

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

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Kindness Week gives back to community

Students help with service projects: art mural, blankets, check-in cards and movie night Page 5



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Viewing 'KIKI' furthers LGBTQIA+ conversations

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Some masks are safer than others but ranking shouldn't surprise

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Lamariyee Williams finds spot in rotation after challenging 2020

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THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



SAFETY FIRST Oakland University was ranked third safest campus in the nation by *collegemagazine.com*. The rankings are based on several factors, such as on-campus violent crime reported, campus safety resources and total disciplinary incidents.
PHOTO / OAKLAND UNIVERSITY



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South Foundation Hall renovation goes underway.
Photo/Sophie Hume



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President Pescovitz speaks on how she made Sunset Terrace her own.
Photo/Oakland University



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Freshman Micah Parrish looks to lead his peers.
Photo/Golden Grizzlies

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POLL OF THE WEEK

HOW DID YOU SPEND YOUR VALENTINE'S DAY?

- A) WITH MY PARTNER
- B) DOING MY OWN THING
- C) ASLEEP
- D) WITH MY FRIENDS

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

IF YOU COULD GET ONE VALENTINE FROM ANYONE AT OAKLAND, WHO WOULD IT BE?

25%
A) PRESIDENT PESCOVITZ

19%
B) COACH KAMPE

50%
C) GRIZZ

6%
D) AD STEVE WATERFIELD

CAMPUS

South Foundation renovation and addition underway

LAUREN REID

Sports Editor

Construction started Feb. 1 on Oakland University's South Foundation Hall's massive upgrade — a \$40 million dollar renovation and expansion — according to a recent press release. The building's square footage is jumping from 49,645 to 91,100 square feet, with classrooms increasing from 37 to 50.

The project is slated to finish in May 2023 — as construction was delayed in light of COVID-19.

"It is a much needed improvement to an old building, resolving significant deferred maintenance and will provide additional space for students and faculty in the addition," said John Beaghan, vice president for finance & administration and treasurer to the board of trustees.

Not only is space increasing, but improved technology, mechanical systems and modernized aesthetics are coming too.

The expansion will bring technology-enabled learning environments, active teaching and learning seminar rooms and collaboration, project and study space, according to the outlay plan.

"South Foundation Hall is one of the oldest buildings on campus and definitely need[s] to be updated," Senior Associate Provost Michelle Piskulich said. "The building provides only limited space for students to collaborate before or after class, has classroom sizes that are not optimal — especially given the ceiling height — has mechanical systems that are at the end of their useful life



SOPHIE HUME | PHOTO EDITOR

Renovation began on South Foundation Hall Feb. 1.

and with only one freight elevator, is not very accessible."

The renovation also hopes to address the need for space in academic areas such as STEM, health professions, education, humanities and the arts.

"South Foundation Hall is at the front door of our campus and frankly looks dated," Piskulich said. "With the new exterior, it will be a building we want to show off — really communicat[ing] that we are a university of

choice. I know faculty will really be excited to have more modern classrooms when the project is complete, and I think everyone will like the collaboration space."

In 2016, OU's Master Plan stated the university reflected nearly a 500,000 square foot deficit based on state guidelines and informal benchmarking of similar institutions. That being said, the need for more space is evident — the South Foundation renovation will play a pivotal role in successfully supporting space initiatives.

"We will have more and better classrooms for sure, but I also think this renovation and addition will add to the beauty of our campus," Piskulich said. "Each new project we have done in the last 10 years or so has improved the overall aesthetic of campus and kept students front and center in the planning — I'm excited to see students in the building and enjoying it."

The project is also sustainable — according to the outlay plan, sustainable design principles will be integrated. These include saving energy and conserving resources, potable water use reduction, usage of recycled materials, reduction of carbon footprint, among others.

Due to COVID-19 and remote coursework in Winter 2021, the South Foundation construction is not expected to have a significant impact on campus operations, nor will there be a tuition increase.

"We hope [it will be] a building [students] want to hang out in, not just pass through," Piskulich said.

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Creative Writing reading showcases alumni and faculty works

DEAN VAGLIA
Staff Reporter

The Oakland University Creative Writing program held their third-annual faculty and alumni creative writing reading event on Tuesday, Feb. 9.

Hosted over Zoom, the 6 p.m. event was headlined by OU English professor Annette Gilson and University of Washington lecturer and Seattle-based poet C. R. Grimmer, an OU alumni. The two read selections from their most recent works, explained some of the inspirations and background behind the passages and took questions from the audience.

Gilson was the first of the writers to present their work. Despite describing herself as more of a novelist than a short story writer, Gilson chose to read “The Proposal,” a short story inspired by her time working in an eccentric and upscale Manhattan restaurant in the 1980s. “The Proposal” will be published in an upcoming edition of the literary magazine “Fiction.”

“I did get proposed to when I was working as a waitress there,” Gilson said. “Though not all of what happens in the

story is true, so I kind of went off from that basic premise.”

When given the metaphorical floor, Grimmer read three poems. Two were from their recently released book “The Lyme Letters” and one from their chapbook “O—(ezekiel’s wife).” “Lyme Letters” has received praise from John Beer, Geoffrey Davis and Tyrone Williams.

“[‘The Lyme Letters’ poems] are very strange,” Grimmer said. “The book comes out of pretty much the same years I was at OU ... so they are all letters ... They are very much trying to figure out how to navigate living in a kind of Pentecostal Michigan home and not really being out yet and having a deep affinity for caretakers in your life that are sometimes your pets.”

Gilson was one of Grimmer’s professors while they attended OU, and the detail was brought up throughout the night.

“I want to say I am really pleased to be the introductory reader for tonight’s [event], in that it seems fitting because I am one of the people who introduced [Grimmer] to the world ten years ago,” Gilson said before her reading. “And now

here we are celebrating their book prize and publication.”

The first dedication in “The Lyme Letters” is to Gilson.

After Grimmer finished their poems and the audience unmuted to applause, the authors for the evening answered questions from the Zoom text chat. One student asked what the best piece of advice Gilson and Grimmer had for aspiring writers. To Grimmer, it was to be prepared for rejection.

“You have to depersonalize from rejection,” Grimmer said, making sure to mention Gilson gave them the advice at OU. “Everyone in [creative writing] programs are trying to publish, and what I noticed is the people do continue and get their work out there are willing to get rejected over and over ... I have colleagues who are way better writers than me at academic prose, and they are way less published because they just really struggle with the peer review process or struggle with the rejection piece.”

Gilson has been teaching at OU for over 20 years and published her novel “New Light” in 2010. She is currently working on five novels including a trilogy

of young adult novels titled “Skyrider” and standalone novels “Mouse and Goose” and “A Book of Mirrors.”

Grimmer attended OU from 2007-2011. Alongside writing poetry and teaching, Grimmer runs “The Poetry Vlog,” a video series and podcast discussing the intersections between poetry and pop culture.



PHOTO COURTESY OF POETRY FOUNDATION

C.R. Grimmer spoke on their most recent work at the third annual writing event.

Explorations lecture series discusses ‘Truth Decay’

JESSICA ORLANDO
Staff Reporter

Oakland University hosted their final winter session in the Explorations lecture series featuring OU professors Garry Gilbert and Holly Shreve Gilbert.

On Wednesday, Feb. 10, the pair hosted a presentation on news literacy aimed at offering ideas for consumers to find “the best obtainable version of the truth.”

Shreve Gilbert is an adjunct instructor and chief advisor in the Department of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations at OU. Her courses focus on topics such as feature writing and publication design. She is also the co-founder and producer of journalistsatwork, as well as a volunteer on the board of directors of the National Funeral Consumers Alliance and Michigan’s Funeral Consumers Information Society.

“Let’s talk about the role of the news media,” Shreve Gilbert said.

She highlighted that news media should be focused on publishing “fair and accurate” reports that can also be of interest to the public, that the news media should help citizens feel engaged while also monitoring power. Lastly, the news

media should be a public forum in which citizens can discuss news openly.

Garry Gilbert is the director of the journalism program at OU. He has worked as a reporter, editor and executive director in print journalism for over 40 years. Gilbert advises OU’s independent student newspaper, the Oakland Post, and has earned multiple honors and awards throughout his journalism career.

“It is our goal tonight, in about thirty minutes, to give you some ideas as judicious consumers of news how to find the truth in an era of such disinformation,” Gilbert said.

Gilbert discussed complications of the search for truth in the media. He presented fake news, the public’s lack of trust in journalists and partisan style media as obstacles in finding the truth.

“In this country the news business is a business,” Gilbert said.

He pointed out that many news corporations are not non-profit, so they must build an audience for advertisement as well as make a profit in order for the media outlet to stay in business.

Continuing this discussion of the news industries’ consumer base, Shreve Gilbert explained social media’s role in the

current news media landscape.

“Social media really panders to our confirmation biases and many of us exist in a social media bubble where we don’t even realize it,” she said. “Human beings frequently don’t base their conclusions on facts.”

Gilbert backed up Shreve Gilbert’s statements by talking about the Rand report. He summarized that there is an increasing disagreement between both facts and analytical interpretations.

“We are seeing an increase in the relative volume — and therefore the resulting influence — of opinion and personal experience over fact,” he said. “...Lowered trust not just in journalists, but in formally respected sources of factual information.”

Shreve Gilbert offered a solution called fact checking but also stated that there seemed to be little evidence that Americans are accepting fact checks available to them.

“It is further incumbent on the public not just to be aware of fact checks, but to read them,” Shreve Gilbert said. “Then we have the additional issue of even those that read them sometimes don’t believe them.”

Gilbert agreed, saying that it is dire for news outlets to continue their work in fact checking without hesitation or fear. He went on to discuss another obstacle in seeking the truth that can be found in deliberately partisan media outlets. Some news organizations maintain bias as a means of appeasing their targeted audience.

“In fact, objectivity — the art of being an honest broker of news — has been a central tenet of journalism for decades,” Gilbert said.

Shreve Gilbert asked viewers to look at what kind of content their news and information is. Journalism of verification can help viewers seek information because it allows a certain degree of skepticism in order to find truthful news.

The presenters held a Q&A at the end of the presentation that offered material for consumers to look for truthful information. If consumers wish to check out local news for the state of Michigan, they can visit Bridge Michigan. Another resource recommended for consumers is All Sides, which presents both left, central and right side versions of the same news.

Campus community comes together for ‘Kindness Week’

BRIDGET JANIS
Staff Reporter

Everyone needs to be kind to each other, and sometimes people just need a little push to do nice things for others.

Oakland University makes sure to give students an opportunity to practice being kind to themselves and their community by putting on Kindness Week.

Every day during Kindness Week, which took place from Feb. 8 to Feb. 12, there were activities put on by the Office of Student Involvement, Mission Kindness and Golden Key. Each activity involved either being kind to yourself or others around the OU community.

“Kindness week is a week to spread kindness, not just to each other but also to our community,” Brisilda Musaka, president of Golden Key and secretary of Mission Kindness said. “It’s a week we do a bunch of service projects.”

Golden Key, an international honors society at OU, is a student organization on campus that holds a dog toy making event where participants sew old t-shirts into dog toys.

Mission Kindness is planning a huge mural, to symbolize small pieces coming together to make something big. Their final image will only be able to come

together after everyone does their part in sharing kindness.

Monday started Kindness Week out, as students created kindness cards that were passed out around OU. There was also a presentation on the impact of being kind and how important it is. On Tuesday there was a Netflix watch party where participants watched “Set it Up” on Netflix while participating in kindness-affirming activities.

“While that was going on, people were able to make these kindness cards,”

Emily Bernas, Graduate Assistant of Leadership and Service Programs said. “Or, just kind of take that time during the movie to watch it and destress and be kind to themselves.”

On Wednesday, OU had Dr. Emily Van Wassenova from the School of Health Sciences discuss how to be kind to yourself through your diet.

The official OU Day of Kindness was on Thursday, which also contained multiple service activities. Participants had the choice to either make an audiobook for

elementary school students or make a blanket to donate to Project Linus. Project Linus gives blankets to children in need.

To make the audiobooks, OSI borrowed a bunch of books and scanned them into Powerpoint presentations, which were emailed out to students. Then, the students created zoom calls with themselves and recorded their book.

The audiobooks were added to Google Drive. Teachers from Detroit Public Schools and Waterford Public Schools now have access to them.

“[Recording audiobooks] kind of came from the first semester, it was really hard for students who were missing out on all of the in person learning,” Bernas said.

Even with the pandemic going on, OU wanted to do their best to allow this tradition to continue on. Especially in this pandemic, it was important for OU organizations to be holding events that connect the community the best they can.

“You have to put in more effort to be a part of it, before you would just be walking by,” Sarah Bdeir, Vice President of Mission Kindness said. “But for this year you have to actually go to school just to participate, so it was like you had to go the extra mile.”



SOPHIE HUME | PHOTO EDITOR
OSI employees in the Rec Center for ‘Kindness Week.’

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North Star Reach Volunteers raise autism awareness

JESSICA ORLANDO
Staff Reporter

Oakland University’s North Star Reach Volunteers hosted a brief online meeting Tuesday, Feb. 9 which featured Marissa Gawel, a recruiter for University of Pediatricians.

The North Star Reach Volunteers (NSRVS) is a non-profit organization that has served children with chronic and life-threatening health challenges. OU has been one of the three major NSRVS chapters located in the Great Lakes Region.

OU’s chapter hoped to assist NSR in volunteer and fundraising opportunities. NSR partnered with Gawel from the University of Pediatricians to provide awareness and opportunities for students looking to help children with autism.

“We are part of University of Pediatricians ... specifically the autism branch,” Gawel said. “Our autism center has been around for a little over 10 years and we have branches in both the Novi and Macomb areas.”

University of Pediatricians was founded in 2008 by Dr. Diane Chugani, with the support of both Wayne State University School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics and Children’s Hospital of Michigan.

“We vary with the number of [autism] cases we take in, but I want to say that right now we probably have a combined total of 60 cases and we have intakes which means they are in the process of starting services,” Gawel said.

Services at the University of Pediatricians Autism Center included assessments available for families as well as treatment and support for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTH STAR REACH
OU’s North Star Reach Volunteers branch is one of only three in the Great Lakes area.

Gawel then went on to discuss the employment opportunity for students interested in becoming an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Technician specifically those that want to work with children with autism.

“I really want to reach out to students because the job of the ABA technician is working one-on-one with a child with autism and working on different aspects of their treatment plan,” Gawel said.

Students interested in becoming an ABA technician would work on programming and building skill sets the child needs to build up or assisting a child in meeting goals in order to be

reaching milestones that their peers are.

“Some of these programs include fine motor functioning or gross motor which is the larger muscles such as practicing clapping or hugging,” Gawel said. “We also work on behavior reduction, so you might be running behavior plans.”

An ABA technician is one of the few positions in which students can do clinical work. The experience from clinical work allows students to be able to get involved with therapy and working alongside with other professionals.

“It is really good experience to have in the field and we provide paid training,” Gawel said.

She also mentioned that the experience would look great on applications and resumes for students. The requirements to be an applicant consists of being over 18-years-old and having a GED. They also looked for applicants to be experienced with children, though that is not required.

Applicants chosen can be trained online for the duration of two weeks and receive pay for that training as well as additional pay after certification.

“Typically staff trains for two weeks and will not become independent until after certification,” Gawel said.

The training targeted specific aspects of ABA therapy in order to meet the different needs of children seeking services.

The employment opportunity is flexible in hours and students can learn more about the application process on the University of Pediatricians website. Students can also learn more about volunteer and fundraising opportunities with NSRSV on their website, the University of Pediatricians website. Students can also learn more about volunteer and fundraising opportunities with NSRSV on their website.

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CAMPUS

Pescovitz donates \$250,000, improving faculty diversity

EMILY MORRIS

Managing Editor

Dr. Ora Hirsch Pescovitz gifted \$250,000 to “jumpstart” faculty diversity initiatives in honor of her parents — Rabbi Richard Hirsch and Bella Hirsch — who’ve inspired her activism and career.

“I didn’t want to wait for an initiative because I thought it was really important for us to do the work right now,” Pescovitz said.

Since her beginning at OU in 2018, there has been “a lot of progress” in student diversity initiatives, according to Pescovitz. However, she still noticed a lack of staff and faculty diversity.

There were almost 77,000 people of color who earned a doctoral degree in 2018, compared to roughly 184,000 white people. To put that into perspective, people of color earned roughly 42% of doctoral degrees and in turn, occupy fewer professor roles.

“If you think about recruiting and retaining, we’re competing with other [universities],” she said. “Even if we have a great attitude about it and if we are a warm and welcoming place, think about how hard it is to do this [introduce more diverse faculty].”

Despite the logistic challenges, Pescovitz says offering a diverse set of professors is “necessary.” Progress was already moving in the right direction at OU, but Pescovitz decided to “jumpstart and accelerate” the process with her donation.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ORA PESCOVITZ
The Hirsch family poses in front of their home. Young Ora is in the far right, standing with her three brothers and parents.

Pescovitz’s first actions as president in 2018 was further campus diversity — adding diversity, equity and inclusion to strategic goals and hiring Glenn McIntosh as senior Vice President for student affairs & chief diversity officer.

While OU took note of campus diversity, Pescovitz made diversity an “articulated” priority.

Previously, OU’s strategic goals included student success, research and scholarly activity and community engagement.

“I felt that diversity, equity and inclusion needed to be a part of Oakland’s strategic plan — it’s not that we didn’t [already] care about it — but it wasn’t explicitly stated ... I believe if you don’t say something’s important and you don’t have tactics and strategies around it, you don’t accomplish those things,” Pescovitz said.

Pescovitz’s upbringing drew her to social justice — her father was heavily involved in the civil rights movement, and her mother “pushed her professionally.”

Bella Hirsch died in 2019, but Rabbi Hirsch is 95 and was able to attend the dedication ceremony on Monday, Feb. 15.

“I wanted to do it ... in my parents names while they were still alive so they could know how much their work inspired me and others,” she said.

More funds are needed for OU to continue to progress, but Pescovitz’s hopes her donations can be seen as both monetary and inspirational.

“We need a lot more money to make a really big difference so I hope other people will be inspired to do more, and I need our teams at Oakland... to make a difference,” she said. “That’s what it’s all about.”

37th annual WGS film festival to show ‘KIKI’

AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

The Women and Gender Studies (WGS) program will host their 37th annual film festival virtually via Zoom on Saturday, March 13 from 6-7:30 p.m.

The film documentary ‘KIKI’ (2016) will be the topic of discussion.

The film is about LGBTQIA+ and transgender youth involved in the ballroom scene — “a precursor to something like RuPaul Drag Race,” WGS chairperson Erin Meyers said.

‘KIKI’ follows seven characters from the Kiki community for four years, showing their struggles, battles, gains in political influence and gender expressions.

This film was supposed to be shown at last year’s event, but it was cancelled because of COVID-19. The WGS executive board continued the film festival tradition this year because of how long it has been running — it’s the longest running public event on campus.

“The film is so great and we [the



PHOTO COURTESY OF LC EXPLORER
The Woman and Gender Studies (WGS) program will host their 37th annual film festival via Zoom on March 13. The film, ‘KIKI’ is about LGBTQIA+ and

WGS executive board] didn’t want to lose the chance for people to see it,” Meyers said.

Attendees are asked to watch the film before coming to the Zoom for the discussion and panel at the set time.

“We thought that having everyone sit and Zoom together to watch a film together wasn’t a good way to host the festival,” she said.

The film is easily accessible via Kresge Library, YouTube, Amazon Prime, Google Play and iTunes.

While it’s free to attend, it’s required to register in advance.

The panel during the Zoom will feature three local speakers, Jay Kaplan, Des Tibaud and Bridget Butts.

Kaplan is an attorney for ACLU of Michigan’s LGBT Project. He has challenged undercover sting operations targeting gay men and has fought against the amendment that prohibits same-sex marriage.

Tibaud is an OU alumni and is a drag king — a woman artist who does masculine drag. They’ve been involved in the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) at OU and were a volunteer DJ at WXOU.

Butts works at Ruth Ellis Center and is the coordinator for TransJustUs. She is the director of programs at the Trans Sistās of Color Project as well.

All the members on the panel have experience with the issues covered in the film. They all will talk about what they do and how they individually relate to the topic.

The panelists will address questions from both Meyers and the audience. Meyers, who has a doctorate in communication, is a professor at OU and has her master’s in Women and Gender Studies. She has also done research in feminist analysis.

The audience will be muted and submit questions via chat to help with moderation. The goal was to make this festival as similar to previous festivals.

“We wanted to do it [virtual festival] as closely to the original set up as possible, and we didn’t want to lose any aspect of the discussion,” she said.

The day before the event, those registered will get a Zoom link via email that will take them directly to the event the following day.

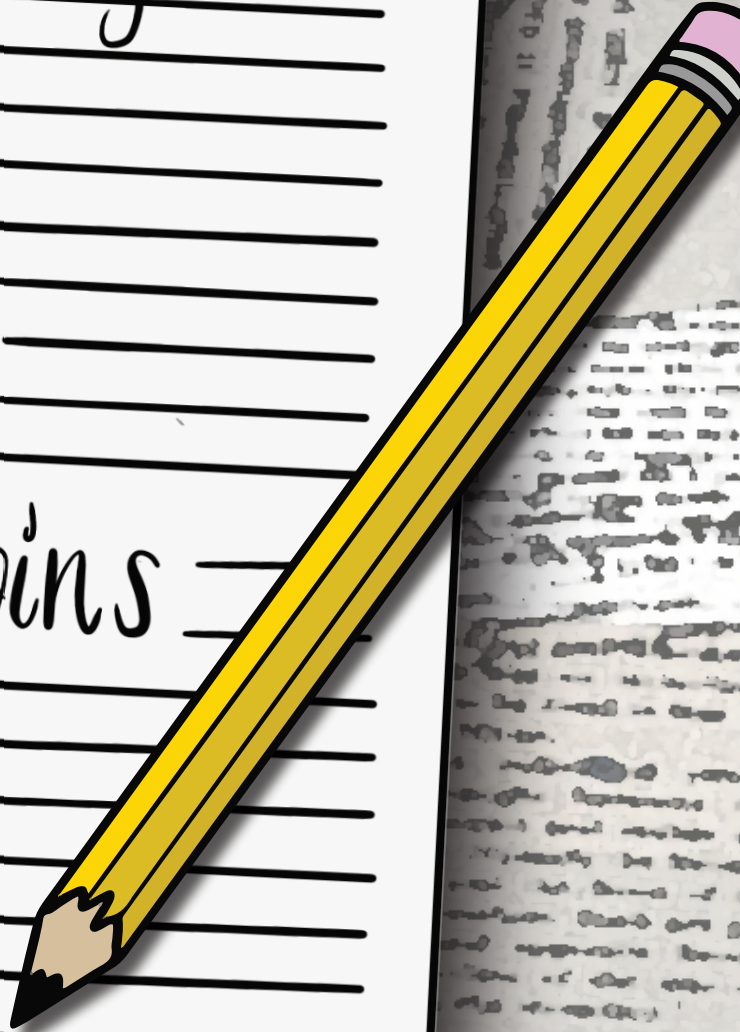
Guolan Yang

Advertising

analyst joins

the
journalism

department





RACHEL YIM

Staff Reporter

In August 2020, the department of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations at Oakland University welcomed its newest faculty member, Guolan Yang.

“It was a dream come true moment for me,” Yang said. “I had always wanted to be a university professor since I was a child, so I was full of passion and excitement when I received the job offer from OU.”

As an OU assistant professor of journalism-advertising, Yang is currently teaching two undergraduate courses: intro to advertising (JRN 2400) and advertising account planning and research (JRN 3410).

According to Yang, JRN 2400 provides students with a basic overview of advertising principles and practices, and JRN 3410 focuses on the role of account planning in ad campaigns, allowing students to conduct primary quantitative research and develop an advertising plans book.

While Yang has always wanted to be a professor, it wasn’t until during her undergraduate years when she discovered her passion in mass media and decided her career in journalism. After undergraduate study, she said she worked as a social media intern in the United States, and managed an organization’s social media accounts and created branded content.

“This professional experience enhanced my knowledge of social media marketing and eventually facilitated me to research internet advertising and digital marketing campaigns,” she said.

After earning her bachelor’s degree in China, she moved to the United States to further study and ultimately obtain a Ph.D. in mass communications at Penn State University.

For research, she focuses on the effectiveness of social media advertising, the effects of sponsorship disclosure on covert advertising processing and the strategic use of messaging to promote public health.

As a professor, Yang hopes to make meaningful contributions to the field of advertising through both her teaching and research. She hopes that students can learn useful knowledge from her classes and apply them to the real world and further develop their understanding of the field of advertising.

“Nowadays, the advertising landscape is changing rapidly,” Yang said. “There are always exciting new things coming up which are worth researching. I hope that I can help push further our understanding of the field of advertising.”

An unusual time to start a new job, all the new-faculty welcome activities and orientations had to be moved online due to COVID-19. Yang said she’s thankful for the virtual conference platforms during these unprecedented times that allow her to teach synchronously and meet her students and colleagues every week.

“During the pandemic, we are not able to meet face-to-face,” Yang said. “But I would hope students can turn on cameras in Zoom and get more involved in discussions.”

While Yang has adapted to the social distanced experience of this pandemic, she is looking forward to a return to normal so she can meet up and share ideas and experiences with students and other faculty members in person.

Yang is currently putting efforts into receiving the National Student Advertising Competition (NSAC), hoping her students can present their plans books to the client and judges at the NSAC in the near future. With these goals in her mind, she strives to provide her students as much knowledge as possible everyday.

Settling in at Sunset Terrace: Home of OU's presidents

EMILY MORRIS

Managing Editor

If walls could talk, Oakland University's Sunset Terrace — the retirement of OU founder Matilda Dodge Wilson — could tell countless stories of cutting-edge architecture and art, extravagant events and vast visitors.

The structure was made to be the “home of the future,” according to Madelyn Rzadkowski, curator of Meadow Brook Hall.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEADOW BROOK HALL
Sunset Terrace was built in a mid-century modern style, incorporating many curves and circles into the design. The home was originally meant to be a retirement home for Matilda Dodge Wilson and her husband John Dodge.

Sunset Terrace has a mid-century modern style, highlighted in exclusively curved walls, brick wall features and expansive windows. The main living room is an inlet oval with windows spanning across the back to feature OU's nature and the Meadow Brook Amphitheater.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEADOW BROOK HALL
This is the main living room in Sunset Terrace with Wilson's furniture. This space originally looked out to the Wilson's farm, until the Meadow Brook Amphitheater was built.

“It's been attributed to two different things: the Wilson's built it for their sunset years — for them to retire in — and those windows have a really great view of the sun setting over their farm property,” Rzadkowski said.

Rzadkowski noted Wilson was warned about the proximity to loud amphitheater — which was built in 1964 after Sunset Terrace — but Wilson simply responded, “I like music too.” Since, new presidents are sometimes jokingly warned to be a fan of music or purchase earplugs before moving.

Wilson also appreciated other types of art and incorporated them into the home. The curved walnut staircase is lined with etched-glass portraits of her horses and her plane.

After the death of her husband, Wilson left the property in 1963. Since then, Sunset Terrace has been home to OU's first Chancellor D.B. “Woody” Varner and former Presidents and interim Presidents Donald O'Dowd, former President Joseph Champagne, Sandra Packard, Garry Russi, Betty Youngblood and George Hynd.

Today, Sunset Terrace is home to President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz is the most recent president to live in Sunset Terrace. She moved into the residence in spring of 2018.

“President Pescovitz has actually decorated it in a similar way to how the Wilson's had it, but her art especially makes the house shine,” Rzadkowski said.

Every room and hallway has pieces of Pescovitz personal art collection puzzled into the decor.

In the entryway, there's a 12-panel set by Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons that fills the entire wall. Adding to its grandness, Campos-Pons paid a visit to Sunset Terrace, where she spoke about her art.

The house is “fantastic for entertaining,” according to Pescovitz. Before the pandemic, Pescovitz would host up to eight events a month, ranging from six to sixty people in attendance.

“[The events] have been just wonderful,” she said. “That is one of the things that has made the pandemic hardest for me... It's the university's house, and Dan [Pescovitz's partner] and I treat it like that. We feel privileged to live here.”



EMILY MORRIS | MANAGING EDITOR
This is present-day Sunset Terrace. The interior is entirely decorated by President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, focusing on her extensive art collection.

With the onset of the pandemic, Pescovitz has also shifted more to her at-home office space, instead of her on-campus office in Wilson Hall. She's felt “moved” by the university history she's involved in, occupying Wilson's old office.

Wilson originally ran their family's 1400-acre farm, and similarly, Pescovitz runs Oakland University from that office.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEADOW BROOK HALL
Wilson pours a drink in the dining area. Her furniture was meant to mirror the architecture of Sunset Terrace, highlighting circles and curves.

Today the office is primarily decorated with family photos and Pescovitz's book collection, which includes dozens she's contributed to writing.

There is one aspect that doesn't fit into these categories, though. Positioned directly behind her desk is a photo of the Wilsons as a reminder of OU's history, according to Pescovitz.

“When I'm thinking about running the matters of the university I also think about the fact that our founder sat here and ran a very important business,” she said. “I think — well — if she could do it, I can do it.”

‘To All the Boys: Always and Forever,’ hits the mark

The third movie is a fitting end to the Netflix trilogy, wrapping up the story



PHOTO COURTESY OF NBC NEWS

Condor and Centineo in ‘To All the Boys: Always and Forever.’ With the love letters, the cute strawberry pancake dates and the surprise gestures, this movie gets people in the “I want to be in love” kind of mood.

BRIDGET JANIS

Staff Reporter

Another Valentine’s Day, another weekend of watched sappy love stories on Netflix. Just in time for the Hallmark holiday, “To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before” released their third movie in the trilogy, “To All the Boys: Always and Forever.”

This trilogy is adapted from a book series by Jenny Han and is all about love letters and old school crushes.

Lara Jean (Lana Condor) and Peter (Noah Centineo) finally are facing the problem they were afraid of — college. With Stanford on Peter’s mind, Lara Jean is just praying she even gets in.

During the film, it’s senior year. Prom and the big field trip to New York City are coming up, and everything seems to be happening so fast.

Things are changing and while Peter and Lara Jean’s love is strong, it is put to the test during the time of college acceptance letters.

When it comes to those high school relationships, not all of them make it through college. No one should choose their college based off of someone else. This movie does a great job at highlighting how important your own wants are in a relationship.

This series of movies always seem to be so heartwarming. While it happens to be that typical high school romance, it just has something about that makes it stand out, without being super cheesy.

Relationships take a lot of compromise, that’s something Peter has to work on. He

made Lara Jean feel like it was his way or no way when it came to choosing a college. Even in the second movie, his jealousy and toxic masculinity really showed.

While Peter had to have these emotions to create the conflict for the movie, my feminist side wanted Lara Jean to leave him. But, my romantic side wanted them to talk it out.

“To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before” series has always had some romance mixed with a little self love. The overall look of the film didn’t feel as cheesy as the first two. Visually, it had some sort of tint that made the movie feel more mature, which helped show the development of the characters and storyline throughout the series.

Peter and Lara Jean were the main story, but there was also a highlighted part about the father and his new wife, which was a great addition to the plot. It was something simple that seemed to add a lot and tie up some loose ends in the series.

With the love letters, the cute strawberry pancake dates and the surprise gestures, this movie gets people in the “I want to be in love” kind of mood.

The movie was fun to watch after seeing the first two films in the trilogy, but it was time for the series to come to an end and this was a great way to end it. This one was way better than the second, but the first one with the original love letters will always be iconic.

There was also one scene where Lara Jean’s friend got a subway bouquet, and now I need one too.

Rating: 4.5/5 stars

‘The Map of Tiny Perfect Things’ needs a road map

EMILY MORRIS

Managing Editor

Debuting right before Valentine’s Day, Amazon Video’s “The Map of Tiny Perfect Things” was as compelling and romantic as a children’s rug city map.

Even the writers thought the movie was forgettable, since they forgot the title phrase when making the movie. Characters repeatedly call “perfect moments” instead of “perfect things.”

“The Map of Tiny Perfect Things” opens with the traditional “Noah Centineo-type” character Mark (Kyle Allen) running into a flirty girl multiple times throughout the day, and then the plot shifts interest — without missing a beat — to an aloof, uninterested, cool girl Margaret (Kathryn Newton). Despite Margaret’s preferred solidarity, Mark begins stalking her as his first romantic gesture.

If one odd turn wasn’t enough, the plot adds in a “Groundhog Day” element. Everyone is reliving the same day over-and-over again, but Mark and Margaret are the only people who realize the anomaly.

While this clarifies Mark’s stalking, beginning a love story with the protagonist secretly following someone initially comes off as unnerving.

Mark urges Margaret to make the most of each day, but Margaret is more discouraged by their situation and is just trying to get through each day. Because everyone else is “asleep” — mindlessly caught in the loop — it’s surprising they don’t immediately try to save the world, but the protagonist is too selfish for most of the movie to care.

In the majority of the movie, Mark focuses on “wearing [Margaret] down to date him,”

insulting his father’s passion project and relentlessly venting to his best friend.

That being said, the supporting characters in the movie are undoubtedly the most enjoyable to watch. They are more developed with specific interests and compelling dialogue — it’s too bad Mark is the main character.

The plot does take a turn for the best near the end, when Mark begins to grow as a person. But by then, it’s a little late and inorganic to transform him into a likable character.

Since he began becoming a better listener, “The Map of Tiny Perfect Things” couldn’t round out to a romantic ending. After all, Margaret has made it clear throughout the movie she’s only interested in a friendship with Mark.

Would “The Map of Tiny Perfect Things” completely railroad consent and unnaturally insert romantic fireworks? You can take a lucky guess or dive into this wild ride of a movie, but don’t forget a map.

The Amazon original is full of predictable romantic comedy tropes and still manages to feel unlikable for most of the 99 minutes with sloppy writing. The cluster of unrelated tropes were shoved into one movie with few attempts to connect them until the last 15 minutes.

“The Map of Tiny Perfect Things” could have checked off most of the boxes for a cheesy romantic comedy, but the plot veers from that direction. Instead the plot tries to be taken seriously, while still taking many shortcuts.

If anyone wants to actually feel like they need a road map while watching a movie, “The Map of Tiny Perfect Things” will be a must-watch.

Rating: 2/5 stars



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

Amazon Video’s “The Map of Tiny Perfect Things” was as compelling and romantic as a children’s rug city map.

Some face mask alternatives miss the mark

EMILY MORRIS

Managing Editor

The pandemic has required everyone to wear masks — disposable, face gaiters, homemade, etc. — in public areas, but not all masks are equally effective.

While the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has repeatedly confirmed the necessity of masks, a quick loop in the grocery store will show not everyone prioritizes health. Some masks are routinely slouching below snotty noses and others remain in place, but are only a sneeze away from bursting.

Some departments at Duke University began distributing masks to the community and clarified whose masks were doing the most against COVID-19. A study was conducted with 14 different masks, ranking their safety.

With a box, camera, laser and tester, professors tested each mask 10 times, measuring the particles leaving the masks. This determined which masks protected the user and the people around them the best.

At the end, some commonly used masks — folded bandanas, neck gaiters and knitted masks — offered almost no

protection. These options were determined to be almost as effective as just not wearing a mask at all.

This study doesn't just let the public know who to steer clear of in the grocery store, but could be a way for companies to test their masks before they're released to the public.

"This is a very powerful visual tool to raise awareness that a very simple mask, like these homemade cotton masks, do really well to stop the majority of these respiratory droplets," researcher Mark Fischer said to CNN. "Companies and manufacturers can set this up and test their mask designs before producing them, which would also be very useful."

The most effective mask was the N95 mask, often used by health care professionals. Three layer disposable masks and homemade cotton masks also ranked well and are more accessible. This is the complete ranking, which corresponds to the photo of all the masks:

1. Fitted N95, no valve (14 in photo)
2. 3-layer surgical mask (1)
3. Cotton-polypropylene-cotton mask (5)
4. 2-layer polypropylene apron mask (4)
5. 2-layer cotton, pleated style mask (13)

6. 2-layer cotton, pleated style mask (7)
7. Valved N95 mask (2)
8. 2-layer cotton, Olson style mask (8)
9. 1-layer Maxima AT mask (6)
10. 1-layer cotton, pleated style mask (10)
11. 2-layer cotton, pleated style mask (9)
12. Knitted mask (3)
13. Double-layer bandana (12)
14. Gaiter-style neck fleece (11)

This study offers specific statistics to rank the masks available, but the results shouldn't surprise many.

The masks that performed the highest are also the most secure with the highest thickness. For anyone still making a political statement by putting people's lives in danger, here are concrete results.

These rankings offer positive affirmation for everyone following CDC guidelines and being as safe as possible.

On the other hand, bandanas and neck gaiters have shown positive health results in the past year with the exercise its users get by scooching the fabric up every few seconds.

While someone shouldn't need exact statistics to start caring about others and wearing effective masks, hopefully, this



PHOTO COURTESY OF HARTFORD HEALTHCARE

These are the 14 masks that were tested in the study at Duke University. The most effective mask was the N95, used by many health care professionals.

will be a wake-up call for droopy mask users. No one's shopping spree needs a stranger's runny nose and grumbling attitude. Be safe for yourself and the people around you.

'Bridgerton' is a diamond of the first water

GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH

Contributor

"Bridgerton," Netflix's diamond of the first water is a "Gossip Girl" meets "Pride and Prejudice" television series produced by Shondaland that has called on more than 82 million households since its Christmas Day debut.

While "Bridgerton" may have all the charms of a Jane Austen novel, it is also scandalously saucy — enough to strategically plan your bathroom and snack breaks to avoid the embarrassment of watching those types of "scenes" in company saucy.

Based on the popular book collection "The Bridgerton Series" by romance author Julia Quinn, the television show follows the Bridgertons, a wealthy, revered and close-knit family living in London in the early 1800s.

Their sole focus is to have Daphne, the eldest daughter, married by the end of her first debutante season. Royally proclaimed as flawless by the queen herself and a diamond of the first water by Lady Whistledown, Daphne becomes the focus of every eligible suitor on the marriage market.

Her days are to be filled with promenades and her evenings with balls set to classical renditions of modern-day pop songs until she finds a suitable match. But, her eldest and overbearing brother Anthony strays every suitor away who does not meet his standards of perfection. Soon, Daphne is left with a very limited number of suitors, and even Lady Whistledown questions whether Daphne is really the crown jewel of the season.

Daphne is left in quite the predicament until Simon, the swoon-worthy duke of Hastings, arrives. And when I say swoon-worthy, I mean step to the side, Mr. Darcy. There is a new regency heartthrob in town.

Simon, irked by all of the romantic attention, and Daphne, irked by the lack thereof, plan an elaborate ruse in which they pretend to enter courtship.

This makes Daphne once-again desirable to high society suitors and allows the marriage-hating duke to avoid accosting debutantes and their pushy families.

While the show primarily focuses on the relationship between Daphne and the duke, there is also a multitude of other equally compelling plot lines involving members of the Bridgerton clan, the garishly garbed Featheringtons, an opera singer, boxing entrepreneur, modiste and an imposing queen with a love for matchmaking.

Last but not least, we have Lady Whistledown: an enigmatic writer who spills all the English tea in a gossip column that has captivated high society in London. Her insightful episode voice-overs, uttered in a bellowing and regal tone, add the right amount of extra drama.

Lady Whistledown is voiced by none other than Julie Andrews, which makes it even better. Every royal movie and television show must include the Queen of Genovia. I don't make the rules.

A part of what makes this period drama unique is its visible display of diversity. As someone who loves the works of Jane Austen and period dramas, I couldn't help but feel a little bit excited to see people who look like me bring this story to life.

However, I expected more complexity surrounding the topic from a show produced by Shondaland. There is a fair amount of well-written dialogue dedicated to discussing the hardships of being a woman of the regency era, which begs the question: Why was race and how it influenced this fictional society brushed under the rug?

"Bridgerton" is certainly a step in the right direction, but there is a lot about the show that is not perfect. Netflix needs to address its problems with colorism in the Black community, white saviorism and why there is a consistent lack of character development for people of color. This isn't the only show on their streaming platform with these issues. In upcoming seasons, I think Bridgerton has the potential to address race further and to cast under-represented actors.

"Bridgerton" also attempts to demonstrate consent in a relationship, but at the same time completely disregards it. I won't delve into any spoilers, but I think toxicity, dishonesty and violation should never be romanticized. It should be addressed, but in the context of the damage it causes.

"Bridgerton" offers a binge-worthy form of escapism. Each episode is written like a good chapter in a gripping novel, leaving you wanting more. There are obvious flaws that should have been corrected, but its attempt at a modernized regency love story filled with dazzling spectacle and cheeky scandal is worth watching.

Rating: 4/5 stars

OPINION

Trump's trial: Another disaster for Democrats

JEFF THOMAS
Campus Editor

Four years of political back-and-forth over accountability seemingly came to an end last Saturday, when the Senate voted 57 to 43 in favor of impeaching Donald Trump for his involvement in the Jan. 6 insurrection at the capital.

The decision, in which all Senate Democrats and seven Senate Republicans affirmed the articles of impeachment, was 10 votes shy of the threshold necessary for impeachment. Trump was therefore acquitted of all charges.

An apparent constitutional crisis, our democracy is clearly flawed when the 57 Senators voting in favor of impeachment can represent 76,704,798 more Americans than the 43 Senators against impeachment and still lose the trial.

I mean if President Trump, with his historic litany of scandals, his deranged idiocy and corruption that barraged the country virtually every day during his term, could not be impeached through constitutional impeachment proceedings — then who could ever be impeached through the process of constitutional impeachment?

The process is obsolete and outdated, and so is the Senate chamber. The continued reign of minority rule in the U.S. is a plague to millions of struggling citizens. It is unsustainable that progress can keep being stifled by a few powerful people, something has got to give with the way our government functions.

The week of shocking video evidence and a bumbling defense from Trump's legal team, culminated with a puzzling end to the Senate's impeachment trial, when Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer decided to rush to the decision, foregoing the call of witnesses that Democrats had fought for.

The Democrats have defended the surprising move to forego witnesses by arguing that calling witnesses was essentially a waste of time because Senate Republicans were not going to vote in favor of impeachment regardless.

Characteristic of the Democratic party leadership's dedication to profound political impotency, this defense raises the question: what was the point of spending a week on the impeachment trial if you're not going to see it through till the end?

Instead of working to pass a desperately needed stimulus bill to address the continued devastation of COVID-19, Democrats dedicated a week to political theater before caving to Republicans and moving into a



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOTHER JONES
Former President Trump was acquitted, he is now able to run for president again.

recess. Not a good look for the party that just overtook all three branches of government, and an incoming president who ran on leadership and competency.

As ugly as this failure is politically for Democrats, it will be compounded further if they can't deliver comprehensive relief soon. People are losing everything as they continue to drag their feet, and it's not like there aren't options the Democrats have access to right now.

It is a known fact that an executive order relieving student debt relief would make a huge impact for low income communities, still President Joe Biden hasn't moved on the issue. Even the promised \$2000 stimulus checks could be forced through the Democrat-controlled House and Senate as a stand alone bill and signed by Biden, still the Democrats aren't doing anything.

After the past week, the Democratic party looks incompetent, weak, and dangerously out of touch with the needs of the American people. These early stumbles in the Biden administration are a gift to the Republican party, which is being handed all the ammo it needs to strike back as strong as ever in the 2022 midterm elections.

With Trump now off the hook, he will in all likelihood seek the presidency again in 2024. The Republican party is still the party of Trump, and Trumpism will continue to plague the nation.

If the Democrats are serious about putting Trump and all he stands for to rest for good, the best thing they can do now is get to work and make the strongest case for themselves being in power. Meaningless political gestures aren't going to be enough.

Stimulus checks and inside Biden's COVID-19 relief package

AUTUMN PAGE
Staff Reporter

President Biden's term is in full swing, and he's making good on his promise of COVID-19 relief. Which, I don't know about you, but this gives me a glimmer of hope.

Democrats have proposed a bill that will give U.S. citizens \$1,400 in stimulus payments to people who make under \$75,000 a year.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has said that the House of Representatives wants to pass the coronavirus relief bill in the next two weeks. The amount of money for the check could still be subject to further negotiation.

The plan proposed by the Democratic party is expected to closely follow President Joe Biden's proposed package to address the tolls of the coronavirus pandemic.

President Biden said that he backs the Democratic stimulus bill that would provide \$1,400 stimulus checks. A man of the people, if you will.

A group of 10 Republican lawmakers revealed their alternative stimulus plan that would scale back the checks to \$1,000 per adult and lower the income cap for receiving payment.

That plan would cut the cost of a third stimulus check to \$220 billion, compared to the \$600 billion Biden's plan is set at.

Biden said he will not back down on the \$1,400 sums he promised Americans. There are more than just stimulus checks within Biden's COVID-19 relief package.

Additional checks are going to have the goal of bringing recent direct payments to \$2,000 in total — including \$600 authorized by Congress in December.

But, the president has signaled he is open to changing eligibility requirements. "We need to target that money, so folks making \$300,000 don't get any windfall," Biden said.

I really appreciate his efforts to make the relief money more accessible to people who actually need it and are still struggling. Biden's plan also includes a \$350 billion package that would be disbursed to schools and minimum wage workers.

I've long since debated with people on raising the minimum wage, and it's something that I believe in, but I also acknowledge that it'd be hard on smaller companies.

I read an article recently about the pro's and con's of raising the minimum wage, and I think there are good points to each side.

It'd get minimum wage workers above the poverty level and raise the standard of living, but also would cause more layoffs or slower hiring — smaller companies wouldn't be able to afford the hiring of multiple employees.

Trying to reopen schools is a good goal to have, even though I hate sitting in a classroom after not having to for 10 months.

I've seen first hand that kids in high school grades or below do better in person at school, in contrast to all online. For example, I know some high school students who have said that they have a hard time focusing in online classes and feel as though they have learned nothing. I can agree, I haven't learned as much with online classes compared to in-person classes either.

Roughly \$130 billion would help schools reopen safely, \$40 billion for colleges battered by the pandemic and gradually raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour. There has been uncertainty surrounding whether increasing pay can be included in reconciliation, a process focused on the budget and related items.

"I don't think it's [minimum wage efforts] going to survive," Biden said.

Biden said that he plans to push for a stand-alone bill to raise the minimum wage.

The relief package and the talk of raising minimum wage again gives me hope that we're on the right track



PHOTO COURTESY OF CNBC
Biden has promised to not back down from a \$1,400 stimulus for the next relief package.

Oakland Baseball is set to get back on the field

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL
Staff Reporter

The Oakland University baseball team is set to take the field for the first time in 11 months, starting their 2021 season Friday, Feb. 19 at Middle Tennessee.

Head Coach Jordon Banfield said the team is ready for the season to begin.

"I certainly know that our guys deserve a real season and I'm glad that's going to happen — I'm certainly ready to get on a bus and get outside," Banfield said. "Even if it's 40 [degrees] in Nashville next Friday, that's fine with me."

The Golden Grizzlies are coming off a season in which they finished 2-10 overall, with the conference season being completely wiped out due to COVID-19. Banfield was hired on May 29, 2020, which would have normally been during the tail-end of the season.

The timing of how early the process started was definitely unique," Banfield said. "It was a longer process than probably normal — the situation where nobody was playing certainly allowed for that, but also made it difficult because everything until the end [of the offseason] was Zoom or phone call, all that kind of stuff."

Banfield said the offseason was different just because of "the amount of hoops we had to jump through."

"The summer was definitely different because I couldn't go watch a game," Banfield said. "That's what I do every day during summers, I go recruit. I think the thing that I would say has been the toughest to overcome is the lack of being

able to get in the weight room as much as usual with the number of people that are allowed in there and that kind of stuff. That's been the biggest negative for me and the thing that's held us back."

Relief pitcher Dan Rutan was able to stay loose during the extended offseason by "staying mentally prepared."

"Obviously there's a lot of things going on right now that are kind of out of your control so you just have to stay on top of what you can control," Rutan said. "That's really the biggest thing, whether it's a physical aspect or a mental aspect, just taking pride in what you do, and being ready to go whenever your number is called."

Rutan, a senior and the captain of the team, spoke about the importance of his leadership ability.

"It is going to be my top priority this year, obviously, aside from my performance on the field," Rutan said. "I'm a relief pitcher, so I won't be in every game. And when I am it'll be a couple of days here and there. So it's a very important role for me."

Banfield said while he's never coached a game in the Horizon League, he expects it to be competitive.

"I've never shown up to a game expecting to lose," Banfield said. "Obviously, at the top of the league — I mean Wright State, year in and year out has really dominated the league lately — and they are a really, really high end national program. So for me to come out and say, 'we're gonna be better than that,' that'd be ridiculous. That said, we show up to play and I expect to win."

Rutan also said he likes the team's chances this year.



EMILY MORRIS | MANAGING EDITOR
Oakland Baseball scrimmages in October. They begin their regular season on Friday, Feb. 19 in Tennessee.

"We play in a very competitive conference," Rutan said. "Wright State and UIC have been at the top, especially [during] my time here. Youngstown State is bringing back a lot of [returning starters]. So everybody can beat each other. At the end of the day, it comes down to who doesn't beat themselves to come out on top."top of the league. If we can keep them all here, and they'll work and grow and develop, then we're going to meet those goals."

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Sug Williams overcomes adversity, finds her role

MICHAEL PEARCE
Editor-in-Chief

Freshman Lamariyee Williams has steadily been playing more for the women's basketball team as the season progresses, but she almost wasn't wearing the bear.

Had it not been for her relationship with associate head coach Ke'Sha Blanton, the 5-foot-8-inch guard who goes by "Sug" might be playing in New York.

Originally, Williams was verbally committed to Niagara University in New York. As it grew closer to high school graduation, she began to realize that distance wasn't for her.

She asked her high school coach to help her figure out where to go. He connected her with Blanton, who coincidentally Williams already knew from her AAU days. After a visit to campus, Williams decided on the Black and Gold.

"My family was here," she said. "I had decided this is where I wanted to be when I was on my visit, after we took a tour of campus."

Since graduating high school, Williams has displayed toughness, according to Head Coach Jeff Tungate. Williams lost her senior season on a team that both Williams and Tungate feel could have won the state title.

Then, during the summer, she dealt with sitting out due to COVID-19 concerns, missing vital practice time. Due to COVID-19, the team was unable to practice either, which can be difficult for a freshman.

"She has had unbelievable toughness for what she's had to overcome," Tungate said. "For her to play the way she's playing, with the attitude she's got right now after overcoming all of that — it shows the type of toughness and character she has."

Coming into her first season, Williams had to adjust to not being the star of a team like she was in high school.

"It was just an adjustment I had to make," Williams said. "It was difficult, but it was worth it now."

Williams scored 22.3 points per game, grabbed eight rebounds per game and recorded six assists per game in her full junior season at River Rouge High School. As a senior, she was the No. 13 guard in the state, according to goldengrizzlies.com.

In her last four games, Williams has seen more action on the court. Against Robert Morris on Saturday, Feb. 6, Williams recorded a season-high 11 points in a seven-point win. Against Milwaukee the next weekend, Williams hit a deep 3-pointer to help secure a one-point overtime win. That



PHOTO COURTESY OF
GOLDENGRIZZLIES.COM

Williams' headshot on GoldenGrizzlies.com. The freshman has been gaining minutes as the season has gone along, and Head Coach Jeff Tungate has praised her toughness.

deep ball is what Williams believes she needs to improve upon the most. Her playstyle resembles NBA MVP Russell Westbrook, and she tries to emulate the same fast-paced, slashing, athletic style.

"Without the dunks, I like to say I'm kind of like Russell Westbrook," she said. "I'm a slasher, that's what I like to do — get to the basket."

Just like Westbrook, Williams has that swagger. According to Tungate, she's ahead of the game as a freshman.

"She has a really good basketball IQ for a freshman," he said. "She plays with an unbelievable swagger, she knows she can get to the rim at any time."

During a season with uncertainty and a lack of confidence due to COVID-19 restrictions, Tungate feels it's very important to have players who bring confidence and uplift others.

"Having someone like Sug in the locker room — there aren't too many people who've had to overcome more than her — that's a great influence to have in the locker room," he said.

Micah Parrish looks to lead crop of 2020 freshmen



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSE JUAREZ

Parrish shooting a 3-pointer against Robert Morris. Men's basketball Head Coach Greg Kampe said Parrish "has no ceiling" in his mind.

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL
Staff Reporter

Oakland University men's basketball forward Micah Parrish is ready to do great things with his fellow freshmen.

"I think all our freshmen right now from Joey [Holifield], to Chris [Conway], Trey [Townsend], me and PJ [Joseph] — I feel like this freshman class is gonna be a great class and I'm really excited for the future with all of us," Parrish said.

Parrish, a native of Ypsilanti, MI, said there weren't many additional challenges that came with being a freshman during the pandemic.

"I guess I could say that everything was new for everybody, so there wasn't a specific thing we did last year that was new this year that somebody can teach us," Parrish said. "Everything was new for everybody, so [it was just a matter of] getting adjusted."

Parrish has some big aspirations for his career at Oakland.

"Hopefully a national championship appearance, even a ring," Parrish said. "I just see big things. I want to achieve the biggest things that we can accomplish."

Parrish said he tries to model his game after Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard.

"Just his game — his defensive intensity, how he can score in the post, his threes, his mid-ranges, he's a very good player," Parrish said.

In his free time, Parrish likes to play the Madden NFL games.

"I'm really good at Madden," Parrish said. "Other than that, there's not much else I really do."

OU men's basketball Head Coach Greg

Kampe said Parrish "has no ceiling" in his mind.

"I thought we had something pretty good [when we were recruiting him]," Kampe said. "But he's been probably even more exciting for me than I would have guessed. He's got a really good chance of being a super, super player."

Kampe also praised Parrish's personality, calling him a "great kid."

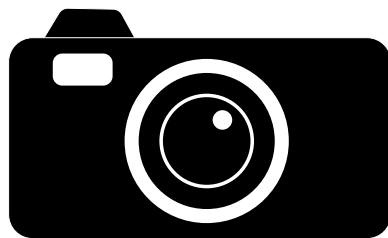
"He wants to win," Kampe said. "He takes it out on himself a little too much and doesn't like me screaming and yelling at him as much as I do. But, as he gets better and as he learns and grows I won't [yell at him]."

Kampe said Parrish just needs experience in order to iron out the kinks.

"[Parrish] makes a mistake and learns from it — he's really good at that," Kampe said. "And that's why I'm so high on him because I coach other players that will make a mistake, four times, six times before they learn and sometimes they don't even look [at me]. But [Parrish] is a one time guy — he makes mistakes one time. He may not look like or act like he wants to hear me, but he hears me and he improves and I don't see it again."

Overall, Kampe said the team has a bright future with all of the freshmen, with Parrish leading the charge.

"This was a total rebuild," Kampe said. "We mucked it all up a year ago, and we completely opened up the roster — I think we did a hell of a job in recruiting and putting ourselves in a position to get back to where we think we belong — where we used to be at the top of the league. If we can keep them all here, and they'll work and grow and develop, then we're going to meet those goals."



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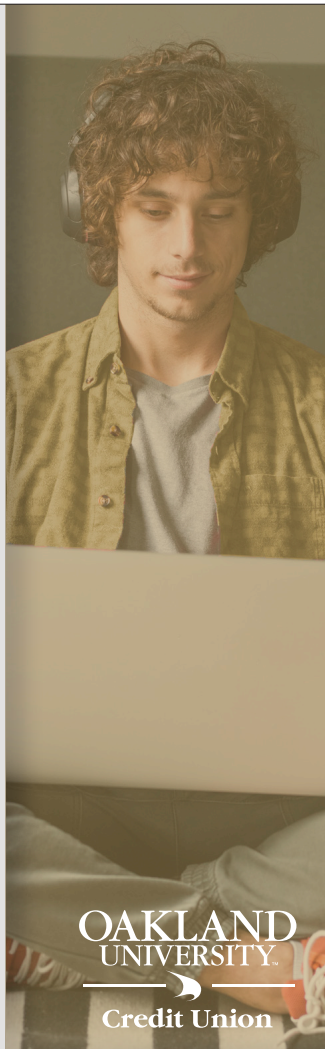
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