

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

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Recreation Center reopens after six months

*Rec Center introduces additional safety
precautions to welcome students back*
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Picking up where Justice Ruth
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PHOTO BY: SOPHIE HUME

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



DISTANCED BUT CLOSE CRU Detroit hosted a yard part on Tuesday, Sept. 15 with socially distant games to play like cornhole and giant pong.
PHOTO / RYAN PINI

THE OAKLAND POST

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Photo/Golden Grizzlies

VOTE AND CONNECT AT:
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POLL OF THE WEEK

WHICH BUILDING NEEDS TO BE RENOVATED AFTER WILSON HALL?

- A) VARNER
- B) SOUTH FOUNDATION
- C) NORTH FOUNDATION
- D) MATH AND SCIENCE CENTER

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHAT SHOULD REPLACE CHICK-FIL-A IN THE OAKLAND CENTER FOOD COURT?



Letter from the President: Get the facts, make the right choice

ORA HIRSCH PESCOVITZ

Oakland University President

Since March, we have been working tirelessly to preserve the unique Oakland University college experience that promotes curiosity, self-exploration and discovery, while keeping everyone as healthy and free from the threat of COVID-19 as possible.

As you know, responding effectively to the challenge posed by the pandemic requires our widespread cooperation and accountability from all members of the OU community.

What makes Oakland University such a special place is that we are like a big family. When I walk, or ride my bike through the campus, I am struck by the fact that nearly every student, faculty and staff member is wearing a mask and is practicing safe social distancing. This is in real contrast to pictures that I see of students at many, if not most other universities in America today.

I think this is because our students at OU really understand that a successful educational experience is directly linked to how we approach this tenacious virus. They know that they must do everything in their power to adhere to our daily honor pledge, health assessment, five-point Grizzlies Protect Grizzlies: Healthy Together plan and get their flu vaccine.

Most students arrive at OU with a sense of a newfound freedom, and great excitement about the possibilities of the “college life.” Unlike any other year, however, students must be especially judicious about how and where they spend their time on and off campus.

The stark reality is that this year, the college experience has been fundamentally altered. And frankly, students find themselves on the frontline of the defense against the spread of the virus.

I really want our students to have a great college experience this year even though it will be unlike any other year in our nation’s history. I know that they can still get some terrific opportunities at OU — and at the same time, remain healthy and protect one another and the community around OU.

The OU five-point “Grizzlies Protect Grizzlies: Healthy Together” plan creates an operational blueprint in response to a range of possible pandemic scenarios. A key part of the plan is for students to take responsibility and do their part.

I’m so pleased to see that our OU students are up to the challenge.

When asked how best to gain student compliance regarding taking precautionary measures, OU Dean of Students Michael Wadsworth came up with a simple, effective response: Students are the best ones to educate students.

I couldn’t agree more. Students educating students is the impetus behind the Grizzlies Health Squad, a team of 10 students who promote wellness, school spirit and engagement in university issues and events.

The concept behind the Grizzlies Health Squad is an appeal to students through education and dialogue, not the threat of punishment and surveillance. As a learning community, our greatest strength is our respect for each other and for rigorous debate based on reason and common interests.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

My deep appreciation to OU students who have volunteered to serve as role models on the inaugural Grizzlies Health Squad. The members include: Tara Apostolovski, Cassandra Zeski Cazares, Christian Clemans, Lydia Danks, Allyssa Farley, Jorge Isunza, Gwyneth Labine, Nancy Plascencia, Salina Rice and Gianna Sciortino.

Watch for the Grizzlies Health Squad around campus, modeling proper compliance behavior. They are stocked with extra masks and have answers to a range of questions about how we can remain safe and care for each other in the time of COVID-19.

They will also reach out to students through social media, and work closely with faculty and student organizations. And, if a student doesn’t comply with the prevention rules, squad members will listen to their explanation. Of course, they will also present a compelling case for upholding the health recommendations.

When you come to campus, please make responsible choices. Wear a mask. Practice social distancing. Take the daily health assessment. Report any COVID-19 symptoms you may have.

Doing so shows respect for others, and yourself. I am looking forward to seeing you on campus ... Go Grizzlies!!

Have a safe and happy birthday, Dr. Pescovitz!



From, The Oakland Post

UndocuFund shows COVID-19 impact on illegal immigrant communities

SAM SUMMERS
Design Editor

For undocumented immigrants, there is genuine fear involved in the process of collecting government aid. It is typically impossible to do so without supplying personal information, which leaves many undocumented immigrants unwilling to apply. Those who may be willing to apply, however, face other challenges.

At a recent digital roundtable hosted by Oakland University, Emma Davis, the Community Development Program Manager at Global Detroit, spoke on one of the most fundamental of these challenges: learning that the aid even exists.

"With the mushrooming of information, resources and programs, a lot of that information wasn't getting to immigrant communities... it wasn't being translated," she said.

Although this is a constant problem, Davis referred in particular to information about COVID-19 relief programs. The pandemic has only exacerbated the effects of the language barrier that stands between immigrants and government aid.

Global Detroit is one of several organizations that recently spoke at the OU roundtable about a program called UndocuFund. The fund, which was created by Detroit's Immigration Task Force, was able to raise \$750,000 to donate to undocumented citizens of Detroit. UndocuFund took time to ensure that the money was distributed safely and effectively.

Because of the concerns that undocumented people often have about their personal information, the members of the Immigration Task Force knew that it would be impossible to distribute the funds directly, as many would refuse to apply.

To resolve this problem, the task force turned to an organization called the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC). The DHDC serves the Hispanic population of Detroit, and as a result, they have established connections with the undocumented immigrant population there. The money was distributed to the DHDC as a grant.

One of the key members of the UndocuFund initiative was Raquel Castaneda-Lopez, the city councilwoman of Detroit District Six. Chief of Staff Mariana C. Martinez, spoke on her behalf at the roundtable.

There, Martínez spoke about how the

DHDC handled the information of those who received aid through their organization.

"Once the funds were fully disseminated, we would get rid of [their information] completely," Martínez said. "We all agreed that we didn't need to retain this information, nor that it needed to be shared."

The only information that was kept, according to Martínez, was the last name and zip code of applicants. More personally identifying information was not kept.

There was still another concern in the process of distributing UndocuFund. Although there is a large population of Hispanic undocumented immigrants living in Detroit, there are also some smaller populations that the DHDC does not have links to.

As a result, the DHDC and the task force decided to divert some of the funding to subgrantees, who would be able to disseminate the aid to some of these smaller populations.

Two of the organizations who played this role are The African Bureau of Immigration & Social Affairs (ABISA), which primarily serves the African population in Detroit, and Global Detroit, which was able to aid the UndocuFund project in serving the Bengali population.

The result of these various efforts led to a fund distribution campaign that was unprecedented in its ability to serve the undocumented population of Detroit.

"Prior to UndocuFund, [Global Detroit] had not had programs specifically for undocumented immigrants," Davis said. "We had served undocumented immigrants, but in serving them had never learned which ones were undocumented or anything like that."

The fund was able to serve undocumented immigrants directly, in a manner that specifically targeted several populations and without jeopardizing the clients' privacy. According to Martínez, the funds have mostly been distributed. But that isn't the end.

"It wasn't enough, this is really the beginning of the conversation," Martínez said.

There are several ways to join this conversation. If you are able to speak a foreign language, there is work that needs to be done translating documents for distribution to immigrant communities.

If you don't have that skill set, you can help by donating to organizations like the DHDC, who help serve undocumented immigrant populations in Detroit.

GRIZZLIES PROTECT GRIZZLIES

Cumulative on-campus positive cases since July 12:

31

Faculty or staff:

1

Students not living in OU Housing:

24

Students living in OU Housing:

17

On-campus isolation rooms occupied

1/95

All information is from OU COVID Public Dashboard

OUWB summer internships go virtual

LAUREN REID
Staff Reporter

This summer, the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) internships took to a virtual format amid COVID-19. According to OUWB, nine second-year medical students applied and were awarded internships based on areas of interest.

“[Pre-pandemic], the community and educational internships [were] really hands-on,” Jean Szura, Ph.D., director of service learning at OUWB said. “[Students were] either at a community organization, in the anatomy lab, [or working with a] school or a library. [During COVID-19], that was not possible.”

Szura mentioned students took part in many virtual meetings with their preceptors (mentors), some (internships) curriculum related, some more research related. This year, internships related to topics from medical education to leadership.

As mentioned in OUWB’s article, one internship worked to conduct interviews with Pontiac’s homeless population to determine the rate of traumatic brain injury, while another worked to create photo and video based anatomy modules to be used by OUWB students.

“It’s been helpful for students to complete an internship that [may help] them solidify the route their taking in medical school, [such as] students who want to go into pediatrics, where the internship may give them a safe space to practice working with kids,” Rose Wedemeyer, Ph.D. and director of education learning at OUWB said. “[Internships either help students] to solidify their decisions or [let] them consider exploring other options.”

A main goal of these internships is exposure in areas of interest.

“The overall goal is to help students get exposure to something medically related that perhaps they didn’t have exposure to before,” Szura said. “[Students can] really dive deeper into a topic and then at the end, they typically produce a poster or some scholarly output from it where they present what they did, whether it was a project, program or research.”

The internships require an application process, where preceptors rank their selections — students are offered internships based on this rank order.

Szura and Wedemeyer agreed the student directed aspect of virtual internships was nice to see.

“The online format has worked well,” Wedemeyer said. “It was a lot more student directed. [Students] were completing all the all the tasks they needed to and doing so with high quality.”

Wedemeyer mentioned some of the individual preceptors and students are going to try and develop proposals of their internship work to submit for potential publication or presentation.

Ultimately, the internships required some flexibility but remained rewarding for students, as mentioned by Szura.

“COVID-19 has shown us we are able to be a lot more flexible and we will continue to do so,” Szura said. “The internship process mirrors everything else that has been going on. We had to think on our toes a little bit, but we were able to make appropriate changes and make good experiences, so that was helpful.”

For more information on OUWB, visit their website.



PHOTO | SOPHIE HUME

OUWB summer internships took on a new form in 2020, with many being moved virtual.

Police Files

I do not got a glock in my Aztek

Oakland University Police officers patrolling on University Drive spotted a white Pontiac sedan traveling north on Squirrel Road. The vehicle stopped before making it to the Michigan left, then proceeded slowly past the turn-around. After proceeding through the light, the officer noticed the vehicle did not have a license plate or temporary plate. The vehicle continued to slowly drive down the road, swerving occasionally and braking very short of the stop bar at the light. The officer then conducted a traffic stop on the north side of Walton Blvd.

After meeting with the driver, the officer could smell the strong odor of marijuana emanating from the inside of the vehicle. After the driver claimed she had only one blunt, she was asked to perform a field sobriety test. She was able to perform the walk and turn test without much issue, but she had problems completing all of the other tests conducted. She was arrested for driving on a suspended license and for suspicion of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs.

The driver told the officers after she was in the patrol car that there was a pistol magazine in her car and the vehicle was searched. The magazine was found, and the rest of the car was searched along with the driver’s purse to try and find the suspected Glock pistol. The firearm was not found, though less than 2.5 grams of marijuana were found in the vehicle. The driver was taken to OUPD to be booked and for a legal guardian to be arranged for her pickup.

*Compiled by Ben Hume,
Web Editor*

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SVP, SAFB host Marvel themed trivia night



PHOTO COURTESY OF PINTEREST

Student Video Productions and Student Activities Funding Board hosted the first mainstage of the 2020 school year, virtually hosting a Marvel trivia night.

LAUREN REID

Staff Reporter

Oakland University's Student Activities Funding Board (SAFB) and Student Video Productions (SVP) student organizations hosted Marvel trivia night on Thursday, Sept. 17 as part of the Thursday Night Mainstage series. Around 30 participants took part in three rounds of Marvel based trivia with the chance to snag some prizes.

"The goal for [trivia] night [was] to allow students to connect in these crazy times," SVP Events Coordinator and SAFB Marketing Director Dani Parker said via email. "SVP [co-hosted] the event with SAFB and we're looking forward to our other mainstages in the future."

Parker hosted the event, asking questions surrounding Marvel superheroes: Captain America, Thor, Black Widow, Deadpool, among others. Rounds one and two consisted of 15 questions with a 30-second time limit, progressing to a five question, increasingly difficult round three. Trivia night's winner put up a total of 45 points after all rounds were completed.

Prizes included Marvel themed blankets, funkopop action figures, socks and more, as mentioned by Parker.

"This is my first year planning events and working for SVP so [the online setting] is all I've really known," Parker said via email. "It's been fun figuring out how a trivia night will be done virtually, though. I've been looking up advice and [researching how] other people have done it online."

SAFB President, Adeline Perhogan, said the transition from in-person to virtual events ended up being a smooth one.

"When we were first informed events would be virtual this fall, we were really

nervous about planning," Perhogan said via email. "Thankfully, the SAFAC organizations were able to meet multiple times over the summer and were able to bounce ideas off one another. The transition to virtual events has been very smooth, and the possibilities of what we can do are endless."

As far as upcoming events, SVP is hosting a table read of an iconic movie script on Oct. 15 and on Nov. 5, an OU Cinema Studies professor will be presenting a critical analysis of movies, with more information to come.

Perhogan mentioned Thursday Night Mainstage has been divided up amongst Student Activity Fund Assessment Committee (SAFAC) organizations.

"SAFB will be co-hosting [Thursday Night Mainstage] with SVP Sept. 17, Movie and Pop Culture Trivia Night, and Oct. 1, OU Jeopardy," Perhogan said via email. "SAFB will be solely hosting Mainstage Nov. 12, Michigan Kahoot. All the SAFAC organizations will be hosting Mainstage, Dec. 3, Stress Less Day. We encourage students to sign up for the OSI newsletter to stay up to date with [these events]."

The SAFB helps to fund, fundraise, implement and organize events for the OU student body. SVP is dedicated to creating a space for film lovers, as mentioned by the organization's president, Michaela Dorflinger.

We collaborate with other student organizations to help put on other events at Oakland University, as well," Dorflinger said via email. "We are a community based on collaboration — we want to help students experience film and film production in a safe and meaningful way."

To keep up with upcoming mainstage events, or events put on by the SAFB or SVP in general, visit GrizzOrgs.

Green Bandanas combat mental health stigmas

LAUREN KARMO

Staff Reporter

The Green Bandana Project is a new symbolic initiative working to end the stigma around talking about mental health struggles. Members of the Oakland University community carrying a green bandana have made a commitment to being a resource and friendly face for those who need help.

Launched by University Recreation and Wellbeing (Rec Well), the Green Bandana Project has been becoming popular at colleges across the country. It got on Rec Well's radar after Director Greg Jordan saw the green bandanas in the student section at a University of Wisconsin, Madison basketball game in February. He contacted the wellness branch of the department, asking to bring the project to OU.

"I had a video call with someone from, I believe it was University of Wisconsin, and he talked about it, and I decided in that moment that this is something that we really needed to do," senior Wellness Ambassador Megan Ritz said. "I really wanted to get it going, my advisor really wanted to push the project forward, so we started right before the quarantine started ... We were able to get so many people over quarantine [involved], and even just last week we probably had about 100 people get bandanas."

While OU is not the first university to introduce this project to their campus, it is still a relatively new idea. About half a dozen schools across the country are participating — OU is the first in Michigan. So far Rec Well has distributed over 250 bandanas, and they are hoping to get more out now that the semester has started.

Despite rolling the project out right as COVID-19 hit, Rec Well believes the timing of it is perfect. According to Health and Wellness Coordinator Cortney Heileman, the Green Bandana Project ties in well with their

launch of the iPause program.

"At the end of the iPause workshop, we have a call to action, and with that call to action is how we introduce the Green Bandana Project by saying, 'you know what, now that we have identified how stress affects us and how we want to try and combat that stress, let's show support to others as well as to ourselves with mental health, and this is an awesome way that you can do that, so let's get involved with the Green Bandana Project at OU,'" Heileman said.

According to Heileman, the timing was also appropriate to launch the Green Bandana Project due to the support it got from student organizations like OU Student Congress.

This past winter, President Ethan Bradley and Vice President Annabella Jankowski ran on a platform of supporting mental health initiatives, and both are participants in the Green Bandana Project.

Since the semester has begun, Heileman has seen students wearing the bandanas on their backpacks around campus. Both her and Rec Well Associate Director of Programs and Administration Becky Lewis think this project will be valuable to create a safe and welcoming environment at Oakland.

"It's important for campus culture for the students, but it's also important to get it into the culture of faculty and staff," Lewis said. "Because we have faculty working with students you know either virtually or in person, and students need resources sometimes, and they're trying to figure out where to point them. Faculty and staff also need resources for themselves, so I think it's a bigger picture thing."

Students can join the Green Bandana Project by searching for it on the Oakland website or through filling out this form. Each bandana comes with a resource card for students to reference should they need access to support services.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CORTNEY HEILEMAN

University Recreation and Wellbeing launched the Green Bandana Project, inspired by the University of Wisconsin, to combat stigmas surrounding mental illness.

Rec Center to reopen Sept. 24

LAUREN KARMO
Staff Reporter

After a few weeks' delay following the governor's executive order, the Oakland University Recreation Center will be opening on Thursday, Sept. 24 with limited services, capacity and hours.

The Rec Center will only be allowing 65 people into the facility at any given moment, and will be open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Since the announcement of the governor's order reopening gyms with 25% capacity, the Rec Center has been strategizing ways to reopen and maintain a safe environment.

"It's important that we keep in mind our guiding principles as a department that we had developed," said Greg Jordan, director of university recreation and wellbeing (Rec Well). "First and foremost is the safety of participants and safety of our student employees who are working."

While the Rec Center is going to open Sept. 24, not all services will be available for use. In addition to the basketball courts closing to accommodate space for cardio equipment, the pool, fitness annex, racquetball courts and locker room showers will be closed to members.

Workout equipment has been spaced out to accommodate a 10-foot distance, and a plexiglass shield has been installed at the welcome center desk. When in the Rec Center, all will be expected to fill out their MySail screening questions, wear masks and socially distance.

In addition to the physical changes to the Rec Center, Rec Well will be increasing the staff to monitor capacity and increase cleaning. According to Jordan, prior to the pandemic, the Rec Center would typically have three student employees working. Now, they have increased that number to six.

The Rec Center will also have a cleaning crew come once or twice a day to spray down the facility, similar to how classrooms

are being cleaned across campus.

"We'd love to offer more [services], but it really is what [Jordan] said about everybody following protocols and following safety procedures and doing their part," said Marie Vanbuskirk, assistant director for leadership and engagement. "Us in our commitment to clean and to follow those and model those protocols and enforce them, and our members ... being prepared to know what to do when they're in there."

While certain services aren't available yet, Rec Well has devised a plan to phase in services until they return to operation prepandemic. Jordan and the rest of the Rec Well team will be monitoring the executive orders in addition to the experience at OU to move forward.

Throughout the summer, Rec Well has been developing plans and reorganizing the setup of the Rec Center to achieve their goal of safety, as well as comply with the regulations set forth by the executive order. Their delay in opening since the Sept. 9 allowance was due to finalizations in plans and seeing how other universities and facilities have been operating.

In order to monitor capacity, Rec Well has rolled out new software accessible to students through myrecwell.oakland.edu, which will allow students to sign in with their Net ID and password to sign up for in-person or virtual classes, find Rec Well updates and see how busy the Rec Center is.

"Our new technology we've implemented during the time we're closed will allow us to have a dashboard that shows capacity, and we will be rolling that out shortly," Vanbuskirk said. "It's just something new that they've come up with and we're really excited about. And we do have a new portal called myrecwell.oakland.edu, where people can go and look at activities and register for any in person or virtual things we offer, and that's where the dashboard would be displayed."



PHOTO | SOPHIE HUME

New Board of Trustees member returns to alma mater

Trina Scott brings energy and excitement to BOT

MICHAEL PEARCE
Editor-in-Chief

After giving the keynote speech at Oakland University's 2019 spring commencement, Trina Scott thought she had reached the peak at OU.

A year and five months later, she was named to the OU Board of Trustees, appointed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer for an eight-year term.

"Having the ability to come back and make a greater impact at the administrative level is a dream come true for me," Scott said. "I thought that giving the commencement speech last year was the pinnacle but being appointed to the board by the governor ... I really can't put it into words."

Scott is a former OU women's basketball player and alumna, and before being appointed to the Board of Trustees, was a member of the Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA).

For the past three years, Scott worked at Quicken Loans as the Chief Diversity Officer. There, she learned the power of diversity, equity and inclusion in the work environment.

As chief diversity officer, Scott worked to create diverse opportunities for all citizens, whether it was home ownership or access to career opportunities.

"When I think about being on the board, I'm elated," she said. "I think those same principles are transferred there. Inclusion has to be at the forefront for the university."

A former Golden Grizzly on the court and in the classroom, Scott described coming full circle back to her alma mater as "utopia."

Not only did Scott play for the basketball team, but she also tutored students as well.

"I think the university gave me different perspective — I had a chance to get involved with many organizations on campus," she said. "Now, having the ability to come back and make an impact at the administrative level is a dream come true."

After earning a degree from OU, Scott expressed her excitement, optimism and a few nerves over being able to enact change at a higher level.

"I'm super stoked, super excited and I'm also a little nervous because I want to make sure that I bring about continued growth from the university," Scott said.



PHOTO VIA OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
Trina Scott was appointed to the Board of Trustees by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, and the former Golden Grizzlies basketball player is "stoked" to be back.

With diversity as a focus of her job at Quicken Loans, Scott is familiar with the diversity of Metro Detroit, as well as the immediate surrounding area of Oakland.

"I think there's a great opportunity [for diversity]," she said. "And, the university is already partnered with the city of Pontiac, which is arguably the second or third most diverse city in the state. I think there's more opportunity there to be able to leverage the resources of Oakland for supporting educational efforts in Pontiac."

At the university level, Scott sees opportunity to grow the brand and notoriety of OU in Oakland County to the level of the University of Michigan and Michigan State University.

"I'm so excited about that," she said. "I see billboards everywhere advertising that we are also a viable option that isn't as far as others but also gives you that same communal feeling that you could have if you went away somewhere like Lansing or Ann Arbor."

On her senior year visit to OU, Scott was partnered up Reverend Joe Jones' then-girlfriend and now-wife, Jessie Powell. Years later, Jones was appointed to the board with Scott.

"They have been good friends of mine since 1991," Scott said. "To think about Joe and I both being appointed at the same time on the board — I don't even know how to put that into words."

Wilson Hall’s construction was completed in 1965, after being personal overseen by Matilda Dodge Wilson, Oakland University’s founder, for almost a decade.

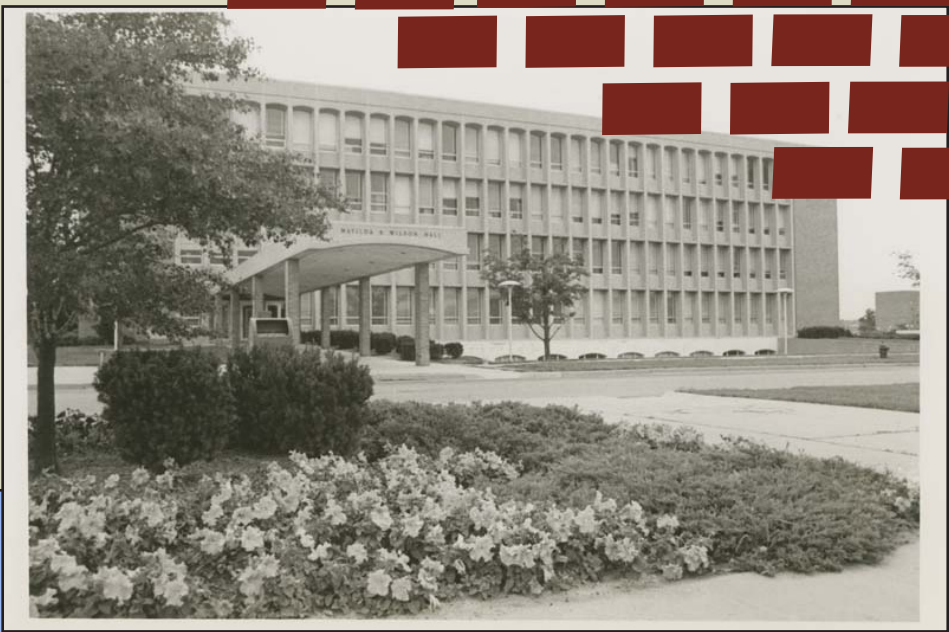


Photo Courtesy of Kresge Library



Today Wilson Hall (left) appears similar to its original design because it has never recieved any major renovation until now.

In 2022 (bottom), the renovation is expected to modernize the building and include Admissions, Disability Support Services (DSS), a tutoring center and a testing center.

Sophie Hume | Photographer



Photo Courtesy of Oakland University

Wilson Hall renovation underway

Design and Story by Emily Morris | Photos by Sophie Hume

Coming in 2022

Beginning this month, Wilson Hall will have its first complete renovation since establishment in 1965. Wilson Hall is rooted in Oakland University's history — the building's namesake is university founder, Matilda Dodge Wilson. Its opening ceremony was on her 82nd birthday and it is an original feature of the Michigan State University-Oakland (MSUO) campus.

Wilson Hall was originally home to social science and humanitarian departments. Now the building features some classrooms on lower levels and many faculty offices, including President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz.

Wilson Hall will introduce several areas that will make the building more student focused, making it a focal point on campus.

The impending renovation and additions will give the building room for Admissions, Disability Support Services (DSS), a tutoring center and a testing center, according to John Beaghan, vice president for finance and administration. Many of these department — admissions, DSS and the tutoring center — are being relocated from North Foundation Hall.

The structure's initial construction was followed closely by Wilson, its benefactress, for almost a decade. In fact, Wilson Hall's inception predates OU's founding date: 1957.

The building was literally one of the first pieces of OU's foundation — Wilson placed the final cornerstone to officially welcome the hall to campus. Then Wilson died two years after its completion, making it one of her last donations to campus.

"The opportunities to, here, develop an institution of higher learning of great significance to the region, the state, the nation and the world are almost without bounds," Wilson said in a proposal for MSUO. "Here again

in the words of Andrew Carnegie, there will be erected 'ladders upon which the aspiring can rise.'"

This reflects her aspirations for OU as a whole, but Wilson Hall was a personal project that was the basis for further development.

The current development of Wilson Hall has been under consideration since 2017. The project will include roughly 40,000 square feet incorporated into four new stories — this is nearly half of the size of the building now: 98,153 square feet. To put this in perspective, Wilson Hall will surpass the Engineering Center's size — 127,000 square feet — post-renovation.

Oakland University has allotted \$20.54 million of bond proceeds to finance the project. Considering inflation, this price tag is roughly the same as the original cost (\$2.28 million) to construct the hall. With the price tag implying modernization and new square footage, Wilson Hall could be a new hub on campus once completed.

Although the renovation will not interfere with any classes, students and faculty will have the wait until 2022 to use the new spaces. Parking lot two will be temporarily closed to account for space for construction workers.

Further renovations to campus can be expected in the future.

"The Wilson Hall expansion and renovation project is one of several large projects on campus," Beaghan said. "A second project, that is awaiting final State of Michigan approval, is the South Foundation Hall expansion and renovation. A third project that is in the design phase is the Varner Hall expansion and renovation."

Oakland University will continue to evolve as years tick by — the master plan of expected renovations has lofty changes in mind for almost every corner of campus.

Rare books librarian connects with students

BRIDGET JANIS
Staff Reporter

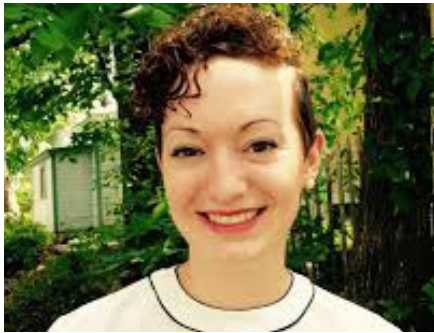


PHOTO COURTESY OF OU
Emily Spunaugle is a rare book librarian.

Oakland University's first rare book librarian, Emily Spunaugle, was introduced in October 2019. Although a coordinator of archives and special collections oversees all the archival materials and rare books, Spunaugle is the first to specifically direct the rare books only.

She felt this was a great position for her since she is also currently working toward her doctorate in book history at Wayne State University.

Collections she takes care of includes, the Springer Collection — which is about Abraham Lincoln — collections of local history material dating back to the 19th century and the Marguerite Hicks Collection, which is women's writing from the 17th-19th centuries.

"It's so exciting to watch students, or anybody when they touch a rare book or something from the '60s or '70s. You're the one touching it, and you can see, 'oh this is the hand made paper,'" Spunaugle said. "You're opening a book but it's like a portal into another time and place, but it's also very familiar because we still have books."

The Marguerite Hicks Collection is one Spunaugle works with a lot and tries to introduce to students often. At the moment, she is a co-director of the Marguerite Hicks Project along with Dr. Megan Peiser. They are doing research on this collection to better understand the reasoning behind the writings and original collector, Marguerite Hicks.

Spunaugle has further plans for the rare book room. They are in the process of getting grants to improve the environmental conditions for the books from the National

Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and The NorthEast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC). She makes sure that each book is in the most ideal situation to make them last as long as possible.

Moving forward she wants to encourage students, faculty and visitors to interact more with the rare books. She tries to incorporate them into classes, her own and other instructors'.

"The most exciting part of this role, that I have and that I've been able to do so far, is finding ways to get these books into the hands of students," Spunaugle said. "[I'll use] any excuse to get students to touch and handle properly and experience these older books, or these books you wouldn't be able to just pull off a shelf or see everyday."

Spunaugle just finished working on two articles, coming out this fall, about a book in the rare book collection with only one copy in the world. The book is "Mary, the Osier Peeler," which is a short poem from 1798.

"From doing research, I was able to determine who the author was, and I learned a lot about her family and the fact that she wrote this poem and sold it so she could help support a really, really poor family," Spunaugle said.

One article that she has coming out will talk about how the unknown author that she has identified is actually known in other genres of writing, such as travel. Spunaugle puts the information of the two writing styles together to better understand the author.

The second article will be a scholarly edition, an introduction to the poem and explanations to words that could be misunderstood to a 21st century reader.

Spunaugle is not yet ready to start her dissertation, but her research will be focused on women's writings that were unpublished.

"The thing that I'm most interested in is women that paid for their books to be published or printed," Spunaugle said.

She wants to look further into the women that didn't want to go the traditional route of going through a publisher and instead just paid for about 200 copies to be made to pass among their friends and peers.

"That's something that I'm interested in looking at. To see why they would do that, how it worked[and] who'd they send it to," Spunaugle said. "[I want to] just get a better sense of this phenomenon that we know happened but we haven't spent a lot of time researching it."

Professor publishes book about lost ballet

RACHEL YIM
Staff Reporter

Elizabeth Kattner, an associate professor of dance at Oakland University, is publishing her passion project — a book titled, "Finding Balanchine's Lost Ballets" in November.

While studying at Free University Berlin, Kattner discovered her passion for researching dance. During her time pursuing her doctorate there, she became particularly interested in the lost ballets of the early 1900s.

"Ballets are passed on person by person, and because very little was filmed that early in the 20th century, most ballets from the era have been forgotten and are no longer performed," said Kattner.

As her research continued, she became enamored with American ballet choreographer George Balanchine. Ultimately this fascination led to Kattner publishing a dissertation about his career in Russia and how his work developed dance in both Russia and the United States.

"Balanchine trained in the Imperial Ballet in Russia and was an up and coming choreographer in Petrograd (now St. Petersburg) in the early years of the Soviet Union," she said. "In 1933 he moved to New York to establish the New York City Ballet. His work in Russia between 1920 and 1924 was pivotal to the development of dance in both the US and Russia."

Her dissertation on Balanchine was so compelling and well received that it opened the door to the possibility of reconstructing one of Balanchine's lost ballets through writing.

"The dances from the early 20th century were very modern (for that time) and many are no longer performed," Kattner said. "I went to a ballet performance and saw a ballet that had been lost, and then reconstructed."

According to Kattner, part of her book focuses on reconstruction as a way to bring back the lost dances. Through this sort of anthropological process, a dance artist takes what materials are available from the lost dances and pieces together the choreography. Kattner's new book also details her traditional historical research and her methods for combining that research with her knowledge and experience as a dancer and choreographer.

During the six-year publication process Kattner has stayed busy. She has done a variety of studio research, as well as presentations of her research on ballet. She was able to use the material she gained from her research in the studio while working with the dancers of the Grand Rapids Ballet.

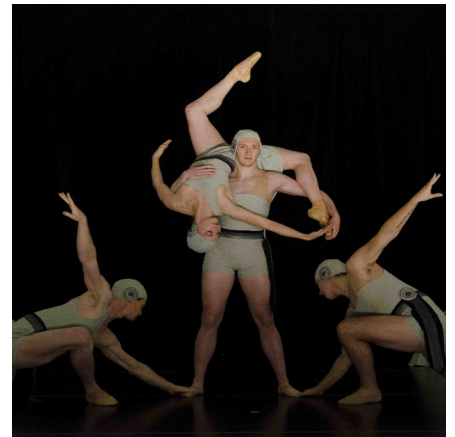


PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVEN
HOUSER AND CASSIDY ISAACSON
FROM THE GRAND RAPIDS BALLET IN
FUNERAL MARCH,

While developing this project, Kattner traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia to work in the St. Petersburg State Museum of Theatre and Music, as well as in the Central State Archive for Literature and the Arts. This trip was a blessing for Kattner not just because it advanced her research, but because it presented a valuable opportunity to practice learning the Russian language.

"Being allowed to work in the archives in St. Petersburg was so exciting. It was a great motivation to continue to work on learning [Russian]," she said.

Another occasion for research arose while she was in New York City, where she listened to recordings of ballet performers in the oral history archives of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts Jerome Robbins Dance Division.

Her new book has benefited from the more than a decade of research conducted across the United States and Europe. The work Kattner has put in has allowed her to synthesize a variety of textual descriptions with photographs and the study of Balanchine ballets while recreating this forgotten work for readers.

Moving forward, Kattner hopes to continue her research into dance of the early 1900s era. She even plans to improve her skills with the Russian language so she can better study early Soviet ballet. Her goal is to revive something meaningful for dance and all of humanity.

"Lost dances do not have to stay lost," she said. "They have meaning for us today. Maybe not the same meaning as they did for the original audience, but they do have meaning."

The U.S. Census needs an update to 'race' section

MEG SPEAKS
Design Editor

The 2020 United States Census has officially been released and with it, an issue that most citizens do not notice.

Every decade the census is sent to every person and family residing in the United States and collects the demographics of the household. One of the questions asks for the person's race, which in most cases is very clear. But for some, this is a confusing and annoying choice.

People of Middle-East and Northern African countries—known as the MENA region—are classified as white on the census and many other important documents and tests. Although they are Caucasian geographically, in the United States they are not treated as "white."

Masa Al-Harastani, from Flint, Michigan is Syrian and has had to comply with this.

"I have always had to fill in "white" because there was no other option that applies to me," Al-Harastani said.

The Census Bureau decided to not add a race category for the MENA region in 2018, as found in a memo from the Bureau in an NPR article. They did not provide a reason why.

Many believe this is unfair to MENA people, because being white in the United States automatically comes with privilege, and they do not receive it.

"When the census has us mark ourselves as white, but we don't get the same privileges as white people, it doesn't feel fair and it feels like it's erasing our identities," Al-Harastani said.

Religion, food and many other cultural differences are only a small reason why MENA people are not being properly recognized when considered white.

Religion is a big reason that people from

the MENA community are prejudiced against. Because part of the religion for women could include wearing a head covering like a hijab, it makes them an easy target from people who are xenophobic. Al-Harastani said that she feels like her headscarf is one of the many reasons she does not consider herself white.

This also affects them in more ways than not being represented in the census. Because they have to mark themselves as white on official documents, it can bar their chances for things like scholarships meant for minorities.

In an article for the Harvard Crimson, the author Salma I. Elsayed said, "I grew frustrated as I read through the eligibility criteria of multiple scholarships that deemed me ineligible. I sent emails hoping that perhaps they would understand: I am Middle Eastern, not white."

Students applying for scholarships or universities are not able to identify with their race or show that they are proud of their culture when they have to mark themselves as white first.

The census includes many other regional areas as a race. For example, most Eastern Asian countries are able to pick their country of origin as their race. Indian, Pakistani, Thai, and Cambodian are all options, but people from Syria, Iran, Egypt and Morocco are listed under the "White" category.

The U.S. Census and all official documents should be including more race options, even more than just adding MENA. This will make data more accurate and help people feel visible by the government that has made them feel invisible for decades.

"I definitely think the census should consider adding more categories for race. If there was an option for middle eastern, this would be more inclusive and make middle eastern people like myself feel more included in the census," Al-Harastani said.

OU partners with Detroit Institute of Music Education



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Oakland University's School of Music, Theatre and Dance partnered with the Detroit Institute of Technology Education (DIME). DIME was recognized as the top commercial music degree program in "Billboard" magazine for the past two years.

BRIDGET JANIS
Staff Reporter

Oakland University noticed Detroit Institute of Music Education (DIME) because they were in the top commercial music degree program in "Billboard" magazine for the past two years. Kevin Corcoran, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, reached out and initiated the partnership. DIME has always wanted a partner in Michigan, it was a mutually beneficial collaboration.

This partnership is giving OU students the opportunity to study more modern music, since OU usually offers a traditional standpoint. DIME opens up the different types of degrees music majors can consider.

DIME has been providing their students with music classes in Detroit for six years. They are built for students interested in being serious musicians. Since opening, they have graduated two classes of professional musicians in modern and commercial music.

"The beauty of DIME is that they offer degrees in commercial music," professor of music Amy Tully said "The student that wants to be a rock musician, the student that wants to be the music producer, that's the kind of student that is interested in the degrees that DIME offers."

DIME's students will now be considered OU students and be able to access all university resources. They can have access to things such as the faculty, housing, advising and financial aid. DIME students are allowed to transfer to OU, and OU students are allowed to take DIME classes. The partner-

ship is beneficial to both types of students.

"I think it's a fantastic opportunity for both OU and for DIME but also for the students in Detroit," Co-Founder of DIME Sarah Clayman said. "Partnering with a local university where the main campus is 20 minutes from downtown Detroit is going to make a big difference to the students' community."

Oakland University has opportunities for students interested in jazz, classical music, theater and dance already, but by partnering with DIME, it offers more commercial, modern music-industry perspectives.

DIME has a 200 person venue, where they would like to hold collaborative events with OU's music department. DIME suggests holding a masterclass with both students.

DIME's programs include students from 27 countries around the world. This is possible because DIME has been providing online programs for six years now and plans to increase online learning throughout the pandemic.

"We use virtual learning environments, which is very collaborative, and the students can communicate with each other through community areas," Clayman said. "So it's asynchronous learning but also the faculty will be holding real time classes via Zoom or Canvas."

DIME has classes in commercial music performance, like the guitar, bass, drums and vocals, commercial songwriting and music entrepreneurship.

"We're really focused on helping students get the skills needed to go and work in the modern music industry," Clayman said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOURVALLEY

Eight tracks inspired by the 2020 Black Lives Matter movement

JEFF THOMAS

Life and Arts Editor

The Black Lives Matter movement exploded in 2020. Activists across the United States scratched and clawed, often putting their wellbeing at risk, to spotlight the inequity in our institutions.

As a result, systemic racism has entered the forefront of public discourse and stayed there for months now. We've seen solidarity with the movement portrayed in our news, television programs, movies, sports, and perhaps most notably through the work of musicians.

Recording artists have made it their business to ride this tidal wave of social awareness and revive protest music. Here's eight powerful tracks that have come out of this year's BLM protests.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON
Anderson .Paak's track, "Lockdown."

"Lockdown" by Anderson .Paak

Anderson .Paak's swift ascension to the top of the hip-hop industry has been a socially conscious one. His two major record debuts produced by Dr. Dre "Oxnard" and "Ventura" were packed full of socially aware bangers like "6 Summers" and "King James." So, it was no surprise when .Paak showed up at BLM protests and then wrote the track "Lockdown" about the experience. The track features a gorgeous instrumental in line with the style of .Paak's throwback Motown and West Coast G-Funk inspired sound. A fantastic groove of opening and closing hi-hats, smooth electric bass, soaking wet keys and plucky funk guitars act as the canvas that .Paak layers his cool raspy tenor over. An unmistakably fresh and memorable track full of the lyrical miracle imagery that .Paak brings to the studio time and time again — music fans should go out of their way to experience this song.

"South Gotta Change" by Adia Victoria

Nashville's Americana artist Adia Victoria calls upon her knowledge of history and experience as a Black woman in the south to deliver a powerful call to action in her track "South Gotta Change." Inspired by the death of Congressman John Lewis and Martin Luther King's "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech, Victoria references her faith and intention to carry on past civil rights movements. A determined chorus featuring lines like "I stood up to the mountain, made the mountain say my name" and "if you're tired of walking, let the children will lead the way," is tastefully belted over a marching drum rhythm and haunting steel pedal guitars. The power of this track is the love Victoria feels for her community in the south. The boldness of the proclamation that she won't give-up the fight is enough to stir patriotism buried in the heart of even the most cynical citizen.

"Song 33" by Noname

Following George Floyd's death, Chicago rapper Noname became an outspoken voice for social justice on Twitter. She used her social media platform to call out politicians and famous members of the Black community for their complacency. Ultimately, this led to high profile rapper J. Cole dissing her in his song "Snow on Tha Bluff." Noname's response came in her eloquent track, "Song 33." In just over a minute, she masterfully asserts the legitimacy of her power and place as a Black woman in the public discourse by pointing out the hypocrisy in Cole's diss. Noname calls out the patriarchy's desire to erase the voices of women of color, and she refuses to be silenced. Poignantly dense, any feminist or BLM activist could find purpose in Noname's perspective.

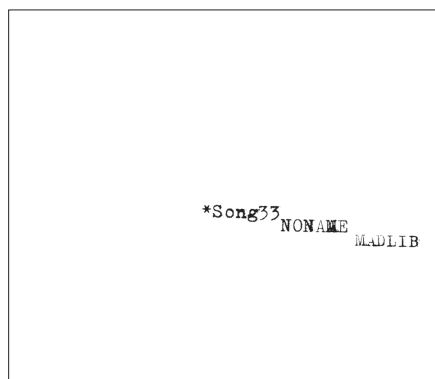


PHOTO COURTESY OF GENIUS
"Song 33" by Noname.

"Pinned to the Cross" by Rick Ross featuring Finn Matthews

The husk baritone of rapper Rick Ross cuts through as clear as pouring rain on his track "Pinned to the Cross." A brooding instrumental featuring the gloss production typical of Ross' high-profile projects acts as the perfect foundation for his fierce social commentary. The bass of Ross's impeccably flowing verses are juxtaposed with the delicate tenor vocals of Finn Matthews' sung chorus. This thoughtful song construction allows the track to feel as epic with biblical imagery. For the listener, this track is a worthwhile and relatable trip into the wide range of emotion Black people experience in America.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GENIUS
Terrace Martin and Kamasi Washington's "Freeze Tag."

"Freeze Tag" by Terrace Martin featuring Kamasi Washington

The contrast of music and subject matter in Terrace Martin's track "Freeze Tag" is heartbreaking by design. A soaring instrumental full of wholesome guitar chords, jazz horns, immaculately flowing rhythm and a bright vocal melody being combined with devastating lyrics about police brutality speaks to the cognitive dissonance of the senseless institutional violence in America. The music of this track perfectly embodies the beauty, love and light inside the innocent people lost to systemic racism. With this track Martin forces us to consider the impact of a meat grinder society that is chewing up and spitting out its citizens. He forces us to consider the innocence and humanity being lost and then reserves the beauty that is left for this artful track.

"Pig Feet" by Terrace Martin and Denzel Curry featuring Daylyt and

Kamasi Washington

Martin's track "Pig Feet" brings the darkest horrors of police brutality to light in a way that grips listeners from its opening seconds and keeps them in discomfort until the closing verse. The intensity of an instrumental featuring heavily distorted bass, a screeching brass section and at times piercing gunshots is matched by the rage in verses from rappers Denzel Curry and Daylyt. The track also features several chilling moments of people screaming out in terror from police violence. A sobering listening experience that portrays the pain and anger of African Americans, this is the kind of track that must be heard. At this pivotal moment in American history, it presents a reality that cannot be turned away from.

"Kill Your Idols" by Kemba

On his track "Kill Your Idols," New York hip hop artist Kemba captures the agonizingly conflicted feelings of a generation reconciling the sins in American history. Highlighting the harsh reality of the world, Kemba opens the song with lyrics like "knight in shining armor don't exist these days" and "honesty and honor don't exist these days." His verses contemplate the effect a morally bankrupt society has on its people. Focusing on mental health, Kemba uses his chorus to state plainly how anger and anxiety have made people unstable. The track is painfully relatable, playing on the fears of a younger generation that knows it has to pull a society together out of the ashes of present-day America. The spacey trap instrumentation is in perfect harmony with the contemplative nature of the track. Listeners need to find the three minutes to consider what Kemba has to say.

"I Can't Breathe" by H.E.R.

Multitalented hip-hop and R&B artist H.E.R. comes through for BLM with her multifaceted track "I Can't Breathe." A shining example of the emotional effectiveness of contemporary R&B, the popping accents of sliding guitar chords and tangy bass lines are layered masterfully over a snapping rhythm. Pointed social commentary is delivered through sublime lead vocals that are backed by a stunning gospel of vocal harmonies. The clarity of message displayed throughout the song reaches an impassioned pinnacle during H.E.R.'s spoken third verse. The depth of H.E.R.'s lyrics here reach into every aspect of the circumstances that have led to our current social crisis. The song is a testament to the power of protest tracks. A must listen for any socially conscious

OPINION

Our lives are tragic — the death of RBG is not



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOD TIMES SANTA CRUZ

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died on Friday, Sept. 18 with her daughter by her side. Ginsburg's dying wish was that her replacement be nominated after the 2020 presidential election

JEFF THOMAS
Life and Arts Editor

When it rains it pours, and 2020 has been one long torrential downpour. The spiraling panic brought upon by the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is the latest storm that the American people must ride out. The immediate response to her death has been concerning to say the least.

As much as I loathe to say this, the lionization of public figures is yet another obstacle for progress in America. Frankly, it is deeply unsettling to see the idolatry of public officials persist, despite the miserable conditions of our lives.

Now, it must be acknowledged that RBG lived a remarkable life. What she achieved exceeded all reasonable expectations. She has rightfully earned her place in American history, and the fact that she spent her final days fighting for her country with every breath is a beautiful testament to the love and dedication she felt for her country.

Still, even those who regard Ginsburg as a feminist icon, who see her as a saint among the hellish evil of our rotten political class, must reconcile the fact that despite her efforts, women and minorities are still second class citizens in this country.

So, if an individual as incredible as Ginsburg was unable to create tangible change, how is it in any way sensical for our people to continue resting all hope

on the shoulders of a handful of political figures?

The answer is as simple as it is sobering — there will be no political saviors. Present-day Americans worshipping members of the political class is about as logical as a wound worshipping a band aid. That is to say that the healing will come from within, not from whatever is concealing the surface.

Our institutions are compromised, they have failed us. The current system that has inflicted so much misery and human suffering must be changed. It is unacceptable that in the purest reduction of our present state of affairs I can linearly trace so much death and despair to the unmitigated greed of the ruling class.

I mean, how low have we sunk that the fate of our democracy rested upon a woman clinging to life at the ripe old age of four score and seven?

We need to move forward in unprecedented ways to counter these unprecedented circumstances. We need to move forward instead of constantly looking back. Let the dead rest.

I hope for the sake of my country that people start to recognize that what is tragic is not the loss of an individual light like Ginsburg that was fully absorbed and recognized by so many, but the reality that our society is smothering out millions of young beacons with the potential to shine as brightly as she did.

 Information courtesy of the Oakland University Counseling Center

MENTAL HEALTH TIPS DURING COVID-19



1. It's okay to not be okay

Take a break, mental health is just as important

2. Be flexible and adaptable

Accepting change makes it easier to deal with

3. Know your limits on news consumption

Balance is key, keep your consumption healthy

4. Write three things you're excited about each morning

Give yourself something to look forward to

5. Write three happy things about your day at night

Even the smallest things count

6. Routine is king

Focus on the things you can control

7. Connect with others creatively

Social media, video calls, online parties

8. Daily self-care

Exercise, relaxation, pet therapy, journaling

9. Acknowledge the grief we're experiencing

Loss of loved ones and of our old lives/routines

10. Know your resources

Call OUCC at 248-370-346, talk to friends/family

Men's basketball 2020 schedule up in the air

MICHAEL PEARCE

Editor-in-Chief

The men's basketball team narrowly avoided having their season cancelled by the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020. The Northern Kentucky Norse won the Horizon League title days before the outbreak halted the sports world.

Now, they are dealing with the aftermath. Just recently, the team regained access to the O'Rena to shoot around. Initially, the athletes and coaches were only allowed one at a time, but five on five is soon on the horizon.

"We haven't done anything but shoot — that's all," Head Coach Greg Kampe said. "We are properly following the governor's rules. They're in there with masks on and we're just one coach and one player. This week we'll try and do some stuff with more than one player."

Kampe felt the team was about a week away from practicing as a group in five on five scrimmages.

Eventually, the team will be back practicing as normal, but the bigger questions revolve around the schedule. The non conference schedule is up in the air, with Oakland's marquee matchups depending on the other conferences' decisions.

"We're unsure of anything right now until all of the leagues decide what they're doing," Kampe said.

The annual game against Michigan State University (MSU) is an OU tradition. Despite the tradition and relationship between Kampe and MSU Head Coach Tom Izzo, that game is also not guaranteed anymore.

"It's all going to come down to what the Big 10 does,"

Kampe said. "They [MSU] have the Big 10/ACC Challenge — they have the Champions Classic. All those things are what's going to determine whether we'll be able to make up the game or not."

Kampe has discussed the OU/MSU game with MSU, and both sides want to play the game this season.

The Horizon League schedule will also be revised, with the league planning on scrapping the league schedule and restructuring it. The current number of games is undecided, but Kampe felt there could be a shortened schedule in comparison to last season.

Potential options include playing a full 22-game Horizon League schedule or a shortened schedule of 16-20 games.

"Once that's dictated to us, then we'll know how many non league games we can play," Kampe said.

With so much uncertainty, the men's basketball team is in a state of limbo right now. Not having a guaranteed schedule has been tough, but according to Kampe, not being able to get into the gym until recently has been the most difficult part.

"I think everybody's hated not being able to get into the gym," he said. "That has been really hard on everyone. We've got six or seven new players and we've never seen them play."

A disparity between OU and other Horizon League schools is the rules which vary state-by-state surrounding COVID-19. Michigan, being one of the stricter states, has put the Golden Grizzlies behind the eight ball.

"We want to get going and we want to get teaching, but we have to follow the rules like everybody else," Kampe said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS

With COVID-19 delaying the basketball season, certain out of conference games are in question.

"We're behind the curve. Our state has been a lot more stringent than the other states in our league and there are a lot of teams in our league that have already played five on five workouts."

Above all else, though, Kampe stressed the importance of his student-athletes' safety.

"We're taking it one day and a time and we're trying to do what's best for the student-athletes — their health and welfare has to be number one, and that's what we're trying to do," he said.

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- Maintain positive relationship with OU Athletics

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Send three writing samples of any kind and a resume



Swim team alters routine to adjust to loss of Rec

EMILY MORRIS

Managing Editor

The swim teams began practicing in the Recreation Center (Rec Center) pools again on Monday, Sept. 20 after the pandemic forced a sudden hiatus in mid-March.

Although easing back into some normalcy is welcomed, Coach Peter Hovland assured swim athletes have been “thinking outside of the box” and have “stayed focused” without access to OU’s Olympic-grade pool.

In an effort to continue conditioning, Susan LaGrand, junior team leader, created her own makeshift weight room for her and her teammates.

A rotation of cars parked precisely against a simple storage unit provided motivational music to a simple storage, stocked with exercise equipment. She made a gym out of thin air, during the summer when the pandemic made gyms vanish.

“We’re all just trying to be as optimistic and positive as possible, and like everybody, we’re just taking things one day at a time... In some ways it’s been kind of exciting and fun, and that’s the outlook everybody’s going to take,” Hovland said.

The summer wasn’t entirely void of pool practices though. In addition to LaGrand’s impromptu preparations, the Rochester Wingate Country Club opened their pool up to the team in August and September.

Some swim athletes sought out additional local pools to train individually in the summer too.

After a summer of uncertainty, the men’s and women’s swim teams are able to return home and begin practicing in the Rec Center’s pool — with a few safety precautions.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS
LaGrand took on a leadership role and found creative options over the summer so the swim team could continue practicing.

All athletes have to take two COVID-19 tests — the viral and antibody — before being approved to practice. The viral test shows if someone currently has COVID-19, while the antibody test is a blood test that can determine if someone has ever had or has COVID-19. After approval, athletes can begin the process to enter the Rec Center.

“There’s only one entrance to the building [the Rec Center],” Hovland said. When you enter the building you’re immediately greeted by someone on staff from the athletic department to make sure you filled out your daily

[health] survey... There’s also a hand sanitizing station, and someone takes your temperature, just to even get in the building.”

Upon passing each test at the entrance, athletes’ temperatures are taken a second time once they reach the pool area. While on the sidelines, all athletes have to remain masked, and even after entering the pool, they have to remain socially distanced (at least six feet apart).

Locker rooms are not yet open to the public, but the swim team is allowed to have four people in the room at a time. Given that there’s almost 60 athletes on both teams combined, this could extend pre-practice preparation a great deal.

Despite COVID-19 precautions delaying practice, this is progress from the summer so the team is taking all the necessary steps.

The size of the pool in the Rec Center also allows the space to easily stay safe once everyone is inside.

“We’re very blessed to have a wonderful facility... It’s very easy for us to keep six feet apart in our lanes,” Hovland said.

The summer forced OU’s swim teams to find their own structure during a time without the Rec Center or gyms. Although entering the Rec Center may look different, its reopening has allowed the team to reestablish two staples of their routine.

“I think just once we can get back into the water, [we’ll] get back into a routine,” he said. “This is a big part of who they are, this is a big part of what they do and some of them are kind of lost without it. So we’re glad that we’re able to start bringing it [the Rec Center] back into the flow now.”



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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

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Here's how to actually stall a new Supreme Court nomination

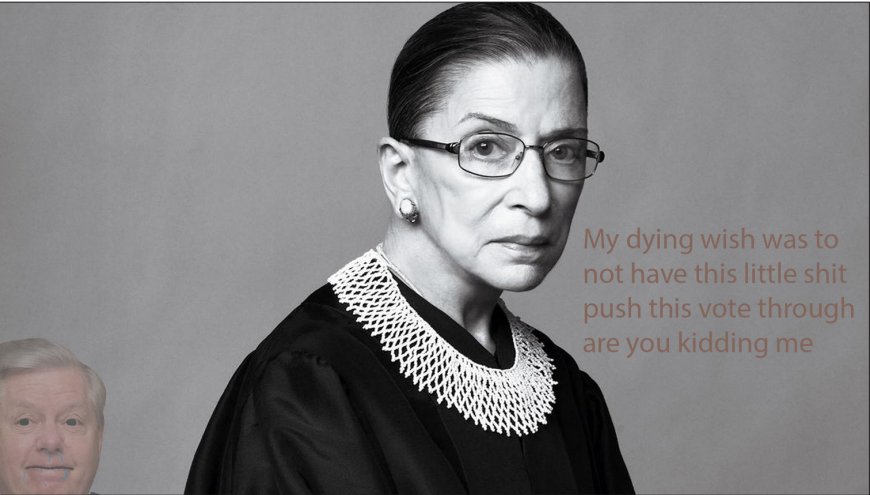


PHOTO | BEN HUME
Lindsey Graham took a huge piss on Ruth Bader Ginsburg's dying wish by displaying a supreme display of hypocrisy, something he vowed he wouldn't do in 2016.

BEN HUME
Web Editor

Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, mourned the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG) by taking her final wishes and pissing all over them. Ginsburg's final wish, spoken to her daughter while on her deathbed, was that "I will not be replaced until a new president is installed."

The passing of Ginsburg left a void in the Supreme Court that is a critical tipping point for many progressive laws. You see, RBG was the single Supreme Court Justice keeping a relative split between liberal and conservative justices on the bench. With this vacancy, Republicans have the opportunity to fill a third justice in the four year presidency of Donald Trump.

Democrats have mobilized to stop the Republican attempts at rushing a new Supreme Court nominee in a multitude of ways, most notably trying to use Graham's own words against him. At the end of former President Barack Obama's final term, there was also a Supreme Court seat up for grabs. When Obama attempted to fill this seat, it was Graham himself who said that the Supreme Court should never be filled in an election year.

Graham said that "I want you to use my words against me if there's a Republican president in 2016 and a vacancy occurs in the last year of the first term, you can say Lindsey Graham said let's let the next president, whoever it might be, make that nomination."

Democrats became extremely confused, then, when the very same man that

said you should use his words against him now saw Graham actively ignoring the final wishes of the late Ginsburg. Democrats suffer from the inability to accept how the Republican party has worked for the last few decades, and I will now hold a crash course on why this man isn't keeping his promise.

Democrats operate on the assumption that once a standard is set, politicians on all sides must not commit a double standard and double back on their own promises. Republicans have long abandoned the notion that they have to stand by their promises, and thoroughly enjoy running circles around Democrats who clutch their pearls and exclaim "but you said you wouldn't do that! You can't do that!"

Because Republicans have long abandoned the premise of being reasonable people, they can do whatever they want as the liberal opposition's only defense is to whine about their abuse of power. So what can be done to solve this issue? Well there are many ways to stall the senate for a month and a half in order to grind the Supreme Court hearings to a halt, but the Democratic establishment has a much less effective way of solving this problem.

Just vote! Because surely voting in two months will solve the problem of a Supreme Court justice being installed in the next few weeks, before anyone gets a chance to vote.

So if you want to actually attempt to stall this hearing, don't be a Pelosi—call senators and tell them to do everything in their power to stall the hearings, because we don't have the luxury of waiting for the election to sort out this garbage.

Information courtesy of Oakland University and the Center for Disease Control

COVID-19 BEST PRACTICES

1. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
3. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
4. Stay home when you are sick.
5. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue. Immediately throw tissues away.
6. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects or surfaces.
7. Keep all age recommended vaccines up to date including annual flu vaccine.