

THE OAKLAND POST

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Rochester, Michigan

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DEFENDING HOME FIELD

Baseball wins weekend series against conference rival Purdue Fort Wayne.

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Golden Grizzlies Volleyball finally have their next head coach

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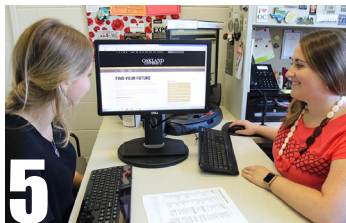
PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



SHINING IN THE SPRING SEASON Golden Grizzlies men's soccer picked up another win against Saginaw Valley State University Saturday, March 26. Story on page 24.
STANLEY TU / PHOTOGRAPHER



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University recognizes exceptional advisers in yearly awards. Photo/Oakland University



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The story behind OU's international undergraduate literary arts journal. Photo/The Oakland Arts Review



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Jeff Thomas talks about his 10-year journey finishing up his bachelor's. Photo/Jeff Thomas

THE OAKLAND POST

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POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT ISSUE WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO SEE STUDENT CONGRESS FOCUS ON NEXT YEAR?

- A) SUSTAINABILITY
- B) DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
- C) REDUCING TUITION COSTS
- D) IMPROVING STUDENT WORKER CONDITIONS

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT RECENT UNIVERSITY CHANGES TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS?

25%
A) WHATEVER

22%
B) I'M CONFUSED

31%
C) I AGREE WITH THE CHANGES

22%
D) I DISAGREE WITH THE CHANGES

CORRECTIONS CORNER: In an article published last week, we listed damage done to the Hicks Collection as part of the issues facing OUWB. This was incorrect, the Hicks Collection is not affiliated with OUWB.

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

Dean’s Office, Office of the Registrar relieve classroom space concerns

SARAH GUDENAU
Features Editor

In February and early March, the lack of classroom space at Oakland University shocked the Spanish Department’s students and faculty who feared the possibility of many Fall 2022 and Winter 2023 classes going online. Since then, the faculty, the Dean’s Office of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) and the Office of the Registrar have been working to retain in-person CAS classes.

Many CAS classes are typically held in South Foundation Hall (SFH), which is currently closed due to the delay of the \$40 million renovation and expansion. Despite the temporary loss of classroom space, the Dean’s Office has relieved some of the initial space concerns.

“This pandemic happened, and at that point there were a lot of shifting modalities of courses. Coming out of that, the scheduling process usually starts for each department by schedules rolling over, and so whatever was scheduled last fall and winter as the modality would have been what it was in the initial schedule that the department had, and then from there it’s a matter of adjusting,” Associate Professor of Music Education and Associate Dean of CAS Joseph Shively said.

According to Shively, this

process of adjusting is quite normal, even prior to the SFH closure — typically there are more classes that want a space than there are spaces at the beginning of the scheduling process. Consequently, the Dean’s Office and the Office of the Registrar creates a classroom waiting list prior to each semester.

As of March 22, the list has 23 classes, which are university-wide — not only CAS courses. A few weeks prior, there were over 70 classes waitlisted — classes and times shifted, rooms opened up and faculty decided what modality they prefer: in-person, hybrid, synchronous online or asynchronous online.

Some faculty elect to keep their courses online depending on what modality works best for their class.

“We don’t make that decision [of course modality] for those departments,” Shively said. “It’s sort of sorting all of that out. At no point does our office say something like ‘you have to do this or that.’ We work to find everybody the spaces that they need.”

For instance, for the Fall 2022 semester, Shively said there are only a few completely online Spanish courses, but all of the Summer 2022 courses in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures are online — a departmental choice.

“It’s always a puzzle to work out getting everybody in classrooms that

want to be there, and once South Foundation comes back, then we’ll have more classrooms with which to work, but, like I said, we’re down to very few classes who have requested in-person,” Shively said.

Not only will the renovation of SFH make a difference, but also the “right-sizing” of the classrooms in the building will help with scheduling. Rather than creating only large

lecture rooms, the project will create classrooms with sizes that maximize scheduling ability, as size of the room is another factor the Dean’s Office and the Office of the Registrar must consider when planning courses.

“Once we have South Foundation, we’ll have more options, and it may be that we can match it with a better sized classroom,” Shively said.



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
The Dean’s Office of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Office of the Registrar have been working to retain in-person classes.

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Annual Burke Lecture in Philosophy with Dr. Elizabeth Anderson

GRACE LOVINS

Senior Reporter

After a year's postponement, the annual Richard J. Burke Lecture in Philosophy, Religion and Society took place on March 24 at 7 p.m. in the Oakland Center Banquet Room. This year's lecture featured renowned philosopher and professor, Elizabeth Anderson, Ph.D.

Anderson, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and John Dewey Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy and Women's Studies at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, earned her Ph.D. from Harvard University. She is also the founding director and designer of University of Michigan's Philosophy, Politics and Economics Program.

Her faculty profile for the University of Michigan states she specializes in moral, social and political philosophy as well as feminist theory, philosophy of economics and the social sciences and social epistemology. Anderson's interests lie in exploring the interactions of social science as it relates to moral and political theory.

She has authored multiple books including, "Value in Ethics and Economics," "Private Government: How Employers Rule Our Lives (And Why We Don't Talk About It)" and "The Imperative of Integration." Additionally, Anderson has written reviews and articles, many of which have been widely reprinted, for journals of philosophy, economics and law.

Anderson has also been featured in a wide range of interviews, podcasts, broadcasts and discussions



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
Elizabeth Anderson, Ph.D spoke on campus last week for the annual Richard J. Burke Lecture.

across the globe. Her most recent talks include the New American Baccalaureate Project Podcast on Private Government and Education, OneZero Society Podcast and multiple Pitchfork Economics Podcasts with Nick Hanauer.

Her presentation, titled "What should work ethic mean for us today?," discussed the term's evolution after its origination by the Puritans roughly 400 years ago. Anderson demonstrated how "honoring workers for advancing human welfare and calling for their dignified and equitable treatment" can be updated to suit American workers in the modern age.

The main ideas of her presentation focused on the dignity and fair treatment of workers in the U.S. regardless of the type of job they hold. She notes that, in terms of wages, paid vacation time, etc. the U.S. is somewhat behind in comparison to several European nations. Anderson emphasizes that workers should be given basic respect no matter the job and should be acknowledged for their contributions to society.

Phyllis Rooney, Ph.D., coordinator for this year's lecture and professor in the Department of Philosophy, states that while the actual lecture is the main event, a student meeting and faculty lunch also follow the presentation. Lecturers are able to speak with a small group of students, typically students who have read the lecturers' work, and enjoy a lunch meeting the day following the lecture with faculty members and a small number of students.

The Burke Lectures began in 2006 with Holmes Rolston III, Ph.D., as the first lecturer of the ongoing series. Richard J. Burke, Ph.D., former professor in the Department of Philosophy from 1959 until 2005, gifted OU an endowment to create and maintain the series and bring major social philosophers to campus.

Before his passing in 2012, Rooney states that Burke was heavily involved in selecting and inviting lecturers to speak at OU. He created the endowment with the intention of allowing the series to continue for years into the future.

For more information about the Richard J. Burke Lecture Series, visit the "Richard Burke Lecture Series" tab on the Department of Philosophy's website.

Book Club hosts special meeting with author Elle Cosimano

D'JUANNA LESTER

Senior Reporter

It's official — Oakland University now has a Book Club. Started by student Ellie Ward, the club meets twice a month to talk about the book that they've read during the previous month.

"I wanted to start a book club simply because I realized we didn't have one! I got back into reading in January and wanted to find similar minded people to talk about books with. I am a remote student so I wanted to meet more people from Oakland and create a like-minded community," Ward said. "We changed it to two meetings due to increased interest in the book club. I wanted to make sure that everyone who wanted to participate was able to."

According to Ward, the club has reached a consensus that they generally love to read fiction books.

"We will likely stick with [fiction] but branch out to mystery novels and possibly historical fiction. Next year we are going to read eight books, so I hope to have a mix of genres present," Ward said.

At the March 21 special meeting, author Elle Cosimano attended to talk with students. Cosimano wrote "Finlay Donovan is Killing It"— the first book the club read.

"Finlay Donovan is Killing It" is a mystery novel about a struggling writer who is overheard describing the plot of her book and tasked with killing someone's husband.

"Writing mysteries is very fun," Cosimano said.

"There are so many opportunities to connect the fine details and plot the mystery — making it connect to the romantic arc, the character arc, the plot arc. The challenge of writing a mystery novel is the fun of it."

Students had the opportunity to ask Cosimano questions about the book and the writing process of authors in general as she discussed the difficult and exciting parts of working on this manuscript.

"Finlay [is my favorite character] — of all the books I've written, her voice is probably the closest to my own," Cosimano said. "I feel like that brings me back to myself. It was a passion project more than anything — a side project I was working on. I published my manuscript in 2014."

She continued to talk about the process of how this story came to be, highlighting her struggles with an unfulfilled career until she switched to becoming an author.

One student asked about the drafting process and knowing when one's story is complete.

"It's not what it should be, or what it could be. The closest thing. If you're revising and revising, your book is in probably much better shape than you're giving it credit for. Every author goes through this. If you don't want to burn it after your third draft, you're doing it wrong," Cosimano said.

Cosimano said she never reads her published novels. Once they're off to print, she does not look at them again while at home because she will find things she wishes should could change.

"We're far harder on ourselves as creative people than our readers," Cosimano said. "It's probably in really good shape. It takes other people reading it to take away some of that self doubt, you need to give yourself permission to push yourself forward and take the next step."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MDPI
Oakland University's book club hosted a special meeting on March 21. The club was joined by author Elle Cosimano.

School of Business Administration hosts top OU advisers

JOE ZERILLI
Senior Reporter

Every year, Oakland University awards the top advisers at the university with the Outstanding Professional Academic Advising Award and New Adviser of the Year Award. This year, both awards were won by members of the School of Business Administration — Adam McChesney and Denica Holzworth, respectively.

McChesney has been an adviser with the School of Business for 10 years and is an OU alumni. He was able to qualify for the award after being nominated by students throughout the year and said winning the award was “pretty gratifying.”

“Part of the application package you have to show what you’ve done to affect campus and what kind of effect you had on students,” McChesney said. “In my case, different kinds of presentations I’ve developed and delivered, different conference proposals and presentations I put together, some of the technology work, some of the communication and other student engagement campaigns that I’ve developed around here.”

OU first introduced the Outstanding Professional Academic Advising Award in 2008, with the New Adviser of the Year Award coming into fruition in 2016. McChesney is only the second adviser from the School of Business Administration to win the award — the first was Julie Demidoff in 2013.

“I felt like advising has improved on campus leaps and bounds from when I was there,” McChesney said. “Oakland’s administration and advising leadership

and the advisers themselves have really advocated, and so now we have a lot more advisers, a lot more technological support, a lot more training support and a lot more faculty and administrative support.”

McChesney has given praise to Juan Carlos Mendez of the School of Business for the help in technology and showing McChesney the possibilities of data with SAIL. McChesney is still taking classes at OU to better understand the classes his students are taking and to better help assist them as to why they need to be taking the classes.

The advising office for the School of Business Administration has transformed into a data driven advising approach, which helps point out students who



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY NEWS
OU School of Business Administration advisers Denica Holzworth and Adam McChesney received awards.

may be encountering issues with registration like taking the wrong classes. The end goal is to get students the information they need to know before they realize they need it.

“Advising Director Debbie Lengyel and our office here has been really nice to give all of us the freedom to try things,” McChesney said. “I think that’s super important — higher education is all about innovation and really expanding knowledge, so having that freedom to try new things and run with ideas has been really good.”

What McChesney likes the most about advising is how it has a part in almost everything that goes on around campus. He also enjoys when he can reflect and say he was a part of a student’s journey and success, especially come graduation time and students email him.

Ryan Shiemke, a junior majoring in marketing, is one of the students who has McChesney as an adviser and has high praise for McChesney.

“Adam is a great adviser, and he always responds promptly and with solid advice,” Shiemke said. “He walked me through every single step of registration before I had to register.”

OU is going through a process called the Excellence in Academic Advising initiative which looks at how advising can improve, and McChesney feels OU will continue to get better with its advising.

“I think we’re going to have students see a much more streamlined advising experience and get all the advising areas on the same page,” McChesney said. “Looking at how to integrate advising as part of an integral part of the academic experience.”

CASE-OU featured students’ Environmental StoryMap presentations

RACHEL YIM
Senior Reporter

Campus Alliance for Sustainability and the Environment (CASE) at Oakland University featured a group of students from Literature and the Environment (ENG 3681) and Postcolonial Literature and Extraction (ENG 3800) to share their presentation on Environmental StoryMap projects on Wednesday, March 23.

First established two years ago with the idea of creating “a campus community around the concern for sustainability and environmental justice,” CASE-OU comprises over 100 faculty-scholars, staff and students. They work together toward the goal of arriving at more integrative and holistic solutions to issues involving factors affecting climate impacts.

These projects utilized the Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping software that integrates spatial and verbal elements, geography and narrative to tell interactive stories about places, ecosystems, environmental exploitation and colonialism.

The software is currently being virtually used by hundreds of thousands of organizations in a variety of fields for mapping that allows easier and more efficient communication, analysis, sharing of information and solving complex problems around the world.

Dr. Jeffrey Insko, professor of English, coordinator of American Studies and steering committee member for CASE-OU, created accounts for students and added everyone in the class to a collaborative StoryMap, where they could add information about the five post-colonial nations (India, Ecuador, Canada, Nigeria, and

the Caribbean) on one map. According to Insko, this mapping software assimilates shared Google Slides, but with many more features.

“I’m so proud of you all,” Dr. Insko, who teaches both ENG 3681 and 3800 courses, said at the end of the presentations. “They were all amazing presentations.”

A total of eight presenters shared their findings and research about different countries and regions through mapping. The followings are the groups/individual presenters with their country of focus:

Sonja Wilhelm, Mariah Brown and Josh McNeil (India)

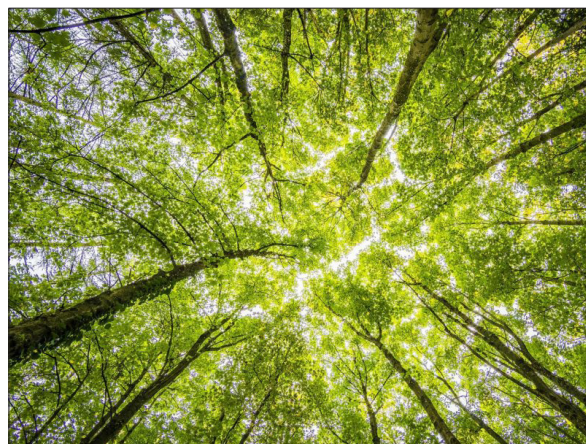


PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS
The Campus Alliance for Sustainability and the Environment recently shared their Environmental StoryMap projects.

Erika Head, Ethan Berent and Alexandra LaBrecque (Ecuador)

Erin Sorenson (Crawford County, MI)

Paige Therrian (South Higgins Lake, MI)

Erika Head, a sophomore at OU double-majoring in Communication and English Secondary Education, presented information about Ecuador along with her group members – Berent and LaBrecque. According to her, her group’s goal for their presentation was to raise awareness about the history surrounding post-colonial nations and how oil extraction can result in brutal living conditions and death for the people of the country.

“It is always rewarding to see our semester-long projects come together,” Head said. “Mapping helped me understand the differences between America and Ecuador because while both countries are on the same side of the world, their development, government, technology and ways of life look extremely different.”

She pointed out a disadvantage of more than one individual not being able to edit and publish their changes at a time, which can become problematic with larger classes. Despite this drawback, she also emphasized some key features that GIS mapping software provides.

“I am a visual learner, so it was helpful to plot points on the map and see where in the world things are happening,” Head said. “Another feature in this software is being able to add external links within our explanations. It is a nice way to have a variety of information, sources, pictures and links present in one website where we created our project. I would recommend the mapping to anyone wanting to create a visual representation with the ability to add one or more locations.”

CJPR hosts “Reporting from a War Zone” Panel

LETICIA CEZÁRIO SANTOS

Ads Assistant

On March 22, the Communication, Journalism and Public Relations Department (CJPR) at Oakland University hosted “Reporting from a War Zone: Ethics, Trauma, Impact, and Solutions.” The panel discussion was held in a hybrid format and moderated by Dr. Adina Schneeweis, associate professor and Journalism program director.

Schneeweis introduced the discussion by explaining the panel discussion’s goal saying, “the journalism faculty invites you to consider this conflict from the perspective of those gathering information, dispelling lies and putting their lives at risk so that we see images and truths about the war – in other words — from the perspective of journalists.”

Feb. 24, 2022, marked the first day of Russian missile and artillery attacks aimed at major Ukrainian cities. Statements from Vladimir Putin directed to the media emphasize their goal of preventing Ukraine’s alliance with the EU or Nato. Putin sees Ukraine’s prospective alliance as the “disintegration of historical Russia.” However, what the Russian leader described as a “special military operation”

quickly became a war with nearly 19,000 deaths and approximately ten million displaced people.

Born and raised in Romania, Schneeweis gave her multicultural insight into the Ukraine invasion.

“My family in Romania reminded me of an important aspect of this war we don’t often hear about – and that is the fact that many, many of those that have so far left Ukraine are those that can afford to,” Schneeweis said. “Many of the refugees in Romania had the money and resources to get out right away and have family in Western European countries, so they keep moving west and out of Romania to reach them. Those that cannot get out, the poor, the disabled, the disadvantaged, the marginalized have a harder time escaping to safety.”

The panel started with Garry Gilbert, a special lecturer, who shared further historical context of reporting from conflict zones. Gilbert called attention to many famous war photographs and the context and lives behind those artworks.

Secondly, Catherine Shafran — documentary writer and producer — shared her personal and professional experience about reporting war, highlighting her on-ground experience in Israel and Palestine.

Further on in the panel, Kate Roff — journalist, editor, and special lecturer

— talked about the differences in media language used to describe conflicts. She also introduced the importance of peace journalism.

To conclude, Dr. Chiaoning Su, assistant professor, emphasized the role of social media in covering war. Su pointed out how the current war is being called the first “TikTok War.”

Differently from any other prior conflict, news consumers are not only receiving information through traditional media channels, but many young viewers are following the war news directly from the perspective of Ukrainians. Su also shared remarks on misinformation.

Among the many important names cited throughout the conversation, Su presented Salwan Georges. Georges “is a Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist for The Washington Post.” An OU Journalism alumni, Salwan Georges is currently in Ukraine documenting the ongoing invasion. His photos were also used by Ukraine President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Georges’s work is the representation of how documenting a war goes way beyond what is noticed through traditional media.

Schneeweis concluded the panel by reading the following quote from a message to the people of the world shared in 1985 during the United Nations International Year of Peace:

“Whether peace is to be reached only after unimaginable horrors precipitated by humanity’s stubborn clinging to old patterns of behavior, or is to be embraced now by an act of consultative will, is the choice before all who inhabit the earth. At this critical juncture when the intractable problems confronting nations have been fused into one common concern for the whole world, failure to stem the tide of conflict and disorder would be unconscionably irresponsible.” (The Universal House of Justice, the world administrative body of the Bahá’í Faith).

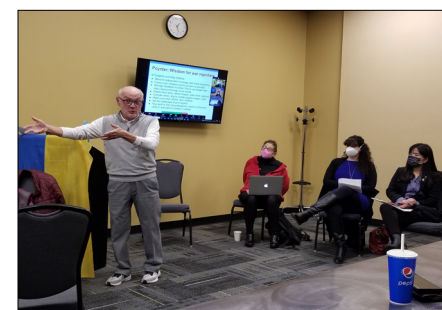


PHOTO BY JEFF THOMAS
(From left to right) Professor Garry Gilbert presenting, with panelists Catherine Shafran, Professor Kate Roff and Professor Chiaoning Su.

OUSC elections are coming up: what you need to know

ALEXANDER GUSTANSKI

Senior Reporter

The annual Oakland University Student Congress (OUSC) elections begin this Friday, April 1 and run through Apr 14. The positions of president, vice president, speaker and legislator are up for election on the ballot.

The OUSC is a student advocacy group that, according to their GrizzOrgs page, “strives to represent the student body and increase pride and unity on campus through dynamic leadership, a commitment to diversity, and an ongoing devotion to the quality of university life.”

The organization is currently running initiatives to reduce the cost of course materials and raise the minimum wage of all campus employees to \$15 an hour, alongside other projects.

The organization is led by a legislative body voted on by students. The positions of president, vice president and speaker are running uncontested on the ballot, so the main focus of this year’s election is on the five candidates for legislators. The

legislative chamber has 23 members who are decided by a popular vote and the top 23 candidates are elected.

Jordan Tolbert, the elections commission chair for the OUSC had this to say about the candidate pool: “I think that the current election cycle

has a lot of great candidates and I’m excited to see the next administration get elected. The lack of competition was slightly disappointing, but it’s just a reflection of the impact COVID-19 has had on student life.”

In response to this low election

turnout, Tolbert encourages students to get involved saying, “I encourage students to still fill out the application form on our website to join as a legislator, or look for executive board positions that open in the summer.”

Despite there only being one candidate for some positions, it is also possible for write-in candidates to win. Write-in candidates either have to receive a majority vote or for the position of legislator receive 2% of the popular vote.

Since the positions of president and vice president only have one candidate on the ballot, the OUSC is going to forgo their annual debates. Instead, the OUSC has paired up with the Oakland Post to run a virtual Instagram town hall.

Campus community members will be able to ask the incumbent candidates, Andrew Romano and Murryum Farooqi, questions which will later be published through an article in the Post. The OUSC hopes that this event will increase transparency and encourage participation in their legislative process.



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
“Elections are pending for multiple positions on Oakland University’s Student Congress. This article has all the information students need to know about the elections.”

American Studies Student hosts Feminism in America

GRACE LOVINS
Senior Reporter

The newly restarted American Studies Student Group made their big debut with the “Feminism in America” roundtable discussion on March 24. The roundtable, the organization’s first event since regrouping, was hosted via Zoom and featured flash presentations from students and professors.

The discussion aimed to explore issues of feminism in relation to American culture. Flash presentations from three student speakers — Alex Rye, Anna Bronkhorst and Sebastian Boggs — and three professors — Chris Apap, Ph.D., Joanne Lipson-Freed, Ph.D. and Cecilia Saenz-Roby, Ph.D. — offered perspectives on issues not necessarily at the forefront of the discussion on feminism, topics not commonly discussed in the conversation.

Typically, when people think of feminism, the major milestones in the feminist movement are the first in our minds. While significant advances in feminism like the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848 and the election of the first female vice president, Kamala Harris, in 2020, mark major advancements, there are significant aspects of the feminist movement that tend to fly under the radar.

Topics discussed in the roundtable ranged from examining femininity in the context of race through Lucille Clifton’s poetry to early female poets, like Anne Bradstreet, breaking the barrier for women in literature to expanding the definition of feminism to include members of the Trans community.

Other presenters focused on more personal aspects of feminism in American Culture as it related to their fields or experiences at OU. One faculty presenter, Apap, discussed how a non-traditional student offered a unique perspective that changes his

approach to analyzing feminism in the text “The Scarlet Letter,” written by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

The two other faculty presenters focused on feminism in education or academia relating to their work as professors and scholars. Saenz-Roby discussed feminist advocate and writer, as well as the subject of her upcoming book, Juana Manso’s work towards women’s education in Argentina. Lipson-Freed talked about feminism in relation to her work as a professor at OU, applying the temporality of women’s work to her own lived experiences.

Emma Ross, president of the American Studies Student Group, stated the event was intended to serve as a smaller version of the group’s signature event each year, the undergraduate research conference. Because the group restarted this semester, the group was unable to coordinate such a large-scale event in a short amount of time.

Ross felt that the roundtable offered students and faculty the opportunity to spark interest and conversation around an urgent and relevant topic. Although the conference did not take place this semester, the group does plan to coordinate the event for next year.

The American Studies Student Group focuses on all things American from history to culture to politics. While the group has mostly operated within the Department of English this semester, Ross states that the organization is open to all students with an interest in American Studies.

For more information or to become a member of the American Studies Student Group, interested individuals can check out the group’s GrizzOrgs page or reach out to Ross or Tim Donahue, adviser and associate professor of English.

Career Services presents Spring Career Celebration on April 6

JOSEPH POPIS
Senior Reporter

On Wednesday, April 6, Career Services is presenting the Spring Career Celebration from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Habitat and the first-level of The Oakland Center (OC). Around 20 companies will be attending, and students can seek opportunities such as full-time positions, part-time positions and internships.

Companies attending include: BorgWarner, Rocket Companies, Plante Moran, United Wholesale Mortgage, General Motors, Brose and more.

Professional dress is not required. Free food, ice cream and a post-it note wall where students can share their successes and goals will all be available.

Career Consultant Emily Cutlip states the goal is to connect students with employers. It is a come as you are event with low stakes, as a more laid back way to talk to employers.

“What’s cool about this event is that students can come as they are,” Cutlip said. “They don’t need to have completed resumes, [don’t] need to have an elevator pitch ready and don’t necessarily [need to dress professionally]. It’s a come as you are event. It’s low stakes, low pressure and more of a laid-back way to engage with employers.”

Marketing and Events Coordinator at Career Services, Sarah Swarz, says this event allows for in-person interaction with potential employers.

“Since we are coming back from that virtual world, we know students haven’t had as much face time with these employers,” Swarz said. “So, we really want them to come on campus and help us celebrate the end of the semester. But then of course, there are so many jobs that are hiring right now — [companies] want students to come and talk about their open opportunities.”

Swarz mentioned even if students don’t think they’re ready for the opportunities offered, Career Services still encourages them to attend. Employers want to establish relationships and tell students about their companies.

“Even if a student isn’t ready to have an internship or job yet — especially if they’re a freshman or sophomore and they’re not there yet — we still want them to come,”

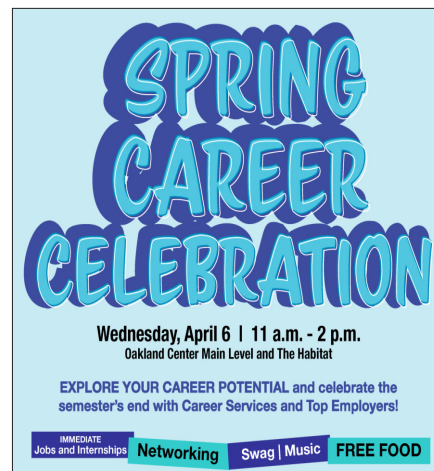


PHOTO BY Career Services

The Spring Career Celebration is intended to provide a comfortable environment for students to network. Swarz said. “These employers want to establish [a] relationship. [It’s] not as scary of a process as some may think.”

Cutlip pointed out how this event is intended to be less stressful and overwhelming than a traditional career fair, as well. It’s focused more on relationship building and networking.

Career Services wants students to feel empowered walking away from the event, and show students they can achieve their dreams. Networking doesn’t have to be daunting.

“I hope students walk away from this event with a new perspective on networking,” Cutlip said. “I think there is a misconception that networking is this stuffy, rigid thing. Networking and building relationships with employers and industry professionals is not like that, and doesn’t have to be like that. Networking can happen in these informal, more relaxed environments, and still be incredibly impactful and effective.”

Cutlip also hopes students feel more confident within networking with employers, and know they always have the support of Career Services.

“I hope students walk away from this event, feeling more confident in their abilities to network and interface with employers,” Cutlip said. “Students [should know] they always have the support of Career Services, and I hope that students are driven to our office to do follow-up and seek assistance for things we can help them with post-event.”

Students can register for Career Spring Celebration on Handshake.



PHOTO BY Maggie Willard

“OU’s American Studies Student Groups hosted their Feminism in America roundtable on March 24.”

New bioethics minor coming Fall 2022 semester

ARIANNA HEYMAN

Senior Reporter

In the Fall 2022 semester, Oakland University will be adding a new minor for students with future careers in medicine, nursing, public health, social work, psychology or other human service fields.

The new minor in bioethics aims to teach students “moral principles and ethical issues that are relevant to clinical medicine and population health.”

Professor and Chair of Philosophy at OU and Lecturer in the Department of Foundational Medical Studies at OUWB Mark Navin said that the minor will focus on “real world” ethical problems through public health.

“[The courses will address] questions about power, race, gender, authenticity, deception, patients’ rights about the role of family, culture, religion and then in the public health context — allocation of scarce resources, health inequities and social terms of health,” Navin said.

According to Navin, the courses offered in this minor will help students prepare for future ethical choices they will inevitably face.

“It’s hard when you’ve got horrible conflict — when there’s scarce resources, conflict between patients and the families [and] when you’re in the position to have to treat patients over their objection,” Navin said. “These are the hardest kinds of cases for nurses, physicians and other health professionals to address, and students who have a background in practical ethics training, I believe,

are well prepared for these [situations].”

Visiting Assistant Professor Daniel Thiel said that this minor will encourage students to think critically about ethical issues outside of an examination room as well.

“We want to make sure that students are aware of



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
The Department of Philosophy at Oakland University will offer a new bioethics minor in the Fall 2022 semester.

and engaging with the broader set of questions that come with healthcare,” Thiel said. “It’s not only about what happens in the clinic between doctors and patients — but also at a population level — how do we think about the ethical social questions?”

Both Navin and Thiel cite the COVID-19 pandemic as an example of how ethical questioning plays a massive role in healthcare.

“We’ve all been faced with a variety of serious ethical challenges,” Thiel said. “How do we cope with the pandemic? How do we respond to it? What do we want from each other and from our government? All of those questions are the kind of thing that [students] will engage with in our new public health ethics course.”

The new bioethics minor will also be beneficial to students looking for post-graduate careers or who are applying to medical school.

“The bioethics minor is incredibly important for [students] not only getting into medical school — but really succeeding in the field. You face these challenges — they’re very real and very concrete,” Thiel said. “Hopefully what we’re able to do in our classes as teachers [is to] show them how real and commonplace it is to be confronting ethical challenges by giving them tools to think it through and giving them practice to articulate themselves.”

For those interested in the bioethics minor — there will be an informational meeting from noon to 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30, in the Lake Huron room in the Oakland Center. Contact bioethics@oakland.edu for more information.

German Club to host Easter Bonfire celebration

JOSEPH POPIS

Senior Reporter

Celebrate with the German Club at the Easter Bonfire on Friday, April 1, from 4:45 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the bonfire pit at the P11 parking lot. Students can learn about German culture while participating in an Easter egg hunt — where they can win t-shirts, tote bags and German chocolate. German music will be played while food, snacks and beverages will be provided. This event is open to all students.

President of the German Club Johanna Vorrath-Lopatin moved to the United States from Germany in 2019. She mentions the Easter Bonfire is a tradition that Germans partake in that the club wanted to bring to OU students.

“We’re doing the Easter Bonfire because in Germany normally, especially when you live in the countryside, all the farmers gather all the broken wood they’ve accumulated over the winter. They put it in a big pile, and then everyone comes for an Easter bonfire,” Vorrath-Lopatin said. “Essentially, that’s how we celebrate Easter or the

start into the spring, so we wanted to do something similar.”

Participants can learn some German sayings and what they might do on Easter. Vorrath-Lopatin also mentions they have what is called Easter Monday in Germany — a relaxing day for most Germans.

“We’re going to teach them a couple of German sayings for Easter and what they might do on Easter themselves,” Vorrath-Lopatin said. “In Germany, Easter Monday, you have off — it’s like a countrywide holiday. So, it’s usually a big thing that people get an extra day off of school, and they will spend it together with their friends outside. They often go drinking as a very adult thing that people do on Easter and go walk around in the fields. It’s just a very relaxed day for most Germans. So we just want to share how we normally celebrate it.”

This Easter Bonfire event offers a break so students can relax before the start of finals. Vorrath-Lopatin states she enjoys presenting German culture to students as there are similarities between American and German traditions.

“I think we’ve all been feeling how long this semester currently

is,” she said. “I always enjoy just presenting German culture to [students] because I think so many American traditions are related to the German traditions, especially around Rochester, where there’s such a big German community.”

Vorrath-Lopatin hopes students can gain some cultural insight that

can lead to conversations on what is happening in Europe. She also highlights that even though America and Germany are far apart, they are alike in many ways.

For additional information on the German Club and their future events, visit their GrizzOrgs page.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRIZZORGS
A graphic for the German Club’s Easter bonfire.

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by 20,000+**



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Ketanji Brown Jackson to be confirmed to the Supreme Court

ARIANNA HEYMAN

Senior Reporter

On Monday, March 21 congressional hearings began to confirm Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court.

President Biden appointed Jackson after Justice Stephen Breyer announced his retirement from the court at the end of the current term.

Jackson's confirmation will mark a historic day in United States history — as she will be the first Black woman to sit on the Supreme Court.

"For too long, our government, our courts, haven't looked like America," President Biden said. "I believe it's time that we have a court that reflects the full talents and greatness of our nation with a nominee of extraordinary qualifications, and that we inspire all young people to believe that they can one day serve their country at the highest level."

Jackson's qualifications are undeniable. She has a breadth of experience as a public defender, federal district judge and was a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

Some of her most notable cases include a ruling in favor of *Guam v. The U.S. Navy*. In this case, the Navy had created a landfill on the island to dispose of chemicals and munitions. The landfill significantly contributed to pollution on the island, and Guam asked the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to shut it down and assist in cleanup.

As cleanup costs were expensive, the government of Guam brought this issue to federal court to seek financial compensation from the Navy. The federal government wanted Jackson to dismiss the case, but she rejected this request and allowed the case to go forward.

Another of Jackson's notable cases was a ruling against prison contractors and employees for discrimination in 2015. Jackson sided with William Pierce — a deaf man serving time for assault. When Pierce asked for an interpreter, his request was ignored by prison officials.

"With her exceptional qualifications and a record of evenhandedness, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson will be a justice who will uphold the Constitution and protect the rights of all Americans, including the voiceless and the vulnerable," Senator Chuck Schumer said. "She's a true public servant and a model jurist."

After days of hearings and vigorous questioning — Jackson proved that she has the tact and level-headedness required of a Supreme Court Justice.

Friday morning, Senator Joe Manchin stated his intention to vote to confirm Jackson — guaranteeing that she will ascend to the Supreme Court.

Judge Jackson's ascension to the Supreme Court will be a momentous day for the country as the highest court in the nation will now be more representative of the people that it serves.

"As I have pursued this professional path, and if I'm fortunate enough to be confirmed as the



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAUL LOEB
Congressional hearings began on March 21 to confirm Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court.

next associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States," Jackson said. "I can only hope that my life and career, my love of this country and the Constitution, and my commitment to upholding the rule of law and the sacred principles upon which this great nation was founded, will inspire future generations of Americans."

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People of OU: Professor Josephy’s evolution in the classroom

OLIVIA CHIAPPELLI
Senior Reporter

Coming from the French education system and breaking the mold at Oakland University, Professor Rebecca Josephy approaches teaching with creativity and inclusivity at the forefront.

While splitting her university experience between Western University in Canada and l’Université Paris-Nanterre in France, Josephy’s main research areas included a meld of 20th century French and Comparative literature and how Biblical myths are reworked and rewritten within it.

She began teaching at OU in 2017 after falling in love with the school, but what specifically drew her in was the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. The department’s well-rounded professors and welcoming environment showed her that OU was the school where she could make an impact with her teaching.

However, Josephy’s teaching style has changed over the years. Her early education was taught exclusively by French professors, who followed the French education system’s notoriously strict and rule-based style of curriculum. When it came to be her time to teach, Josephy knew she wanted to strike out on her own.

“When I first started teaching, I couldn’t help but teach in the same way I was taught, which is [very] lecture-based, but as time went on, I really liked the idea of creativity and letting students explore things on their own and in their own ways,” Josephy says.

This principle shines in the classes Josephy teaches at OU — the common thread is that literature is open to everyone when creativity is encouraged.

“I have students who don’t come from [French] literature at all, who don’t even have an English literature background, who are heavy into the sciences, and they are some of my best students,” Josephy says.

Josephy has a talent for taking classes that may seem intimidating and teaching them in a way that shows students they are capable of more than they

might have known. For example, in her French 1600 and 1610 classes, students with no French background look at original French documents and translate them together.

“You would think, ‘how is that possible with no French background?’” Josephy says. “But we get through it and then people get to truly understand history. Instead of a Wikipedia page, what you have is the actual original document, [where] you can then see, sometimes, where Wikipedia might be incomplete, or where there is a lot more nuance involved.”

In her Honors College (HC) 2020 class, students study five works of European literature all centering on crime, punishment and justice. After studying each work of literature, students then create an original piece of writing in the same form as the initial text, but from a different perspective.

“[Again], it’s not like you can go to a Wikipedia page,” Josephy says. “When you have to write your own play or write your own short story you have to really understand things to then be able to do a different perspective.”

Following this welcoming approach, the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures has created a modified major which allows students to major in a modern language with fewer credits. Students who would otherwise not have room in their schedules can pursue their interest in a language and broaden their scope of possibilities at the same time, something Josephy encourages in every class she teaches.



PHOTO COURTESY OF REBECCA JOSEPHY
Rebecca Josephy is an assistant professor of French at OU.




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OAKLAND VS. PURDUE-FORT WAYNE

===== Oakland takes two of three =====

The Oakland baseball team won its home series against Purdue Fort Wayne this weekend. Despite dropping the opening game of the series, Oakland fought back to claim the series victory.

The Golden Grizzlies are now 9-12 overall and 4-2 in the Horizon League.

Game 1

The opening game of the series did not go the way Oakland would have hoped. The Mastodons scored three runs in the first two innings to establish a 3-0 lead through two innings.

Purdue Fort Wayne added four runs in the top of the fifth inning, putting the Golden Grizzlies in a huge 7-0 hole. Purdue Fort Wayne's Ben Higgins connected on a solo home run, followed later in the inning by Brian Erbe's three-run home run.

Oakland tightened the gap in the bottom of the fifth inning with two runs. A Brad Goulet sacrifice fly scored Thomas Green, and a Cam Post single brought home Gabe Lux.

However, the Golden Grizzlies couldn't bring any other runs across, and fell to the Mastodons, 10-2.

Game 2

The second game of the series went much better for the Golden Grizzlies. Right-handed pitcher Brett Hagen threw a complete game, leading Oakland to a coincidental 10-2 victory.

Oakland scored at least one run in each of the first five innings en route to a victory over the Mastodons. Lux registered three hits, and Green and Ian Cleary each had multiple hits to lead the Golden Grizzlies to victory.

Despite scoring 10 runs, Oakland only recorded six RBIs in the game due to some poor pitching from the Mastodons. The Golden Grizzlies scored three of their 10 runs on wild pitches.

Head Coach Jordon Banfield spoke to the challenges of scoring on wild pitches.

"Wild pitches are tough," Banfield said. "Because you've got the one that goes to the backstop, and then you've got the ones that are right in front of the catcher, that we're probably more aggressive than most on."

Goulet led the team with two RBIs, and Post, Cleary, Seth Tucker and Michael Stygles each added one in the victory.

Game 3

The series finale was moved to West Bloomfield High School, but that didn't seem to affect Oakland. The Golden Grizzlies battled back and forth with the Mastodons, but ultimately prevailed, 10-9.

Stygles got things started in the first inning with a sacrifice fly, scoring Lux. Brandon Nigh added an RBI later in the first inning to give the Golden Grizzlies a 2-0 lead.

Cleary then launched a three-run home run to give Oakland a five-run lead in the bottom of the first inning.

The Mastodons then struck back with six straight runs over the next six innings. A Purdue Fort Wayne three-run home run gave the Mastodons a one-run lead in the seventh inning.

However, the Golden Grizzlies didn't falter. Oakland added three runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to regain the lead.

Purdue Fort Wayne stole the lead back in the top of the ninth inning, and looked like it would steal the game from Oakland. However, Jared Miller scored on a wild pitch, sending the game to extra innings.

Nigh finished the Mastodons off in the bottom of the 10th inning with a walk-off home run.

"[Nigh] is doing an unbelievable job for a true freshman," Banfield said. "He's the youngest guy on our team; he just turned 18; he's going to be a special one."

The Golden Grizzlies now sit at 4-2 in Horizon League play, and Banfield likes where his team is at right now.

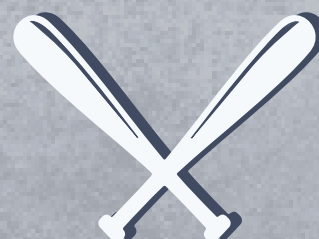
"I think [that win] puts us in first as of now, so that's a good place to be," Banfield said. "We want to do whatever we can to stay up there."

Not all Horizon League teams have played the same number of games, but the Golden Grizzlies claimed their fourth league victory on Saturday afternoon, which is currently the most in the league.

Oakland will host Aquinas College on Tuesday before heading to Ann Arbor to take on Michigan in a one-game series.

Banfield praised Michigan and Head Coach Erik Bakich and thinks that the matchup will be beneficial for his team.

"I think [playing Michigan] will be a good example for our guys to see up close and personal what that looks like," said Banfield. "That being said, we're not going there to lose."





The people behind The Oakland Arts Review: OU's literary arts journal

JEFF THOMAS

Editor-in-Chief

Now in its seventh volume, OU's international undergraduate literary arts journal *The Oakland Arts Review* (OAR) is still chugging along — giving students professional publishing and editing experience and connecting the university to the broader world of contemporary literature.

With the average lifespan of literary journals being one to three issues, OAR has persevered in a crowded market space by diligently pursuing and publishing quality poetry, fiction, nonfiction and visual art from undergraduate students around the globe.

The inception of the journal, now synonymous with OU's Creative Writing program, came following a discussion between Professor Alison Powell and then-Creative Writing Program Director Annie Gilson.

"I was talking with Professor Gilson about what kinds of activities I might want to do outside of teaching and my own writing," Powell said. "... I told her that I had this idea of doing an undergraduate literary magazine, but not one just for Oakland, it would be one that had a national focus. She was like, 'I think that's great.' And then we started from there."

With that green light from leadership in the Creative Writing program, Powell started recruiting students to help her form OAR's original incarnation as a student organization. That editorial group started putting things together in 2015, and laid much of the

groundwork that allows the journal to successfully function today.

"I had a student at the time, Lindsay Olson, who was a creative writing major, an amazing nonfiction writer, and it was really her," Powell said. "She put in a huge amount of work and effort ... We had a core group of like six students ... Had no idea what we were doing and it was really inefficient, but we managed to crank out the first issue."

With that initial success and thrill of putting together the early issues, eventually it was decided that OAR would be better suited as something incorporated directly into the Creative Writing program's course offerings.

"It became clear that the project was going to be too much to sustain just on extra hours here and there," Powell said. "... We realized that what would really work would be if a faculty member taught the class ... It ended up working really well and made me wonder why there aren't more classes like this in English departments because so many students are really interested in literary editing and publishing."

One student who took advantage of the opportunities the journal provides is current Managing Editor of OAR Malaena Caldwell. A double major in French Language and Literature and Creative Writing with a specialization in nonfiction, Caldwell is one of the brightest and hardest-working students in OU's class of 2022. A conversation with Gilson convinced her that OAR was the right fit for her.

"I was excited for the class [and] getting that experience under my belt for hopefully an internship down the line," Caldwell said. "I just got into grad school where they have a literary journal. And so it'll be nice to have that [OAR] experience going forward."

Caldwell is currently a semi-finalist for the Fulbright Scholarship and will continue her education by first going to France and then heading to Oklahoma State University to pursue a Master of Fine Arts degree studying creative non-fiction. As she leaves OU, Caldwell reflects fondly on her time

working to produce OAR.

"It's organized chaos," Caldwell said. "... The whole process of talking to the authors, emailing them and then getting their work ... I love that process. It was a lot of fun reading through everyone's pieces. It helped me gain a scope of where other artists are at [creatively] during this time ... It was a different kind of experience to talk about art that wasn't necessarily published and I value that."

Every issue of OAR has been curated by a team of students and faculty.

A professor teaches the course and serves as the de facto editor-in-chief, leading editorial meetings and structuring the course to inform students about editing and the publishing process. Students who take the course are assigned editorial responsibilities and get to vote for creative pieces they think are the best fit for that volume of OAR.

Powell has been a constant presence since the beginning of OAR as either the faculty member leading the journal, or as an adviser in charge of page design. Creative Writing Program Director Jeff Chapman and Professor Susan McCarty have also served as the faculty member leading the journal.

McCarty is the current faculty member leading the journal. She sees OAR as not only providing valuable professional experience for students, but also as providing space for the current generation of undergraduate artists to make their voices heard.

"As a writer, it's a way of establishing those communities," McCarty said. "Sometimes young writers are working, they feel isolated and they're working alone. Being accepted into a journal and being published is a way for them to not be alone anymore. It's a way for them to be in a space of other like minded people ... It's really important for students to have these special places where they can express what matters to them, what they're scared of, what their anxieties are. This generation has a weight on them ... They have responsibilities and problems that I think are unparalleled. For them to have a journal to express those fears and those anxieties is really important."

Outside of what OAR provides for students at OU and elsewhere, having a well-curated and professionally-produced literary arts journal also sets Oakland University apart from other public universities around the country.



PHOTO BY STANLEY TU
Professor McCarty and Professor Alison Powell holding recent copies of *The Oakland Arts Review*.

"There's this whole community of literary journals out there," McCarty said. "... There are coalitions of writers and readers everywhere and *Oakland Arts Review* puts [OU] into that conversation where contemporary writing is made ... It makes Oakland University visible in the space of contemporary literature in a way that we otherwise wouldn't be."

Going forward the biggest threat to the longevity of OAR is going to be procuring funding for students and faculty to continue producing the journal. Given the financial measures the university is taking in reaction to the drop in enrollment caused by COVID-19, there's a chance that the 2022-2023 school year could be the last for OU's international undergraduate literary arts journal.

Heading into next year, Powell will be back at the helm as the faculty leader of the journal. After seven years of faculty and students successfully fine tuning the infrastructure and procedures of OAR, she sees now as the perfect time for university leadership to commit to making the journal a more permanent feature of OU.

"I think it would be really smart for the university to continue to fund this journal and to stop requiring annual requests from the faculty," Powell said. "If they could make a commitment to fund it annually, then we can just continue to do it. We can focus our energy not on trying to scrape up funds, but on advertising the journal and getting better submissions ... It seems really short sighted if the university were to let [OAR] fail."

Editor's note: For full transparency, Jeff Thomas is a former Poetry Editor of *The Oakland Arts Review*.



PHOTO BY STANLEY TU
Professor Susan McCarty (left) and Professor Alison Powell (right) admiring some of the art in recent volumes of *The Oakland Arts Review*.

My experience as a nontraditional college student

JEFF THOMAS
Editor-in-Chief

I graduated from Capac High School in June 2012. Next month, nearly 10 years later, I'll walk across the stage at OU's commencement ceremony so President Ora Hirsch Pesovitz can hand me my diploma. In this article, I'll be sharing details from my personal life and my experiences finishing my undergraduate education over the past decade in hopes that what I have to share will be useful to other people struggling with or considering their return to school.



PHOTO BY SOPHIE HUME
Editor-in-Chief of The Oakland Post Jeff Thomas.

Like most of you, I grew up in what would be considered a working or middle class family. Neither one of my baby-boomer parents went to college, they both worked hard and long hours providing for the family and didn't have too much energy left over to instill a-whole-lot about the value of education in me.

Naturally, I wasn't the best student throughout grade school. I was smart enough, but I never quite understood why I should sit at the dinner table filling out homework packets when I could be playing with my siblings or friends. I graduated high school with a 3.0 GPA and a pretty-good ACT score, without being known as much other than a tall kid with a nice smile who played a couple sports and sang in the choir.

I got accepted to and started at OU in the fall of 2012. I chose this university because it was relatively close to where I grew up and where I was working at the time, and because my older-

sister Lindsey is a 2008 OU alum. Like I said, my parents didn't know much about higher education and couldn't offer much advice, so my plan became to try and do what dear-sister Lindsey did.

For a while the plan went pretty well. Granted, I moved into South Hamlin Hall and had a couple of the worst suitemates imaginable. I could probably write a book about the atrocities against hygiene and the annoyingly-hedonistic behavior that I was subjected to at that time. Still, during the fall semester I performed well enough in my classes while working a full-time job.

That academic success though was short-lived. By the end of the winter 2013 semester, I'd basically dropped out of OU. I would attribute this to a couple of different factors. The main one being that I just didn't really have a competent support system in my life.

Going from high school to college while keeping a job and your grades up is hard enough without people back at home pissing and moaning about how you're never around anymore or how expensive school is. As a young person, when you're dealing with that kind of negativity your motivation to succeed can become seriously jeopardized.

Now I've never been to a doctor about this, and I don't mean to in any way diminish the struggles that people have with mental illness, but I would say going into the winter 2013 semester I had entered a pretty serious depression. Between the issues in my personal life, living with less-than-ideal roommates and having received what I consider to this day to have been pretty horrendous advice from the First Year Advising Center, I was ready to call it quits at OU and focus on work.

And that's what I did. From spring 2013 onward, I was one working son-of-a-gun. Masonry, carpentry, demolition, retail, live music entertainment and fence installation are all part of my illustrious resume. Work was work, but I still wasn't particularly happy. I had some serious problems in my personal life, nothing that was my fault, but still stuff that I had to deal with and reconcile inside of myself. I needed a way out of the cycle I was caught in. I knew that I needed to do better.

In fall of 2016, I started paying out of pocket to take classes at Oakland Community College (OCC). The folks over there took good care of me, but I still very much had my foot halfway in the door of higher education. I didn't really know what I wanted to do, or really what was even possible. I would take a few courses, then take time off to save up some tuition money and then come back for a few more courses.

I don't know that there were a ton of particularly earth-shattering developments with me during my OCC years, but one thing that did happen is I got serious about my

grades. For the first time in my life, I was pulling in a 4.0 on a regular basis. I don't know if it was emotional maturity, or if it was the fact that I'd done some God-awful jobs collecting that tuition money, but I sure started doing my homework.

With increased classroom confidence and my new perspective on life I returned to OU for two classes alongside what I was taking at OCC in the winter 2018 semester. Now it would be nice for the narrative here if this return to classrooms in South Foundation Hall was some triumphant shift in my educational journey, but it just wasn't.

My personal life was still a nightmare in 2018 and I still really didn't know what the hell I wanted to do with my education. So, I finished up my classes that winter and went back to working and dealing with problems at home. At that point I was at a crossroads. I was working two different gigs and making pretty decent money, but I still wasn't happy.

In fact, during that time I rarely felt any good at all. I would say there were quite a few stretches where I got about as low as somebody can go before checking out completely. For some reason though, I hung in there and started reevaluating my situation.

At that point I knew I wanted to write for a living, but damn if there sure isn't a lot of stigma and baggage attached to that knowledge. My whole life I'd been good at reading and writing, and my whole life I'd been told there are no jobs and I can't make any money reading and writing. For the winter 2019 semester, I signed up part time for two classes at OU — Intro to Literary Studies and Intro to Journalism and News Writing. I went into those classes determined to have a good time, knowing that all I had to lose was everything.

For the first time I was studying subjects that I genuinely enjoyed. And that was definitely a step in the right direction, but I still wasn't quite ready to fully commit to my education. Something was still stopping me from putting my foot the rest of the way through the door. So I finished up my classes that spring and went back to installing fences full time with no intention of taking classes in the fall.

Fortunately for me, installing fences that summer went absolutely terribly. I worked a ton of hours, got jerked around on pay by a sleazy boss and ended up throwing my back out on three separate occasions, the last of which was so severe I was forced to go to the emergency room.

The doctor there prescribed me an opioid, a muscle relaxer and Ibuprofen 800. I left the hospital, got home at noon, ate some macaroni and cheese, took my pills as prescribed, fell asleep and didn't wake up until 3:30 p.m. the next day. I slept for about 27 hours straight. That's modern medicine for you.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Now it is my opinion that pain, physical or emotional or both, greatly inform the decisions we make. I've been in pain my entire adult life. Not just because of the aforementioned personal problems, but also because I got hit by a car in summer 2013. I was standing in a parking lot and somebody drilled me. I got a tilted pelvis and twisted up lumbar spine from the ordeal, and the driver got to flee in their black GMC Yukon while I was writhing around on the pavement.

So pain has certainly affected me, still I'd never had my decisions informed by it quite the way they were following that 27-hour nap. During that chemically-induced slumber, I had the most vivid dream I've had in my life, in which I hit the road in my blue 2005 Toyota Highlander and started driving to Alaska.

In the dream I got on I-75, drove up through the U.P. and eventually into Canada. I was cruising through the Rocky Mountains, rolling up and down roads with snow-capped peaks on either side of the guardrails. It just wasn't like other dreams.

Every detail was so concrete. I remember the smells of the places I would stop at, what songs I put on the radio, changing clothes, switching between sunglasses and regular glasses and magnificent seas of cedar trees stretching for miles and miles alongside the road. To this day, there are times that I have to remind myself that I didn't actually drive to Alaska.

The dream ended at a gas station just on the other side of the Canada/Alaska border. I was pumping gas when an old man walked up with an Alaskan Malamute pup on a leash. I bent down to pet the dog and it turned into a bull elk and leapt up the mountain next to where we were standing. It stood on top of a ridge, turned back and looked at me and the old man and then disappeared over the ridge. Then I woke up.

You may be wondering what all this has to do with my experience getting an education. The truth is I'm really not too sure, but for whatever reason when I woke from that dream the first thing I did was hop on my laptop and register to take four classes in winter 2020. I was heading into my first semester as a full-time student at OU since winter 2013. I was back all the way in on my education and it felt good.

The real turning point in my life occurred in 2020. The winter 2020 semester was awesome for me. I was studying English and journalism, and I ended up getting to take my first creative writing workshop at OU. I was having a blast with my schoolwork and then COVID-19 set in.

I don't need to do a recap of why 2020 sucked, you all lived through it just like I did. I would guess I was probably about as miserable as anyone during the early months of the pandemic. Amid all the chaos going on, I lost my day job and had a hell of a time trying to get benefits from Michigan's wonderful Unemployment Agency.

Despite those issues, I stayed committed to my education and it ended up being a damn-good thing. I decided to do my internship with the

Baldwin Center and take Professor Holly Gilbert's feature writing course that summer because I was unemployed and had nothing better to do.

That feature writing course ended up being a game changer for me. For the final assignment in that course, I wrote an over-3,000 word article featuring five different campus community members and their thoughts about remote education going into the fall 2020 semester.

Part of the assignment was that I had to submit the article for publication somewhere, I chose to send it in to the editors of The Post and it ended up landing me a job as Features Editor of this wonderful newspaper. I started working officially for The Post in September 2020, and I was selected to be editor-in-chief a little over seven months later in April 2021.

Joining this organization was the best possible thing that could have happened for my education. Being an editor gave me important work to focus on during a tremendously difficult time in our lives. I had like-minded peers, people who were passionate about the same things I'm passionate about, to work with and be around. It made all the difference.

And that's really about it on the story of me coming back and getting this degree after all this time. I stuck it out long enough, let some profoundly-negative experiences lead to positive experiences and eventually I found my people here at OU.

Next month, I'm going to get to move into the next stage of my life and I'm looking forward to it. So what are my big takeaways, what advice do I have to offer you, after my 10-year odyssey to get a bachelor's degree?

First and foremost — don't ever give up on your life. I know it's hard. As outlined in this article, I didn't get to be a "nontraditional senior" because things were going particularly well. I've spent much of my adult years with life kicking me in the teeth. It took me years to get straightened out.

So if you're feeling down, it's okay. You're not alone -- we all have bad days. Bad times don't last forever. Just keep doing your best. Even if you don't know where you're headed, as long as you keep moving you will arrive somewhere. Be brave enough to pursue the things you actually care about. Give yourself a chance.

It took me a while to get going. I had heavy psychological baggage. There were people in my life that I counted on, that I needed to be there for me, that just weren't. That kind of experience wears you out. Coming from what I came from, I never expected anyone to care about what I had going on. I certainly didn't expect anyone to offer to help me get where I was trying to go, but people did.

The faculty at this university are excellent. They're practically miracle workers as far as I'm concerned. They hand fire to cavemen, help us see light in our lives. If you work hard and open yourself to them, opportunities will be there.

The same goes for your peers in whatever field you're studying. I know it's hard as a nontraditional student being a little older than

your classmates. It can get lonely, it's easy to feel out of the loop. And there's a lot of negative things said about undergraduate students, but in my experience the vast majority of people I've studied and worked with who were younger than me have been kind and patient whenever I was a little out of my element.

You shouldn't shut yourself off from other people. I used to treat OU like it was just an extension of work, where I'd show up and put my time in and hope it'd help me in the long run. My experience improved significantly once I started working for The Post. Being involved in a student organization and serving the campus community provided some much-needed clarity of purpose for me. If you're feeling a little lost, I'd recommend getting involved on campus.

OU is the only place I've been in my life that when I gave more of myself, I received more back in return. The worst I ever felt was during time periods when I knew that I was stuck doing less than I was capable of doing. Coming back to school I was never too worried about a degree, but I knew that I needed an education so I could be a better person.

I think about the worst thing I ever did was compare myself to other people. Every person's situation is different. It's hard when you feel like you should be further ahead in life than you are. I had to make peace with the fact that my life was not like other people's lives.

We arrive when we're meant to. 10 years is a long time, but 10 years is how long it took for me. Besides, if I would have finished up when I was 22, I have no idea what I'd be doing today. Now I'm getting to do work that I love doing. There's no doubt in my mind that the education I've received since coming back to OU has thoroughly prepared me for what I want to do next.

Leaving this university, I'm going to get to pursue opportunities that just a couple years ago seemed almost entirely out of reach. After a lot of time spent in my early twenties doing things for other people, getting an education was something that I was able to do for myself. Because I did all this work, I'm going to be able to do more to help other people. So certainly, it's all been worth it to me.



PHOTO BY JEFF THOMAS
A glimpse into Thomas' old work life. Here he is on break sitting at the job sight.

‘Bridgerton’ season 2 is a seductive staring contest

GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH
Campus Editor

Dearest Readers,
At long last, a new season of romance and scandal is upon us. Netflix’s hit series “Bridgerton,” in all its Jane Austen, meets “Gossip Girl” regency-era glory, and has made its much-anticipated return.

After it was announced the swoon-worthy Duke of Hastings, played by the charismatic Regé-Jean Page, would not be returning to the series due to his up-and-coming film career and James Bond speculations, many fans were left wondering if the second season was also to be a shining diamond, or a lackluster disappointment?

I can assure you, dear reader — this season is a diamond of the highest clarity grade.

Based on the second book of the “Bridgerton” series by best-selling romance author Julia Quinn, the second season focuses on the dashing Viscount Anthony, the eldest Bridgerton sibling, and his search for a wife not out of love, but to fulfill his familial duties.

Miss Edwina Sharma, the Queen-proclaimed diamond of the season, seems like the perfect match, but first, he must get the approval of her protective older sister, Miss Kate Sharma. That’s where things get... complicated. Enemies-to-lovers complicated.

I think I can speak for all the doting and strong-willed eldest sisters out there with a dog that’s an excellent judge of character (too specific?) — Simone Ashley played her role as Kate Sharma perfectly. And I must say, I do agree with Miss Sharma. If the dog does not like the man, it is, to describe it in contemporary terms, a “red flag.”

While there are not as many scandalous scenes that require an awkward walk to the kitchen for a snack if watching in company, there is an electric chemistry between Anthony and Kate that is present throughout. It’s a good thing Anthony got rid of those god-awful sideburns. Like the prose of a Jane Austen novel, a touch of the hand or the glance of an eye can be just as intimate.

There was also an added humor

reminiscent of Austen’s work to Anthony’s entanglement with the



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB
“Bridgerton” season 2 dropped (elegantly, of course) on Netflix on March 25.

Sharma sisters and the other plotlines that was much appreciated.

Speaking of plotlines, outside of Anthony’s search to find a wife, there are several other stories to follow. Some of which, especially after being continued from the first season, I do not particularly care for. There was far too much garishly garbed Featherington content for my preference.

Balls — of the dancing manner, for those of you with minds in the gutter — set to classical renditions of modern-day pop songs are a staple of this romance series, but I did find some of the music to be of poor selection. People want romance, relevancy... not to listen to an outdated, overplayed Pink song as if they’re shopping in a TJ Maxx.

Unfortunately, I, like many members of the Ton, watched the entire season this weekend, which means another agonizing wait until the next round of Queen of Genovia narrated drama.

Until then, my Lady Whistledown impression bids you farewell.

‘The Rumor Game’ deserves a TV adaptation immediately

D’JUANNA LESTER
Senior Reporter

Book 38 for the year was a good one to say the least. “The Rumor Game” — by Dhionelle Clayton and Sona Charaipotra — is a Young Adult (YA) thriller novel written from the points of view (POV) of three different characters. As this book just came out, this will be a non-spoiler review.

The book is promoted as a “diverse Gossip Girl” and it definitely lives up to that. The plot follows the three main characters, Bryn, Georgie and Cora as they try to figure out who is making up rumors about them — trying to ruin their senior year of high school. The plot has many layers to it as we learn so much about the world and other characters the further we read from each character.

This book is packed with many diverse characters — main and supporting. Georgie is an Indian girl, and Cora is a Black girl. Both characters shed light on dealing with racism in this environment. We see racial diversity, body diversity and different sexualities in this book.

Complex. Characters. I don’t know how else to describe our main trio. They’re not necessarily likable or

unlikeable in my mind, and I think that was intentional. Each character has things that I can relate to, but also say and do things that I hope I never



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOODREADS
“The Rumor Game” by Dhionelle Clayton and Sona Charaipotra was released in March 2022.

do. Each character has a different background that leads them all into the path that this story takes, and it’s too addicting to put down.

My favorite character has to be Georgie. There’s something about the way she was written that makes her feel authentic. She has her ups and downs, like any teenager — that struggle to be perfect, but also wanting to be seen. I feel like that’s something a lot of people can relate to. I loved reading her POV because she felt so real.

This book tackles many serious topics, such as self harm, racism, sexual abuse and fatphobia. These are handled in a way that doesn’t feel cheesy or over the top, but realistic and informative. I learned so much from this book. The way Cora talks about herself and her experience of being the Black girl in high school was so relatable. Getting to that part in Georgie’s story almost made me cry when I read it.

The one thing that all of the main trio has in common is the struggle of being the perfect daughter. As they each belong to rich DC families, as well as different cultural backgrounds, we see each of the three struggle with trying to be “perfect.”

Georgie’s main arc revolved around

trying to be enough for her parents. Cora struggles with her parents favoring her twin sister, Millie. Bryn struggles with trying to get her reputation back after it is tarnished by the incident of the previous summer. This incident was the main driving force of the story, and made reading Bryn’s POV very interesting.

The plot twist! I’m mad at myself for not catching onto it earlier. This book takes a huge dive with a plot twist that made me stop so I could process it.

One thing I really enjoyed about this book was that it realistically captures the struggles of high school — especially as a girl — in the age of social media. There’s something for everyone to relate to in this book. I mainly identified with Cora. It felt like she was mirroring parts of my high school experience, even though I was nowhere near popular. If anything I was the Bryn of my high school in terms of social order.

This was an addicting read from start to finish, and perfect for those who like drama and mystery. It’s something I would love to be turned into a TV series. I desperately need to see these characters brought to life on screen.

Rating: 5/5 stars

‘Jujutsu Kaisen’ continues recent splash of anime movies

JOE ZERILLI
Senior Reporter

Spoiler Warning

After watching “Jujutsu Kaisen 0,” I can confidently say I will be watching the TV series based on the manga “Jujutsu Kaisen.” The movie was a short and enjoyable watch that did a great job of recreating the magic of the TV show — the little bit I have seen of it.

The manga is centered on the idea of living things having a cursed energy which they cannot control. The cursed energy then leaves their body and creates curses that Jujutsu Sorcerers — people who can control the cursed energy in their bodies — must defeat.

“Jujutsu Kaisen 0” is a prequel to the TV show — approximately a year before the show — and follows Yuta Okkotsu (voiced by Megumi Ogata) who is cursed by childhood friend Rika Orimoto (Kana Hanazawa), who promised marriage to Yuta but passed away when they were children. Yuta is recruited by a very powerful sorcerer Satoru Gojo — Yūichi Nakamura — to attend Jujutsu High School.

The song that accompanies Yuta as he begins his journey at Jujutsu High

School was lovely, and what started as a soft, enchanting song slowly became extremely energetic as it finished. It really captures the pace of the movie and Yuta’s journey — a reserved kid who learns to control the curse and become a strong sorcerer himself.

From that point we meet Yuta’s fellow first-years — Maki (Mikako Komatsu), Toge Inumaki (Koki Uchiyama) and Panda (Tomokazu Seki) — who are all different types of sorcerers in their own right. I really liked the chemistry between all four of them, and watching them all grow together as individuals and as a team, albeit a classic trope, was still very enjoyable.

The first time we see Yuta in action is with Maki, and it is to exercise a curse from a school — which is later found to be set up by the big bad of the film Seguru Geto (Takahiro Sakurai). This is also the first time we see Rika act as a curse, and she is absolutely terrifying, extremely powerful and looks awesome.

After another mission with Toge — who should have been explored further in the film — we learn the intentions of Geto which is to remove all non-sorcerers from the world. He even tries to recruit Yuta — to which he willingly disagrees — and Geto declares war.

All the Jujutsu Sorcerers are deployed

— besides Maki and Yuta who must stay at the high school — and engage in an epic battle against the curses created by Geto, whose true intention was to leave Yuta alone so he could take Rika away from him. Panda and Toge are sent back to the high school, but they are no match for Geto, even with Maki’s help.

Once Yuta realizes that Geto has pummeled his friends, a new rage encompasses him and he is set on destroying Geto with Rika’s help. He goes as far as to promise himself as a sacrifice to Rika as long as she helps him, which would mean the two are finally able to be together forever.

The fight between Yuta and Geto is by far the best fight sequence of the film, as the animation that goes into the fight along with the high intensity action makes it so it’s impossible to look away. The storytelling of how much Yuta has grown with controlling the curse and even grown as a fighter is perfect in the scene.

After the battle, Rika is free from the curse — it is discovered that Yuta cursed Rika — and can finally go to the afterlife. It is a very emotional scene as Yuta stays behind to live his new life, and I really liked the touching moment they shared.

I thoroughly enjoyed this movie

and am excited to see where “Jujutsu Kaisen” goes next. There is much anticipation for season two of the anime, and I hope to see Yuta appear once again.

Rating: 4.3/5 stars



PHOTO BY IMDB

“Jujutsu Kaisen 0” was released in March of 2022.

The Met Gala 2022: Last year’s redemption arc?

OLIVIA CHIAPPELLI
Senior Reporter

The first Monday in May is like Christmas for any fashion lover with a Twitter account. The Met Gala — the annual fundraising gala for the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Costume Institution — is officially back on for Monday, May 2 after its 2020 cancellation due to the pandemic.

This year’s gala consists of two parts due to that 2020 cancellation. The first, and smaller part, took place in September 2021 with the theme “In America: A Lexicon of Fashion.” The theme of the gala intended to reflect the current renaissance involving American identity in regard to fashion, but people mainly remember it as that time Kim Kardashian wore a black morph suit.

The 2021 gala’s theme was admittedly hard to understand from its name, and that confusion was more than apparent from the state of the attendees. Everyone went a different direction — from cowboy cosplay to sequined football jerseys, the night was a clear departure from the usually cohesive gala.

The second part’s theme is “In America: An Anthology of Fashion,” which will focus more on exploring the development of American fashion through history, particularly paying homage to the Gilded Age — giving everyone a smaller target to hit.

Esteemed fashion critic Vanessa Friedman has already given her perspective on the theme coining it “Gilded Glamour,” which will hopefully point stylists and their celebrity clients in the direction of the grandiose opulence which was lacking at the first part of the exhibition.

The thing I am most looking forward to, however, is this year’s exhibition’s collaboration with iconic film directors. Directors Janicza Bravo, Sofia Coppola, Julie Dash, Tom Ford, Regina King, Martin Scorsese, Autumn de Wilde and Chloé Zhao will all be contributing. The installation will be staged in the Met’s American Wing period rooms, where each director will be challenged to design cinematic vignettes — or freeze frames — based on their assigned room’s theme.

I personally cannot wait to see Sofia Coppola’s distinctive dream-like, sun-soaked, forever-ode-to-Kirsten-Dunst style of directing applied to her room.

This year’s gala will sport its usual bevy of famous hosts, with co-chairs including Regina King, Blake Lively, Ryan Reynolds and Lin-Manuel Miranda, and I have thoughts.

To begin, Regina King was a great choice. Not only will she deliver in terms of fashion, but her recent shift to directing makes her a perfect fit for the exhibition. She is for sure going to be a key player of the night.

Blake Lively — an iconic red carpet staple at each year’s gala — will serve as she does every year, and on every red carpet for that matter. And Blake Lively’s husband, less importantly known as Ryan Reynolds, will glow by simply being in her presence.

Now Lin-Manuel Miranda. This was a surprise for me, but with the success of “Tick, Tick... Boom!” which holds two nominations for this year’s Oscars, I can see the appeal. Lin is being carried by the wave that is the Andrew Garfield renaissance. Go off, I guess.



PHOTO BY MIKE COPPOLA

Kim Kardashian’s black morph suit at the September 2021 Met Gala

And that’s the basic rundown. I hope everyone will redeem themselves from last year’s miss, but I really just hope Harry Styles shows up this time.

Our love letter to the iconic ‘Freaks and Geeks’

TORI COKER
Marketing Director

LAUREN REID
Content Editor

We’re here on a simple mission: to outrageously hype up “Freaks and Geeks,” the iconic 1999 Judd Apatow-produced sleeper hit that launched the careers of star-studded names like Linda Cardellini, Seth Rogen, Jason Segel and Martin Starr, to name just a few.

It’s quite unusual for a show confined to a single season to continually find new life the way this iconic nineties dramedy has, but when you watch, it makes sense.

Here are six reasons “Freaks and Geeks” is the most legendary television show ever created.

1. Every character is not only insanely loveable, but beautifully developed. (Lauren)

I don’t know about you, but I generally wither in annoyance and angst at at least one of the main characters in any given television show — but not this one. There’s not one bad character, and each of them has a storyline that’s explored and genuinely reflected in their personality.

Daniel Desario (James Franco) is the Dallas Winston-esque “bad boy” who’s heartbreakingly troubled at his core, Bill

Haverchuck (Starr) is an absolute legend and loyal friend, Neal Schweiber (Samm Levine) is weirdly wise and quick-witted, but having real issues at home, Sam Weir (John Francis Daley) is the most adorable, caring little king — and the list goes on. These characters are absolutely legendary.

2. That time Sam secretly replaced the Freaks’ keg with nonalcoholic beer. (Tori)

While the Freaks respond to their school’s program against underage drinking with a keg purchase and party plans, the show’s younger cast are affected a bit more.

In his undying quest to be the most endearing little dude in all of television, Sam feels such worry for the safety of his big sister that he and his friends purchase a nonalcoholic keg and swap it for the real thing, with none of the party guests any the wiser. What are we supposed to do? Not deem this Emmy-worthy?

3. It contains potentially the most relatable depiction of a teenage girl on television. (Tori)

A portrayal of young people that leans both realistic and enjoyable on television is seemingly a tough balance to strike, especially with the tendency of writers to — shall we say — elevate the circumstances of character’s daily lives (I simply would drop out of East Highland High, Rue and company). There is something so endearingly on the nose about Lindsay Weir’s characterization that

succeeds in this balance.

Her aching desire to belong somewhere, to be someone, manifests itself in the most familiar of ways — she finds herself resentful of the traits, talents and people which have defined her up to now, forcing herself into discomfort and feigned apathy alongside this new group.

The beautiful thing is that as this façade comes crashing down, so does that shielding the other “freaks” she’d based this new personality upon, and we see her developing authenticity eliciting the same from her newfound friends. It’s such a refreshingly human take on teenage girls and their struggles — there’s a lot of beauty in the ordinary teenaged female experience, in all its complicated glory. I wish more shows took a page from this book.

4. That time Sam absolutely OWNED his Parisian nightsuit. (Lauren)

In an effort to impress his crush Cindy, Sam sports the most fabulous fit of all time — his baby blue Parisian nightsuit. This scene alone deserves indefinite praise. Go off prince.

5. The characters don’t have irrelevant beef to create drama. (Lauren)

You know when a character gets mad and leaves town on a bus because they saw their crush tucking a competitor girl’s hair behind her ear, and it wastes like 4,000 episodes? Yeah, that never happens on “Freaks and Geeks.”

These characters genuinely care for each other, and any drama that comes about is realistic, not overdone and reasonably resolved. Oftentimes when I’m watching, I expect someone to throw down over something extremely normal (I guess that’s what I’m used to, thanks CW Network), but they never do.

6. That time Sam side-eyed his dad at the dinner table. (Tori)

Whether you’ve seen the show or not — you know the look I’m talking about. As far as I’m concerned, this moment solidified this sassy icon as both the greatest character and greatest meme of all time.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB
“Freaks and Geeks” is arguably the best television series of all time, according to Tori and Lauren.

New horror picture “X” is a scary good time

ALEXANDER GUSTANSKI
Senior Reporter

My favorite movie of all time is 1981’s “The Evil Dead.” The film was directed by 20-year-old Sam Raimi, who dropped out of college at Michigan State with the goal of directing his first feature-length film.

With \$90,000 in loans from his family and investors, Raimi and his friends — including a young Bruce Campbell — created one of the most iconic and disturbing horror films of all time. I not only love “The Evil Dead” for its lo-fi aesthetic, but also the ambition and dedication of the creators.

“X” is the brand new horror picture from director Ti West, centering around a crew of adult actors and filmmakers who, one night in 1979, travel to a remote farm to create a porn film. Things go wrong when the elderly residents of the farm begin to snoop around and punish our protagonists for their deviant behavior.

The film pays homage to the independent horror cinema of the late seventies and early eighties like “The Evil Dead” and the enduring slasher genre.

In interviews, Ti West has been preaching how horror and porn have had similar histories and uses the two interchangeably.

“I didn’t want to make a movie about people making a horror movie. That’s too meta for me,” West says. “But if you could show people making an adult film, you could kind of get the gist of making any kind of film.”

The film is gory and exploitative, but that just makes it more endearing.

One of the strongest aspects of the film is its all-star cast. The frontwoman, Mia Goth, masterfully plays both the main character Maxine Minx, but also the elderly murderer Pearl. The Pearl makeup was consistently convincing, and I only noticed they were the same person while I was looking at the credits.

The supporting cast is equally as loaded, Brittany Snow, Scott Mescudi and Martin Henderson play sleazy pornstars that give off both an endearing and shifty presence. The film also has Owen Campbell and “Scream” star Jenny Ortega who run the camera and sound while comedically trying to turn the porn film into an arthouse picture. Everyone feels perfectly cast for their

roles, and I was genuinely sad to see them get picked off.

I also really enjoyed the themes present in the film. Besides focusing on the horror of aging, and the duality of Mia Goth’s characters, the film also analyzes the societal factors that spawned the slasher genre.

Slasher films often are criticized for being a byproduct of the puritanical society of the time for punishing characters who fall outside of the “final girl” trope. “Final girls” are typically young, white, virgin women who are able to overcome the villain or survive the longest which typically is portrayed as a result of their modesty.

Throughout “X,” there is constant preaching on the televisions and radios of the rural Texas residents — setting up the importance of religion during the time and location in which this film takes place. Toward the end, devout Catholic Pearl says her murder rampage is ethically not too different from Mia’s deviant lifestyle, which alongside other moments in the film, helps to subvert the traditional slasher genre and the “final girl” trope.

I have seen this film twice now, and I

am absolutely in love with it. The way it wears its influences on its sleeve and makes meta-commentary on some of my favorite films makes me admittedly biased toward it, but absolutely enamored with it.

I cannot wait for my \$55 Online Ceramics “X” shirt to come in the mail and for the prequel “Pearl,” which apparently has already been fully shot.

Rating: 10/10



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB
Mia Goth stars in “X.”

The Creation of an Artist: Tyler, the Creator's "Igor" 3 Years Later

CHRISTIAN TATE

Sports Reporter

Tyler, the Creator can be considered an "artist", in every sense of the term. His musical evolution has been a joy to watch, as he continues to experiment with new sounds and genres.

After establishing a sound reminiscent of the neo-soul and hip-hop music that had been exploding in popularity with his 2017 album release, "Flower Boy", Tyler continued to build on his unique sound with his subsequent release, "Igor". In honor of the 3-year anniversary of its release, I've decided to go back and look at what some consider to be the best album of 2019.

During the first week of its release, "Igor" debuted at the No. 1 spot on the US Billboard 200, making it Tyler's first US number one album. By the end of the year, the album garnered Tyler his first of two Grammy nominations [with "Igor" eventually winning the 2020 Grammy Award for Best Rap Album].

Entirely self-produced by Tyler with appearances from other artists like Kanye West and Lil Uzi Vert, "Igor" is a synth-heavy masterpiece with a story to tell. I try not to throw around the word "masterpiece" often, but I feel that this album deserves such praise.

In one sentence, "Igor" is a beautifully vulnerable work of art that displays so many emotions at once, it's easy to get lost in the waves of anger, love and pain present in the music. So clear is its beauty, that I almost feel like I'm doing it a disservice in trying to convey its meaning to you.

The album is an experience, plain and simple. In 40 minutes, Tyler takes you through a narrative of what is a seeming love triangle that has Tyler placed on the losing side of the battle for another man's heart. The dark and gritty nature of the beats mask the pain and heartbreak that the character in the album is going through.

As the music progresses, you can hear the lyrics mirror the progression of Tyler's feelings with the situation. At one point, during the song "GONE, GONE / THANK YOU", Tyler thanks the man for his love and thanks him for opening up his mind, before saying "But I don't ever want to fall in love again", affirming the scars and damage this relationship has placed on him.

Directly following this song, is the song titled "I DON'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE", where Tyler makes peace with the break-up and resolves to move on from the relationship and do good by himself. Not exactly subtle, but it doesn't

need to be. This album is a musical breakdown of a breakdown, and its quality should be shouted to the moon.

With all this being said, please go and listen to "Igor" if you haven't already. If I had to give it a star rating, it would get a full 5/5 from me. The praise it has been

given is well-deserved and you will not be disappointed. Give it your undivided attention when you do listen. Just go grab a pair of headphones and get lost in the heartsick love and hate of an artist who was only beginning to scratch the surface of his talent.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PITCHFORK

Sports reporter Christian Tate reminisces on Tyler, the Creator's 2019 album "Igor."

Just Dance: The Beginning of a Dance, Dance Revolution

CHRISTIAN TATE

Sports Reporter

On Nov. 17, 2009, gaming company Ubisoft published the first installment of a game franchise that has gone on to become the second largest title under their name. With the creation of "Just Dance", Ubisoft created one of the most influential games of the decade.

With multiple sequels and spin-off series, the "Just Dance" catalog of games has nestled itself into the hearts and homes of millions across the globe. Despite the rocketing success that the game series has experienced, the game fought through some tough criticism to get to where it is.

After the release of the first "Just Dance", the game was ripped to shreds from a critical standpoint. With sites like Nintendo World Report and IGN lambasting the game for its simplistic gameplay and lack of consistent motion detection, the game was seen as a rough project with loads of potential by some, and a waste of time and money by others.

Despite its poor critical reception, "Just Dance" went on to grab the attention of casual gaming audiences everywhere and cemented itself as a commercial success. If it had all of these problems, how did it sell so well? What kept people coming back to the franchise?

Well, I think the answer is simple: it's friends. I think that GameSpot put it best during their review of the game, where they saw underneath the surface problems to see how "Just Dance" could be best

played. As a single-player game, "Just Dance" never really had a shot. However, it was never meant to be played alone.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUST DANCE ON REDDIT
Sports reporter Christian Tate looks back on the video game phenomenon that is Just Dance.

I don't think it's a stretch to say that "Just Dance" can be described as friendship in video game form. I have vivid memories of all the times I spent dancing to "I Like to Move It" with my friends, just having fun while doing silly moves with them. The game never needed to be a technical masterpiece because the value of the game came from the feelings it could elicit from a group of people just looking to have fun.

"Just Dance" ingrained itself in the hearts of its players for its ability to let its players just relax and play, but Ubisoft made the franchise's quality known to the critics with the second installment of "Just Dance" title: "Just Dance 2".

With an expanded song list [48 songs plus downloadable content for "Just Dance 2" versus 33 songs and no downloadable content for "Just Dance"] and its noticeable improvements in quality, Ubisoft found its formula and stuck with it. With additional judgements in the rating systems of the moves, the addition of the "Duet Mode", and the addition of the single-player "Just Sweat" mode, Ubisoft addressed nearly every criticism levied at the predecessor of "Just Dance 2".

After the critical and commercial success of "Just Dance 2," the franchise continues to pump out new games each year and has become a gaming touchstone for casual audiences. Ubisoft believed in their game and the rest, as they say, is gaming history.

NCAA men's March Madness is better than the NBA Playoffs

REECE TAYLOR
Sports Reporter

The day is March 25, 2022. My NCAA Men's Basketball March Madness Bracket is cooked. To be fair, it was officially done after the very first game, but after the losses suffered by Arizona and Gonzaga, who I had picked to win the tournament, I officially have zero teams left in my Final Four... and I couldn't be happier.

Every March Madness, there are upsets, heroics, and Cinderella teams that you can't help but root for (for men's and women's basketball, but for brevity, I'm focusing on the men's). It doesn't matter if it's a one-seed or the top-ranked prospect for the upcoming NBA draft, your team has one game at a time to prove they deserve to win. Every single game matters, every single shot matters, and every play on the court matters as these teams chase immortality. This dramatic format is the antithesis of the NBA Playoffs.

As a lifelong fan of the NBA, I admit that it has a major problem. You can pretty much guess the winner of each series, barring a major injury. Year after year of the highest bidder, the biggest market, and super teams stockpiling MVP candidates to run roughshod over the league have made me bitter towards the NBA. There's no drama, but most of all, there's no fun. Long gone are the days of Bird vs. Magic and Shaq vs. Duncan. Where is the fight?

I understand that the NBA has bigger names and a collection of the best players on the planet, but the

NCAA is far better for one simple reason: Hunger. In the NBA there's a sense that the rich get richer and you can predict the Conference Finals and the NBA Finals pretty reliably, outside of the occasional Milwaukee Bucks or Detroit Pistons. You can easily argue the same with Power 5 teams, but let's take a closer look at the top seeds.

According to Sportsbook, in the 2022 NCAA Tournament, Gonzaga, Arizona, Kentucky, and Kansas had the best odds to win. Only Kansas remains. In the Sweet 16, there is a 15 seed, an eight seed, and a 10 vs 11 seed. Games have gone from blowouts to buzzer beaters. Of the top-ranked NBA prospects, only Purdue's Jaden Ivey and Duke's Paulo Banchero remains.

I'll be honest, I've never even heard of the Saint Peter's Peacocks before this tournament, but one thing is certain. I know who they are now. Not just the Peacocks, but every Cinderella team and player in the tourney. Their hunger is what propelled them to the top, and they were chasing immortality.

In the NBA, champions aren't reserved to the hungriest, or even the most talented. It's about the highest bidder. Teams like the Los Angeles Lakers, Golden State Warriors, and the Brooklyn Nets are able to lure major names into the bright lights and virtually sweep every team en route to a championship.

There's no competition or sport to it.

In the NCAA Tournament, these athletes are chasing immortality. Most of them won't make it to the NBA, and the few who do will likely be out in five years or less, but the prospect of winning an NCAA title is beyond compare for them. Out of 68 teams, you have one shot in each round. These players and teams like these odds. They just want to win.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TYLY

Sports reporter Reece Taylor finds the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship to be more entertaining than the NBA Playoffs.

The Running Club fosters friendships and personal development

PAYTON BUCKI
Sports Reporter

Each Friday afternoon, the members of Oakland University's Running Club (RCOU) lace up their shoes and go for a run. After a long week of classes and homework, the runners find solace in their workout.

While some view running as strenuous and exhausting, many find the exercise to be cathartic. Golden Grizzlies that find cardio exercise to be a beneficial stress-reliever can find a second home



PHOTO BY DONGFU HAN

Running club was founded in 2012 at Oakland University. Students get together and run to stay healthy.

at RCOU.

Acceptance is the allure of Oakland University's Running Club; membership is open to anyone, regardless of speed or skill level. With a collection of students from different backgrounds and experience levels, RCOU boasts a high level of diversity.

Many runners joined the club because they missed the team aspect of high school cross country and track. Others simply joined because they wanted to stay active.

Current Secretary, Sarah Nyquist, joined Running Club in Fall 2021 as a way to maintain her physical fitness and mental health. At club practices, she feels motivated to push her limits.

Conversely, freshman member Eien VanRiper joined the club because he enjoys the training aspect of running.

"One of my favorite parts of running is training," said VanRiper. "I like to push myself to improve as a runner every day."

While their reasons for joining vary, RCOU members are united in their shared love for running.

The main appeal of running is that the sport is accessible to virtually anyone. No experience is necessary and the only equipment required is a pair of athletic shoes.

"Everyone is welcome [to join Running Club]," said RCOU President John Sidwell. "The Running Club at Oakland University has always and will continue to provide a nurturing environment in which friendships and individuals can grow."

Oakland's Running Club ensures that their workouts are individualized, grouping runners by speed and experience level. The more experienced runners lead the pack, whereas the beginners anchor at a relaxed pace.

This grouping method reflects RCOU's commitment to their 'No Runner Left Behind' policy.

"The No Runner Left Behind policy ensures that all members feel included," said RCOU President John Sidwell. "So, whether or not you have run extensively before or not a single step, there is a place for everyone at OU Running Club."

With a large portion of Oakland's student body being comprised of commuter students, RCOU has put effort into recruiting students that live off-campus. This past year, the OU Running Club has attracted a modest number of commuter students.

One such student is Nicholas Skinner, a freshman studying Environmental Science. Nick decided to join RCOU to get more involved on campus.

"Joining Running Club has been a great way to make friends and meet new people," said Nick. "It's not difficult to stay involved as a commuter student; I usually just head to workouts after class."

As the spring semester comes to a close, RCOU has rather simple goals for the club's future. The club hopes to expand its membership and participate in more competitive team races.

Most importantly, RCOU hopes to continue providing a welcoming, supportive space for individuals and friendships to grow.

Editor's note: Payton Bucki is a member of the Running Club at Oakland University.

Oakland men’s basketball heads into offseason looking for answers

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL
Sports Editor

The Oakland University men’s basketball team’s season ended in the Horizon League tournament quarterfinals on March 3, leaving a bit of a sour taste in their mouths.

“It’s always sad when it ends — facing those kids in the locker room,” Head Coach Greg Kampe said during #GrizzVision after that game. “Jamal [Cain] just gave hell of a speech to all the young kids. It was a really good speech for them to hear. He poured his heart out about it being over.”

At the end of January, the team was in first place in the Horizon League with a 9-1 record. Grad transfer Jamal Cain looked like the transfer portal steal of the year, and players like Jalen Moore, Trey Townsend and Blake Lampman were starting to come into their own.

But when the calendar turned to February, things started to roll downhill fast. It started with three straight road losses to Northern Kentucky, Wright State and Youngstown State to begin the month.

They would get back on track with a win at Robert Morris, then they would come back home for the final five games of the season, winning against arch rival Detroit Mercy on Feb. 13. Unfortunately, the team would suffer another three-game losing streak after this.

After losing a nationally televised game to Wright

State in which the team led by 11 late in the second half, Oakland would lose to Northern Kentucky and Purdue-Fort Wayne as well, losing their chance at a first-round bye in the Horizon League tournament, having to settle for the 5-seed.



PHOTO BY SOPHIE HUME
Oakland men’s basketball coach Greg Kampe has some work to do this offseason.

Turnovers and late-game collapses plagued the Golden Grizzlies during this stretch, with a

conference play-high 23 giveaways coming against Northern Kentucky on Feb. 20.

Some late-season injuries seemed to catch up to Oakland as well. Moore played through some torn ligaments in his shooting wrist during the last 10 games, and both Townsend and Cain suffered ankle injuries that appeared to limit their ability.

Cain missed practice but would play in games, and Townsend tried to power through, even though Kampe was hesitant to play him. When taken into account, all of these factors appeared to lead to Oakland’s early exit in the Horizon League tournament.

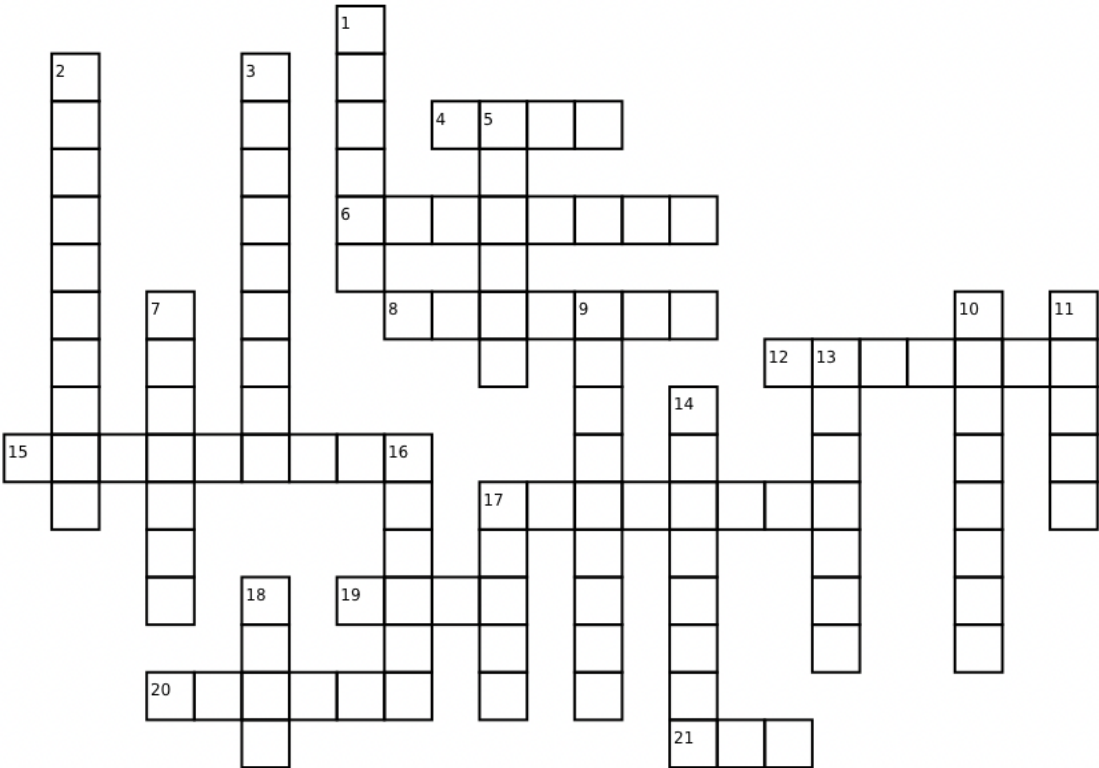
It’s still early in the offseason, but so far things don’t appear to be as bleak as they seem. Moore recently announced that he would be returning to Oakland for his final year of eligibility, and the only big loss the team has had so far is Cain, who graduated and is likely going pro.

As of right now, a starting lineup of Moore, Osei Price, Micah Parrish, Townsend and Will Shepherd or Chris Conway doesn’t look all that bad. Kampe could easily add a piece or two through the transfer portal as well.

Lampman emerged as a solid option as a 3-point shooter off the bench, but it became clear as the season went on that the Golden Grizzlies could use some more depth. Whether that comes on the recruiting trail or through the portal remains to be seen.

The Post was unable to set up an interview with Kampe.

Social Media Crossword



- Across:
- 4. A place to order custom things online
 - 6. Grow your network
 - 8. Receive your yearly wrap
 - 12. the oldest social media, before Facebook
 - 15. Photo inspiration
 - 17. Chat with friends through photos
 - 19. A place to sell things online
 - 20. Swipe right
 - 21. messaging app from middle school
- Down:
- 1. another dating app, it's yellow
 - 2. Music app that comes with the iPhone
 - 3. Facebook messaging app
 - 5. Spend hours watching short viral videos
 - 7. Share your fun thoughts
 - 9. Photo sharing app
 - 10. Find cheapest gas near you
 - 11. Send money to your friends
 - 13. Where influencer culture originated
 - 14. Connect with relatives
 - 16. blog everyone was on in 2012
 - 17. the original FaceTime
 - 18. Share 6 second videos (RIP)

Coach Krista Rice ready to take program to new heights

BROCK HEILIG

Sports Reporter

On March 16, Athletic Director Steve Waterfield announced the hiring of Krista Rice to be Oakland University's next volleyball coach.

The coaching search lasted just over two months. Former Head Coach Rob Beam resigned from his position in January, giving Waterfield the task of finding a replacement.

Waterfield delivered a statement shortly after the hiring, welcoming Rice to the Oakland family.

"I am happy to welcome Krista, Bruce, and their sons Lennox and Spencer to the Golden Grizzlies athletics family," Waterfield said in a press release. "Throughout the search process, I was very impressed with Krista's championship vision for OU Volleyball, her coaching philosophy, and her emphasis on creating sustained excellence on the court, in the classroom, and in life."

Rice has noteworthy experience at the Division I level, with stops at Toledo, Central Michigan and Michigan State.

Rice was a part of two NCAA Tournament runs with the Spartans in 2012-2014, and commended one of her mentors.

"I think every stop that I've had has sort of, in different ways, prepared me for this stage in my career,"



PHOTO COURTESY OF CMU ATHLETICS
Krista Rice has been named the new head volleyball coach at Oakland University.

said Rice. "I was fortunate enough to work under Cathy George, who is the coach at Michigan State, for what, 18 seasons? 18 years? So she was a tremendous — and still is — a wonderful mentor of mine."

Rice spoke to the challenges of coaching, stating that the job isn't a seasonal one.

"Many coaches receive the question, 'oh well, what do you do the rest of the year?' And I think navigating how much of a commitment it is, because it is a career," Rice said. "If you're not in the gym, you're spending most of your time, really, in the office preparing, whether it's for recruiting, or camps, or training for your team."

As it relates to the team's culture, Rice hopes to implement different things she has learned from other coaches to ultimately build her own team.

"Our vision, or my dream for the program, I think that we have a lot of the pieces that are, I guess, in place to be able to find consistent success again within the program," Rice said. "I think that any program goes through highs and lows, especially in mid-major volleyball, where you're typically competing in leagues where it's extremely competitive."

The volleyball season won't kick off until late August, but Rice has already been working with the team for a week and is determined to have her team ready to compete in the fall.

"Our championship segment of our year is in the fall," said Rice. "I actually just found out the other day that we report on Aug. 8 for all of our training, and our nonconference competition begins that final week of August."

Rice not only is committed to coaching her players in volleyball, but also in life.

"I am a firm believer that my job isn't just done once I walk off the court," Rice said. "Being a coach at the collegiate level is so much more than that. Like I want to make sure that not only am I helping them find success in the classroom as students, and on the court as athletes, but really helping them develop as individuals and young women."

It's clear that any player who is coached by Rice will not only improve their volleyball skills, but will also be prepared for life.

Baseball wins a close match against Eastern Michigan

REECE TAYLOR

Sports Reporter

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies Baseball earned a comeback win over the Eastern Michigan University Eagles 5-4 on March 22 at the Oestrike Stadium in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

The Golden Grizzlies, fresh off of a series win over Wright State, looked for their fourth win in five games. This matchup was in lieu of a match at Bowling Green, which was canceled over the weekend. The Eagles took the slot and invited Oakland to Ypsilanti for the Tuesday game and looked to make it a tough game for them.

The first inning saw the Golden Grizzlies at bat, where graduate infielder Brad Goulet singled to first before stealing second. Pitcher Justin Reinkall threw a wild pitch, which allowed Goulet to score, giving Oakland a 1-0 lead. At the bottom of the 1st, Oakland's freshman pitcher Hunter Pidek struggled against the Eagles, allowing a double and two singles before being pulled, but the Golden Grizzlies would be down 4-1 to close the first inning.

From the second inning on, Oakland's relief pitcher, Junior Travis Densmore, wouldn't allow a single run, allowing Oakland to readjust. In the third inning, the Golden Grizzlies went on a scoring binge, as senior infielder Gabe Lux would score after being walked and a pair of wild pitches. Eastern Michigan went for a pitching change after this, but Oakland

capitalized on their earlier mistakes to allow Goulet his second run of the day, along with a run from freshman pitcher Brandon Nigh, which tied the game 4-4.

The game would go scoreless for the next four innings, as both teams looked to gain a lead, until the top of the eighth, where Oakland would match up again against Reinkall. Oakland's junior outfielder Ian Cleary would score off of a single from redshirt junior infielder Thomas Green, who would take advantage of an Eastern Michigan error to advance to second and allow Cleary to score.

Sophomore pitcher Brandon Decker took over the mound for Oakland for the final three innings, where he would allow only one hit to keep Oakland ahead. Eastern Michigan would ground out in the ninth inning to give Decker and the Golden Grizzlies the 5-4 win.

After starting the season 3-10, the Golden Grizzlies are staying in the fight through improved pitching and a high-powered offense. Oakland has scored 31 runs over the past five games and has allowed fewer than five runs in three of these games. As Oakland continues to improve, look for the Golden Grizzlies to continue their trek up the Horizon League rankings.

Entering a four-game homestand, Oakland needs momentum before facing the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor on March 30. Horizon League play continues after that, with the Golden Grizzlies hosting the Youngstown State Penguins April 1-3.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
The Oakland University baseball team defeated Eastern Michigan in a game that was added to the schedule last-minute last Tuesday.

Men's soccer continues to look bright in spring season

PAYTON BUCKI

Sports Reporter

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies men's soccer team defeated the Saginaw Valley State Cardinals by a score of 4-0 on Saturday, March 26 at the UWM Sports Complex in Pontiac, MI.

From the start, the Golden Grizzlies looked bright... literally. The Oakland team entered the game wearing highlighter green uniforms.

However, OU's uniforms were not the only standout aspect of the night. The Golden Grizzlies' athletic performance was even more striking than their jerseys.

Early on, possession of the ball went back and forth between both teams. Each side saw multiple goal attempts, with no success.

Freshman Kai Garvey drew the crowd's attention rather quickly in the first half with his impressive footwork. Garvey led the Oakland offense as he repeatedly maneuvered the ball within a scoring range.

After a pass from midfield, Garvey swiftly dodged Cardinal defenders to score a short range goal. This play put the Golden Grizzlies at a 1-0 lead.

Now at a disadvantage, the Cardinals seemed determined to regain control of the game. On the offensive side, the SVSU team attempted to score multiple times.

Finn Jurak, Oakland's goalie, refused to allow the Cardinals room to even up the game. Just before the end of the first half, Jurak blocked a solid kick from Saginaw's Lachlan Hepburn.

The Golden Grizzlies entered halftime with a one-goal lead. Despite his team's advantage, Oakland Head Coach Eric Pogue felt as if it was still anyone's game.

"I would say both teams were relatively evenly matched in the first half," said Pogue.

As the second half of the game progressed, the Cardinals seemed to improve offensively. The Saginaw team began to look toward the goal with hope.

Suddenly, the Cardinals' momentum died. After a foul involving excessive force was called on Saginaw, one of their starter players was given a red card—grounds for automatic ejection for the remainder of the game.

"When SVSU lost a player due to a red card, that was a big turning point in the game," said Pogue.

Now down a player, Saginaw's spirits seemed to

burn out. Shortly after the red card was given, Darek Panucci scored another goal for the Golden Grizzlies.

The Cardinals continued to play a respectable game. Brady Walker performed a header near Oakland's net, barely missing the goal.

The Golden Grizzlies offense continued to challenge the Cardinals. With fifteen minutes left in the game, Mohammad Jamal Issa scored another Oakland goal, bringing his team's lead to 3-0.

As the game drew to a close, the Golden Grizzlies offense continued to remain fierce. With mere minutes left, the Cardinals lazily passed the ball in front of their own goal.

With Saginaw's wide open net in sight, Oakland's Zach Townsend took his chance. The freshman swiftly stole the ball and scored a close goal.

Townsend's goal cemented the 4-0 win for the Golden Grizzlies as the late-night matchup came to a close.

Pogue was pleased with his team's performance against the competitive Saginaw team. He expressed the team's outlook for the remainder of their spring season.

"Spring season allows our coaches to watch players we didn't get to see much during the fall," Pogue said. "Ultimately, we want to remain a strong, competitive team."

Oakland will play their next game at the UWM Sports Complex against the Aquinas College St. Bernards at 2 p.m. on April 2. This game will surely be a competitive match-up for the Golden Grizzlies, as the St. Bernards emerged from regular fall season play with a winning record.



PHOTO BY STANLEY TU

Finn Jurak kicks the ball out to his teammates against SVSU.

WINTER 2022 PAYMENT DUE DATE

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S WINTER PAYMENT DUE DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2021.

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

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

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