step. However, once it made it through the fourth step, the university found he should be reinstated to active duty with full back pay.

There was no proof that the university suffered in any way as a result of accommodating his schedule. Prior to his suspension, his request was honored.

He ended up deciding to leave the force by December of the same year despite his reinstatement.



THE OAKLAND
POST

Address 61 Oakland Center,
Rochester, MI 48306
Phone 248.370.2537 or 248.370.4268
Web www.oaklandpostonline.com
Email editor@oaklandpostonline.com

editorial board

Shelby Tankersley
Editor-in-Chief
editor@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.4268

Cheyenne Kramer
Managing Editor
ckramer@oakland.edu
248.370.2537

Elyse Gregory
Photo Editor
photos@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.4266

John Bozick
Web Editor
jcbozick@oakland.edu

editors

Connor McNeely Campus Editor
camcneely@oakland.edu

Laurel Kraus Life Editor
lmkraus@oakland.edu

Skylar Tolfree Sports Editor
syolfree@oakland.edu

Simon Albaugh Social Media Editor
saalbaugh@oakland.edu

writers

Katie LaDuke Staff Reporter
Falin Hakeem Staff Reporter
Mary Siring Staff Reporter
Trevor Tyle Staff Reporter
Darcy Dulapa Staff Reporter
Ariel Themm Staff Reporter
Katarina Kovac Staff Reporter
Dakota Brecht Staff Reporter
Sadie Layher Staff Intern
Edward Zilincik Staff Intern
Kade Messner Staff Intern

advertising

Caroline Wallis Ads Director
ads@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.4269

Whitney Roemer Ads Assistant
Angela Gebert Ads Assistant

copy & visual

AuJenee Hirsch Chief Copy Editor
Megan Luffinen Copy Editor
Mina Fuqua Copy Editor
Alexa Caccamo Copy Editor
Erin O'Neill Graphic Designer
Prakhya Chilukuri Graphic Assistant

Mary Mitchell Photographer
Nicole Morsfield Photographer
Samantha Boggs Photographer
Taylor Stinson Photographer

distribution

Rachel Burnett Distribution Director
Maxwell Pelkey Distributor
Christian Hiltz Distributor
Austin Souver Distributor
Dean Vaglia Distributor
Michael Hartwick Distributor

advising

Garry Gilbert Editorial Adviser
ggilber@oakland.edu
248.370.2105

Don Ritenburgh Business Adviser
ritenbur@oakland.edu
248.370.2533

follow us on Twitter
[@theoaklandpost](#)

follow us on Snapchat
[theoaklandpost](#)

follow us on Instagram
[@theoaklandpost](#)

find us on Facebook
[facebook.com/theoakpost](#)

find us on Issuu
[issuu.com/op86](#)



OU Ethics Bowl goes national

Mary Siring
Staff Reporter

With their thinking caps all squared away, philosophy students are heading to the National Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl Competition.

On Saturday, Nov. 18, a total of 25 teams from 17 universities competed in the Upper Midwest Regional Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl event held at Oakland University.

One of OU's Ethics Bowl teams placed in second, earning a place at the national competition with 36 other teams.

During the competition, Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl creates a competitive spirit through ethical discussion.

"OU Ethics Bowl is a class that prepared ethical debates throughout the semester prior to our regional competition, which was hosted by OU this year," said Gabrielle Bruno, the current president of Ethics Bowl. "The topics vary quite a bit, but cover current ethical issues in our society."

This year, some cases outlined issues with Keystone pipeline, intersex athletes in the Olympics and the responsibilities of journalists.

"Teams present their positions on case studies provided by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE)," said Lisa Campbell, Ethics Bowl coach and special lecturer in communication and philosophy. "A trio of judges then evaluate those positions' content and ethical choices."

Regional competition is composed of four rounds, each involving two teams and two case studies. Each round lasts approximately 90 minutes. This year, OU has yet to lose a match.

Oakland has had an Ethics Bowl team since 2003 and expanded to two teams in 2013. There are currently 11 members on the Ethics Bowl between the two teams.

The Department of Philosophy offers a class, PHL 3910, so students can earn academic credit for their participation on the Ethics Bowl team.

"Our class meets bi-weekly, researching and preparing philosophical arguments to identifying moral issues for each of the 12 cases,"

Bruno said. "We have two coaches, Lisa Campbell and Mark Rigstad, who help advise members on their philosophical arguments and public speaking."

Competitive tryouts are held in early March for new members.

"Any student may audition and all fields are welcome," Campbell said. "Past teams have included students from majors such as philosophy, pre-med, political science, sociology, anthropology, communication, medical technologies, business and others."

OU's nationals-bound team will receive 15 new case studies on Jan. 3. A team of five students, the team that qualified for nationals, will research, debate and determine their positions on each of these cases in preparation. Only 12 of the 15 will be used, but no one knows which ones until the round begins.

"Our members are from all different backgrounds, which allows our arguments to consider multiple perspectives."

Gabrielle Bruno
President of Ethics Bowl

"Typically, OU has 10 weeks to prepare 12 cases for regionals, so 15 cases in 7-1/2 weeks is a greater challenge," Campbell said.

Nationals is part of the annual National Conference for the APPE, and OU students will attend the conference as well.

"Forums on business, medical, military, government and media ethics will be presented for two days prior to the competition," Campbell said.

This year's competition and meeting will be held in Chicago the weekend of March 3 and 4.

"Our members are from all different backgrounds, which allows our arguments to consider multiple perspectives," Bruno said. "The class is a wonderful opportunity to increase awareness to various issues in society, consider different perspectives, deepen understanding of philosophical theory and improve public speaking."



Sam Boggs /The Oakland Post

As a resource to receive counseling, feel free to contact Graham Health Center for help.

Sexual harrasment discussed by students

Ariel Themm
Staff Reporter

The smell of fresh chocolate chip cookies wafts from room 208 in Oak View Hall as Hot Cookies, Hot Topics began setting up. Every month, Travis Gibling and Jackie Duc host this program to encourage student-led discussions over controversial topics.

The Gibling, the residence director of the residence halls, started this program last year. Duc, a graduate residence director for the apartments on campus, assists in preparing the meetings with Gibling.

"Our typical format is to prepare background knowledge, usually with videos, to show students before students are given time to openly discuss their opinions over the topic at hand," Duc said.

On Nov. 30, the topic was the way sexual assault is portrayed in the media. Considering the highly sensitive topic at hand, Mike Wattsworth, the assistant dean of students, attended the program as well as the Director of the Counseling Center, Dr. Schwartz and a member of his staff, Dr. Sanders.

Sitting around the tables, students quietly listened to the videos being played. Each video was set in chronological order, from older cases to the newer cases.

Videos covered cases such as Emma Sulkowicz, a Columbia University student, who carried her mattress with her everywhere to protest the university's handling of her rape in 2015. Another case reviewed was the Brock Turner case, where a Stanford student raped an unconscious girl behind a dumpster and was released early from his six-month sentence for "good behavior."

There were also mentions of Taylor Swift's win in court over her assailant,

as well as actresses coming forward against Harvey Weinstein and reports against Kevin Spacey.

Freshman Timia Henry has attended all the meetings this year. Henry expressed her feelings about these assaults as well as how they're handled.

"It's not taken care of well, people aren't taking it as seriously as they should," Henry said. "We put blinders on as we look out. Media shouldn't focus on the accused. There's someone who has been wronged and it doesn't matter who they are and what they've done, no one deserves to be put through that."

Faculty who attended the meeting also extended further information on what resources are offered and what is required of them. In April 2011, the Office of Civil Rights added specific details to what was expected from employees working in the school system according to the law Title IX.

If a student informs any faculty of any misconduct involving other students, the employee must report it to the university, and the university is required to appropriately respond. This does not mean an investigation has to be carried out if it is not the victim's wish but the school has to settle the issue in some manner.

This can happen by seeking counseling appointments at the Graham Health Center or working with the Dean of Students to change residence halls, schedules - anything for the victim to feel comfortable at Oakland University.

Students from the meeting shared thoughts of taking away stigma from sharing assaults, victim shaming, the way feminism is viewed and more. More discussions will be held in the future and can be found on posters around the residence halls or on the OU Housing Webpage.

CASA focuses on helping those in need

Falin Hakeem
Staff Reporter

The Chaldean American Student Association (CASA) provides students with volunteer opportunities, possible internship and job opportunities, scholarship opportunities, guest speaker lectures and a way to network throughout the Chaldean community. President of the organization, Ashley Robin, says the group does a lot to benefit its members and those they serve.

“We bring in guest speakers who educate our members on how to successfully write a resume or prepare for a job interview,” Robin said. “We also had the Chaldean Chamber Foundation come in and educate our members about what they do for the community and also offered a scholarship opportunity for our members.”

According to Robin, CASA also brings in Chaldean chari-

ties to inform their members on current situations with projects in Iraq and America and how the organization can get more involved.

“We also collaborate with Chaldean charities and send volunteers to all their events when they need them,” she said. “It gives students a chance to get volunteer hours which most need for their resume.”

To be a part of CASA, students need five community service hours each academic year, attend one meeting per semester and attend one event each school year. Some of the events the organization hosts are charity events, such as Rebound for Relief.

“We rent out a huge suite at the Pistons game that is exclusive to CASA and the tickets sales go to a charity of our choice,” Robin said. “It makes spending money worth it since it goes to a good cause and it gives everyone a chance

to have a good time, meet new people and watch the game with friends.”

The organization also collaborates with the other CASA chapters for events.

“For CASA specially, we have Rebound for Relief and CASA Blanca,” Robin said. “Rebound for Relief is usually around Thanksgiving and CASA Blanca is actually coming up in two months. It’s one of the bigger events. It’s formal attire and black and white themed. We have a fashion show at 9 p.m. where our models wear Chaldean-owned boutique clothing.”

The fashion show also features a photo booth, snacks, a desert table, music, booths provided by sponsors and booths guests can rent themselves.

“We usually raise a lot of money and give it to a charity of our choice,” Robin said. “For the past four years we have been giving the money raised



Photo courtesy of CASA

CASA hosts events each year, and this year their goal is to raise funds to provide resources and give any leftover money to the Shalma foundation.

to Chaldean American Ladies of Charity’s special needs program. After Christmas, all the CASAs get together and host CASA Christmas at a restaurant/bar. This year it will be at Boscors in Ferndale.”

The money raised from CASA Christmas in the past was given to the Shlama foundation, which was used to build a family a house in a village in Iraq that was destroyed by ISIS.

“The most exciting part of CASA is giving back and I really mean that, as cliché as it sounds,” Robin said. “It makes me happy to know I’m president of an organization where the youth of the Chaldean community comes together to try and give back and help our own people whether it’s refugees in America or helping students or families in Iraq.”

For more information, visit CASA’s GrizzOrgs page.

Do YOU want to be a

DISTRIBUTOR

for The Oakland Post?

RESPONSIBILITIES & ATTRIBUTES

- Deliver newspapers to various locations on campus
- Have to be friendly
- Must have a flexible schedule
- Enjoy talking to others

INTERESTED APPLICANTS CAN SEND THEIR RESUME TO

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF SHELBY TANKERSLEY

AT EDITOR@OAKLANDPOSTONLINE.COM

Classifieds

61 Oakland Center
312 Meadow Brook Road
Rochester, MI 48309

Rates:
\$0.35 per word (\$7 min.)
Unlimited Frequency
STUDENT DISCOUNTS

HELP WANTED: VALET PARKING

Valet parking attendants, must be 21 or older, must know how to drive a stick-shift, make up to \$30/hour. Call (248) 740-0900 or apply online at <http://firstclassvalet.com/valet-parking/employment-application>

ADVERTISE ANYTHING*	Books	Babysitting
Need something?	Cars	Help Wanted
Want something	Garage Sales	Carpools
Want to provide something?	Rent	Misc., etc.

Life in the “trailer park” has taught people a thing or two

Shelby Tankersley
Editor-In-Chief

It was never a secret that the Oakland Center renovation was going to be inconvenient for those who work inside the building.

Offices had to move, and makeshift walls have been set up to separate students from the construction sites. The building for the time being, ironically, feels smaller but we all know it is going toward the greater good.

Nobody was expecting the basement of the OC to flood over the summer. Some of the spaces near WXOU and The Oakland Post got by with minimal water damage, but the Center for Student Activities, Oakland University Student Congress and the Student Program Board had to pack up their offices and move into trailers while the Gender and Sexuality Center moved to Vandenberg Hall.

We're still not sure what the extent of the loss was, but much of their equipment and supplies were destroyed.

The move initially caused some confusion for the students

who frequently list those offices, but that has dulled for the most part (students at least know the free scantrons are no longer in the basement). The three groups are content being in the space they call “the trailer park” because they know it won't last forever.

However, the original plan to get them back in the basement by January has been pushed back indefinitely. They have no idea when they will be able to reclaim their old offices, which has left them with collective frustration.

I was chatting with CSA Director Jean Ann Miller and OUSC President Lena Mishack last week and they both gave me a wry smile when I asked how working from a trailer separated from the OC has been. They miss being near everyone — us basement dwellers get pretty close.

Miller was talking about how she felt after the hurricanes struck various parts of the United States. She said she could empathize with the survivors but the event got her thinking about all she has.

“It's made us understand people who have been through



Shelby Tankersley / The Oakland Post

Stephanie Jurva of the CSA said she likes to use #TrailerLife when posting about the woes of working there.

floods and natural disasters,” she said. “We've been through that on a microscale. Though it's not the same, we can understand how they've felt and how life-altering it must be for them.”

One of the things Mishack and Miller both kept mentioning was how the community they felt from the other offices

that had to move. They have their frustrations, but the built-in support system they have from the close location of the trailers is what makes the whole thing enjoyable.

This community feeling of these offices and the rest of the SAFAC organizations has been part of the reason SAFAC has tried to help those affected by

the hurricanes so they can feel like someone is there for them, too. Though it is no massive amount, they have done what they can to help the people who experienced what they have on a much larger scale.

It's funny how a small tragedy close to home can change your perspective and motivate you to help someone.

George Sanders: Professor of Sociology and WGS

Curiosity is a never-ending part of his teaching life



Jordan Jewell
Contributor

From queer social theory to sociology of gender, to even sociology of religion, George Sanders is a pretty social guy.

Sanders was born and raised in Orlando, Fla., receiving his bachelor's degree at the University of Florida. He then attended Vanderbilt University where he earned his Ph.D in sociology. He didn't start off as a sociology student. When he was at Vanderbilt, he began pursuing a Ph.D in psychology.

“I was actually a grad student in psychology working for a professor on her research,” he said. “The professor, who had grown tired of my asking her questions that pertained to social contexts, social institutions and social structures, finally said, ‘George, you're not really a psychologist but a sociologist.’”

After meeting with a professor in Vanderbilt's Sociology Department, it was clear to Sanders that this is what he was passionate about.

“Having never taken a sociology class in the past, I needed to go and figure out what it meant to be a sociologist,” he said.

As a part of Oakland University's

teaching faculty, Sanders has taught a variety of sociology and religion based courses. Out of everything he teaches, he said his favorite is queer theory.

Queer theory is a course that focuses on the deconstruction of sexuality as well as conventional gender identity and performance.

“The nature of the topic itself lends itself to all kinds of unconventional materials and ideas,” Sanders said.

He also has interests in the religious side of sociology. He wrote a piece for The Critical Sociologist titled “Ironically Religious and Blandly Fashionable” in 2014.

The piece is Sanders' way of “making an effort to understand Christianity's attempt to borrow from indie or ‘hipster’ culture.” He was prompted to write this article when he noticed the surge of young people involving themselves religiously and concluded that many of them felt that the church itself gave them a sense of belonging.

In the future, he hopes to learn more about rituals that take place in religious communities. Specifically, Sanders is curious about the ways that humans use their bodies as a tool while worshipping.

“I'd like to know how the things we do with our bodies intersect with our intellectual and moral understandings of religion,” he said. “As a long-time practitioner of Zen Buddhism, my meditation practice reinforces certain principles. I'm particularly interested in the ritual practices found in more mainstream religions such as kneeling, communion, and even prostrations on a prayer mat.”

Sanders recommends that students with an interest in sociology take his course sociology of gender. He co-teaches this class each semester with Jo Reger, director of the Women and Gender Studies Program. The course allows students to learn about the social constructions of masculinity and femininity in social institutions.

And the name for the new building is...Hillcrest Hall

After months of waiting, the name for the new building was finally announced

Ariel Themm
Staff Reporter

Hillcrest Hall might be the new name for the ninth residence hall on campus, but it may not be the name forever, that is, until someone is willing to donate a generous amount of money to the school, the name will remain Hillcrest.

Angie Schmucker, the vice president of development and alumni relations, was able to share the policy and details of proceeding with naming gifts from their marketing and communications office.

"A naming gift is a rare philanthropic opportunity to make a gift that will transform the university in some way and may create a legacy with a person, a family or an organization for an extended period of time, perhaps in perpetuity," the policy states.

"Also, because a naming opportunity may be available only once in the university's history, great care must be taken to assure that the naming gift is adequate to set the pace for future naming gifts as well as to provide a level of funding consistent with an exceptional level of excellence, and to maintain that exceptional level of excellence in the future."

Gifts to the school can be paid in multiple ways including cash or securities. These can be made over five calendar years, and there is also a binding legal document to memorialize the gracious supporter and their given amount.

In the past, Oakland University mainly looked to faculty with prominent roles in the school to be used for naming buildings. Now the university is looking toward more alternative means to solidify the school's financial security.

The university's development office has felt that a great way to recognize someone's financial contributions through having buildings named after donors such as Elliott Tower. Other buildings like the Human Health Building remain generic so that future contributors can place their name on the building or even just a room.

Room 208 in Oak View Hall is an example of being named after a contributor, as it's now The Laidlaw Room.

"We wanted to stay away from names related to Meadow Brook since that is already such a large attraction," James Zentmeyer, the University's Housing director said.

"We wanted to find a name that could be distinctive as well as descriptive of the geo-



Shelby Tankersley / The Oakland Post

The new residence hall, Hillcrest Hall, is set to house students in the fall semester of 2018.

graphical placement of the building. We asked several student staff members about how they felt about Hillcrest and we received a lot of positive feedback."

Overall, the Board of Trustees set criteria for how the naming will be carried out and continually work together with the president's cabinet to find appropriate names

for each building as well as donor. They want to stray away from confusing names such as Pioneer Food Court being confused with the Pioneer Room.

"In the future, I think we're going to be looking toward advocating for more opportunities to get names for critical and important rooms at OU," Zentmeyer said.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A PHOTOGRAPHER

RESPONSIBILITIES & ATTRIBUTES



Must attend campus, community and sporting events



Be able to attend budget meetings



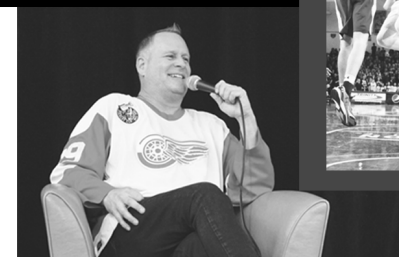
Know how to work with a DSLR



Have a creative eye



Must have a flexible schedule



Interested applicants can send a resume and three samples of unique photographs to Editor-in-Chief Shelby Tankersley at editor@oaklandpostonline.com

Useful tips to prepare for finals

Seniors tell all on the best places to study during exam season

Jessica Leydet
Staff Intern

Finals week is approaching quickly, which means students are cramming in as much study time as they possibly can. This can be a difficult time for those students who struggle with developing good study habits, because they may not know useful tools to help them retain the information they are trying to learn.

Carah Pletscher, senior nursing major, offered some words of wisdom based on her experience the past four years.

"I recommend using online flashcard websites like Quizlet, so you can copy and paste terms you are trying to memorize so you don't have to spend time writing them out," Pletscher said.

She said Quizlet also offers an app for phones, which makes it easy to study practically anywhere. She mentioned she is currently working on creating her own flash cards for her pharmacology course, which requires her to memorize the names and uses of many medications, so she is making it easier on herself by grouping together the medications that have similar functions.

Pletscher also shared that her favorite study spot on campus, is in the Ann V. Nicholson 4000s.

"I like to go to the 4000s to study because it is always quiet, and there is a fireplace, so I always bring a blan-

ket and work on stuff for a couple of hours," she said.

Lindsay Lutton, senior psychology major, said she prefers to study in intervals as opposed to long hour blocks.

"I like to study for about 45 minutes, then take a short break so that I'm not overdoing it," she said.

She also finds it useful to make an outline of the chapters in her textbook, or the Powerpoint slides, and then study from that.

"I personally like to write out the key points or terms from the book because it helps me memorize them better," she said.

Lutton also mentioned she always keeps healthy snacks at her desk when she is studying because she said it helps her to stay energized.

Natalie Kreps, senior chemical engineering major, said being exposed to several types of courses in her major has given her experience with different types of assignments that has helped her learn many study methods.

"One of the things that helps me study is that I like to change environments," she said. "I prefer working on the first floor of the library, and I think that the fact that you can reserve those rooms has been a really valuable resource for me personally because I tend to like working in a closed environment."



Photo illustration by Elyse Gregory

As finals draw near students spend hours in the library and various other locations studying.

BEST STUDY SPOTS ON CAMPUS

OC Au Bon Pain area

OC Underneath stairs by Barnes & Noble

Elliot Hall Lounge area

Kresge Library First floor

Engineering Center Yellow booths

Ann V. Nicholson Apartments 4000s

Dance program raises money for ALS community

Connor McNeely
Campus Editor

The Pointe Academy Dance Center in Rochester performs its annual recital at Varner Hall in June. In addition to this holiday event, the dance center hosts a charity holiday event every winter.

The Annual Burt Meisel Holiday Benefit was also hosted in Varner until two years ago, when Avondale High School in Auburn Hills offered to host it. Sunday, Dec. 10 marks the 10th year of the event, which supports ALS Michigan.

In the event's history, PADC students from ages 5-18 have

raised over \$37,000 for Michigan's ALS community.

"We have a philosophy at the studio, which is about teaching our students to use their gift of dance to give back to the community," said Dori Ranck, instructor and affiliate of PADC for the last 25 years.

Until 11 years ago, PADC participated in the Rochester Christmas Parade. The last year they did, it was raining.

"It was a disaster for the kids," Ranck said. "We decided we had to make a change. That wasn't going to be our holiday performance anymore."

The vision for a benefit performance came from the stu-

dio's owner and director MaryBeth Tremp-Seeger. When a student's mother mentioned she had a connection with ALS Michigan, they decided to make the organization the benefactor of the event.

Six months into planning the inaugural benefit, Ranck's father Burt Meisel, who danced with Ranck and his granddaughters in many of the studio's performances, was diagnosed with ALS. Shortly after dancing in that first event, he passed away from the disease. The performance has been in his memory since.

This year will include per-

formances from professional singer Karen Newman, Sponge guitarist and singer Andy Patalan, drum lines from Rochester Adams and Stony Creek High Schools and dance teams from Notre Dame and Rochester Adams.

The theme of the event is Christmas on a beach. The dancers will be doing various numbers including classics from "The Nutcracker," "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" and "Waltz of the Flowers".

"The students love the opportunity to perform," said Ranck. "What we're trying to instill in them is that it's not

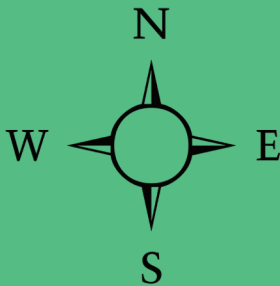
just about the performance. When you hear a young child say, 'we raised money to help people that need it here in Michigan,' they're getting it".

While many dance studios are competitive, PADC focuses its energy on giving back through community events rather than continuously competing. And they're keeping things warm and positive this year by riding the winter wave with this beach-themed day of giving.

Doors will open at 2:15 p.m. Admission to the event costs \$20 and tickets can be reserved in advance by calling 248-852-2585.

WALK A MILE IN OUR SHOES

Oakland University set 13 minutes between class times because any two points on campus should be only 13 minutes apart. We put on our walking shoes this week to find out if that's true.



Graphic by Erin O'Neill / Graphic Designer



HANUKKAH FACTS

- Hanukkah means "dedication"
- It is celebrated in remembrance of a Hebrew war victory
- The eight candles represent a light in the Israeli Temple that miraculously burned for 8 days



BAH HUMBUG

[Scrooge tells all]

*by Emily Morris,
Contributor*



A sickeningly sweet smell drapes through the air: caramelized holiday nuts. The excitement is almost palpable through the hall as people of all ages enter. This isn't Santa's workshop, despite its festive appearance; Oakland University's Meadow Brook Theatre been home to this production since 1983. Year after year, countless people flock to Meadow Brook Theatre to be enveloped in the Christmas spirit of "A Christmas Carol."

Each member of the cast is expected to collectively weave wonder throughout the audience from Nov. 10 through Christmas Eve. One character is especially responsible to sell the story: Ebenezer Scrooge, played by Thomas Mahard.

Most aren't a stranger to the sour character Scrooge begins as, but the route to portraying a bitter character undergoing such a miraculous transformation is another story many don't know.

Mahard has been with Meadow Brook Theatre since 1979, and ever since has been studying Dickens' timeless classics. When he first took on the role of Scrooge eight years ago, he comfortably

leaped into the persona of his character after watching the role for so many years.

Even so, the character still manifests slightly different each year. Always striving for improvement, Mahard has channeled different mindsets to constantly perfect his character.

"This year I have found a different approach," he said. "[Focusing on] Scrooge having a big heart, warmth and generosity underneath everything all the time. Even though he has become mean and greedy, this basic warmth has always been there."

Consequently, he's developed the same feeling of joy his character feels because he devotes so much emotion to Scrooge during and after rehearsals. Although elaborate, this process is entirely necessary for Mahard to capture the journey Scrooge goes on, not only through his memories, but as a person.

How could so many emotional nuances possibly be seen by the audience? While entering Meadow Brook Theatre, holiday features overwhelm the building. These collectively present the atmosphere Mahard envisions.

"A lot of times, audience members will come back after a show and they'll say, 'You guys changed it this year' or 'It was different,'" Mahard said. "But sometimes, that can just mean the audience member sat in a different location."

Acting reflects a specific emotional level that is rarely seen in other professions. Despite the fact that the audience is only spectators, Meadow Brook's performance of "A Christmas Carol" continues as a holiday tradition for many because of the level of commitment from actors like Mahard.

Of course, the immense emotion and commitment required would seem overwhelming to some. But, Mahard described his passion for theatre by saying "I find that when I'm acting I'm as close to being 100 percent myself... I am connected in all ways."

Theatre wasn't just a choice for Mahard: He has maintained a consistent passion for the arts since he was young, immersed in a childhood of theatre as his father often worked behind the scenes. Since then, his daughter has followed in Mahard's footsteps, devoting her life to a career of acting as

well. Now, he advises other novice actors to explore their own passions for the stage first, and if it's a necessity for their happiness, dive into the field wholeheartedly.

"If there's anything else you can do that will make you happy, do that," he said.

He assured that there are plenty of moments of rejection along a career in theatre, but the magic created on stage is worth the risk. In fact, he explained that after his first performance of "A Christmas Carol," he had little expectations except for that he hoped that he could do it again.

Mahard now sits as one of Meadow Brook's most seasoned actors.

"I hope they ask me back again next year," he said.

Even if the pressures of acting are too vast, a theatre is still a welcoming place for many. Catch a glimpse of Meadow Brook Theatre's timeless magic. After all, "A Christmas Carol" will be playing at Meadow Brook Theatre Nov. 10 through Christmas Eve, and an audience is just as vital a part of theatre as the actors and crew are.

OUWB raises awareness on World AIDS Day



Nicole Morsfield / The Oakland Post

Michelle George (ARPN) discusses the importance of diminishing stigma against HIV/AIDS.

Katarina Kovac
Staff Reporter

On Dec. 1, millions of people across the globe united to fight against HIV/AIDS in observance of World AIDS Day. As people celebrate the success of HIV/AIDS awareness and medical advancements, many are unfortunately reminded of the thousands of young people that comprise the 39 percent of new HIV/AIDS cases in the U.S.

In support of World AIDS Day, the The American Medical Student Association (AMSA) at the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine sponsored an event that featured speaker Michelle George, registered nurse and Master of Science in Nursing.

George, an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), has been an RN for more than 27 years, working in neonatal units, emergency rooms, occupational health and primary care nursing.

From 2000 to 2015, George was a public health nurse with the Oakland County Health Division where she specialized in HIV and sexually-transmitted infections, immunizations and tuberculosis prevention.

"There are over 45,000 people diagnosed with HIV each year, so you are probably wondering why we still have this epidemic in society when it's over 35 years of age," George said.

One of the main things in finding a cure is removing the stigma and discrimination against the virus.

"[Stigma] is what is keeping people from knowing about HIV," George said. "The virus doesn't know who you

are and doesn't care which race you are. Anyone could be affected."

In spite of the startling statistics, the hope of creating an HIV/AIDS free generation has not yet been lost. George expressed how many health centers are providing free HIV/AIDS testing in an effort to reduce the number of new cases and allow those infected to seek treatment.

"As future physicians, it's important for medical students to understand the barriers that HIV/AIDS patients face and know how to collaborate with organizations in the community, such as Matrix Human Services..."

Jennifer Knepel
OUWB student

"Nearly 60 percent of young people infected with HIV/AIDS are not aware they have this disease," she said.

According to George, HIV self-testing can be described as "A process where a person who wants to know his or her HIV status collects a

specimen, performs a test and interprets the test results in private or with someone they trust."

Although HIV self-testing is beneficial, George said it does not provide a definitive HIV-positive diagnosis as it is an initial test which requires further testing by a health worker.

Jennifer Knepel, the OUWB student behind the event explained the importance of events like this on campus.

"As future physicians, it's important for medical students to understand the barriers that HIV/AIDS patients face and know how to collaborate with organizations in the community, such as Matrix Human Services, to best support them," Knepel said.

The message behind reclaiming Dec. 1 as World AIDS Day is that the fight to end HIV/AIDS desperately needs all of us.

People of society can help the fight against HIV/AIDS by eradicating stigmatizing behavior, supporting HIV charities in the U.S. and abroad that are working to educate the public about HIV, campaigning for the rights of people living with HIV and by challenging discrimination.

WINTER 2018 PAYMENT DUE DATES

OAKLAND
UNIVERSITY

The winter semester is just around the corner — start it off right and avoid any last-minute surprises by being proactive now with all your financial business.

Consider all your financial options, including OU payment plans, which help spread tuition and costs into smaller, more manageable installments.

IMPORTANT DATES

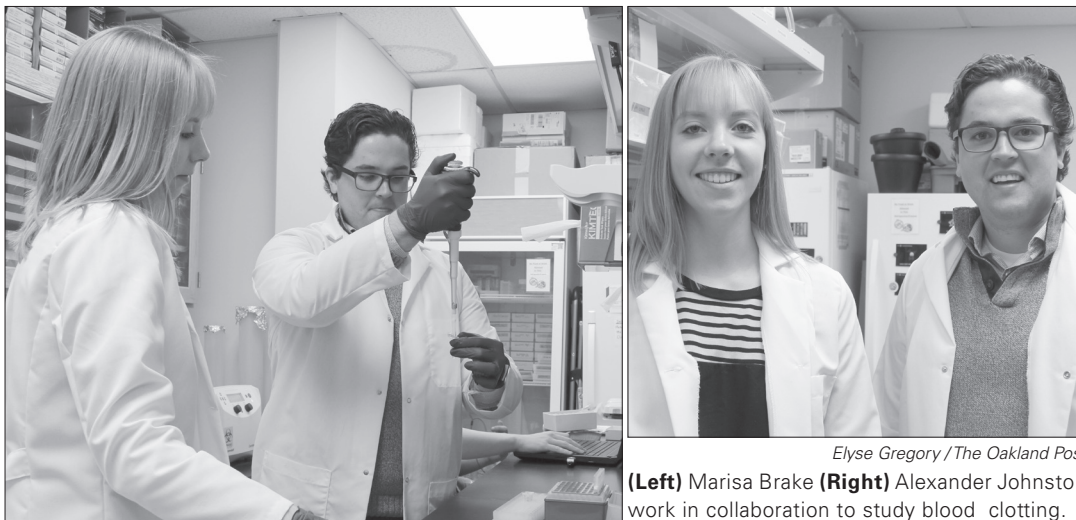
- **November 16** — tuition and housing charges posted on student accounts
- **November 16** — payment plan opens
- **December 15** — payment due date

You can avoid class cancellation (drop) by paying your student account in full by enrolling in a payment plan and paying your installments on time, obtaining financial aid, utilizing external sources, and/or using your own funds.

We are here to help. If you need help understanding payment options or how to finance your education, please contact Student Financial Services at (248) 370-2550 or go to North Foundation Hall, Room 120, as soon as possible.

Payment
Due

VIEW all payment and cancellation (drop) dates and **LEARN** how to avoid cancellation (drop) at oakland.edu/financialservices, then Payments & Refunds, then Payments & Cancellation



Elyse Gregory / The Oakland Post

(Left) Marisa Brake (Right) Alexander Johnston work in collaboration to study blood clotting.

Oakland faculty, students travel to Germany for biological conference

Team of three travel abroad to participate in conference and competition

Laurel Kraus
Life Editor

An Oakland University team of three, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences Randal Westrick, Ph.D., Ph.D. student Marisa Brake and undergraduate student Alex Johnston, traveled to Heidelberg, Germany for the Mammalian Genetics and Genomics: From Molecular Mechanisms to Translational Applications Conference hosted by European Molecular Biology Laboratory on Oct. 24 through Oct. 27.

"There's scientists from all over the world that come to it, and it's a place where you can showcase some of your research, specifically in the field of mammalian genetics," Johnston said. "There was from undergraduate to graduate to post doc to assistant associate professors that were in attendance at the conference."

Westrick has been attending the annual conference for over 10 years as it is one of the main conferences for mammalian genetics.

"It covers a broad range of topics [such as] genetic diseases, translating that to humans, cancer biology [and] computational biology, so there's a lot of different topics all focused on genetics," Brake said.

Around 150 people attended the conference it featured many speaking events as well as poster presentations in which Johnston participated and won an award.

"It was a great experience and it was an honor to have received the award," he said. "The poster was actually about plasminogen activator inhibitor-1 [PAI-1], which is a protein that is essential in the fibrinolysis pathways, so the breaking down of blood clots."

Johnston reported the study produced the poster dealt with inbred mice and platelet PAI-1 levels as it reflects on cardiovascular health.

A trainee symposium occurred on the first day of the conference, allowing Brake to present her research done at OU.

Her study dealt similarly with blood clotting and the fact that the mix of two genes, Factor V Leiden and TFPI deficiency, cause the mice to die early from blood clots. Brake's team was successful in mutating DNA to fix this. However, they are not sure what has changed so the study revolves around finding the mutation that lowered blood clotting.

"It covers a broad range of topics [such as] genetic diseases, translating that to humans, cancer biology [and] computational biology, so there's a lot of different topics all focused on genetics."

Marisa Brake
Ph.D Student

While in Germany, Westrick also gave a talk at the Technical University of Dresden.

"That was a basic overview of everything we do in the lab," he said. "I was invited by one of my colleagues to give a talk there and then we initiated a collaboration with some people there."

From networking to education, the trio brought back ideas to help in their research at Oakland.

"What I was seeing was some of the issues I was having with my project that this could be why," Brake said. "We're trying to look at it a different way now so we can hopefully make the genome better to analyze."

Looking toward the future, Brake is interested in going into an industry setting and working for a biotech company, while Johnston is looking to become a medical student.

Detroit artist releases new single, EP coming

Kaley Barnhill
Contributor

On Nov. 16, Detroit-based indie-folk Shepard Tone released his first single "Sunset Lover."

Shepard Tone's sound is described as being inspired by both The Beatles and The Head and the Heart. The music conveys a sense of nostalgia for simpler times, which is exactly the vibe singer-songwriter Brad Rude is going for. According to his press release, the song "has that certain bittersweet feeling I'd like to portray in my art."

Shepard Tone's music pays homage to summers in Michigan, where Rude grew up.

As stated on the bands website, Rude started out studying music at Berklee College of Music before heading back to making music in Detroit. A singer-songwriter since the age of 12 and formerly part of The Social Bandits (also based in Detroit), he is now embarking on his current solo project, Shepard Tone.

The first song Rude has released as Shepard Tone, "Sunset Lover" is a song that is both smooth and dreamy. Capturing the essence of an adventure-filled summer romance, the song is a good one to play when studying for finals or chilling with friends.

With its acoustic guitar, tambourine, drums and backup vocals, the song's layered sounds give the song depth.

The lyrics are well-crafted and fit the indie-folk feel of the song. Rude sings about the "Sunset Lover," a girl who mesmerizes him. The song opens with "She's a sunset lover/She's a moonlit summer dream/She's a world to discover/And I'm chasing her meteor stream," creating an ethereal atmosphere. His soulful, clear singing gives the song a more emotional side, appropriate for the bittersweet feeling Shepard Tone attempts to-and succeeds at capturing.

With a simple and beautiful chorus, "Sunset Lover" easily becomes catchy. Rude sings "And I'll watch her go/And I'll watch her go/And I'll watch her go/But I'm not ready/I ain't leaving your side," further conveying how he feels about the girl. While catchy, he also give the song a sadder feeling, but also show the dedication he feels toward her.

Shepard Tone will begin taking music to the stage in early 2018, as well as releasing a new single in January. Rude also says he plans on releasing multiple other singles and an EP by the summer of 2018. With such a catchy, well made first single, expect the rest of the EP and the live shows to be just as good.

Listeners can download "Sunset Lover" for free from Shepard Tone's website and iTunes. It can also be streamed on Spotify, YouTube and Apple Music.

FREE Pregnancy Tests
FREE Limited Ultrasounds
FREE STD Testing and Treatment

~ Comprehensive
~ Confidential
~ Caring

Crossroads Care Center
3205 South Blvd.
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
www.crossroadspregnancy.org
248.293.0070
(Appointment preferred)

Puzzles

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20						21					22			
			23						24	25				
26	27	28			29	30	31	32						
33				34						35		36	37	38
39			40			41				42				
43						44			45			46		
			47		48							49		
50	51	52							53	54	55			
56					57	58	59	60				61	62	63
64					65					66				
67					68					69				
70					71					72				

- Across

 - 1. Explosion
 - 6. Baroque composer
 - 10. Piercing tools
 - 14. Intense beam
 - 15. Bread topping
 - 16. Well-groomed
 - 17. Kind of acid
 - 18. Carbonated beverage
 - 19. Facts
 - 20. Principal
 - 22. Good's opponent
 - 23. 007, e.g.
 - 24. Tranquil
 - 26. Cleaning cloth
 - 29. Regards highly
 - 33. Epoch
 - 34. Autumn bloom
 - 35. Pioneer Daniel ____
 - 39. Leonardo da ____
 - 41. Artist Yoko ____
 - 42. Ambassador
 - 43. Legendary stories
 - 44. Redecorated
 - 46. Snacked
 - 47. Rained ice
 - 49. Went first
 - 50. Defeats
- 53. Jar top
 - 56. Poker payment
 - 57. Meeting
 - 64. Bog product
 - 65. Cruising
 - 66. D-Day beach
 - 67. Snow melter
 - 68. Trudge
 - 69. Snouts
 - 70. She, in Bordeaux
 - 71. Long periods
 - 72. Type of drum
- Down

 - 1. Humdrum
 - 2. Limping
 - 3. Korea's continent
 - 4. Transmits
 - 5. Walk heavily
 - 6. Foreman
 - 7. Scads (2 wds.)
 - 8. Yield
 - 9. Raspy
 - 10. Pamela ____ of "Baywatch"
 - 11. Manufacture cloth
 - 12. Old Roman language
 - 13. Not fresh
- 21. Affirmative votes
 - 25. Implant
 - 26. Guns the engine
 - 27. Diva's specialty
 - 28. Group of crooks
 - 30. Boutique
 - 31. Doctrine
 - 32. Wear away
 - 34. Bride's path
 - 36. The ____ Office
 - 37. Musical sound
 - 38. Observed
 - 40. Tape cartridge
 - 45. Loafing
 - 48. Flee
 - 50. Slight error
 - 51. Basketball's Shaquille ____
 - 52. Stable section
 - 54. Golf clubs
 - 55. Fiend
 - 58. Nordic capital
 - 59. Bright sign
 - 60. Crazes
 - 61. Apollo agcy.
 - 62. "Silkwood" actress
 - 63. Relieve

NOVICE

		9	1				3
			8		9	6	1
		3					8
	9	2	7			8	6
	6		5		1		9
	3	1			8	5	7
	2					7	
	5	6	9		4		
1					6	9	

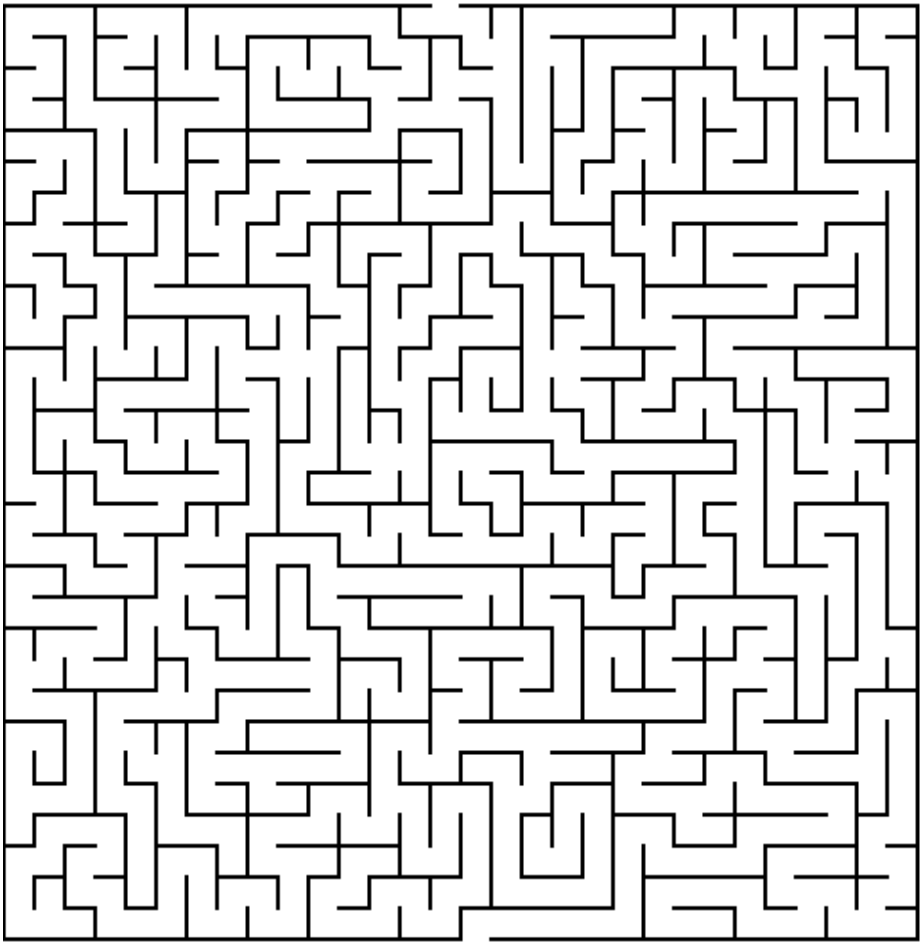
TOUGH

2	8					1	
			2			4	
7			1		9		
			8			3	9
	4		3		5		2
3		6			1		
			6		4		7
		7			3		
		9					5 8

INTERMEDIATE

	1			7			4
	4			9	3		7
3						9	
			7	1			3
2			3		5		7
	7			4	8		
		1					8
	6		2	7			5
7			4				1

			9	2			
6		3			5		
		9			8		3
		4				1	5
2	3	5				7	9 6
1	9					2	
4			3			1	
			1			3	2
				8	7		



Pixar's new movie is an emotional triumph



Photo courtesy of IMDb

Disney-Pixar's "Coco" tells a story about the importance of family and following your dreams.

Trevor Tyle
Staff Reporter

Pixar has done it once again with the colorful, cultural and creative wonder of "Coco."

Directed by Lee Unkrich and Adrian Molina, both longtime members of Pixar's creative team, the film had a lot to live up to. Unkrich has been involved in the majority of Pixar's projects, with directing credits on "Monsters, Inc.," "Finding Nemo" and the "Toy Story" sequels, while Molina worked on films such as "Ratatouille" and "Monsters University." Despite the high expectations set by its predecessors, "Coco" is truly unlike anything Pixar has ever done.

The film follows 12-year-old Miguel who lives in a small Mexican town and has a passion for music. His family however, detests it, arguing that he should be a shoemaker like them. This of course is in response to his great-great-grandfather's music career, which separated him from the family and was viewed as an unforgivable form of abandonment.

Despite his family's wishes, Miguel secretly idolizes Ernesto de la Cruz, a revered musician throughout Mexico. In an effort to prove his musical talent to his family, he tries to steal the late de la Cruz's guitar from his tomb and, in doing so, is transported to the Land of the Dead. He sets out to find de la Cruz, who he believes is his great-great-grandfather, in order to receive his blessing and return to the Land of the Living.

Focused primarily on the Mexican celebration of Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, "Coco" is first and foremost a visual masterpiece. It's a work of art, filled to the brim with bold and electric shades of gold, purple and pink that will dazzle viewers—though it shouldn't be

overly surprising, considering Pixar's consistently brilliant animation.

"Coco" is about the importance of family from a thematic standpoint, but it also presents it as an important element of Mexican culture in a beautiful and respectful manner. Those who come from Hispanic heritage will find the film particularly resonant, though the charm of the film's message is its universality.

The film's score is gorgeous, though the most alluded-to song in the film, "Remember Me," (penned by "Frozen" masterminds Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez) is the true standout. On top of that are a group of phenomenal vocal talents, fronted by Anthony Gonzalez, Gael García Bernal and Benjamin Bratt, who truly bring the film's animation to life in a way only Pixar can.

At its surface, "Coco" seems like a "Book of Life" rehash, but at its core is something truly special. Though it never reaches the level of excellence held by films such as "Toy Story" or "The Incredibles," it's a tearjerker that succeeds in its own right, with an emotional punch whose effect is both familiar and profound.

Though a bit complex for an animated film—and perhaps too complex for younger audiences to fully comprehend—the film's depth serves a purpose, putting together all of its puzzle pieces to create a satisfying and heartwarming conclusion. There's a surplus of exposition and intertwined subplots, though the story warrants the inclusion of both.

Full of plot twists, emotion and some killer music, "Coco" is an unconventional approach for Pixar that still tugs at viewers' heartstrings in the best possible way.

Rating: 4.5/5 stars

Are the Grammys trying too hard to be diverse?

Trevor Tyle
Staff Reporter

Music's biggest night is almost here. The Grammy nominations were released last week, and several of this year's nominees have created quite the conversation.

Last year, Adele controversially beat out Beyoncé for Album of the Year, the night's top honor. The year before, it was Taylor Swift beating out Kendrick Lamar, and the year before that, Beck over Beyoncé. For years, the Grammys have received backlash for allegedly favoring white artists over black artists, and it's easy to see why. Although the Recording Academy is notorious for their traditionalist values and safe choices, this year, things are a little different.

After Adele herself disagreed with her win over Beyoncé last year, the Grammys ensured that this year's list of nominees would be far more inclusive. Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee's "Despacito" could become the first Spanish-language song to win for Song or Record of the Year, while the latter category consists entirely of non-white artists (with the exception of Justin Bieber, who is featured on "Despacito"). Jay-Z's "4:44" also racked up eight nominations, the most for any artist this year.

The Album of the Year category, meanwhile, does not include a white male artist for the first time in Grammy history. Although Ed Sheeran's "+" (pronounced "Divide") was speculated to be a big contender, it was omitted entirely from the biggest categories, instead only receiving nominations for two pop awards. In fact, Lorde's "Melodrama" is the only work by a white artist to be nominated in the category this year—last year, three of the five nominees were white.

While some may view this as a bold move on the Grammys' part, it's actually little more than a new way of playing it safe. Though it may seem like the Recording Academy has broadened its horizons, in reality, much of it is simply overdue reparations for years of backlash. Excluding artists like Sheeran, whose "Shape of You" spent 12 non-consecutive weeks atop the Billboard Hot 100, from major categories may just be an easy way to avoid having them win, which would subsequently recreate the issues of previous years.

This is not to say that the Grammys shouldn't be more inclusive. While the diversity shown in this year's pool of nominees is outstanding, the Academy's motives are questionable. Many of the nominees don't truly represent the year in music, since more prominent white acts such as Sheeran, Harry Styles and Taylor Swift were snubbed in the general categories, a decision that feels too deliberate to be justified. Hip-hop and rap have dominated most of these categories, while genres like country have been excluded entirely, creating a lack of genre diversity.

Rather than becoming more inclusive, it feels as though the Grammys are simply using this year's more diverse group of nominees to seem inclusive. To contrast previous years' predominantly white nominee pools, the Grammys have shifted to the opposite side of the spectrum with the large number of black and Hispanic nominees. This is remarkable, but again feels unbalanced.

In efforts to please skeptical audiences, the Grammys have lost focus on the merit of an artist's work for the sake of making a social statement. But until the Judges can look past someone's race in the nomination process, they're just repeating the same old mistakes.



Photo courtesy of Billboard

Bruno Mars is the third-most nominated artist in the 2018 Grammys line up with six nominations.

GOP tax reform could harm OU students

The Bill creates problems for those in college, including tuition hikes and loss of waivers



John Bozick
Web Editor

It was during the early hours of Saturday morning that the Republicans unanimously passed a half handwrit-

ten, unorganized tax reform mere hours after drafting it. With no time for debate and not even enough time to read the document, Trump's tax reform passed as a harmful mess for students, the middle class and a large majority of Americans.

The Bill passed almost along party lines, with Sen. Bob Corker being the only republican who voted against the bill due to deficit concerns. The tax plan, which was passed by so-called fiscally conservative republicans, is forecast to see the national deficit rise by close to \$1 trillion over the next decade despite economic growth.

Some major issues with the tax bill are the lowering of the corporate tax rate, which would go from 39 percent today to 20 percent in 2019. The plan also increases the estate tax threshold to \$11 million, meaning heirs who receive less than that amount would be exempt from paying the estate tax.

The more serious consequences of this Bill would target college students and their federal student loans. Writing in her monthly president report, Oak-

land University President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz spoke about the harm that could come to higher education, urging students to be aware of the harmful changes that could affect OU students.

Pescovitz stated, "None of us wants to see our educational and professional goals impeded or perhaps even derailed. Also, we do not want to compromise the impact we have in terms of advancing knowledge, fueling economic growth and innovation, shaping and enriching human culture, and revitalizing communities."

Some changes OU students could see were outlined in the president's report such as the inability to deduct student loan interest from ones federal tax returns. This could lead to overall tuition hikes and troubles with student debt over time.

OU graduate students who receive academic waivers in exchange for research would also be severely impacted, as these students would still be forced into paying the taxes on the value of that tuition. Employees conducting research

would also be forced to pay this tax, a move that could discourage some from working in the field.

This part of the Bill, Pescovitz warns, could very-well lead to tuition increases over time and may discourage students from participating in a graduate study program due to the high costs.

The House and Senate plan to meet this week in order to discuss the differences between the Senate Bill which passed Saturday compared to the House Bill which passed last month. Yet, this process of negotiations may not go as smoothly due to President Donald Trump's statements around the corporate tax rate.

"Business tax all the way down from 35 to 20," he said. "It could be 22 when it all comes out, but it could also be 20. We'll see what ultimately comes out."

While this move could satisfy deficit concerns, it still does nothing to help many of those negatively impacted by the Bill. Instead it shows that Trump and the GOP continues to work for the best interests of America's upper class.

Should Trump really be trying to end the "war on Christmas"?

The president rants yet again about political correctness, this time focusing on the holidays



Trevor Tyle
Staff Reporter

Ah, Christmas—the only time of year where holiday greetings can lead to accusations of political incorrectness.

Last year's presidential election campaign found President Donald Trump ranting about many things, including an ongoing holiday debate—

should we say "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays"? Of course rather than discussing politics, the then-candidate made a point of attacking those who say "Happy Holidays," often thought to be a more acceptable greeting for those who don't celebrate Christmas. It's "chipping away at Christianity," according to Trump.

"These big companies don't wanna use [Merry Christmas] because it's not politically correct," he said at a rally last year. "It's gonna be not politically correct not to put it up, you watch. You watch. You watch. So, we're gonna be saying 'Merry Christmas' again."

This was only one of Trump's many rants about the so-called "war on Christmas." In 2015, he even held a Christmas rally in Grand Rapids with "Merry Christmas" written on campaign posters, according to The Washington Post.

Though the Obamas included more neutral sayings like "Season's Greetings" and "Happy Holidays" in their Christmas cards, the Trump family's official card reads, "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

If Trump is really so concerned about Christmas fading away, he should note that, according to the Pew Research Center, 92 percent of Americans celebrated Christmas in 2015. Unsurprisingly, 96 percent of Christians celebrated the holiday, while 81 percent of non-Christians also celebrated. Clearly, there's plenty of Christmas to go around.

What about the 8 percent, then, that don't celebrate Christmas? What do they get? Nothing, as far as Trump is concerned. Those who choose not to celebrate at all or celebrate another holiday like Hanukkah or Kwanzaa are completely overlooked and have been for a long time.

As for whether "Happy Holidays" is really more politically correct than "Merry Christmas," it's the thought that counts for most people. In the case of Trump feeling the need to shove Christmas down our throats as if to isolate the small percentage of people that don't celebrate it, it's simply a lack of understanding.

Trump isn't the only one guilty here, though. Christmas has long been an example of holiday capitalism at its

finest, while its religious roots have been all but diminished for a vast majority of its celebrants, Christian or not. The commercial appeal of Christmas has undoubtedly had an effect on its popularity over other holidays, and it seems to come earlier and earlier every year. As if it's not bad enough that people who don't celebrate Christmas have to see it in ads, television and stores, prolonging the torment of those who don't partake.

Trump could create a more neutral environment for those who don't celebrate rather than trying to impose Christmas on Americans. Saying "Season's Greetings" or "Happy Holidays" isn't "chipping away at Christianity." Christians pride themselves on loving and accepting people for who they are. Wouldn't it be more Christlike, then, to let non-celebrants of Christmas observe whatever holiday they celebrate without somebody's input?

Of course, I suppose focusing on real political issues rather than someone's holiday preferences would be too much to ask of a leader who spends most of his time on Twitter.

10 media buzzwords that will piss you off

For literally no reason, at all, whatsoever

Simon Albaugh
Social Media Editor

Just like 2016, this year hasn't been the greatest. There's been a lot of political aggression, presidential craziness and, you know, Nazis.

So to help you out, I thought I'd make some things a little bit more clear. Most media sources use key words to make articles easily searchable. Those key words also dilute the quality of journalism by placing more emphasis on ad revenue. (So if you guys could actually pay for your journalism... that would be great.)

But in the meantime, when you see these things, know they're just a vie for attention by some of the news organizations. This doesn't mean the journalism is bad, it just means that there's a limit on the amount of events people can pay attention to.

So without further ado, here is the unequivocal list of all the current media buzzwords that need to be given critical attention before continuing on to the rest of the story. It's important to understand that these things can have nothing to do with the event being reported on, but still have major attention in the story.

Republican/Democrat: No matter what I have to say, you know which one is the good guys and which one is the authoritarian attempt to take over the government.

Fascism: When you're trying to figure out whether to disavow or to gloss over white nationalists, just remember that a Nazi flag isn't all that morally ambiguous.

Fake News: Becoming synonymous with whatever doesn't fit a person's worldview, it's a great way of identifying people who weren't lucky enough to get a good education.

Radical (You fill in the blank): Used to describe skateboard tricks and ISIS. Big difference. Big. Difference.

Feminism: Let's face it. If you're that threatened by women's rights, how much of a man can you really call yourself?

Russia: 10 million Russians died in political prisons. I'm not one to judge, but I think they're still the bad guys in this day and age.

"Lock Her Up": You know Roger Stone? When he was 19 years old, he had an idea to spy on what the

democrats were up to. You might know that as the Watergate scandal. You know who made the "Lock Her Up" saying? Roger Stone.

Kneeling: There's a time and a place to protest in a way that doesn't offend people. And that's in your own home, by yourself, so that no one can hear or see you. Basically, there's no good way to protest without pissing people off.

Presidential: I'm not one to tell other people how to act, but if you could at least pretend not to be such a psychopathic narcissist, that would be great.

Net Neutrality: We could stop giving money to all our internet providers, essentially gutting their bargaining power with congress and forcing them to follow FCC regulations. But I'm not willing to go without internet. Are you?

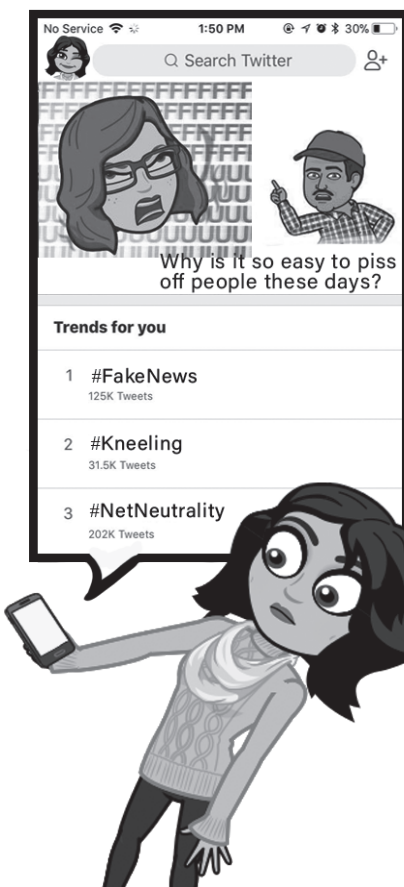


Photo illustration by Prakhya Chilukuri

Russia, politics, fake news, kneeling at inopportune times, net neutrality: you search it, someone is pissed off about it. Media sources try to keep people updated, but remember to do your research before believing everything you read.

The red cups runneth over with holiday cheer

Political debate continues to distract from real issues, Armica and Smithsonson talk the facts

William Smithsonson and Stephen Armica
Fictitious Contributors

The Oakland Post hosted a debate between Stephen Armica and William Smithsonson about everyone's favorite holiday argument: Whether or not Starbucks' stopping red cups were an attack on Christmas or not.

William Smithsonson: Let me just start by saying that there is nothing more important to me than the holidays. The holly berries, the ornaments and the smell of fresh pines against the crackling fire ambiance are truly a time of peace.

It's that peaceful time that allows me to continue each year (that and a glass of whiskey before bed every night.) I just can't imagine life without this holiday. Part of the problem happens to be that there's some liberal social justice warriors who think just because their parents are overzealous about the holidays, I have to enjoy my holiday behind closed doors.

According to them, I have to close the blinds, sit on the ground and quietly wrap my Christmas gifts like I'm trying to drink alcohol in a caliphate-run country.

Well, I don't want to sit down while I wrap my gifts. Last time I checked, all the founding fathers were Christian and the president has always been Christian, sort of. I think Thomas Jefferson liked Christmas a little bit.

But the fact of the matter is that we need Christmas. Without this sort of meaning, our lives can be thrown into chaos. If people suddenly thought there was no God, then our entire society would have to be reconstructed in the image of memes instead of divine worship. And I hate memes.

So what does a dyed piece of cardboard have to do with this? It's a mark of the unanimous devotion to God. The red signifies that we, as an entire population, truly believe in the same thing. That thinking differently is an unethical, and often damaging thing.

We need to know as a people that if you drink Starbucks, then you too are a part of the beautiful thing we call society.

Because when something like a



Photo illustration by Erin O'Neill

If you or a loved one experiences high blood pressure during the holidays, you should realize there are more important things to think about.

Starbucks cup functions correctly, when everything is moving toward the same goal of economic prowess and military leadership, then we have something to count on. We have something to remain comfortable in.

Life is like a contract. First, you fulfill your end of the bargain, then you ignore the people who were, for whatever reason, excluded from the negotiating table, then you get what you have coming. That's how life works and that's how everything else should work.

So grab your Starbucks cup and look at it. The next time you see the "Happy Holidays" laughing in your face like you're somebody who likes Menorahs or Kinaras, just remember that it's because of that little piece of cardboard that society will have collapsed 10 years later.

Stephen Armica: Yeah, I think we should bring back the Starbucks cups because there isn't enough blood pressure medication in the world to make that guy okay. Just bring it back for the people who have so little in life.

#WEARtheBEAR: A new way to share OU Athletics with students

Sadie Layher
Staff Intern

This fall, a new way of getting play-by-plays and information from Oakland University Athletics came to be. This comes in the form of a podcast called #WEARtheBEAR, named after the #WEARtheBEAR hashtag. The hashtag is meant to create more pride within the student body and encourage people to proudly wear Golden Grizzly attire much like the Michigan State and University of Michigan attire is seen all around the state.

More recently, a sponsor who has been a part of Athletics for several years has become a sponsor for the #WEARtheBEAR podcast. The podcast is filmed and produced solely by Neal Ruhl, the Director of Broadcasting for Athletics. Currently, there is a podcast on the iTunes store for Apple products, but it is also available on the social media platform SoundCloud. The sponsor of the new podcast is the Evans Law Group. The law firm has been sponsoring Athletics for several years.

Ruhl said he was “determined to stay ahead of the curve and be at the forefront of technology” because other Division I schools currently do not have a

podcast dedicated to all of their sports teams like Oakland.

The #WEARtheBEAR podcast is “a one-man band” right now according to Ruhl. He films, records, edits and produces everything for the podcast. He covers every single sports team at Oakland and the almost 360 Golden Grizzly athletes. Oakland is growing in population as well as popularity.

“Oakland isn’t a cute story anymore, we are gaining speed and becoming a competitor,” Ruhl said.

This is where sponsorship becomes a necessity. Oakland is growing but it lacks the budget that bigger schools in Michigan have.

However, Cameron Evans, the president and founder of the Evans Law Group and special lecturer at Oakland said, “We are excited to expand our relationship with Oakland Athletics. [We] are entering our third year as the presenting sponsor of the Greg Kampe Radio Show...and jumped at the opportunity to team up with the Golden Grizzlies and Neal as they continue to expand the Oakland Athletics platform.”

The Division I Athletics progress has already beat many of the “blue blood” Detroit teams which are extremely



Sam Boggs / The Oakland Post

This new podcast will reach out to the student body about what’s going on in OU Athletics.

talented and competitive. Since it is prime time Golden Grizzly basketball season, Kampe is upping the momentum.

A previous statement made by Kampe at the start of the season is still relevant: “We are going to be really good and we need you [the students] here because when the arena is full we always win.”

The #WEARtheBEAR podcast wants

to see the numbers rising in plays and in participation at the various sporting events. The mission is to create pride among Golden Grizzly fans, as Athletics believes Oakland students are just as talented and motivated as schools with twice as many students.

The podcast goes up the same night of any sports game and it can be found by searching “Golden Grizzlies” on the iTunes store or SoundCloud.

The Golden Grizzlies Athletic Fund now has a Board of Advisors Oakland University’s GGAF now has leaders to help athletics fundraise

Katie LaDuke
Staff Reporter

Oakland Athletics announced the inaugural board of advisors for the Golden Grizzlies Athletic Fund (GGAF). On Tuesday, Nov. 21, Oakland alumni Gary Brancalone and Anne Dieters-Williams were elected president and vice president, respectively, at a GGAF meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 14.

Both Brancalone and Dieters-Williams have been regularly involved in organizations on campus since their graduation. Brancalone is a 1982 graduate with a degree in finance, he served as president of the SBA Alumni Board and spent eight years on the Athletics Board of Visitors. He is currently Treasurer on the Executive Council of the Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) Board of Directors.

Dieters-Williams is a three-time graduate of Oakland. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Market-

ing and Communications in 1983, Master of Public Administration in 2009 and post-graduate certificate in local government in 2015. Dieters-Williams has also served as President of SBA Alumni Board and is a member of the OUAA Board of Directors, OUAA Scholarship Committee, OUAA Philanthropy Committee and the Women of OU Scholarship Committee.

“I am so excited to work with the members of the GGAF Advisory Board to promote and encourage interest and participation in OU athletics,” Dieters-Williams said.

The GGAF is the official department of Athletics that handles fundraising. This fund has been in place to help with special events, premium seating and student-athlete engagement since Athletics’ move from Division II to Division I. Some of the events the GGAF has put on include the Golden Grizzlies Golf Classic, Black & Gold Raffle and Tip-Off Gala.

The Board of Advisors of the GGAF will now serve as the leadership element of the fund. Since it is brand new, different committees are being planned to assist with different aspects such as membership and fundraising.

“We are so new that we’re really going to be developing as the charter board,” Brancalone said. “We are really going to be developing the path for the future.”

The Board of Advisors is composed of 20 members. Not all of these members are alumni of Oakland, but everyone is a supporter of Oakland Athletics. The board will work together to design events and programs that uphold three goals.

These goals include promoting and encouraging interest in Oakland’s Athletics, promoting the welfare of Athletics through constructive civic services and projects and developing and spreading the Golden Grizzlies brand

around Metro Detroit.

“We have a great group of volunteers willing to commit to the future of Athletics at Oakland University,” Dieters-Williams said.

Just like the rest of Athletics, the GGAF Board of Advisors will have the student-athlete experience as one of its top priorities. Every board member’s input will be used to enhance the student-athlete. Fundraising will also be utilized to provide scholarships and other experiences for the student-athlete.

“It’s not about us,” Brancalone said. “It’s about [the student-athletes].”

Brancalone is determined to make the GGAF successful. He looks forward to helping Athletics with its other fundraising and building the board along with the fund for the future.

“The thing that will be interesting as we go about formulating the direction of this board is everyone’s input,” Brancalone said.

The Grizz Gang's game day perspective

This student organization knows how to bring spirit

Dakota Brecht
Staff Reporter

In the Horizon League there is one student section that reigns supreme over all other schools. The Grizz Gang at Oakland University is by far the loudest and best, student section in the Horizon League, and they have even received recognition on the national level. This student organization is something that has grown tremendously over the years and has reached new heights this year.

Grizz Gang has been around for longer than the Division I era here at Oakland, but it was formally founded as a student organization in 2008 by Anthony Gallina.

"When we started Grizz Gang, some of my friends and I were really passionate about it like the students here today" Gallina said.

The board members have put in countless hours of work to set up programs with giveaways and tailgates before home games to get the student body fired up for Oakland Athletics. One person in particular, Jake Wolok, has had a huge impact on the development of these events through Grizz Gang.

"We just encourage student support on campus and make sure that they not only come to the games but events before the games like tailgates or giveaways" Wolok said.

Some of the events Grizz Gang has put on this year include tailgates, tabling in different places around campus and setting up their first ever VIP program.

The VIP program includes a t-shirt and customized lanyard which permits admittance into the O'rena 30 minutes before the rest of the fans. Members also get a ticket to the Oakland vs. Michigan State game at Little Caesars Arena on Dec. 16.

Neal Ruhl, the voice of the Golden Grizzlies, has had the pleasure of listening to the Grizz Gang for years now, and he knows they have a huge impact on the atmosphere in the O'rena.

"As somebody who goes to every single gym in the Horizon League, it's not close, there's no competition to them [Grizz Gang] at all," Ruhl said. "They are far and away the best student section in the Horizon League and that is a fact, not an opinion."

Jeff Konya, the Director of Athletics at Oakland University could not agree more.

"They are a huge part of our game atmosphere, their support is invaluable and you see the passion, it's just tremendous" Konya said.

Another iconic voice for the Golden Griz-

zlies is PA announcer Kevin Beers, who has seen the growth of Grizz Gang and loves the call and response he can have with the student section.

"That interaction is just awesome," Beers said. The essence of college athletics is the student section and anything we can do to get that student section going just adds to the experience"

The Grizz Gang prides themselves on being one of the loudest student sections in the area and as long as these students bleed Black and Gold for their Golden Grizzlies, the O'rena will remain one of the toughest places to play in the country.

"It's not just a student section, it's more than that, it's a community on campus" Wolok said.

Oakland takes on
Michigan State at
Little Caesars Arena
on Dec. 16

On December 16th, the Golden Grizzlies will travel to the brand new Little Caesars Arena in downtown Detroit to host the Michigan State Spartans in a highly anticipated game. Grizz Gang will be in full force at Little Caesars Arena and they plan on having a larger student section there than ever before.

The Spartans are ranked third in the nation currently but that does not deter die hard fans like Secretary of Grizz Gang John Hassenzahl from keeping an optimistic point of view for this game.

"I just want to say one thing, Michigan State better be on upset alert because once that game starts we will get that place rocking" Hassenzahl said.

President Jake Wolok also has high expectations for the game and here is what he had to say on what the student section will look like at LCA.

"It will have our announcers, Kevin will be on the mic, the lights will go off and we will have our phones out lighting up the arena and it's just gonna be a lot of fun" Wolok said.

Want to become a Grizz Gang Member?

1. Let's start off with an easy one. When one of the Golden Grizzlies players go to the line for a free throw raise your hands above your head to form an "O" with your arms. When the player makes the free throw bring your arms down in a swift manner to form a "U" and then clap.

2. When an opposing player goes to the line to attempt two free throws and they miss the second, Austin Davis will yell "Hey nice shot, do it again!" and then the rest of the student section continues to chant "Do it again" over and over until the second shot.

3. When a player from the opposing team gets called for a travel PA announcer Kevin Beers will start the Grizz Gang off by saying "That's traveling and you can't do that!". The student section will then answer back by chanting "You can't do that" over and over again.

4. The classic "Let's go Oakland" is an iconic chant that doesn't just come from the student section, but resonates from the entire fan base at the O'rena. All you have to is chant "Let's go Oakland" and then clap to the beat.

5. When an opposing player airballs a shot you have to let that player know that. Every time that player touches the ball you have to scream "airball" at him as loud as you can until he makes his next shot.

And don't forget to BE LOUD!

1% CASH BACK

OU Credit Union Platinum Plus Visa Credit Card



Visit us in the Oakland Center to start earning 1% cash back on all purchases today!



oucreditunion.org

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
Credit Union

Members will earn 1% cash back on purchases. Cash back is not earned on tax payments, any unauthorized charges or transactions, cash advances, convenience checks, balance transfers, or fees of any kind. Account must be in good standing to redeem cash back. Returns result in the loss of cash back equal to amount returned. Negative cash back will be given if returns or credits exceed purchases.

TIRED OF FIGHTING TRAFFIC AS YOU DRIVE TO CAMPUS?



LIVE *in* UNIVERSITY HOUSING!

*Get the ultimate college experience — and avoid long commutes —
by living in the heart of it all.*

WE NOW HAVE MORE SPACE TO ACCOMMODATE EVEN MORE STUDENTS:

A new 750-bed residence hall will open in fall 2018.

Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors, this new housing complex will feature:

- Suite-style air conditioned rooms with four private bedrooms,
a private bathroom, a common living space and a kitchenette area
- 400-seat dining facility and 100-seat micro restaurant
- State-of-the-art fitness center

Don't miss your chance to be steps away from campus activities, academic success and more independence!

LEARN MORE | oakland.edu/housing