

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

JANUARY

11

— 2012 —



AROUND THE SUMMIT LEAGUE

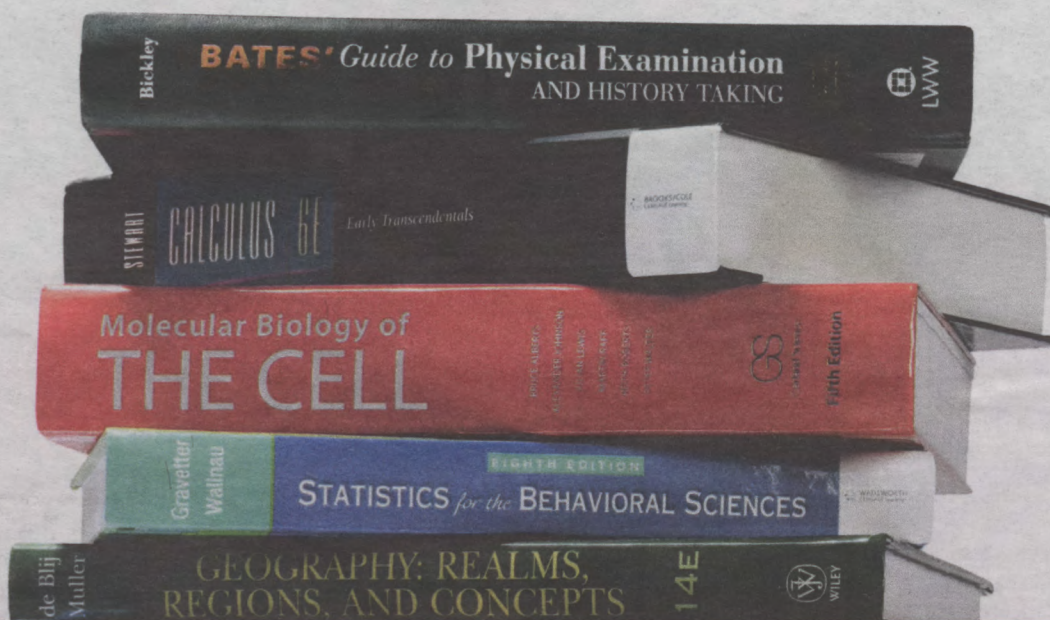
Part one of a two-part
series on men's basketball
PAGE 12

CRIME ALERT

Man banned from
campus after pulling
knife on students

PAGE 7

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thisweek

January 11, 2012 // Volume 38. Issue 18



ontheweb

The campus community responds to making and breaking their New Years resolutions in a video by Mouthing Off reporter Brian Figurski.
vimeo.com/theoaklandpost/newyearsresolutions
www.oaklandpostonline.com

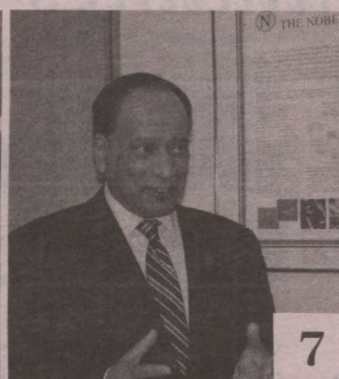


PHOTO OF THE WEEK

FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES // Special lecturer in writing and rhetoric Cathy Rorai talks with students in a connections writing foundations course. Connections links first-year students together in two or three required classes and COM 101.

Submit your photo of the week by tweeting @theoaklandpost or by e-mailing web@oaklandpostonline.com.

CHELSEA BISTUE // The Oakland Post



7

POLL OF THE WEEK

What is the worst building on campus as far as age and accessibility?

- A** Hannah Hall
- B** Wilson Hall
- C** Vandenberg Hall
- D** Varner Hall

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST WEEK'S POLL

How many men's basketball games do you attend each season?

- A** All of them - I'm a super fan
7 votes | 20%
- B** 5-10 - I only go on occasion
3 votes | 9%
- C** 0-5 - I only go when there's free stuff
6 votes | 18%
- D** 0 - The Grizzlies are boring
18 votes | 53%



15

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

JANUARY 12, 1962

Director of admission and registrar Herbert Stoutenburg announced a decrease of 67 students for the winter semester. The total enrollment was 1,002 — 489 women and 513 men.

JANUARY 15, 1965

D.B. Varner announced that a new classroom building would be named the Matilda R. Wilson Hall. The new building, which was hoped to be ready in early 1966, would cost the university \$2,500,000.

JANUARY 13, 1967

The Michigan State Board of Trustees approved plans for a 676-student co-ed housing unit. The project would cost \$3,720,000 and eventually be known as Hamlin Hall.



13

13 // LOCAL

The Royal Oak City Commission for the Arts will be displaying more public art in the city in order to promote cultural diversity and attract more visitors.



10

10 // CAMPUS

Students gain experience by working alongside their professors to do research on topics like stem cells, alternative energy and ways to improve teaching methods.

7 // CAMPUS

Faculty members share their knowledge and expertise with students, but the way in which instructors get their jobs and keep them is extensive and complex.

15 // LIFE

Several students a part of the student organization Medical Brigades recently spent time in Honduras. The group provided free medical and dental care to those in need.

BY THE NUMBERS

15,840

number of CD's in WXOU's music library

13

number of vending machines in OC

98

number of student computers in the OC

11

number of video game systems in Bumper's Game Room

1

wood bear in Café O'Bears

Perspectives

STAFF EDITORIAL

Focus more on students, less on creating buildings

In last week's staff editorial, we said we were looking forward to the renovations of O'Dowd Hall. After further investigations, we stand corrected.

Recently, it seems as if Oakland University has made their mission to renovate various campus buildings and create new ones.

The new design of O'Dowd is supposed to be more efficient and cost effective in terms of an energy standpoint, but will cost the university \$4.5 million.

Built in 1981, the building had a 25-year longevity, according to Terry Stollsteimer, associate vice president of facilities management.

Thirty-one years later, the building is ailing and has been for years. The windows have long leaked air and water and now the university is going to pour more money into recreating its glassy exterior.

Design-wise, the building also looks like any general building on campus — boring. Without the glassy exterior, it's going to be foreign to those students who use it as a campus landmark.

It makes us wonder how many other buildings have these faulty issues on campus and why are we not correcting these problems from the beginning?

We've also noticed that the university is making a lot of pointless alterations.

Last year, the university decided to create a new entrance to the Oakland Center front and back, which not only took a lot of time and money, but also did not create any useful changes, mostly ornamentation.

Though we do appreciate a prettier campus, we think the money would be better spent on other improvements:

Housing.

Earlier this year, there was an unexpected overabundance of students wanting to live on campus. Because of the influx, 100 male students were moved into an off-campus hotel for the duration of the fall semester.

Instead of constructing a duplicate of a building we already have (cough Science and Engineering building) why not create additional student housing to allow more students to live on campus?

And with a university that seems so concerned with increasing the student experience, they should start at the beginning: parking.

The new Human Health building is being built in the corner of P1, the busiest parking lot on campus.

What's going to happen when classes start in 2013

and there's a sudden increase in student traffic?

It's already busy enough there as it is. Why not use the money wasted on irrelevant building updates to create another parking garage in a better-suited area?

Hannah Hall.

Though we know the university is currently working to restore some of the labs in the 51-year-old building, we think more attention needs to be paid to smaller details.

There are many broken chairs in the building, old side tables that have been carved into, not to mention an accessibility issue, but we'll get into that another time.

While the university is busy trying to engage students and create a more productive campus community, they should start focusing on students and less on the façade of the buildings.

Sure, the overall look of the campus may be beneficial when doing campus tours, but there's a way to do it that both benefits the university and the students who go there.

The staff editorial is written weekly by members of The Oakland Post's editorial board: Nichole Seguin, Megan Semeraz and Kevin Romanchik.

The views expressed in Perspectives do not necessarily represent those of The Oakland Post.



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Corrections Corner

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail editor@oaklandpostonline.com or call 248.370.2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

- On last week's cover, we incorrectly labeled a sports headline. It should have read "Golden Grizzlies lose to rivals."

Letters to the Editor

Writers must provide full name, class rank, phone number and field of study. Please limit letters to 250 words or less. Letters may be edited for content, length and grammar.



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EDITORIAL

Individual contributions can create pride in the university

Working towards building a campus community, one link at a time

On a cold afternoon at the end of fall semester, I was walking out of Elliot Hall and saw a female student on the ground next to one of the pink bikes from the Oakland University Bike Share program.

From a distance, I thought she had fallen off of the bike and was injured. As I quickly approached her, I was surprised to see that she was sitting on the ground — not injured — but diligently working with her gloves off to fix the chain that had fallen off the university's bike.

This random act of civility was an eye opening reminder that pride in our university and "doing the right thing" is the cornerstone of what makes us who we are as a campus community.

The student, who could have



LAURA KLEIN
guest columnist

easily discarded the bike on the sidewalk and walked to class, took the time to fix something that did not belong to her — but to all of us at OU.

In today's modern society, a heightened focus on individual excellence and feeding our own needs

can sometimes overshadow the importance of manners, dignity, and overall respect for the people and things around us.

On campus, the OU Bike Share program and the poor treatment of bikes, along with the OU smoking policy and its lack of adherence, are just two examples of issues that drive students and administrators to search for solutions and opportunities for improvement.

By peeling back the layers of these issues, it becomes apparent that policing the area 50

yards within a building, posting signage, or implementing other procedures is not the answer.

The solution resides in each of us, as members of a campus community and awareness of our own civic values.

Couldn't these issues easily be remedied simply by displaying greater self-control and respect for ourselves and others?

As individuals, each of us is a link in a chain that builds our institution's culture.

Disregarding policies and practices instilled on campus does not make us leaders.

Manners and civility do matter, and so does fixing a bike chain and putting out a cigarette.

By making individual contributions to the betterment of our institution we foster something greater: pride in our campus community.

Laura Klein is a special lecturer in the writing and rhetoric department. She can be reached at lkklein@oakland.edu

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Eveslage/Malile administration is doing a great job with OUSC

*Eric Sturgis
Secondary Education, Senior*

As many of you know I was a Vice Presidential candidate in the last student body election. I am writing this letter to express how impressed I am with the Eveslage/Malile administration. They have implemented the 24 hour library, and have worked on many other things that are important to students. While the election may have been bitter, I am very proud of this administration and the work that they have done.

Have an opinion on something?

Let us know how you feel about any of our stories, photos or general coverage by submitting letters to the editor.

Writers must provide full name, class rank, phone number and field of study when submitting their letters. Please limit letters to 250 words or less. Letters may be edited for content, length and grammar.

EDITORIAL

Why yes, my major is important — leave me alone

Like all college students, I have had to talk to what seems like hundreds of distant family members and "friends" about my education. It is always daunting.

The same conversation always takes place, followed by the same exhausting explanation.

Random person: "So what are you studying over there at uh ... where do you go again?" To which I reply, "Oakland University. I'm a journalism major." Then I'm asked the question of, "what are you gonna do with that?" My response? "Well ... (insert long explanation that is

slightly different each time)." My question is this: Why should I have to justify my area of study? Passion is passion and it doesn't matter if your major is seemingly "pointless" to everyone else.

That is what that question insinuates, especially if it is said in that gut-wrenching, condescending tone.

Not to mention the fact that there really are tons of things that I could "do" with my degree.

As a journalism major, I could work for a newspaper, a TV or radio station, for a magazine, as a freelancer — the list goes on and on. Not that



RACHEL RITZENTHALER
staff intern

the question would be any less rude if I were an art major.

It is my personal belief that no major is pointless — as long as you're determined you will always find your way.

Tim Hamill, a senior psychology major, is also familiar with the "what are you gonna do with that" phenomenon.

"Their opinion doesn't mean a thing," he said. "I've learned that so long as you're happy with the path you've chosen, and it's gearing you towards the career that you want to pursue, that is all that matters."

What else are these people trying to imply? Do they think me and the rest of the college students who aren't going into the business or medical fields would be better off if we just gave up? I think not.

Even if I can't find work right away, and I'm still working at Panera after I graduate, I will always have my degree to fall back on.

A degree is a valuable thing that society basically tells us that we cannot get along without.

Amanda Davis, a recent OU

journalism graduate, agrees with this. Davis is currently working as a barista.

"I'd rather be a barista with a degree than a barista without one," she said.

So, to other college students with slightly offbeat majors: do not let this inane question cause you to question your career path and/or your entire life plan.

I know I've let it get to me one too many times.

Remember, those people are probably bitter, basement dwellers anyway.

Rachel Ritzenthaler is a staff intern and journalism major. She can be reached via e-mail at ritzenthaler.rachel@gmail.com



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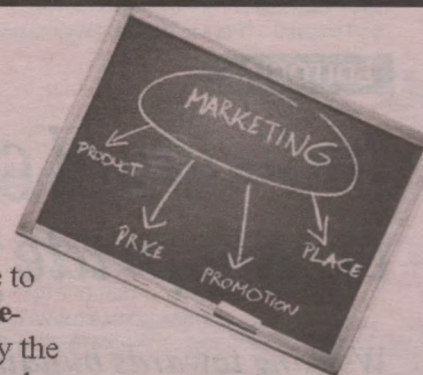
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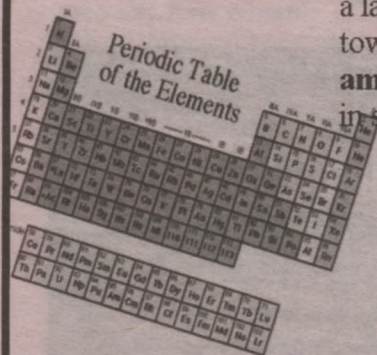
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Scholarships Available for Fall 2012 - Winter 2013

The **Oakland University Alumni Association** will be accepting scholarship applications for the 2012-13 academic year.

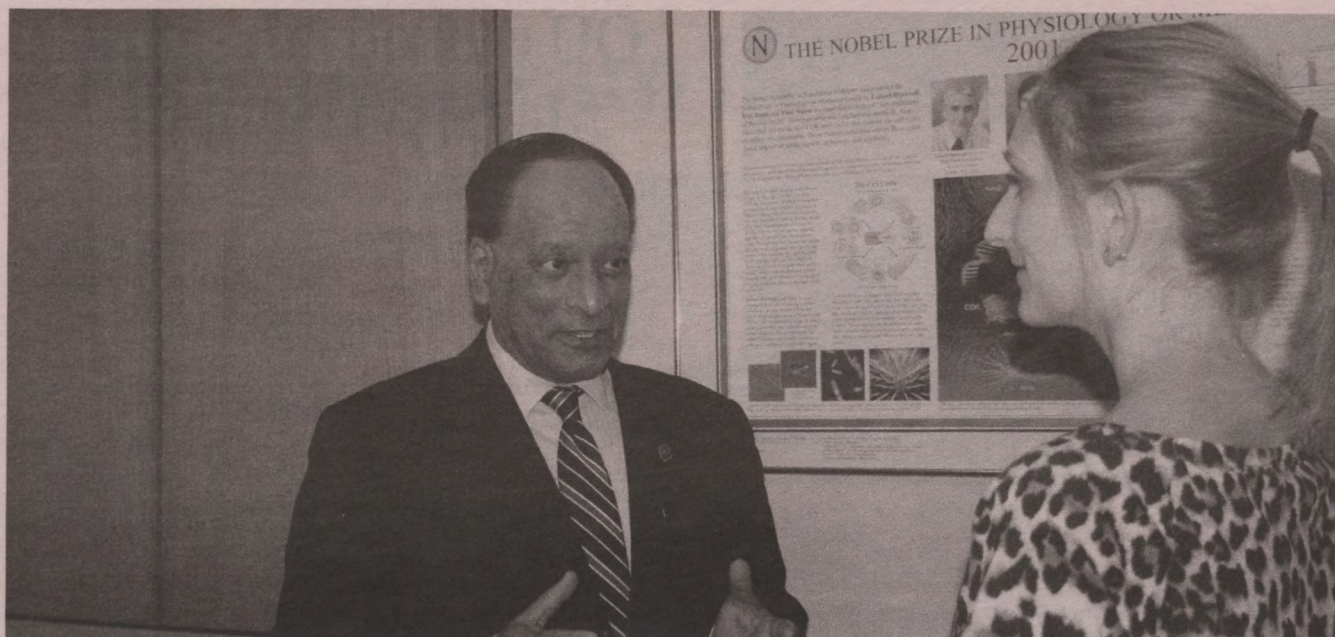
Up to \$5000 per year!

A complete list of scholarships, as well as eligibility criteria, is available online at www.oualumni.com under Awards & Scholarships. Sample of scholarships offered includes:

- \$5000 - Frances C. Amos School of Business Administration award
- \$3000 - Thomas A. Yatooma School of Engineering and Computer Science Alumni Memorial award
- \$3000 - Legacy Scholarship award
- \$2000 - Working Student Scholarship award
- \$2000 - CAS, SBA, SEHS, SECS, SHS, SON, Honors College awards

Over 35 scholarships were awarded last year!!

Contact Erin Sudrovec at (248) 364-6136 or sudrovec@oakland.edu for more information. Completed applications for all OUAA scholarships must be submitted by **March 1, 2012** to the OU Alumni Association, 202 John Dodge House (east side of campus).



MEGAN SEMERAZ/The Oakland Post

Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Virinder Moudgil (LEFT) is the last to sign off in the hiring and firing process. Moudgil rarely tells the university departments who to hire — allowing faculty to choose who they want as their new colleagues.

Hiring in the experts

Potential faculty have long road to employment

By Megan Semeraz
Managing Editor

Faculty members spend a lot of time standing before their class, sharing their knowledge and expertise. The way in which those faculty are hired and maintain their teaching jobs at Oakland University is a complex process.

Virinder K. Moudgil, senior Vice President for academic affairs and provost describes OU's hiring process as being fair and decentralized, since it begins at the department level and ultimately makes it's way to his desk for final approval.

A demand for new hires

According to Moudgil, it all starts with a growth in enrolment, or need for additional faculty to teach classes within a department.

Before the Board of Trustees approves their annual budget, University President Gary Russi asks Moudgil what his academic needs which includes hiring new faculty are for the year.

This process starts at the department level. Department chairs share their faculty needs with the dean of their respective college or school.

"When we get the opportunity to hire new faculty, typically in the fall, for the following year, I prioritize our needs,"

Ronald Sudol, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said.

Deans, like Sudol, report to Moudgil about their faculty needs.

"We have eight deans total," Moudgil said. "At the beginning of this budgetary process, I will formally request the deans to tell me what are their faculty needs ... all report to me 'these are my needs for the next semester or the year after.'"

Prioritizing the need

Moudgil and his staff look at all of these needs and put together a budget.

Cuts in state funding, but an increased enrollment, cause OU to prioritize hiring, Moudgil said.

The hiring needs are looked at realistically, finding a balance between needs and what OU can provide.

Karen Miller, chair of the history department and head of the association of university professors, has seen the way the university has to prioritize.

Miller said there was a previous request to hire a professor in medieval studies and a professor who specialized in China.

The administrators at the university decided hiring a professor for medieval studies was less of a priority.

The deans, department chairs and Moudgil ultimately agree on a compromise. Moudgil presents it to President Russi, who presents it to the Board of Trustees. The BOT approves the process.

The search for new faculty

Once the budget is established for the

year, Moudgil formally informs the deans in a written statement that they can go ahead and hire faculty.

The process relies on departments to make the hiring decisions. Deans and Moudgil typically don't tell departments who to hire, however.

Please see *HIRING*, Page 8

Key people in the faculty hiring and firing process



KAREN MILLER

Head of the AUP at OU, Miller is highly involved in the hiring and firing process — especially when they are fired.



RONALD SUDOL

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Sudol is an example of how deans work with departments to hire faculty.



VIRINDER MOUDGIL

Moudgil has the final say in all hiring and firing procedures, but he rarely interferes with the processes unless he has major concerns.

Man banned from campus after brandishing knife at students

By Christopher Lauritsen
Staff Reporter

On Jan. 6, at 12:34 a.m. the Oakland University Police Department responded to a emergency call that was placed when a 28-year-old male pulled a knife on people during a party on OU's campus.

The male suspect is a resident of Rochester Hills and is not, nor ever was, a student at the university.

The suspect pulled the knife shortly after he was asked to leave the party he was attending in the Nicholson Apartments.

"We got a tremendous response from students," said Mel Gilroy, OUPD lieutenant. "A lot of students gave us his name and number and called in after they saw the report."

Witness reports given to OUPD state that the suspect started to wave the knife around, yelling "Who wants to go?" after being asked to leave the party.

Gilroy made fliers to hang on all of the housing units, as campus officials alerted students by using social media like Twitter and Facebook to inform students of the incident.

According to Gilroy, the suspect was called on a cell phone number that was provided by students.

On his own, the suspect came to the station to make a statement on Jan. 7, but was not arrested at that time, as they OUPD is for an arrest warrant.

Admitting to pulling the knife on the students, the suspect said that his reason for brandishing the weapon was because of self-defense.

According to Gilroy, the warrant can take up to a month to be processed by authorities.

The suspect has been banned from campus, and has been deemed "persona non-grada," meaning "person not welcome."

Gilroy said that OUPD's main obligation is to inform students when instances like this occur on campus.

"Anytime a certain group of crimes have a potential to risk, we're obligated to put out notices," Gilroy said. "Usually we will get three to four, but six events is big for one year."

Contact staff reporter Christopher Lauritsen via e-mail at lauritsen.chris09@gmail.com or follow him on Twitter @ChrisLauritsen



MEGAN SEMERAZ / The Oakland Post

Dean Ronald Sudol (LEFT) with Executive Secretary Tammye Stoves (RIGHT). Sudol is one of eight deans at OU that make formal hiring requests to Moudgil at the beginning of each budgetary process.

HIRING

continued from page 6

"Even though (hiring) is my ultimate responsibility as chief academic officer of this university, the fact is, it is bottom up. I only come in the picture later when I sign who is going to be hired," Moudgil said. "The faculty decide who is going to be their colleague."

The departments are given more of a say when it comes to hiring new faculty members.

"The actual decision making, the recommendation on who should be hired as say a tenure-track professor, comes from the faculty in the departments of the college," Sudol said.

According to Moudgil, the department puts together a search committee, typically consisting of three to four people.

The committee compiles a list of expertise they want in their new faculty member.

The search committee creates an advertisement, which is shared with a national journal, or paper called "The Chronicle of Higher Education" and possibly several other publications, Moudgil said.

The applications go to the department's search committee.

Some positions receive few applications, but others will receive many more.

"We are in a really tough job market ... I have colleagues that are conducting searches that have hundreds of applicants," Miller said. "These are people that are really strong, stellar can-

didates."

Firing becomes rare

Miller said hiring these top-notch faculty members has minimized firing.

"We have been hiring so well over the past decade ... if you make an effort and are diligent, you will very well meet our (faculty) criteria," Miller said.

Moudgil said to maintain a position at OU, three criteria must be met: the faculty must be effective teachers, be seeking scholarship advancement for themselves and students and service to the community.

Getting fired is uncommon and it is usually someone who is truly not doing their job.

Other reasons for dismissal include illegal activity and not being granted tenure.

Getting the job

Moudgil said once the top candidates are chosen in the hiring process, they will give a public presentation on campus.

According to both Moudgil and Miller, students are invited and asked to make observations about these candidates.

Their input is considered when the department creates their list of their top three or four choices.

The diversity office have to approve the top candidates, making sure there is a diverse pool of people.

"The list comes and our office of diversity — Joi Cunningham — she has to sign off. She has to certify that this pool that was

brought to our campus is appropriate. Unless she signs, I will not sign," Moudgil said.

The last person to sign off is Moudgil. After he signs, the department can offer their top candidate a job.

Granting tenure

The person will either be offered tenure track, which requires two review cycles which occur once every two years.

The cycle includes reviews from students, faculty peers, the department, the college or school and a university committee, according to Moudgil. Moudgil is the person to decide whether to grant tenure.

"If they receive tenure, then they do not go through this review cycle again, although the department will make their own decisions about the progress of the faculty," Moudgil said.

According to Miller and Moudgil, most faculty go through this smoothly and if they do not, there is time for them to fix it.

However, if the tenure-track faculty member is not granted tenure, they will lose their job.

"I will say this, that we are very fortunate and I say this in all honesty that the faculty we hire are so good, most of them get tenure, because they are doing their job," Moudgil said.

Contact managing editor Megan Semeraz via e-mail at mcsemera@oakland.edu. Follow her on Twitter @MeganSemeraz

OU ranked 4th safest Michigan campus

OUPD keeps high ranking for college campus safety

By Sarah Hunton
Campus Editor

According to a survey conducted by stateuniversity.com, Oakland University was the fourth safest Michigan college campus in 2011.

The survey ranked two and four-year Michigan schools based on annual incidences of aggravated assault, arson, burglary, forcible rape, larceny, murder, robbery and vehicle theft per 1,000 students.

OU Police Department credits the outstanding score to crime prevention tactics and the positive bond it has made with the community.

"I think when you combine those two, people willing to be participants in the responsibility of safety and our proactive approach, it's probably a lot of why we have been successful," Captain Mark Gordon said.

Officer Jeannine Marthen believes that the outreach programs that the department runs and the 22 sworn police personnel also help create a safe campus atmosphere.

The Rape Aggression Defense program, security assessments of campus buildings and sexual assault presentations are a few of the

outreach programs OUPD sponsors.

Desirae Tibaud, a freshman, plans to participate in the next RAD session.

"It's something I want to take for sure," she said. "You never know when you might need it."

Oakland was ranked number two in the 2010 version of the survey, however this does not necessarily mean that there has been a huge increase in crime on campus, Gordon said.

He explained that in one year, motor vehicle theft doubled from one incident to two.

"Two auto thefts in the perspective of the whole community is not very much, but when you have an increase of 100 percent, it tends to bring your numbers down. Even the smallest in a low crime rate makes (it) seem even worse than it is."

The department is attempting to build a partnership with the students, staff and faculty at the university.

Hoping to keep OU safe, both OUPD members urge members of the OU community to speak out when a situation doesn't seem right.

"Trust your gut. If it feels wrong, it could be wrong," Marthen said. "There's no call that's a bad call."

Contact Campus Editor Sarah Hunton via e-mail at Sjhunton@oakland.edu.



SARAH HUNTON / The Oakland Post

OUPD officers Mark Gordon and Jeannine Marthen go through paperwork regarding the safety quality of the campus of the university.

New program helps ISE grads

Certificate program offers engineers helpful skills

By Raymond Andre
Senior Reporter

The US lost nearly three million jobs in 2008, according to Department of Labor statistics, with many of those displaced workers in a position that requires a change in occupation. Luckily, Oakland University has a solution to this problem.

In 2007, OU had formed a new engineering program: the Department of Industrial and systems engineering — the science of improving a system's productivity.

Recently, the department launched a graduate certificate program aimed to offer engineers additional skills.

Half of a graduate degree

The Graduate Certificate in Productivity Improvement, or "4-pack", is a 16 credit program that combines a choice of three core ISE classes and one elective class. Graduate students build their own "4-pack" to suit their career goals.

"Basically, it's half of an ISE master's degree," said Sankar Sengupta, an ISE professor. He teaches five of the 18 available productivity certificate courses.

Sengupta believes that the point of the program is to advance a student's career.

"It gives you an idea of what systems engineering is," he said.

The Four Pack program is accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement.

Certificates carry the national backing of North Central's academic standards Robert Van Til, director of the ISE department, said.

According to Van Til, the program is not aimed at industrial engineers.

Most in the program tend to be mechanical engineers.

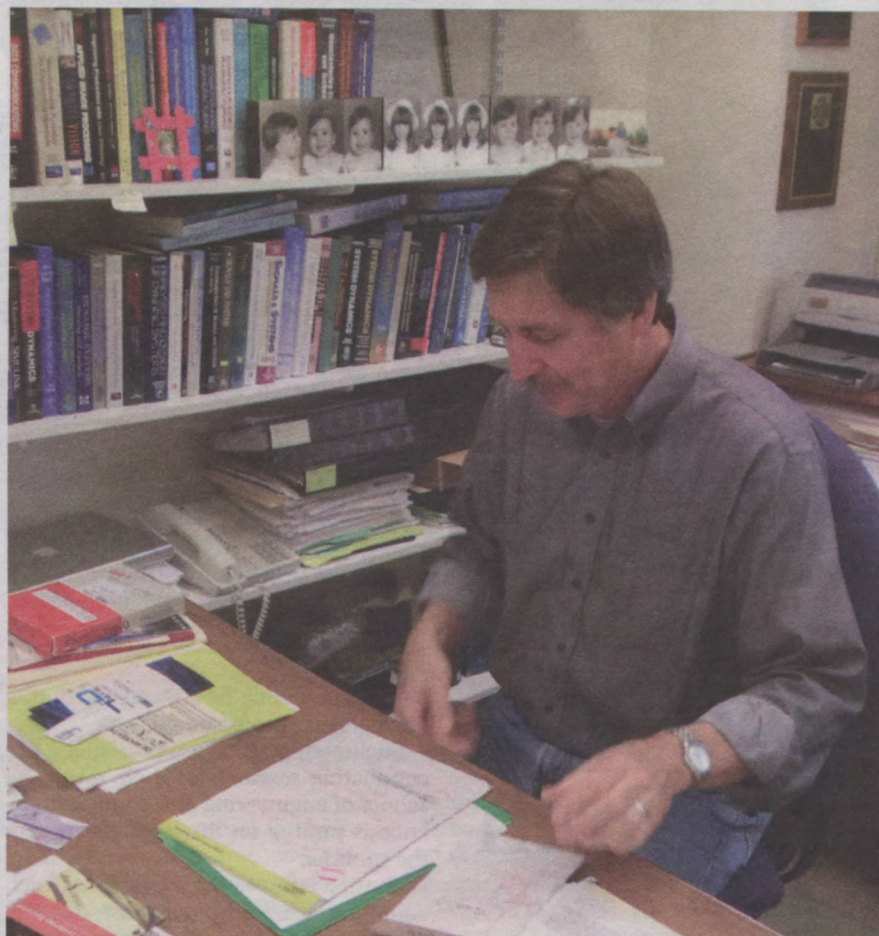
Van Til and Sengupta agreed that skills acquired by productivity improvement certificate program translate well to management positions.

"Of all of our graduates, I'm only aware of one who does not have a job," Van Til said.

Program provides important connections to the community

OU's program makes connections with industry stakeholders, specifically Michigan automakers.

The ISE Department Industrial Advisory board has representatives from Chrys-



RAYMOND ANDRE / The Oakland Post

Robert Van Til is the director of the ISE department. The department is an expansion of the School of Engineering and is offering a new post-bachelor program.

ler, General Motors, Volkswagen Group of America, Siemens Corp., a technology company, and Genesys Health Care System. The board works to make sure research and educational opportunities offered by the department are relevant in the field.

"I have internship and co-op offers that I can't find students to fill," Van Til said. "Most of our students have two or three job offers in their pockets as they go out the door."

National statistics provide reassurance to students

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, industrial engineering employs the second greatest number of engineers, 19,680, in Michigan, ranked only beneath mechanical engineering, which employs 30,260.

Nationally, U.S. BLS measurements count 202,990 employed industrial engineers. The mean annual wage can be found is \$78,450.

More information on the Graduate Certificate in Productivity Improvement



SARAH HUNTON / The Oakland Post

Engineering student Ashraf Mostefa working in the Microelectronics Systems Design Laboratory in the Science and Engineering building on the southeast side of campus.

at the Department of ISE's website.

Contact Director Van Til by e-mail, vantil@oakland.edu, or by phone, 248-370-2211.

Contact staff reporter Raymond Andre via e-mail at reandre@oakland.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @RAndre_87

The history of ISE at OU

By Raymond Andre
Senior Reporter

Oakland University's Industrial and Systems Engineering department was established in 2007 and programs were developed soon after.

The program began small — ten undergraduates and 140 graduates. Undergraduate enrolment has grown to 29, while graduate-level enrolment decreased to 85.

"We looked to grow the existing offerings of the School of Engineering," Van Til said.

The department also employs six professors and associate professors, along with one administrative secretary.

The university had a systems engineering program, but it did not attract as much interest as industrial engineering, Van Til said.

"It's a branding thing, (industrial engineering) has history behind it," he said.

The department added more courses and changed its name from "industrial engineering" to "industrial and systems engineering."

It was a resourceful way to offer the community a new degree program, he said, that allows engineering graduates to enter non-automotive engineering positions and non-engineering career fields.

Industrial and systems engineers design processes in order to improve productivity.

A tour of the facilities, lunch and information on admissions and scholarships will be offered on Jan. 20 during Engineering and Computer Science Day.

To register for the event, visit www.oakland.edu/secs.



While teaching a class, professor Bradley Roth, explains a formula to his class explaining research. he has done for the Biomedical department.

Faculty and students side-by-side research

Professors guide students through their own research

By Kevin Graham
Staff Reporter

Recently, Oakland University faculty have been conducting research on stem cells, alternative energy and ways to improve teaching methods.

Students have the ability to participate in these research endeavors alongside their professors. Several departments offer whole programs students can take advantage of.

According to Dorothy Nelson, vice president for research, exploring the issues of tomorrow gives students more than just a line on a resumé.

"Students in research tend to feel more engaged in the university community in general, with a sense of belonging to something bigger than their classroom activities alone can provide," Nelson said.

Students can find open research opportunities and even try to get funding for their ideas through the OU website. Most often, faculty members themselves seek students out.

"Individual schools, colleges, institutes, or departments offer a variety of opportunities for students to work or volunteer in faculty research and to participate in presentations of their work

locally or even nationally or internationally," Nelson said. "Students can find opportunities on university websites or by contacting faculty directly."

In the science departments, work is being done by OU's Center for biomedical research. The center's director, physics professor, Bradley Roth, discussed some of the work being done there.

Roth mentioned the work of OU biology professor, Rasul Chaudhry, who is involved in research involving the use of stem cells for nerve, bone and cartilage regeneration.

John Finke, assistant biochemistry professor, is studying a new way to identify Alzheimer's disease.

"John Finke, in chemistry, has been studying the way proteins fold when they form plaques in Alzheimer's disease looking for ways to detect Alzheimer's disease using a blood sample," Roth said.

In addition to the work being done in biomedicine, biology and chemistry, professors are making significant inquiries in their field.

"Research ranges from synthesizing potential drug candidates to testing molecules in disease processes. There is also work being done to find out how nature operates from the molecular to cellular,

do environmental levels," Arthur Bull, a biochemistry professor, said.

Engineering students and faculty are conducting research of their own. The school of engineering and computer science is putting on three programs over the summer.

The first is a 10-week program in which computer science students are posed a problem and must work with each other and their mentors in order to identify and implement a solution.

The second program, intended for electrical and computer-engineering students, exposes them to a variety of real-world applications including robotics and medical imaging.

The last program is for students involved in mechanical engineering. The focus this time is on automotive engineering and alternative energy. Some topics include alternative propulsion systems and improving the efficiency of wind turbine gearboxes.

The research focus is not limited to the sciences alone.

Judith Ableser, an associate professor of academic affairs, is studying ways to better educate the youth of tomorrow.

"I've been working on research on exemplary teaching practices in both online and traditional classroom teaching, ways of engaging students, and looking at forms of assessment and authentic assessment," she said.

Professors will continue to mentor students in ways of their own research.

Contact staff reporter Kevin Graham via e-mail at kpgraham@oakland.edu. Follow him @KevinGraham88

POLICE BRIEFS

Students on the baseball team arrested at Hamlin Hall

Three students who told police they played for the OU baseball team were arrested for underage drinking on Jan. 7 at 2:45 a.m. The resident assistant made contact with the residents earlier due to excess noise coming from the room. Police noticed a strong odor of intoxicants in the area and the men agreed to take a Preliminary Breath Test. Three of the men were issued minor in possession citations. The three arrestees admitted to drinking at the student apartments. At the same party, a fight broke out and an unknown male pulled out a knife.

Threatening and rude remarks made at Hamlin Hall

Police were called to Hamlin Hall on Jan. 4 at 3:24 p.m. due to an intimidation complaint. Three female residents claimed another female resident of Hamlin Hall threatened them. Two of the victims claimed the suspect had made rude and threatening remarks on several occasions and has broken several housing rules. The third victim stated that the suspect had made rude remarks and threatened her as well.

Police advised both parties to have no incidental contact and to contact if it does occur. OUPD notified housing of the incident and advised to separate both parties.

Suspicious activity at student's apartment on Ravine Drive

On Jan. 7 at 8:59 p.m., police were called to an apartment on Ravine Drive due to suspicious circumstances. The male student stated that two unknown male subjects keyed their way into his apartment. One subject claimed to have been a former resident of the apartment and wanted to collect items he had left behind. The two suspects left the scene before police arrived, leaving behind the box of property. It was agreed by officials that the lock to the apartment should be changed. The lock was changed at 10 p.m. the same day.

Compiled by Natalie Popovski,
Staff Intern

Ghana study abroad program added to summer line-up

Students given the chance to study African music

By Chris Lauritsen
Staff Reporter

Oakland University professor Mark Stone, has partnered with world renowned African musician Bernerd Woma, to give OU students the opportunity to study at Woma's Dagara Music Center, located outside of Accra in Ghana.

"Professor Stone's program on drumming and dance not only adds the dimension of performing arts, but creates an environment in which Ghanaians are the master teachers for our students who will bring back to us what they've learned from others abroad," Brian Connery, director of international education and study at OU, said.

Applications are due by Feb. 1 for students who are interested in the inaugural trip to the Dagara Music Center in Ghana.

The program is open to all OU students and will take place July 9 through Aug. 3.

The Dagara Music Center was established 11 years ago to educate international students on African music and culture.

"I want to go to Ghana because a lot of the music I have studied so far has been from Ghana," Anna Falkoski, world music and music education student at OU said.

Students will visit Cape Cost, Tamale



Photo courtesy of Mark Stone

Bernerd Woma (left) and Mark Stone (right), the innovators of the new program, have been creating and performing traditional African music together for many years.

and Kumasi.

Stone picked the locations for their significance in African culture and life, as well as their historical significance.

Stone said that Cape Cost was a former slave trade capital in West Africa and that students will have the opportunity to explore historical museums.

"You don't have to be a music expert to go on this trip, you just have to want to learn about a country through the arts," Stone said.

Students will chose between two different four credit classes to attend while at the Dagara Music Center and the Dagara staff will teach both classes.

The cost of the trip is \$2,500, including everything except for airfare and tuition.

For more information, contact Mark Stone at stone@oakland.edu.

Contact staff reporter Chris Lauritsen via e-mail at cklaurit@oakland.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @ChrisLaurtsen

College Democrats back in time for 2012 election

By Ray Andre
Senior Reporter

In late October 2011, before the Republican presidential debate at OU, concerned students revived the school's chapter of the College Democrats.

John Ajlouny founded the OU College Democrats in 2009. Ajlouny transferred to the University of Michigan and, without his leadership, the organization declined.

"No one took the initiative to keep it up," Ajlouny said.

At an October Pi Sigma Alpha meeting, senior international studies major Alex Green began a campaign to restore the

organization.

Brianna Shamsuddoha is an international relations major and the treasurer of the student organization. Since her junior high education, she has been involved in student political organizations.

"Even since elementary school, I know it sounds crazy, I have wanted to be involved in politics and bring about some sort of change," she said.

She said that students have an obligation to make the change they desire.

President of OUCD, Sheza Mansoor, said the group is still in the process of re-establishing itself. No meetings are currently planned.

"I'm hoping that we can pace ourselves and get started with the meetings and events for students to attend in the near future," Mansoor said.

In addition to attracting Michigan democrats to speak at OU, Shamsuddoha wants to bridge party divides by "having an open forum with the College Republicans about facing issues that most affect college students."

Joshua Cline is a nursing and political science major and the OUCR Acting Chairman.

"We'd definitely be up for debating the College Democrats, too," Cline said.

More information about the group is available on the OUCD Facebook page. For information about the OUCR, visit www.oakland.edu/csa.

Contact staff reporter Raymond Andre via e-mail at reandre@oakland.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @RAndre_87

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Agape ministry meeting

Agape Student Ministry holds their next meeting Wednesday Jan. 11 at 5:30 p.m. A small meal will be provided.

The group meets at St. John Fisher, which is located across from OU at 3665 E. Walton.

Visit www.agapecommunity.net for more information about the organization.

'Idealizing the Imaginary' OU Art Gallery exhibit

Meadow Brook Art Gallery is hosting "Idealizing the Imaginary: Illusion and Invention in Contemporary Painting." The exhibit features 14 nationally acclaimed New York artists and aims to serve as a medium to express the feelings of the artist.

The exhibit will be open beginning Saturday Jan. 14 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. It will be closed during Meadow Brook Hall performances.

For more information call (248) 370-3008 or visit www.ouartgallery.org.

Keeper of the Dream Celebration featuring Common

On Jan. 16, the 20th annual Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Celebration will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Oakland Center banquet rooms. The event recognizes OU students who embody Dr. King's ideal of racial acceptance on campus and beyond.

Rapper, author and activist Common will be the keynote speaker.

For more information, contact Omar Brown El at 248-370-4404

20 years after the USSR

On Jan. 17, the Political Science Department and international studies program will present "20 Years After the End of the USSR."

The presentation will feature speakers from each of the departments who will discuss political and economic developments in the USSR since 1991.

For more information call (284) 370-2363.

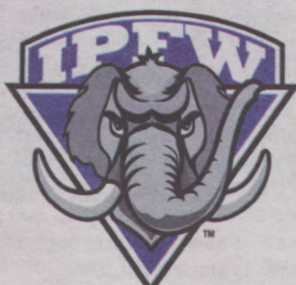
Compiled by Kevin Graham
Staff Reporter

Around the Summit League

A look at what happened and what is to come for the men's basketball team

By Bryan Everson
Freelance Reporter

In the first of a two part series, The Oakland Post takes a look at the other men's basketball teams within the Summit League to catch an inside perspective about who Oakland will be facing as the second half of conference play starts to get underway. www.oaklandpostonline.com



IPFW

Record: (9-7, 3-4)

If you just tuned in:

Coach Dane Fife left for Spartan Nation, and Tony Jasick was promoted from assistant to head coach. The Mastodons also lost a number of key guys from last year's squad. Fortunately, shooting guard Frank Gaines has stepped up to become a prime scoring option at 20.3 ppg, and even better, he's got another year left in Fort Myers after this. Newfound eligibility of several guards will be another point of interest for the 'Dons.

You SHOULD know:

Gaines, junior guard. (11.5 ppg, 5.3 rpg in four games against Oakland)

You WILL know:

Justin Jordan, sophomore guard. (No games vs. OU; transfer from St. Louis)

Coach-Speak:

"(Gaines) made a lot of progress over the last three years ... we really are putting a lot on his shoulders early in terms of the leadership aspect of it, but also the bulk of what we do on the floor." — Coach Tony Jasick, Summit League media day



Southern Utah

Record: (7-9, 2-4)

If you just tuned in:

The Thunderbirds are another team in their last year in the conference before leaving for the Big Sky. Expected to finish somewhere in the middle of the league, they've been living up to that prophecy so far. They've got several starters who can emerge on a given night, and lots of height in the frontcourt. Guard Ray Jones Jr. has also improved his 3-point shot and his assist-to-turnover ratio in his final year.

You SHOULD know:

Jackson Stevenett, small forward. (13 ppg, 3.25 rpg in three games vs. OU)

You WILL know:

Ray Jones Jr., guard (9.3 ppg, 4.7 apg in three games vs. OU)

Coach-Speak:

"(Jackson worked on his defense in the off-season), that and his outside shot. He's spent a lot of time on his game. He had a very good summer and worked a lot at it. It's showing for him." — Assistant coach Ron Carling



Oral Roberts

Record: (14-4, 4-2)

If you just tuned in:

This is the Bon Voyage party for the Golden Eagles. Even though they leave for the Southland Conference after this season, it'll be a tough task to crash the party for them. Guard Ken Holdman tore his ACL in November, but otherwise the rest of the gang is back as favorites to claim the Summit's NCAA berth. They scored big non-conference wins against Xavier and Texas Tech in December. Their only weakness is lack of depth, playing their starters lots of minutes with a short bench.

You SHOULD know:

Dominique Morrison, forward. (16.6 ppg, 4.3 rpg in seven games vs. OU)

You WILL know:

Steven Roundtree, forward (12.3 ppg, five rpg in three games vs. OU)

Coach-Speak:

"We haven't done anything yet. All we've done is get beat by Oakland five or six straight times, so (our team) better be hungry." — Coach Scott Sutton, Summit League media day



South Dakota State

Record: (13-5, 5-1)

If you just tuned in:

Junior point guard Nate Wolters is pretty good. He posted 34 points, five rebounds and seven assists in a road blowout road victory Dec. 18 that snapped Washington's 32-game nonconference home winning streak. The Jackrabbits are humming in terms of offensive efficiency, and their defense is markedly improved on the perimeter.

You SHOULD know:

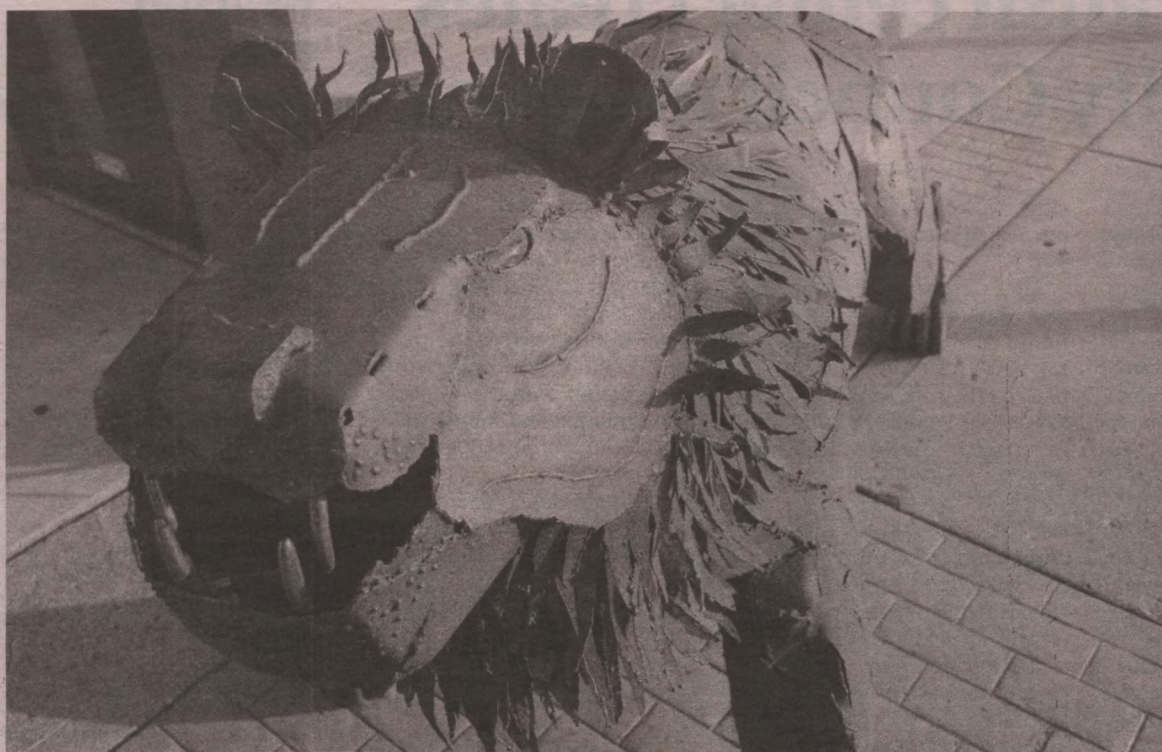
Wolters, guard. (18.4 ppg, 5 apg in five games vs. OU)

You WILL know:

Jordan Dykstra, forward (17.8 ppg, 6.5 rpg in four games vs. OU)

Coach-Speak:

"Even as I look at the all-conference picks I think about (Wolters) last year, he wasn't even on any of those teams, so I certainly know people have other players on their teams that are capable of having a breakout year." — Coach Scott Nagy, Summit League media day



ABOVE: Lion statue made by artist Keith Coleman sits outside the Ariana Gallery. **TOP RIGHT:** A part of the Star Dream Fountain in downtown Royal Oak, made by sculptor Marshall Frederick. The fountain sits between the Royal Oak Public Library and City Hall. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Chalk work displayed outside the Ariana Gallery in Royal Oak.

Photos by SHANNON COUGHLIN and MISHA MAYHAND/The Oakland Post

Decorating the city of Royal Oak

Royal Oak City Commission unanimously approves establishment of art commission

By Misha Mayhand
Staff Intern

On Monday The Royal Oak City Commission voted — and unanimously approved — the second reading of an ordinance to establish an arts commission in Royal Oak.

The Royal Oak Commission for the Arts will bring more public art to Royal Oak and promote cultural activities.

In a letter to the mayor and city council members, supporters of the commission outlined an objective “to encourage artists and promote public art in downtown Royal Oak ... by encouraging community involvement and family activities.”

The City Commission unanimously approved the adoption of the ordinance on first reading at their Dec. 19, 2011 meeting.

The arts commission is hoping to promote the arts and bring more people downtown. The seven-member panel, whose members will like-

ly be appointed by the mayor and approved by the City Commission, will be responsible for developing “a plan to encourage artists and promote public art in Royal Oak” and to help the city “be recognized as a destination for entertainment, recreation and cultural opportunities.”

The commission will work directly with local organizations and nonprofits and will create a city policy on the display of public art.

At this time, the art commission will be funded through grants, private donations and sponsorships.

Royal Oak already hosts some of the biggest art festivals in the region such as Arts, Beats, and Eats and the Clay, Glass, and Metal Show which is sponsored by the Royal Oak Chamber.

The nonprofit groups that put together those events are not direct affiliations of the city, City Manager Don Johnson told the Detroit News.

Main Street is known to be home to many restaurants, bars and clothing boutiques. David Jones, a Royal Oak local, suggests taking a stroll down

Washington Avenue.

“There’s a lot of interesting art in that area,” Jones said. “I like to observe the fashions that people pursue.”

Main Street itself has some random acts of street art. Within the city is an abundance of street artists and street art.

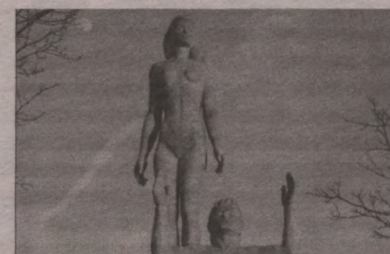
Some of the art will appear on the sidewalks and some on buildings and some artists will even go as far as posting mysterious pictures on buildings throughout downtown. Mysterious photos showed up around downtown last Sept.

Marcus Lowery, a frequent Royal Oak visitor said this is his quiet “New York.” He loves to shop at the many boutiques for men.

“I love the exclusiveness and sometimes they have very good sales,” he said.

Lowery says he also enjoys the street art he notices while walking through Royal Oak.

Contact staff intern Misha Mayhand via e-mail at mmayhand@oakland.edu



Star Dream Fountain

WHO The 40-foot bronze fountain was made by sculptor Marshall Frederick and debuted in 1997. It was his last piece of public work.

WHEN Star Dream began as an idea by former Royal Oak mayor Barbara Hallman. She helped raise \$750,000 for the project. At its debut, the nude bodies atop the fountain created a lot of controversy.

WHERE The fountain sits between the Royal Oak Public Library and City Hall.

Proposed Troy transit center creates controversy at City Council meeting

Revised proposal for transit center dominates meeting

By Christopher Lauritsen
Staff Reporter

The Troy City Council delayed voting on a new \$6 million transit center proposal on Monday night.

On Dec. 19, 2011 the City Council voted down a \$8.4 million transit center proposal.

All of the \$8.4 million would come from federal bonds according to Mark Millers, director of Troy economic and community development.

Councilman Dane Slater pulled his revised \$6 million

proposal off Monday night's budget when councilman Wade Fleming was unable to attend because of a family emergency.

Even though voting was delayed, the revised proposal for the multi-modal transit center dominated Monday's City Council meeting. A majority of the public comments section of the meeting was spent discussing the transit center. Public comments supported the councils Dec. 19 vote to not award a design subcontract in the amount of \$8.4 million.

Rose Frazier, a Troy resident, addressed the council and talked of all the "negative" attention the city has been getting in the news.

"I'm a Troy, tax-paying citizen who is tired of having to listen to non-tax paying people of other

cities voice their opinions at our tax payers expense," Frazier said.

After Troy turned down the \$8.4 million center, it came under fire from local media. In part because the project had been supported by both Rep. Gary Peters (D — Bloomfield Hills) and Gov. Rick Snyder. (R — Ann Arbor.)

"We should be doing everything we can to reduce our dependence of foreign oil," Bruce Bloomingdale, Troy resident and former candidate for city council in 2011, said.

Though the Troy City Council did not vote on a resolution at that time, Troy Mayor Janice Daniels took 20 minutes to read a five page position paper she had written with her thoughts on the transit center.

The proposed transit center would be a regional hub for the SMART bus system and would feature a high-speed transit rail. The transit center would replace the current Amtrak station in Birmingham.

The center would be located near Coolidge and Maple roads and would be a 2,400-square-foot center.

The "drop dead" date for the Troy City Council to pass or reject the transit center proposal was Dec. 19, 2011 in order to complete the project on time.

Troy will revisit this issue in the coming days when Fleming is available.

Contact staff reporter Chris Lauritsen via e-mail at cklaurit@oakland.edu. Follow him on Twitter @ChrisLaursten

Revised proposal

Revision cuts costs

In the revised proposal submitted by Councilman Dane Slater, the cost of the transit center is lowered from \$8.4 million to \$6.27 million in a final attempt to entice majority vote.

Slater said reducing the building size by 400-square-feet and changing the heating and cooling system from "green" to standard helped save money.

Councilman Slater and Councilman Wade Fleming approached city management in order to reach a compromise after Fleming voted against the project last month.

The next step, if the resolution is approved, is to hire a construction manager.

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Student volunteers cross borders

Medical Brigade offers help to over 600 patients in Honduras

By Clare La Torre
Life Editor

Oakland University's first international community service student organization, Medical Brigades, recently spent time in Honduras, providing their knowledge and help to those in need.

While there, 34 students and members of MB provided free medical and dental care to the rural community of Hoya Grande, including a local orphanage.

"The most difficult part was the preparation for the trip," said Honors College senior, and founder and president, Laura Collier. "Especially gathering all necessary medications and supplies."

The group also helped build a water system, allowing families in the community access to running water.

"The trip empowered us to continue our mission of global health and sustainable development in third world countries," Collier said.

OU student and MB member Alana Hartley said the trip as a very humbling experience.

"The ironic thing about helping others is that the people you're helping, usually end up helping you," she said. "Those kids helped me realize what happiness really is."

To learn more about Medical Brigades, contact Laura Collier at lecollier@oakland.edu.

1. Christina Oswald checks a child's blood pressure. Within three days, the group provided free health care to over 600 patients, including 56 gynecology exams.

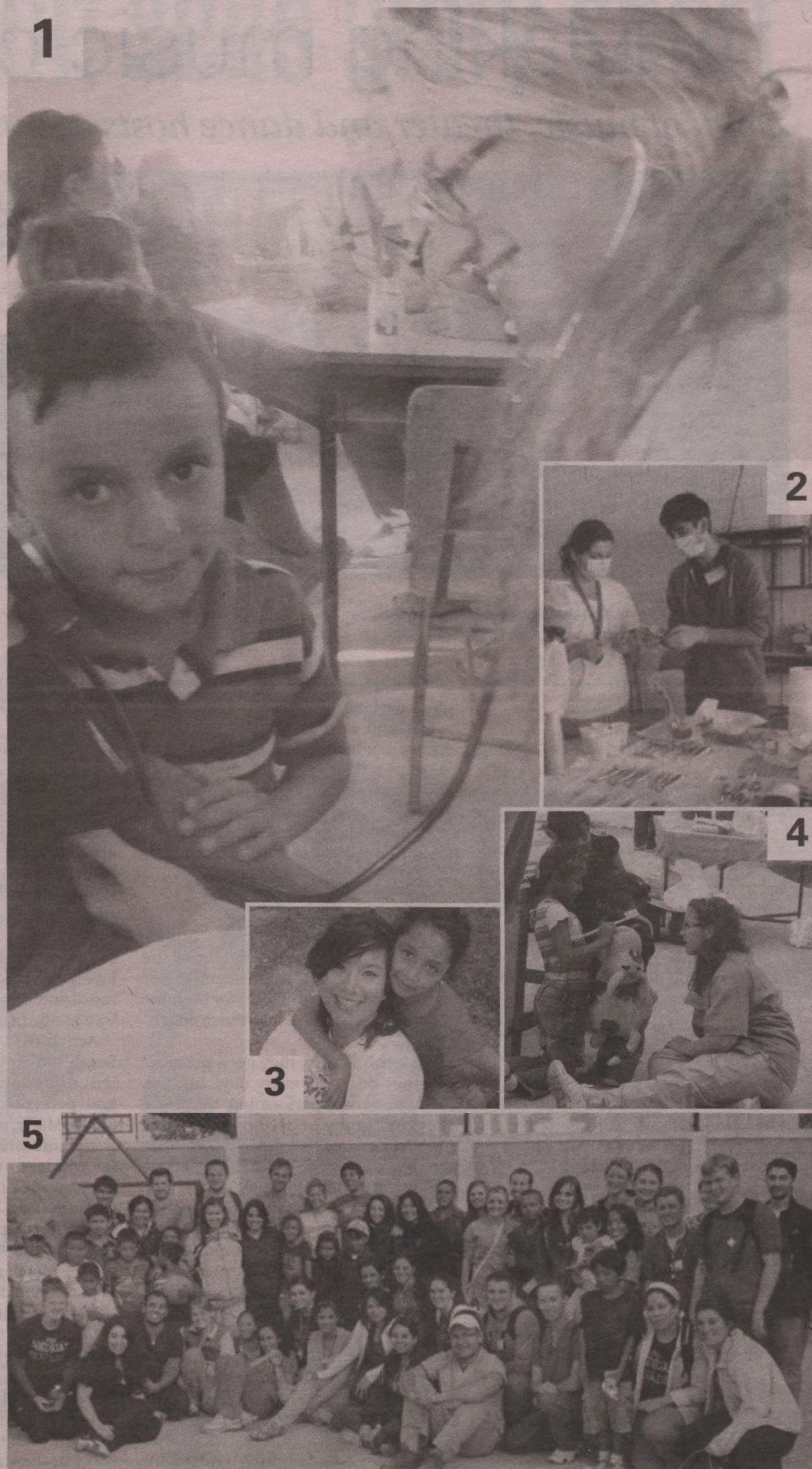
2. Cassidy Kassb and Kevin Roumayah prep for their patients. The two were among the group who spent one week dedicating their time to providing necessary medical care.

3. Collier and orphan, Angelica. "The community members were so grateful we were there," Collier said. "It was truly a life-changing experience."

4. The group presented a preventative health care seminar for children, including a short sketch designed to demonstrate the proper way to brush their teeth and wash their hands. "All of them (kids) were so happy and friendly," Hartley said. "Even though they have next to nothing, they were so excited to give us hugs and gifts."

5. During their time abroad, OU students and MB members bonded with those they treated. "The people we worked with in Honduras live with so little, and yet they are some of the most generous people I've ever met," Hartley said.

Contact Life Editor Clare La Torre via e-mail at clatorr@oaka.edu



Photos courtesy of Medical Brigades

Making music child's play

Dept. of music, theater and dance hosts events to attract potential students



SHANNON COUGHLIN/The Oakland Post

The string of OU's music intensive events started Saturday, Jan. 7 with Woodwinds day. The events featured guests from the Detroit Music Symphony, Sharon Sparrow, Jeffrey Zook and Shannon Orme, as well as Christopher Hill of the South Dakota Symphony and the Dakota Woodwind Quintet.

By Jordan Gonzalez
Senior Reporter

Oakland University will be hosting daylong music intensive events this January and February in an effort to invite younger students and allow them to taste music on a university level.

The intensives will be hosted by the Department of music, theater and dance, and will feature hands-on opportunities as well as coaching by professional musicians and educators.

Deneen V. Stapleton, outreach coordinator for the department, explained that the intensives are a chance to build a relationship between high school students and OU.

"It is a recruiting tool to try to engage the high school students early and often and hopefully build a relationship with them," Stapleton said. "We want them to come join us and have an enjoyable experience with us."

Four intensive days

There will be four different intensives for the winter semester and they include Woodwinds Day, Voice Day, Percussion Day and Piano Day.

The events started out with Woodwinds Day, and featured Detroit Symphony musicians Sharon Sparrow, Jeffrey Zook and Shannon Orme. There was also a special guest, Christopher Hill, who is the principal clarinetist of the South Dakota Symphony, a clarinetist with the Dakota Woodwind

Quintet and famous clarinet mouth-piece designer.

Oakland, Eastern Michigan and high school students alike participated in performances, and were given advice and constructive criticism from the special guest musicians and teachers.

Master classes were also held and taught by the guests, as well as a performance by Hill in the evening.

Unvarnished feedback

George Stoffan, associate professor of clarinet and coordinator of the Woodwinds Day, said the significance of the critiques and classes for both the students performing and those watching.

"As a third party, they get a perspective they don't get every day," he said. "For the person performing, they have the opportunity to perform in front of people and receive instruction from the outside, getting a fresh perspective and unvarnished feedback."

According to Stoffan, the intensives benefit both students and the school.

"It is an important component of outreach for the department and the university as a whole. We get students to campus, who would perhaps otherwise not have a reason to visit campus," he said. "It is important to promote the visibility and viability of what we do here."

Voice Day will be the next intensive at OU — it will feature activities and lessons aimed at crafting and main-

taining a healthy voice.

Lead by Dr. Adam Rubin, M.D., laryngologist, and Dr. Cristina Menaldi, speech and language pathologist, who will both explain the not only how to sing properly, but how to maintain a proper singing voice.

Students will also be able to interact and learn from husband and wife team, Drs. Alta and Drake Dantzer. Both Alta and Drake are well known singers in opera as well as teachers of voice.

Percussion Day will be held the following week, on Jan. 28, and is packed full of different activities, led and taught by a plethora of different instructors.

Activities will include clinics in South Indian drumming, jazz, Ghanaian drumming, Kalimba drumming and performances by Joe Reilly and Sandy Mabery.

The intensives for the winter semester will wrap up with the Piano Day, which will be held on Feb. 4.

Piano Day will offer private diagnostic lessons with OU piano faculty, allowing students to perform a couple pieces, receiving feedback and get help in perfecting their pieces.

"They're like mini-diagnostics. The students get to perform a couple of pieces, we split the group into three groups and we give them lessons," said Becky Happel, instructor of piano at OU. "Some of (the students) are applying and auditioning for schools. It's a way (for the students) to get a different

perspective and perform and develop their piece."

Piano Day is available to all ages, not just high school or college students, and has an application fee of \$30.

For general information about the intensives, ticket prices, availability and eligibility, contact Deneen Stapleton at stapleto@oakland.edu or call the department of music, theater and dance at 248-370-2030.

Contact senior reporter Jordan Gonzalez via e-mail at jrgonzal@oakland.edu

Future Music Days

Voice Day
Saturday, Jan. 14

Professor John-Paul White
jpwhite@oakland.edu

Percussion Day
Saturday, Jan. 28

Professor Mark Stone
stone@oakland.edu

Piano Day
Saturday, Feb. 4

Professor Becky Happel
happel@oakland.edu

Film adaptation sells story short

Student review — *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*

By George Larkins
Contributing Reporter

In David Fincher's ninth directed feature film "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo," audiences are rewarded with the best and worst from one of the top Directors of our time.



George Larkins,
contributing reporter

The film is part one of a trilogy based on the best-selling book series by author Stieg Larsson. Billed as, "The Feel Bad Movie of Christmas," Fincher's film delivers murder, rape, corruption, violence and adultery all stuffed in a forty-year unsolved mystery stocking.

Intriguing characters

Perhaps even more intriguing than the mystery plot is the interaction of

"The triumph she (Lisbeth) represents is not only or herself, but for women everywhere who have suffered physical and sexual abuse."

the primary characters Lisbeth Salander (Rooney Mara), the titles namesake, and Mikael Blomkvist (Daniel Craig), a middle-aged discredited journalist.

An unlikely pair, they are opposites in Sweden's social spectrum.

Combining Mikael's investigative journalism and Lisbeth's cyber sleuth skillset they are drawn together through the magnetic force of the Internet age.

The resulting consequence is a series of tension-filled sequences that keeps audiences polarized and guessing.

Music enhances visuals

The harrowing film score created by Trent Reznor of "Nine Inch Nails" in

collaboration with Atticus Ross sets an oppressive mood.

Reznor and Ross create a sound-image that gets under your skin as a haunting undercurrent.

Having both worked with Fincher on "The Social Network," they are unquestionably the latest-rising dark stars in sound design.

The emphasis on editing rhythm builds a level of awareness and expectation that is shattered by the use of unexpected devices and unique instruments.

Violence vs. suspense

Fincher, who is no stranger to excess violence and gore (as witnessed in his other films, "Fight Club" and "Se7en"), has matured in providing some restraint in graphic portrayal and relies on building meaningful suspense.

When he does deliver the goods, it is with a one-two punch that leaves the audience reeling from shock and disgust.

The girl

The protagonist Lisbeth Salander (Mara Rooney) remains an enigma throughout the film. The most insight we are given to her non-conformist anarchy comes from the techno-oozing ink stained title sequence.

Presumably, this nightmare dream-scape depicts the inner workings of the dragon girl's mind and impenetrable recesses of her hard shell exterior.

Lisbeth is constantly backed into a corner, and after much dehumanizing abuse, attacks and bites back with all the ferocity of a penned dragon.

Her resilience and exacting revenge elicited cheers from the audience seldom seen in modern placated spectators. The triumph she represents is not only for herself, but for all women everywhere who have suffered physical and sexual abuse.

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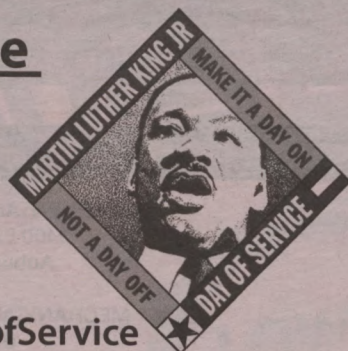
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Mouthing Off

SATIRE

Can I get a redo on that resolution?

By Brian Figurski
Multimedia Reporter

I haven't been myself this year as most of my closest friends can attest. At this time of year, there's one core reason for my mis-misbehavior.

Apologies to everyone who was adversely affected by my physical and mental absence last week. Or perhaps, you are welcome.

Since I can remember, I have had an odd fixation on dates and times, trying to give them some kind of sentimental value. Useless things, too.

I recall the date my pudgy child fingers opened a Nintendo 64 box. I remember the time that Men in Black II started and I saw it in theaters. That was a horrible sequel, the kind I'd want to have erased from memory.

This reoccurring tendency on timelines always has a peculiar effect on

me every Jan. 1.

It starts with a melancholy reflection of what I've accomplished in the prior 365 days, amplifying my shortcomings and drowning out my feeble victories. This becomes a waterfall of tears soaking my jeans.

This always leads me to demand drastic changes of myself for 20-whatever, not without first neglecting all my duties to formulate a multi-step program of resolutions.

I made a lengthy list of life changes to start being marked by flipping open my next New York Firefighters calendar.

Nothing too absurd — pursue my career goals, quit smoking, be more open to new experiences, be more friendly, stop using whack 90s slang like, 'you da bomb' in airports and public forums, yadda yadda, blah blah blah.

All the stress of this rigid list kicked my nicotine cravings into action by 12:16 a.m. — the first failure of 2012.

I spent the next four days of the fresh year fretting on how I would assimilate these alterations by retreating to my dark cavern of a room, re-watching the entire senseless series of Lost, an homage to what had become of me by deciding to whirlwind my life in 2012.

The Lost part, not the time-traveling monster made of smoke. I resolved that situation last year.

Soon I realized I was inhibiting my advancement, so I quit being a depressive glutton to roll out of bed and head to my first classes. It couldn't be worse than how I was wasting away.

December's break from civilization must have made me think there is a shimmer of humanitarian hope in somewhere in my spinal fluids.

The first joke sputtered from the designated class clown's mouth had me driving my forehead into the desk and crossing off more wishful thinking on my resolution list.

I may come off as a joker, but in classroom, I don't do a George Carlin as much as, say, a Unibomber. I wear

my sunglasses at night class.

Resolutions are set to try and better life, but when so much is piled on during a (my) drunken banter and missing the contemplative steps towards change, rarely a fighting chance for these new trends sticks around for long, a vicarious fact that I've succumbed to firsthand.

Trying to revolutionize my life as I know it has impeded me more than I anticipated, to the point that I've actually reversed my goals.

I'm proud to say I'm up to a pack and a half a day, I don't even consider doing anything outside of my norm and greet fellow humans with a hardy single-fingered salute.

Now my only resolve has shifted to not making resolutions.

If you are going to set importance to the firsts, make it count and make it reasonable.

If you botched it up like I have, we have a second chance during Chinese New Year.

Contact multimedia reporter Brian Figurski via e-mail at bdfigurs@oakland.edu. Follow him on Twitter @ [WhatDidBeefSay](https://twitter.com/WhatDidBeefSay)

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