

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 46 | Issue 15 | November 18, 2020



Organic farm rebrands during harvest season

*Students add an OU flare,
introducing 'Growing Grizzlies'
Pages 8-9*

MISSING ART

Sculpture removed, restored and
relocated to Oak View Hall

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COVID-19 TEAM

Biden and Harris form COVID-19
advisory board to fight pandemic

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SINGING SEMIS

Noah Canales competes in The
American Pops Orchestra

PAGE 11

PHOTO BY: RYAN PINI

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



PESCOVITZ FOR PROSPERITY President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz announces OU's involvement with the Detroit Regional Talent Compact, which works to increase postsecondary attainment and reduce the racial equity gap.
PHOTO / @OAKLANDU ON TWITTER

THE OAKLAND POST

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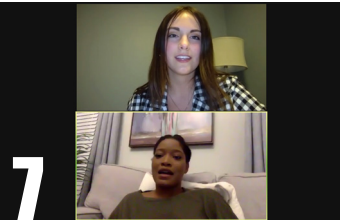
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KEKE PALMER
Keke Palmer attends virtual Q&A, hosted by SLLB
Photo/Sophie Hume



2024 IS COMING
Making early predictions for the 2024 presidential election.
Photo/NBC News



FROM PANTHER TO GRIZZLY
Lauren Karn learns about her style, patience as softball head coach
Photo/OU Athletics

VOTE AND CONNECT AT:
oaklandpostonline.com

POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THANKSGIVING FOOD?

- A) MASHED POTATOES
- B) TURKEY
- C) MAC AND CHEESE
- D) STUFFING

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHAT ISSUE DO YOU HOPE JOE BIDEN AND KAMALA HARRIS FOCUS ON THE MOST?



CAMPUS

Students cope with mandatory switch to online learning

EMILY MORRIS
Managing Editor

After Oakland University officially moved most classes online on Monday, Nov. 16, students are coping with online tuition and dwindling in-person discussion. Some are building new connections with these common challenges though — professors and students.

Oakland University's health concerns

There was a surge in COVID-19 cases related to the campus community this month, which prompted a warning from President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz on Friday, Nov. 6. The switch to online was confirmed on Monday, Nov. 9. There was roughly one new case reported each day in October, and OU's average increased to roughly 10 new cases per day in November.

"We have seen an increased number of COVID-19 cases occurring within our campus community," Pescovitz said in the official email. "This suggests that some of us have become more complacent in our efforts to protect ourselves and one another."

Increased online classes is meant to lower in-person contact and the spread of COVID-19. Previously, 37% of students reported they would not be returning to campus this semester and 21% only returning for classes, according to an Oakland Post poll in September. Those statistics suggest the majority of students (58%) will not be on campus going forward. However, this isn't a choice

exclusively for OU. After Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's address on Sunday, Nov. 16, all learning — K-12 and college-level — will resume virtually on Wednesday, Nov. 18, two days after OU moved online.

"This virus spreads most rapidly in community settings, especially when we tend to let down our guard," Pescovitz said in the official email. "This means that we must remain vigilant, not only when we are on the OU campus, but everywhere we go."

Tuition and online class

Psychology major Kacie Roggenbuckrees with the move to online learning. Although she "struggled" taking online classes, Roggenbuck chose to stay off campus this semester to avoid exposure to more people.

Even so, Roggenbuck is concerned about the cost of her online classes. The university did introduce a tuition freeze to combat the financial hardship many students are feeling because of the pandemic, but Roggenbuck expected a lower online rate and feels "taken advantage of [by OU]."

Tuition funds almost 80% of OU's operating revenue, making it a primary source of income. Students were offered additional financial assistance from individual financial aid and the CARES Act, but many students still feel a financial burden from online classes this year.

Types of classes

Most students are navigating solely synchronous and asynchronous online

classes. A synchronized class takes place at a set time, most similar to an in person class, while an asynchronous class involves more individual time management, with a string of online assignments and activities throughout each week.

There are some exceptions to this format made for "labs, lab-based research and field experience," according to the official Campus Communication email.

Communication major Teyler Thompkins prefers asynchronous classes because "without actually being there" class meetings don't offer the same "engagement." Because she has to use a computer for work and school, she "spends the majority of [her] day staring at a screen" and prefers controlling when she logs online.

Similarly, electrical engineering major Brandon Birge has noticed students struggle to give the "same amount of engagement" in synchronized virtual meetings. His classes include math concepts, and pacing can be difficult with varied participation and network issues.

"In terms of understanding the content of the lectures, I don't feel like I'm learning as efficiently," Birge said.

Even so, asynchronous learning isn't always a solution. Communication major Brendan Triola prefers a mix of asynchronous and synchronous classes.

"I wouldn't be able to manage my time well enough..." Triola said. "Otherwise I would just get overwhelmed at the end of the week because I just procrastinate."

Professor accommodations

While students confront challenges in online learning, Triola noted professors are going through similar challenges. Some professors hadn't taught in an online format until last spring when COVID-19 safety precautions first pushed class online.

"Professors are getting better at online [class], and hopefully next semester classes will be more enjoyable," Triola said. "I don't think anyone would describe this semester as enjoyable because we were rushed into moving online."

Psychology major Kerstyn Sass appreciates her professors have been flexible with deadlines and assignments, allowing her to "create her own schedule." Students and professors are adapting together, and "time management" and "communication" are the keys to online learning, according to Sass.

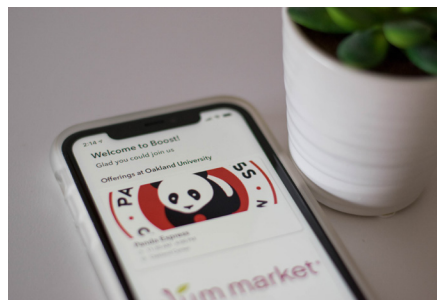
Professors have been "very accommodating" with assignments and projects in Birge's classes too, but some aspects out of their hands. According to Birge, some labs have been "shut down," despite being one of the only in-person classes left.

Although students and professors have different roles, both are experiencing the pandemic in some way. Online classes are an adjustment for students and professors that prefer in-person classes.

"It feels like it just started, but it also feels like it's never going to end," Triola said.

Mobile food ordering app 'Boost' makes its way to OU

CAYLA SMITH
Campus Editor



MAGGIE WILLARD | PHOTOGRAPHER
The 'Boost' app lets students order ahead.

A mobile food delivery app has made its way to Oakland University's campus, making it safe and convenient for students and staff to chow down.

Boost is a mobile app which gives students and staff the ability to avoid the line at their

favorite eatery on campus by pre ordering. The use of Boost on campus comes from the app being able to accommodate those of the campus community effectively, the trend of mobile food apps like Doordash and Uber Eats and the current social distancing brought on by COVID-19.

"We felt it was an appropriate time to initiate such a program as a convenience to our guests," said Patrick Strzyinski, Chartwells' director of operations. "Diners in general, appreciate options, this one greater opportunity for them to have a different experience on campus."

Once the app is downloaded to a device, students can create an account, select Oakland University as a preferred location and then they will be prompted to add a payment option.

Students currently can not use their meal plans to pay for food from the app because of security reasons.

"We have been working with the university and Boost since day one to make

meal plan usage an option," Strzyinski said. "It boils down to the security of data for our students. There are some configuration concerns and unless we know that all data is secure, we don't want to move forward."

According to Strzyinski, once the security issues are resolved, the use of meal plans on the app will be implemented.

Food also can't be delivered, but that depends on the popularity of the app. There is also another possibility that students will be able to deliver, but there will be precautions for the safety of students.

"That is definitely a possibility," Strzyinski said. "The students would most likely have to be employed by Chartwells though. Also, we would have to restrict the areas we could deliver for security and safety purposes. For example, if someone were to be delivering to a residence hall, we would restrict them to delivering to the lobby areas only."

The app has been popular within the campus community since the university adopted this new way to dine.

"Our guests that have used the app truly appreciate its convenience," Strzyinski said.

Students who haven't had the opportunity to try the app out are still excited to use it in the future.

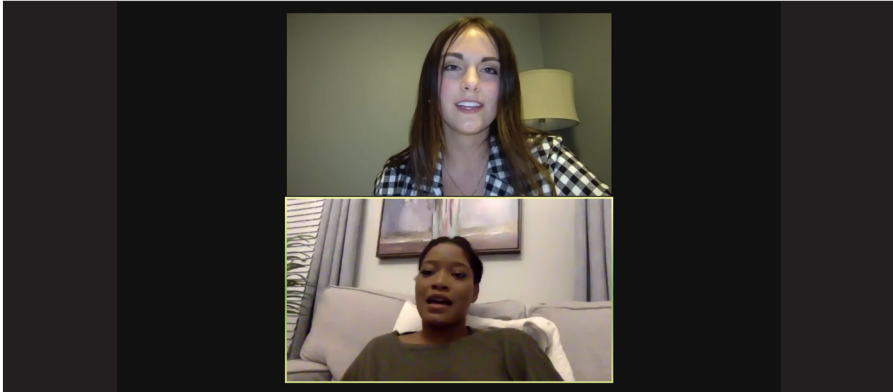
"I went to use to use it when it first came out, but it had to be tweaked," junior Kaylee Hall said. "I never used it once it was fully up and running, but I plan to use it in the future."

It is limited on where you can order on campus, but there are some campus favorites on the list like Panda Express, Plum Market, Subway, The Halal Shack, The Hive and Frankies. There is the mention of expanding to more places on campus, but it depends on the experiences of the campus community.

"The more our guests take advantage of this great opportunity, the better chance we have of expanding our services as well how we can serve the campus community," Strzyinski said.

Use Boost to skip the line by downloading from the Apple app store or Google Play.

Actress and activist Keke Palmer dishes on upcoming projects, social justice at virtual Q&A



SOPHIE HUME | PHOTO EDITOR

A screenshot from the event, which was hosted by Student Life Lecture Board and moderated by co-chair Drake Lambright.

LAUREN REID Staff Reporter

In the midst of a global pandemic and turbulent presidential election, the Oakland University community came together on Wed. Oct 11 for a virtual-live conversation — along with some much-needed positivity and motivation — featuring actress and activist, Keke Palmer.

Hosted by OU senior and Student Life Lecture Board (SLLB) co-chair, Drake Lambright, Palmer answered attendees' previously submitted questions authentically and earnestly — dishing on her book, "I Don't Belong to You: Quiet the Noise and Find Your Voice," social justice, previous roles and her upcoming film, "Alice."

To kick off the event, Palmer touched on the impact of Vice President-elect Kamala Harris being elected to office as the first female, Black and South Asian vice president.

"I'm so happy for [Harris] to break that glass ceiling, it truly is mind-blowing," Palmer said. "It's hard for us often to see women in these official positions, let alone a woman of color. For her to be able to break through like she did — it shows the kids what's possible."

Palmer also touched on the Black Lives Matter movement, as a question stemmed from a video of Palmer speaking to the National Guard and asking them to "march with us" and join in the protest.

"In that moment, I [had] so much inside and sometimes I feel it's crazy that we don't all come together [more]," Palmer said. "I hate that it's become a normal thing in our society — since we were kids — to have undertones of discrimination and uncomfortableness. At the end of the day, we all bleed. If we're all on the same team for humanity and human rights, then let's keep it real, step outside of our comfort zones and put it on the line because this is worth it."

In lieu of her upcoming film, "Alice," set in the 1970s and inspired by a girl who decides to leave the plantation, Palmer spoke on the movie's plot and how she takes on emotionally demanding roles.

"When the movie opens up, we see a plantation and see that Alice is a slave," Palmer said. "Something ends up happening on the plantation where Alice decides she's ready to run [and] when she gets through the woods, we realize we weren't in the 1800s the whole time [but rather] the 1970s. [The film] covers history that even past the abolishment of slavery, people were still kept into slavery without even knowing. Obviously, we've taken some jumps with it being 1973, but it covers that historical fact [along with] Alice's journey alongside the character she meets."

Palmer mentioned filming "Alice" is "emotional acrobats."

"You have to really hone into your skill in order to bounce back and go in and out of those beats everyday," Palmer said.

In the middle of such an unprecedented year of change and new normals, Palmer said everybody has to do what they can for themselves.

"We aren't going to have all the answers," Palmer said. "The best thing we can do is be nice to ourselves, love ourselves and put ourselves first [to ensure] we're mentally well, otherwise we won't be able to be good for anybody. We also have to hold close the people that we love and find happiness there."

Palmer also stressed the importance of a positive mindset.

"You can't let yourself be too consumed with negativity — you have to look at it, feel it and be aware — but then turn it inward."

For more information on upcoming events, visit GrizzOrgs.

 Information courtesy of the Oakland University Counseling Center

MENTAL HEALTH TIPS DURING COVID-19



1. It's okay to not be okay

Take a break, mental health is just as important

2. Be flexible and adaptable

Accepting change makes it easier to deal with

3. Know your limits on news consumption

Balance is key, keep your consumption healthy

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

Give yourself something to look forward to

5. Write three happy things about your day at night

Even the smallest things count

6. Routine is king

Focus on the things you can control

7. Connect with others creatively

Social media, video calls, online parties

8. Daily self-care

Exercise, relaxation, pet therapy, journaling

9. Acknowledge the grief we're experiencing

Loss of loved ones and of our old lives/routines

10. Know your resources

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

CAMPUS

Professors co-author article about vaccinations and refusal of care

BRIDGET JANIS

Staff Reporter



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICK SMITH
Mark Navin (above) was one of two OU professors to work on an article for "Pediatrics."

The issue of vaccinations is a sensitive topic that is becoming more politicized. Mark Navin, Ph.D. and chair of philosophy, and Jason Wasserman, Ph.D. and an associate professor in the Department of Foundational Medical

Studies at Oakland University, have co-authored an article for "Pediatrics."

"Pediatrics" is the official journal produced by the American Academy of Pediatrics and is the professional society for pediatricians in the U.S.

The two from OU also worked with Douglas J. Opel, M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Washington's School of Medicine.

Their article focuses on physicians that are not accepting families that refuse vaccinations for their children.

"My co-authors and I think that this is generally wrong, from a moral point of view, and we think this practice is not covered by existing guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics or the American Medical Association," Navin said.

Since 2016, it has been considered acceptable for physicians to dismiss vaccine refusers. They noticed that a lot of pediatricians were not only dismissing the families that refuse to vaccinate, but not accepting them into their practice at all.

The thesis of the article is that refusing to treat vaccine refusing families entirely

is fundamentally immoral. That the effort has to be made to help people and encourage proper vaccinations, instead of outright care refusal.

"In our minds, and the arguments we make in our article is that these are not equivalent," Wasserman said. "We wanted to clarify that there's a moral distinction between ultimately dismissing a vaccine refusing family after you've tried to get them to take up the vaccines and not accepting them into one's practice in the first place."

Vaccinations are currently a hot topic to talk about while the country is going through the COVID-19 pandemic. These recent outbreaks of diseases can cause more of an issue regarding this topic of discussion.

"This is evident in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and recent outbreaks of measles and other vaccine-preventable disease also illustrate the importance of widespread routine vaccination," Navin said.

They believe that the urgency of our current situation demands physicians try to persuade families to become vaccinated,

that physicians should be promoting vaccinations and educating the families that are refusing vaccinations.

"They should make all these good faith efforts to get these families to vaccinate," Wasserman said. "If all of that fails and if that relationship is really at an end path, then it is an acceptable option to dismiss the family."

They also argue that threatening to not accept families will not change their mind. That while some physicians are morally admirable, refusing families does not balance any of the moral obligations that a physician goes through.

As infectious diseases are on the rise and the public's skepticism of the desperately needed COVID-19 vaccine continues to grow, Navin admits the current circumstances around vaccines hardly make the situation easy for physicians.

"It is not always clear how physicians should respond to vaccine hesitancy or refusal among patients or potential patients, in light of the many responsibilities that physicians have," Navin said.

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Sculpture removed, restored and relocated to Oak View Hall

EMILY MORRIS
Managing Editor

Stapled outside of South Foundation Hall, there was an abstract sculpture — Motherwell by Joseph Wesner — that's been moved for the first time in over thirty years.

The sculpture rested on a trailer behind Oak View Hall until restoration could begin. Now its permanent home will be in front of Oak View Hall, alongside another piece by Wesner: Echo Cognito.

Refurbishing and adding to Oakland University's art is a passion project of Dick Goody, Oakland University art gallery director. He believes access to art is especially important now.



MAGGIE WILLARD | PHOTOGRAPHER

Motherwell by Joseph Wesner was originally placed near South Foundation Hall in 1988, but it was restored and moved to Oak View Hall.

"It is especially [important] now, good public sculpture like this allows us, for a moment to daydream beyond the constraints of daily life and helps us transcend our difficulties," Goody said.

There was an art competition, called Meadow Brook Invitational: Outdoor Sculpture, that spurred OU's collection in the 1980s. Wesner's contributions followed this movement, and he continued to stay involved. He chose to periodically come back and repaint his art, but after his death in 2002, the sculptures were left to the elements.

"The artist would come back periodically and paint it. There wasn't a contract for him to do that, but he was happy to do it," Goody said.

Because of the size and structure of the outdoor sculptures on campus, they can pose restoration difficulties, according to Goody. Most contractors don't have adequate facilities to accommodate the sculptures, but one contractor agreed to do the project outside.

The steel was stripped of its paint, and any rust holes were patched. Then the sculpture was repainted in its original black and white colors.

Motherwell's restoration is only the beginning of a project to repair all of the sculptures on campus, eventually establishing a "sculpture walk." Next, there are plans to restore Sunset Cube — a yellow cubic design near Sunset Terrace — and Day Star — a red and white design adjacent to Treerunner Adventure Park. These projects will have to wait for warmer weather though, because of the outdoor restoration.



MAGGIE WILLARD | PHOTOGRAPHER

Motherwell sits across from Echo Cognito now, another sculpture created by Wesner in 1999.

"Once we get those — those three done — we'll have something under our belt that we can be proud of because those are the ones that are made of steel and need attention," Goody said.

Returning all campus sculptures to mint condition will take roughly five years, according to Goody, but that's only possible with sufficient funding. Then Goody wants to add more art to create an extensive "sculpture walk" on campus, a roughly ten year goal. Anyone interested in helping improve OU's campus art, can reach out to...

"Eventually we'd like to have more sculptures at different locations so you could actually go on a sculpture walk," Goody said. "It will be a great thing to do, and I think this is a sort of initiative that gets us to start thinking about that."



EMILY MORRIS | MANAGING EDITOR

Sunset Cube by David Barr is another steel sculpture, near Sunset Terrace. The art was installed in 1981 as one of six winners in the Meadow Brook Invitational: Outdoor Sculpture, a competition that introduced most of OU's outdoor art.



EMILY MORRIS | MANAGING EDITOR

Day Star by Sydney Atkinson is also painted steel, near the Treerunner Adventure Park. This was also introduced in 1981 because of the Meadow Brook Invitational: Outdoor Sculpture, and these will be the next restoration projects.

Student Organic Farmers Club rebrands to 'Growing Grizzlies'

The former Student Organic Farmers Club (SOFC) at Oakland University will be known as the Growing Grizzlies from now on.

The decision to rebrand was based on the desire to grow membership and to better distinguish themselves from the Campus Student Organic Farm (CSOF).

The CSOF is a community of students, faculty and staff committed to nourishing the local community through exceptional education and community engagement programs and fresh healthy food.

Growing over 50 different types of organic produce including food and flowers, its mission is to "build capacity for local food production and access to healthy food through training and fostering collaborations that promote sustainable local food systems."

The Growing Grizzlies is a service-oriented club that works directly with the farm. Members of the club volunteer to help distribute produce on campus to students as well as organizing local community projects. They also provide student engagement opportunities on food systems and health.

Noora Neiroukh is the vice president of the Growing Grizzlies. Along with the president of the club, she helps the farm managers organize a variety of community projects throughout the year.

"Club members are only volunteers since the club doesn't get money from the farm and members aren't paid the way that farm managers are," Neiroukh said. "We're in the process of figuring out how we're going to operate this year with COVID-19, especially because there haven't been many volunteers, and it's hard to have a lot of people at the farm at once."

Despite the pandemic, Neiroukh and the members of the club are working hard to continue to support the organic farm.

While they hope to return to hosting more in-person meetings and activities, they have come up with safe, alternative ways to continue their efforts in maintaining and further developing their diversified farm.

They are planning on working on community projects in the spring, as well as bringing in guest speakers virtually to discuss the importance of a healthy diet and how this can be accomplished by growing fresh, pesticide-free produce.

"We're currently brainstorming for a variety of community project ideas," she said. "We'd love to visit nursing homes and schools to plant vegetables, herbs and flowers when it is safe to do so."

The club members are also planning on providing suggestions and various presentations on how to grow produce to its members through virtual meetings.

"We are not just learning facts or skills, this is a philosophy which can take time to settle in the mind," a member of the Growing Grizzlies said. "It can be more difficult to make our own discoveries than it is to simply be given a formula to memorize, but it is also more stimulating and I'd say more worthwhile."

Giving produce to the OU food pantry, the CSOF strives to provide fresh healthy food to its community as well as various hands-on learning opportunities and an understanding of sustainability and community health.

"I love gardening in the summer and I've always had to research the safest insecticides that pose major health risks," Neiroukh said. "Students have so many opportunities to explore within the club and farm that are incredibly useful and fun."

For more information about student activities, visit the Instagram page [@growinggrizzlies](#) or contact organicfarm@oakland.edu.

Story by Rachel Yim // Photos by Ryan Pini // Design by Meg Speaks



Kale and cabbage are some of the many vegetables that the 'Growing Grizzlies' are harvesting this fall.

The 'Growing Grizzlies' split up there produce into different wings of the garden.



Becoming member of the 'Growing Grizzlies' is a great way start working with organic farming.

Joe Biden, Kamala Harris form new COVID-19 board

AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris have appointed members to their COVID-19 Advisory Board.

The board has one purpose, according to the Biden-Harris Transition website.

“Dealing with the coronavirus pandemic is one of the most important battles our administration will face, and I will be informed by science and by experts,” Biden said. “The advisory board will help shape my approach to managing the surge in reported infections; ensuring vaccines are safe, effective, and distributed efficiently, equitably, and free; and protecting at-risk populations.”

The website continues to explain that The COVID-19 Advisory Board will help guide the Biden-Harris Transition in planning for the President-elect’s robust federal response.

“These leading scientists and public health experts will consult with state and local officials to determine the public health and economic steps necessary to get the virus under control, to deliver immediate relief to working families, to address ongoing racial and ethnic disparities and to reopen our schools and businesses safely and effectively,” it said.

The board has a mix of doctors, public health officials, current and former government officials as its co-chairs, advisors and members.

Variety! We love to see it!

The Transition COVID-19 Advisory Board is led by co-chairs Dr. David Kessler, Dr. Vivek Murthy and Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith, according to the Biden-Harris Transition.

David A. Kessler is a professor of Pediatrics and Epidemiology and Biostatistics at UCSF and served as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner from 1990 to 1997. He served President George H.W. Bush and was reappointed by President Bill Clinton.

Vivek Murthy, MD, MBA, served as the 19th Surgeon General of the United States from 2014 to 2017. He commanded 6,600 public health officers all over the globe — their job focused on helping underserved populations, protecting the nation from Ebola and Zika, responding to the Flint water crisis and natural disasters such as hurricanes.

Marcella Nunez-Smith is an associate professor of Internal Medicine, Public Health, and Management at Yale University and the associate dean for Health Equity Research at the Yale School of Medicine.

Her research focuses on promoting health and healthcare equity for structurally marginalized populations.

My favorite thing about this board is that it’s already diverse and there are women in places of power. The mix of backgrounds can provide multiple options for how to go about a single problem that the board might encounter.

Those aren’t the only members, though.

Dr. Beth Cameron and Dr. Rebecca Katz are serving as advisors to the transition on COVID-19 and will work closely with the advisory board.

Dr. Rebecca Katz is professor and director of the Center for Global Health Science and Security at Georgetown University Medical Center. Dr. Beth Cameron is the former director of a White House biodefense council that Trump has been criticized for closing in 2017.

Also on the advisory board are well-known medical figures, including Obamacare architect Dr. Zeke Emanuel, bestselling author Dr. Atul Gawande and Trump administration whistleblower Rick Bright, who led the government’s production and purchase of vaccines.

The Biden-Harris Transition describes the board as one “made up of a diverse and



PHOTO COURTESY OF ABC
Biden and Harris have committed to reducing the spread of COVID-19.

experienced group of doctors and scientists. Members of the Advisory Board have served in previous administrations and have experience engaging with and leading our country’s response to nationwide and worldwide public health crises.”

I’m really impressed with the people that are a part of this team, and I think it’ll be a good tool to help reduce the number of COVID-19 cases.

WINTER 2021 PAYMENT DUE DATE

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY’S WINTER PAYMENT DUE DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2020.

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.

Payment
Due

LEARN how to avoid cancellation (drop) at oakland.edu/financialservices/payments-refunds/payments-cancellation

Student selected as semi-finalist for national singing competition

BRIDGET JANIS
Staff Reporter

Oakland University's Noah Canales has been selected as one of the semi-finalists for The American Pops Orchestra (APO) semi-finals for their fourth annual "NextGen National: Finding the Voices of Tomorrow" competition. The competition will take place on Nov. 21, 2020, at 8 p.m.

APO was founded in 2015 by Maestro Luke Frazier. The goal of APO is to give opportunities to promote and reimagine American music. They focus on live and virtual performances and work to build a bigger community.

This competition has participating vocalists from colleges and universities across the U.S. The winner of the competition will receive \$1,000.

To participate, the contestants had to audition by sending in a 32 measure cut from a song before the 1970s. They could choose from different genres of music such as musical theater or Jazz.

There were 30 contestants chosen to move on to the semi-final round.

During this round, contestants are required to record the same cut but in more of a professional manner, using professional microphones.

Canales first heard about this opportunity from his voice teacher Alta Marie Boover.

"I've kind of dealt with being a lot more timid or nervous and being afraid of failure and I wouldn't take opportunities that people would put out toward me," Canales said. "I think that this can be the first step in making myself known to the public and putting my name and face out there."

The first round of the competition is virtual, and the contestants have already sent in their videos for the event on Nov. 11.

A week before the auditions, the contestants had the opportunity to attend a masterclass to get prep work in and get tips on how to set up their video.

The semi-finals will be judged by a panel of judges including Broadway stars, recording artists and art administrators. They will also be providing the contestants feedback on their performances.

Canales chose to sing "Lost in The Stars" by Kurt Weill, a composer from the 1920s. The song is from the musical theater genre and is from the musical "Lost in The Stars".

"This piece is very humbling, it's a very emotional piece when you think about the lyrics," Canales said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE
Noah Canales will be competing in the "Next Gen National: Finding The Voices of Tomorrow" competition.

The song is about explaining to a little girl why God doesn't always help you. It goes on to express the idea of people being lost together with God watching over them.

"I didn't think this competition was as big as it was and I was just like 'oh yeah, let me just send in their piece that I'm trying out,'" Canales said. "When you get an email back that oh, there's this and oh, there's a giant competition you're like 'oh wow I actually have to put a lot more time and effort into this piece than I thought.'"

For the audience to watch the event they can go to the link provided here, and this will also allow the audience to vote for their favorite performance.

Voting throughout the competition will help contestants move on to the final round.

Canales said he will be doing all that he can to make OU proud.

"I want to make sure I keep working to make sure I find more opportunities like this," Canales said. "I want to make sure I can make sure everyone is proud of me and not let them down."

GRIZZLIES PROTECT GRIZZLIES

Cumulative on-campus positive cases since October 31:

149

Faculty or staff:

20

Students not living in OU Housing:

99

Students living in OU Housing:

30

On-campus isolation rooms occupied

5/107

All information is from OU COVID Public Dashboard

After Trump's loss, Phoebe Bridgers, Maggie Rogers drop 'Iris' cover

LAUREN KARMO
Marketing Director

As promised, Phoebe Bridgers and Maggie Rogers delivered a heartbreaking cover of "Iris," originally by the Goo Goo Dolls, after Donald Trump lost the election on Friday, Nov. 13.

On Nov. 3, Bridgers tweeted that she would make the cover only if Trump lost. Rogers quickly hopped on the project, and together they dropped the cover exclusively on Bandcamp. While many assumed their exchange was just a joke, the day all state races had been called, they delivered.

The single was available for free streaming or paid download for one day only, and all proceeds raised went to Fair Fight — Stacey Abrams' organization working to end voter suppression.

The pair have both been active about their political interests, and with Georgia senate special elections looming in January, their contribution makes perfect sense.

After only 24 hours of access, "Iris" will likely be featured on the Billboard Hot 100 list for the week with over 28,000 paid downloads in the U.S.

"Iris" is astoundingly beautiful. Known for her floaty soprano and sad songs, Bridgers was able to transform the 1998 rock ballad into something soft and acoustic. Rogers grounds the melody with her hearty alto lines, contrasting perfectly with Bridgers' signature tone.

The "Motion Sickness" singer is a favorite for the raw emotion she always brings to her music. While she may not be able to replicate Ariana Grande's complex runs or match Taylor Swift's perfect pitch, Bridgers more than makes up for it in the feelings she projects to her audience. "Iris" is no different.

With Bridgers in the lead, "Iris" feels less and less like a Goo Goo Dolls song and more like something we'd find in her voice notes app. The fun she and Rogers had while making this comes through, making it even more of a joy to listen to.

Simplicity is Bridgers' calling card - her exposed lines transform "Iris" from an epic soundtrack piece from "City of Angels" to something more intimate. Listening to this feels like we get to see



PHOTO COURTESY OF BANDCAMP
Cover art for "Iris" (2020) cover by Phoebe Bridgers and Maggie Rogers.

directly into her mind.

Rogers adds a different color to Bridgers' cool tones - something more earthy and warm. Their complementary harmonies on the chorus blend together to create a perfect balance. The "Alaska" singer takes the lead on the second verse, which suited her sultry sound.

With her last project released a year ago, fans of Rogers have been itching to hear more. While they wait for the archive of self-produced records she's been teasing, this will hold them over if they were able to download it in time.

The original band, the Goo Goo Dolls, were impressed with the direction Bridgers and Rogers took the song. After over a decade, the two were able to take something old and make it new again. Their ability to transform this classic to something soft and heartbreaking was absolutely incredible.

While there aren't many places to access "Iris" by Bridgers & Rodgers, fans are begging for them to make it streamable, so here's hoping.

Rating: 5/5 stars



Information courtesy of Oakland University
and the Center for Disease Control.

COVID-19 BEST PRACTICES

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

Way too early 2024 election predictions

JEFF THOMAS

Features Editor

Much to the chagrin of our pundit class, the pre-election anxiety and unrest didn't just disappear into thin air with Joe Biden's victory. This COVID-19 crisis is real. Cases are spiking, people are hurting and thus far our institutions have failed miserably at protecting our lives.

Our political landscape is now as volatile as it has ever been. President-elect Biden is walking into a once in a century crisis. With his political record of trampling the disenfranchised and selling out the working class, the American people are rightfully skeptical and insecure.

Many Americans now wonder whether we have avoided a bullet to the head only so we can gently slit our wrists in the bathtub.

Due to a lackluster electoral performance and pitiful party leadership, Biden will enter the White House confronted with a conservative Supreme Court and a Republican Senate.

Even if Biden suddenly got the itch to become the second coming of Franklin D. Roosevelt, he would be strongly opposed by a Republican party that seems to outwit and out-muscle the Democrats at every turn.

The next four years are going to be some of the most pivotal in the history of the country. Biden's term will be a legacy defining one.

It is impossible to predict where we will be by the end of his term. Though, there are plenty of indicators now to which way the political landscape is going to evolve.

Here are some key things to expect for the 2024 presidential election.

Biden will be a one-termer

President Biden will not seek reelection in 2024. The oldest president elect in history will be 78 years old by the time he is sworn in and he will not hold the office for more than four years. Due to health, due to the fatigue of the office and due to the way Biden sees his current role in the Democratic party.

Biden sees himself as a transition point for the new generation of Democrats to emerge. He seems more than willing to pass the baton to centrists like Beto O'Rourke, Pete Buttigieg and of course his running mate, Kamala Harris.

General speaking, age and health are a big concern for voters. The Democrats understand the risk of running someone in their eighties. Expect Biden to bow out after one term.

Donald Trump strikes back

The Donald is handling defeat about as well as his supporter Mike Tyson was handling defeat when he bit Evander Holyfield's ear off. His carelessness and classlessness in the days following the official election results have been as bad or worse than any of the pitiful antics he has taken part in during his presidency.

Trump loves the limelight and he hates losing. His supporters have a cult like devotion to him, and he knows it. Expect a member of the Trump family to make their bid for the 2024 Republican nomination. If it isn't Trump himself, it will likely be his son Donald Jr. or even his beloved daughter Ivanka. Regardless, it's safe to say Trump is far from done with U.S. politics.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NBC NEWS

Americans can expect Biden to only last one term, Trump retaliation and a Michelle Obama campaign.

Further fracturing of the Democratic party

The Democrats underperformed in this election. There's no other way to spin it. Despite having a horrific incumbent president and criminally negligent Republican senate to run against — the Dems still lost seats in the house, failed to retake the senate and their chosen candidate Biden underperformed with key segments of their base in the presidential contest.

In the aftermath of the election there's plenty of finger pointing going on as the party tries to justify these results to their voters and donors. Centrists and their Republican allies have piled on the progressive wing of the party. Progressives like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez have struck back, pointing out that every single candidate who embraced progressive policies like universal healthcare won reelection.

Amid all the posturing and bickering, it is clear that there will be a continued power struggle among the Democrats. The battle between grassroots candidates with strong ties to their communities like Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar and the party-manufactured liberal social media superstars like Buttigieg rages on.

The outcome of the struggle will shape the country going forward. Expect more intense battles between the will of the old guard of the party and progressive faces over the next four years.

Progressives make play for the presidency

In 2020, democratic socialist Bernie Sanders came within a hair of the candidacy and likely the presidency. It took a seemingly unprecedented power play from Democratic party insiders and former President Barack Obama to

disrupt democracy and stifle Sanders' ascension to the highest office in the land.

These facts are well known to Sanders' progressive base. The man ignited a movement that is unlikely to dissipate in the way that prior grassroots efforts have, as leftist policy positions like universal healthcare, free college, student debt relief and the Green New Deal are gaining momentum nationally.

Progressives are no longer satisfied with symbolic victories, they increasingly represent the will of the American people and will fight for a real seat at the table over the next four years. Expect a serious progressive challenge for the Democratic nomination during the 2024 election cycle.

Michelle Obama seeks office

Former First Lady and winner of multiple "most admired woman" awards Michelle Obama will reenter the world of politics in the next four years. Whether it be a bid for the presidency or a senate run, expect her to make big waves in the political landscape.

I mean, what could be a better face for neo-liberalism than one with the kind eyes and brilliant smile of Obama? She's got a strong following among women voters and could very well be the last chance Democrats have of stopping a progressive overhaul of the party.

Expect Obama to leave the world of corporate speaking gigs and arena book tours to seek office by 2024. There's simply too much at risk for the Democratic party establishment to keep Obama sitting on the sidelines.

SPORTS

Coaches change routines to adapt to pandemic

ANDREW BERNSDORF
Staff Reporter

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered the lives of many. As implications and guidelines are established many people have had to change their normal routines and patterns, including Oakland University coaches.

Steps OU is taking to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are encouraging everyone on campus to practice personal hygiene, wear face coverings when working in enclosed public spaces and maintain a six foot social distance from others when working on campus. They are also encouraging the OU community to fill out daily health screenings.

Woman's head soccer coach, JuanPa Favero, said he is following the university and state guidelines very seriously so his athletes can play in a safe environment.

"We are all using gaiters or masks and disinfecting the soccer balls after every training session," Favero said. "We don't let the players touch the cones and the equipment," Favero said.

Rob Beam, head volleyball coach, has been implementing a process of aligning the federal, state, local, NCAA, Oakland and health professional rules in order

to create a safe playing and practicing environment for his athletes.

To keep his athletes safe, Beam has implemented a number of protocols to help mitigate the spread COVID-19 — including the separation between athletes, the sanitation of all equipment and mandatory masks.

According to the CDC, masks slow the spread of COVID-19, because they help keep people who are infected from spreading respiratory droplets to others when they cough, sneeze or talk.

Through these new protocols, the coaches have faced a number of challenges in order to keep their practice routines running smoothly.

Favero, who prides himself on his communication skills as a coach, said he has had to limit some of the more personal interactions he shares with his athletes.

"I am a very communicative coach and very relational in what I do — that's a big part of how I coach," Favero said. "I have had to limit my proximity to players."

Beam has faced these challenges by developing a practice routine that reflects the current reality.

"I have spent more time focusing on skills and behaviors that are not specifically volleyball related," Beam said. "I want to create a gym environment that has the right

vibe — a mixture of movement, energy and communication that feels good, that is fun to be in, and establishes important norms for resiliency, camaraderie and leadership."

Favero and Beam are both aware of the circumstances and have been putting in an additional effort to ensure the athletes stay motivated and focused during times of uncertainty.

"We are all going to be really flexible mentally and adjust to any situation that comes our way," Favero said.

In order to explain in-depth to his athletes, Favero uses the analogy of a game being delayed due to bad weather. Favero explains that while waiting for the game to resume, an athlete has to remain focused with the same mindset toward a pending season.

"You have to remain focused in the sense that you have to assume that the game is going to resume," Favero said.

Beam says motivation to him is about two things: trust and expectations. Beam uses these to keep his athletes motivated and looking toward the future.

"You have to work on building rapport, a depth of connection between all members of the team, so that when the time arrives to take action, everyone is on board," Beam said.

Through all the challenges, Favero and



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEACHJAR
Volleyball Head Coach Rob Beam has adjusted his style to adapt to COVID-19.

Beam are happy with the way their athletes have handled these challenging times.

"I am proud of my team because overall our team has done a really good job at trying to comply, trying to be careful and trying to minimize unnecessary risk to be exposed," Favero said.

"Implementing and navigating through change is invigorating for me and so I have found the bright spots to focus on as it relates to our team. If anything, this has allowed for an even better training period and I am proud of how our student athletes have confronted the challenges," Beam said.

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Softball coach enters fourth season in pursuit of a title

MICHAEL PEARCE
Editor-in-Chief

In 2015, Lauren Karn was in the dugout for the Pittsburgh Panthers in the regional stage of the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) tournament as an assistant coach.

The regional stage took place in Michigan, which had Karn confused. Why would they have both the University of California, Berkeley and Oakland University — two California schools — at a regional tournament in Michigan?

After some scouting, Karn debunked the common misconception that OU is in Oakland, California, and defeated the Golden Grizzlies in the tournament.

Two years later, Karn was named the head coach of Oakland Softball after spending three years as an assistant coach at Pittsburgh.

A softball player her whole life, Karn spent her college career at Saint Joseph's University, where she pitched for four years. Her 534 career strikeouts set a university record, and she threw two perfect games while in college.

At Saint Joseph's she learned about the coaching profession from her mentors, and

realized that coaching full-time might be the path for her. After coaching summer ball while at school, she realized she wanted to pursue a career in coaching.

Her first opportunity came at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. From there she worked to find out what coaching role and school size best fit her.

"The mid-major level is the best fit for me," Karn said. "The balance between academics, athletics and personalities of the student athletes is something that jives with my personality."

Getting to know the student-athletes on a more personal level is what really drew Karn to a mid-major school like OU. According to Karn, it's more difficult to establish that personal relationship at high major schools.

"At a power five level there's a lot of other stuff that comes with the job," she said. "At the mid-major level you're just afforded more of an opportunity to actually get to know the students off the field."

Throughout her time at OU, Karn has grown as a head coach. OU was her first head coaching gig, and the biggest thing she's learned is to be patient.

"I've learned to be better at patience," Karn said. "Having a better understanding that my reactions and way that I respond to

something is looked at by every single one of my student athletes."

In Karn's first season as head coach, the softball team made it to the championship round of the Horizon League tournament, but fell short of winning.

"That was quite a bummer to us, honestly, because we had really good chemistry and we had all of the pieces," she said. "We just didn't have a ton of postseason experience, and I think that's where we fell short."

This past season, Karn and the team were very confident in their ability to win the Horizon League before the pandemic canceled their season.

Now, they return the entire roster and are looking to capture the league title, like they believed they were going to in the spring.

"I believe that we have the pieces to get there again," Karn said.

The only difference is the schedule. The softball team will face zero out of conference opponents, meaning they must work out any "kinks during conference games," according to Karn.

Since there's only conference games, the team will adjust preparation in the offseason to try and get ahead of those kinks that arise during a season.

"Right now we're working to keep



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS
Karn has been the softball coach for four years, reaching the title game in her first.

our team more process oriented and less results oriented," Karn said. "If the team can stay process oriented the results will eventually come."

To keep the team focused during this time period, Karn and her staff are trying to be as creative as possible.

"We're doing everything we can to balance out game-like scenarios and make sure we're training our skillset," she said. "That's the only way we can keep it fresh and not do the same thing multiple days in a row."

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