

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

APRIL
16
— 2014 —



FIRST PITCH

The Golden Grizzlies baseball team
plays its home opener

Page 12



FIVE LOST, LIVE ON

Five students died this
academic year. Loved
ones share their losses
and lessons learned.

PAGES 10-11



DRAG SHOW DANCE OFF

OU's Gay-Straight
Alliance hosted its
eleventh drag show.

PAGE 17



A CLOWN'S FAREWELL

Brian Figurski has written
Mouthing Off for three
years. Now he must
graduate clown college.

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thisweek

April 16, 2014 // Volume 40. Issue 28



on the web

Think you'll miss us over the summer? Visit our website for the latest news around campus. We've got plenty of content just waiting for you. You can even vote in those interesting polls featured below!

www.oaklandpostonline.com



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

SO HOW ABOUT THAT MICHIGAN WEATHER? // This was the scene behind the Rec Center on Tuesday, April 15. You may notice there are many bikes covered in snow here. Well you see, while in most places, April is a time of bright skies, blooming flowers and birds chirping, Michigan chooses to defy the norm and hit its residents with one last hurrah of snow, ice and wind. Thanks Old Man Winter.

Photo by Beth Talbert

Submit a photo to photos@oaklandpostonline.com for a chance to be featured. View all submissions at oaklandpostonline.com

POLL OF THE WEEK

How do you feel about your upcoming finals?

- A** I'm going to dominate.
- B** I'm going to fail miserably.
- C** I don't have any. Yes, I know I'm lucky.
- D** The weather is so great, who has time to study?

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST WEEK'S POLL

What are your thoughts on legalizing marijuana?

- A** I think it should be legalized.
48.6%
- B** No way. Legalizing marijuana is a bad idea.
14.3%
- C** I don't really mind either way.
31.4%
- D** I think we should legalize all drugs, YOLO.
5.7%

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

APRIL 15, 1992

Barnes & Noble, Follett and Nebraska Book Co. put in bids to operate Oakland's Book Store. Giving the store to an outside company was part of a plan to reduce university budgets by \$2.5 million.

APRIL 19, 1999

The lower level of the OC was set to reopen in June after \$2.2 million in renovations.

APRIL 19, 2008

Campus was closed after a series of violent threats were found scrawled in three men's restrooms around campus.



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STUDENTS DE-STRESS FOR FINALS

Stressing out for finals week? So are other students, and they've got a few tips and techniques on how to relax and keep things positive.



9

OUSC HOSTS TAILGATE

The Oakland University Student Congress helped kick off the first men's baseball game Friday, April 11 with food and fun under the sun.



19

TALE OF THE SCUBA SUIT HERO

Bill Byers rescued the car from Bear Lake, and it wasn't his first one. Learn more about the man, no, the machine, behind the scuba suit.

BY THE NUMBERS

Figurski Edition

47

Estimated amount of Mouthing Offs he wrote

152

Hours he played Bejeweled Blitz

24

Hours he lived in Kresge Library that one time

100+

Times he referenced fast food, butts or loneliness

3

Years he has worked at The Oakland Post

Perspectives

STAFF EDITORIAL

Letter from the editor: How you are our most important reader

Dear reader,
This edition of The Oakland Post you hold in your hands is the final one of the regular academic year.

From the mysterious retirement of Oakland University President, Gary Russi to the coldest winter Michigan has ever seen, this year The Post has strived to keep you informed about what's happening around OU.

Because of this, we want to thank you, whether this is your first copy of The Post, or the one-thousandth. Knowing that our articles make an impact on our readers keeps us going.

Right now we are simply college journalists. We use The Oakland Post as a learning experience to better ourselves and to prepare for the future. We learn about what our audience wants here. We learn our ethics here. And we experience our war stories here.

Our production days last from about 9 a.m. until typically 2 a.m. We really do spend that much time in the basement of the Oakland Center, putting together these 20 pages.

We're here at the crack of dawn and we're here when everyone on campus is asleep.

We often make the trek from The Post to the parking lots deep in the night, crickets chirping, those creepy, motion-detecting lights going off when we get near, and of course seeing the occasional inebriated wanderer lurking in the darkness.

Usually we have school in a few hours, but we don't mind. We work this hard for our audience.

Many of us have dreams of writing for larger publications and The Oakland Post serves as a stepping stone that will reach us to new heights.

Without your support and your feedback, we wouldn't be able to reach these heights. We wouldn't know where our potential stands.

A new era for The Oakland Post is dawning. Our new editor-in-chief Oona Goodin-Smith and our new managing editor Kaylee Kean are prepared to work around the clock to bring you your news.

And it's not just them. Our staff is comprised of

more than 30 students, chomping at the bit to write meaningful articles.

They want to take The Oakland Post to an entirely different level.

They plan on boosting our social media coverage, writing more substantial content and increasing the activity on our website, oaklandpostonline.com.

They cannot do this unless people like you, the people who read The Post, interact with us and tell us your thoughts. How can we improve? What do you want to read about? What do you think of your student newspaper?

We want to know. After all, you are the person we write for.

Thank you,

Scott Wolchek
Editor-in-Chief

P.S.

If you would like to join The Oakland Post staff on our journey of journalism, now is the time to apply. Send an email to editor@oaklandpostonline.com

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



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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

New OUSC position up for approval

Upcoming president looks to appoint environmental, health and wellness director

As the Winter 2014 semester comes to an end, and you all begin your summer journeys, I would like to leave you with a reflection on the past semester and past couple weeks as newly-elected Student Body President for the upcoming summer and school year.

I have never felt more humbled to take on such a role that allows me to represent and speak for the students. Liz and I decided to run for president and vice president because there were things we wanted to change, improve and implement. Tying in our Oakland knowledge, experience and passion, we took student concerns and developed solutions.

On Monday, April 14, 2014 our Executive Board went up for approval by the Legislature. All nine positions have been approved, and next meeting is when the environmental, health and wellness director will go up for approval. This new position is an appointed position that will be part of the Executive Board. We are extremely excited to begin work with this new position. We have gotten nothing but posi-



ANNIE MEINBERG

Next Student Body President

tive feedback from students, faculty and staff! We have ideas for events to promote awareness, as well as initiatives we would like to see throughout campus. Being a new position, this allows the director to lay the groundwork and set the standard for future directors. The environmental, health and wellness director will hold a committee, and we strongly encourage students to get involved with this committee! Being it the first year with this position, the director will greatly need input from other students!

Liz and I are 110 percent dedicated to the Oakland University student body and while working on our projects, we urge students to approach us with their own ideas! We are ultimately here for the students and we take pride in being present on campus to address any student concerns!

I would like to thank my family, friends, and those I have met at OU these past two years that have been strong role models for me. I wouldn't be here without Liz, and for that, I am honored to serve the student

body by her side.

Oakland University provides unique opportunities for students to find what they are interested in, and to run with it. To the students that have not engaged with campus life, and have yet to feel a connection, I have been there. My advice? Step out of your comfort zone, take pride in being a Golden Grizzly, and explore the campus - I'm positive you will find something that draws you in! I did, and it was the best thing I have ever done! Be sure to work hard, have fun and leave your legacy.

It's a great day to be a Grizzly!

Sophomores Annie Meinberg and Liz Iwanski are Oakland University's upcoming president and vice president. You can learn more about their platform at imforou.com.

Goodbyes from Post graduates:

Senior staff members impart some life lessons they have learned at Oakland University



Kelsey Lepper, English, Lead Ads Manager

"I learned that you have to follow your gut and your dreams regardless of what other people say."



Scott Wolchek, Communication, Editor-in-Chief

"I have learned who is there for me when I need them the most. I learned that hard work really does pay off."



Brian Figurski, Creative Writing, Mousing Off Editor

"I've met some great people. They encouraged me to do what I'm passionate about. I found out who I am."

— Compiled by Haley Kotwicki
Chief Copy Editor



Photo courtesy of Maria Willet

Students participate in first Leadership OU mentorship program, which allows them to work with successful alum

Helping students pave a path

OU Alumni Association matches students to mentors

Kaylee Kean
Managing Editor

Graduation is approaching, and with it the fear of the unknown. Students have begun to ask, "What do I do now?"

One program has developed this to dispel these fears and make students more prepared for a future outside of Oakland University.

The program, Leadership OU, was brought to the table this year by the Oakland University Alumni Association.

Maria Willet, Student Outreach Coordinator for the OUAA and one of the program's key planners, said the goal was to give students "the opportunity to be prepared for the professional world, and how to get involved in the real world."

Students get a \$250 scholarship upon completion of the program, according to Willet. Each student must attend a certain amount of events throughout the academic year - this year it was six out of seven events, and next year it will be seven out of eight - and meet with his or her mentor an hour each month.

"It's about creating that connection to the alumni association in general," Willet said. "It's up to the mentor and mentee what kind of a relationship they want to have."

Willet said she hopes the program has and will continue to help engage students and benefit them in the long run.

One student, she said, put it best: "There's not a CSA for when you graduate."

"They're great students, they're great mentors," Willet said. "You know your program's good when you want to do what the kids are doing."

Scottie Shermetaro, junior mechanical engineering major, was one of the students who participated in the first year of the program.

"I thought it would be a really neat way to see how other students kind of made the most of their experience here at Oakland and how they're applying that to their daily lives now," Shermetaro said.

His mentor was Stephen Parker, who works for Chrysler's Street and Racing Technology department.

Shermetaro said he actually met Parker last summer when he interned at Chrysler. After filling out a survey for Leadership OU to match students with the right mentor, he just happened to be matched with Parker.

While his education and degree is important, Shermetaro said there are a lot of things he and Parker focused on that branched out of the classroom experience, including leadership skills, work ethics and networking.

"We get coffee a lot," Shermetaro said. "We also went to a basketball game and we went to a Chrysler event that was actually at the Red Ox, and he introduced me to a lot of his recruitment teams."

Shermetaro and the other participants also met with other alumni and influential people in the area, including the mayor of Rochester Hills and the Chamber of Commerce.

"In that part of the program they're trying to hook you up with other alumni and kind of see where people are," Shermetaro said. "That's kind of a really cool way to see what else is out there."

Applications are due Friday, April 18 to participate in the program next year, according to Willet.

Students must have a minimum of 56 credit hours completed, a GPA of 3.0 and a history of student leadership and campus involvement. All majors are accepted.

Students interested in the program can visit oualumni.com/leadershipou.

Alumn wants to bring a new view to U.S. Congress

Jeremy Burgess says he will fund more educational programs

Ali DeRees
Staff Reporter

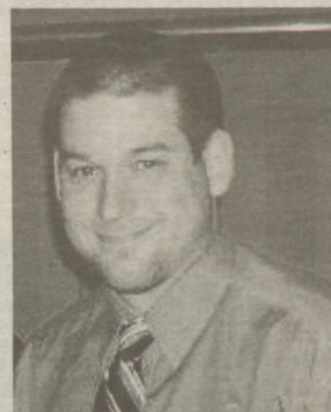


Photo courtesy of Jeremy Burgess

Jeremy Burgess is an Oakland University alum WHO is ready to solve problems and bring change to the United States Congress. Burgess is an independent candidate running to represent the 8th Congressional District in Michigan.

Burgess received a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and a master's in Chemistry and currently works as a chemist.

Plans for the Hill

Through his work as a chemist, Burgess said he sees a lot of government in action. He said it is his job is based on solving problem and that he'd like to do as a Congressman.

"I should get out there and try, try and make things better," Burgess said.

One of Burgess' main platforms is bringing money back to the U.S. He said he wants to cut funding to foreign governments and "use that money to support taxpayers."

Specifically, Burgess said he wants to see more money put towards educational programs.

Running as an Independent in a political world where Democrats and Republicans make the rules Burgess said.

Running independent

As an Independent candidate, Burgess needs 3,000 signatures to run whereas a Democrat or Republican only needs 1,000 signatures, he said.

Burgess said the fighting that goes on between the two parties is a waste of time. He referenced the fight over Obamacare and how a piece of legislation from the president will not be repealed.

"Americans need to look more into Independent can-

Burgess received his degrees in biology and chemistry at Oakland.

didates," Burgess said. "Forty percent of Americans consider themselves Independent but we have not Independents in the House."

What he represents

Burgess said he needs 3,000 signatures by about June or July and is now working to get his name out there, mostly through word of mouth. It is a lot of door to door and leg work he said.

"You need to make connections with them," Burgess said.

As a representative, Burgess said he will represent everyone, regardless of age, part affiliation, etc.

"As a representative you are representing Democrats or Republicans," Burgess said.

A more diverse representation in the House is what Burgess said would be best. It provides "better representation across the board," Burgess said.

Burgess said that they younger generation, such as college students, are the ones who will be affected by our nations growing national debt and they should pay more attention to what's going on in the government.

For more information on Burgess visit his website at democracy.com/Burgessin2014.

Contact Staff Reporter Ali DeRees at apderees@oakland.edu

Breathing deep and keeping calm

Students use the last week before finals to de-stress and share their secrets and techniques

Kaylee Kean
Managing Editor

It's coming. Finals week. Although some classes have gotten the heavy workloads out of the way, the bulk of testing will take place over next week. After that Oakland students are free for summer, fail or pass.

Before then, however, it's a minefield of students ready to explode with the pressure.

In lieu of that, here are some of the ways students are trying to help students de-stress.

Teaching techniques

iPause was introduced this year by the Graham Health Center and OU Counseling Center. An hour-long workshop packed with information, it can be requested by any group on campus that is interested in learning about stress and how to control it.

The last session of this academic year was held in 5 East Vandenberg Hall on Tuesday at 6 p.m. There, iPause volunteers helped prepare residents for finals with some discussion, tips and breathing techniques.



HappyOU Happyme is a new group dedicated to meditation and mindfulness.

One thing to do, volunteer Kathleen Zintsmaster said, is to remember that school is an opportunity many people don't have.

"Although it's stressful, this is a good stressor," Zintsmaster said. "If you're not stressed out ever, you won't be motivated to do anything."

The volunteers said the goal is to aim for an optimum stress zone - not too much and not too little. A good way to do this is to keep a journal.

Other things to try are time management techniques, finding a fun way to get exercise, and laughing.

"They say if you get at least 30 minutes a day it reduces risk for cardiovascular disease," one volunteer said. "Don't take yourself so seriously. Do something fun."

Other tools and information about stress can be found at www.oakland.edu/ghc/ipause.

Helping others to help yourself

HappyOU Happyme is a club brought to Oakland this year. An easygoing group, it focuses on achieving happiness through meditation and mindfulness.

"The premise of the whole group is making other people happy to make yourself happy," said President Emma Spak.

Since January Spak and other members have been meeting every Tuesday. At each meeting a yoga teacher comes in, there is some group discussion, and there are five to ten minutes of meditation at the end. Other things the group has done include yoga, positive cards and candy.

"The meditation has helped me kind of focus and let the little things go," Secretary Taylor James said.

HappyOU Happyme will continue to meet next year. For more information contact Spak at eespak@oakland.edu.

Grizzlies on the Prowl:

"How do you relax during exam week?"



Yousef Alhamoud, freshman, mechanical engineering

"Spend time with friends and play videogames and pool."



Danielle Cojocari, junior, creative writing

"I like to listen to music, read books or hang out with my friends."



Erica Washington, freshman, psychology and Spanish

"Take a nap, watch Netflix or go to the gym."

— Compiled by Haley Kotwicki
Chief Copy Editor

POLICE FILES

Larceny at Rec Center

OUPD was dispatched to the Recreation Center for a report of larceny April 10 at 9:04 p.m.

A student had placed his black iPhone 5S, wallet and clothing into a locker at 6:00 p.m. When he returned an hour later, he noticed his iPhone and about \$80 were missing.

Counterfeit money

Officers met with a campus worker who turned over a counterfeit bill April 11 at 3:19 p.m.

The worker gave the officer a \$20 bill, which was received at a Chartwells location. The bill was taken in a transaction April 10.

Disturbing the peace

Officers responded to a disturbance at the Genocide Display April 8 at 2:02 p.m.

A student jumped over the security railing and began to hit the displays. During the incident, she knocked over a video camera that was recording the event.

She was escorted away by an admissions advisor who had earlier tried to comfort her.

Officers met with the student and the assistant dean of student affairs April 9. The student explained that this was an isolated incident and would not happen again.

Minors in possession

OUPD responded to a call of possible minors in possession April 12 at 1:10 a.m.

Two resident assistants told officers that they heard occupants mention alcohol inside a dorm room.

Officers were given permission to enter the room. They noticed empty containers of Jack Daniels and Popov on the table inside the room.

The four people in the dorm acknowledged that they had been drinking. They agreed to breathalyzer tests. Each one blew over the limit of 0.08.

OUPD issued misdemeanor citations and disposed of the alcohol containers.

— Compiled by Haley Kotwicki
Chief Copy Editor

Globe-trotting Grizzlies gather knowledge

Number of students studying abroad doubles at Oakland

Sam Schlenner
Staff Intern

More students are studying abroad. But why? "They crave the unknown," she says. "It's kind of like a high."

Jackie Spezia, an Oakland student explains why students get out of Rochester, get into a plane and jet off across the world to study abroad.

"That sounds bad, but, being lost in Paris, at one in the morning, on a bus, where you don't speak a word of French, and there's a bunch of creepy drunks all around you...the next day, when you're like, 'Oh my gosh. I just survived that. How did I not die?' It's like a high."

The number of OU students studying abroad in the summer with outside organizations has more than doubled in two years, from 14 in 2012 to a tentative 29 in 2014, according to numbers provided by Dr. Brian Connery, interim director of international education at OU.

"More students are crossing borders than ever before. According to Unesco, there are 3.4 million students on the move each year all over the world, and that number is expected to grow," says a New York Times Article by Joyce Lau.

The number studying with faculty led programs has decreased since last year, largely due to the social work program last year, which was a large anomaly.

"Even if you're chained to a desk you can look back on your life and say, 'I did something,'" says Spezia, a student advisor for OU International Education.

"I have seen two gay pride parades in Barcelona."

"That sounds bad, but, being lost in Paris, at one in the morning, on a bus, where you don't speak a word of French, and there's a bunch of creepy drunks all around you...the next day, when you're like, 'Oh my gosh. I just survived that. How did I not die?' It's like a high."

Jackie Spezia
OU Student

Her parents have never left the country.

"My brother thought there was a bridge to Spain."

Spezia did something different.

"I wanted to see what else was out there."

Other students have the wanderlust, too.

"I have students who come in and say, 'I don't care where I go. I want to go abroad,'" she says. "I don't care if it's France. I don't care if it's Germany. I don't care if it's whatever. I want to go abroad."

Those are the ones who really have the bug, she says. They just need to get out.

Don't think it's all fun and games, though.

"The resume is always in the back of your mind," she says. "Without a job this is kind of pointless."

IES Abroad Alumni were nearly twice as likely to get a job within one year after graduation compared to the general college population, according to a study by IES Abroad, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit study abroad organization. They make about \$7,000 a year more in starting salary.

One thing people forget is a journal, says Connery.

"We think well using language," he says. "It's more than photographs. It records how they feel about people and things that are going on."

Instead of a selfie in front of Westminster Abbey, the journal would say "Today I got lost in London..."

Dr. Connery gazes up at a wall map and lists the places he'll go on retirement.

"A lot of people are coming back with great stories about Iceland," he says. "I have friends in Tunis..."

His favorite trip was the first time he took students to Ireland, in 2005, he says.

"Where is the bus driver taking us? I don't know. Is it going to be worth our



Jordan James, student, enjoys Dublin's rainy weather. "Everyone tells me that they wish they had done something like this when they were young."

while? And it always was," he says.

Pubs have to close at 11 p.m. in Sligo.

"But if the music's really good and everybody's having a good time, the pub owner will close and lock the place, so, they're closed, and now it's a private party," he says. "If a cop comes around, nobody answers. There were 10 Americans and 30 locals that night. It was just magical. It really was."

"You learn that it's okay to do crazy things," Spezia says. For an example, go to Barcelona.

"It just works. You figure it out, you survive, and it's fine," she says. "It kind of opens you up to how the other half lives."

It's known as the "transformational experience."

"After study abroad, students indeed show more accelerated development in some of psychology's standard 'Big Five' personality traits," a nafs.org article by Richard McGourty says about a study by Zimmermann and Neyer.

Spezia is proof.

Back home, you can hang out with the same people since you were five

years old, she says.

"But if you go over there, you know no one. You are alone. It is you. You sink or swim. You succeed or fail. It is on you."

And when you succeed, it's you, too. This is a bit of a confidence booster.

"I never would be talking in this room before study abroad," she says. "I would turn the light off in my dorm room when they came around for group activities so they would think I wasn't there."

It builds "intercultural muscle," says Carmen Arrue, site director of AHA's Oviedo program.

"I expect to leave this experience with a better, more rational, yet awed view of the world we live in," says Jordan James, an OU student studying abroad in Dublin.

"Everyone tells me that they wish they had done something like this when they were young."

Some are repeat offenders, Spezia says.

"Once you go abroad once, you want to do it again, and again."

OUSC pushes Golden Grizzlies to go green

OUSC to hire environmental, health, and wellness director

Oona Goodin-Smith
Managing Editor

Starting next year, the Golden Grizzlies may be a little more green thanks to the Oakland University Student Congress' newest push to create an environmental, health, and wellness director student position. The initiative was created by the newest heads of the student body, President Annie Meinberg and Vice President Liz Iwanski, and given its first reading Monday, April 14, during the general student body meeting.

A healthy position

"The environmental, health, and wellness position was something we pushed during our campaign and think it could really go to make a difference on campus," Iwanski said. "It could help push us to bring out the natural beauty of our campus as well as maybe help students not to gain the 'freshman fifteen.'"

Iwanski explained the director will work to achieve overall student health and wellness on campus by collaborating with the administration on everything from creating new recycling programs to improving the health of the cafeteria food to establishing a more student-friendly recreation center.

Recently elected legislator Kristie Nixon supported the new position. "Oakland is growing rapidly, but it would be great to say that we're also environmentally-friendly," she said.

While many of the legislators echoed Nixon's approval, the proposal was not met without skepticism.

"Chartwells tried to make their food healthier this year, but it was kind of disappointing," said legislator Andre Sykes. "How do we know that we won't be throwing money at this position to make our food more disgusting than delicious?"

Iwanski stressed the new position is not as focused on altering current foods as it is on making healthy additions. "We see [the health and wellness director] working with Chartwells to make fruits and veggies more accessible or adding a healthy

snack bar in the Rec," she said. "We aren't planning to take away or change the pre-existing foods in the cafeteria."

While the responsibilities of the new director may seem like a lot for one person to digest, Meinberg is confident in the skillset of her and Iwanski's pick for the position, Shawn Czewski. "He's an environmental science major with a lot of great ideas for the job," she said.

Having studied environmental science for four years with a specialization in resource management and sustainability, Czewski also manages his own business, selling America's first-ever green cleaning supplies, as well as organic vitamins and supplements.

"I think [the position] is open to a lot of potential and I like that it's uncharted," he said. "OUSC is a very powerful student organization to be involved with and I will look to also push sustainability, not just initiatives and health facts."

Staying eco-friendly

By pushing an eco-friendly agenda,

OU will be following in the trendy green footsteps of institutions such as Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio, which encourages health and wellness with highly positive results.

Oberlin, currently ranked with the "number one greenest conscience" by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, monitors minute-by-minute power and water usage in residence halls, allows students to see their energy consumption in real time online, and hosts yearly "ecolympics," a competition between dorms to reduce electricity and water use, placing sustainability directly into its students' hands.

After taking the initiative to encourage campus sustainability in 2007, Oberlin has seen constant growth in its freshman retention rate, "an indicator of student satisfaction," according to US News.

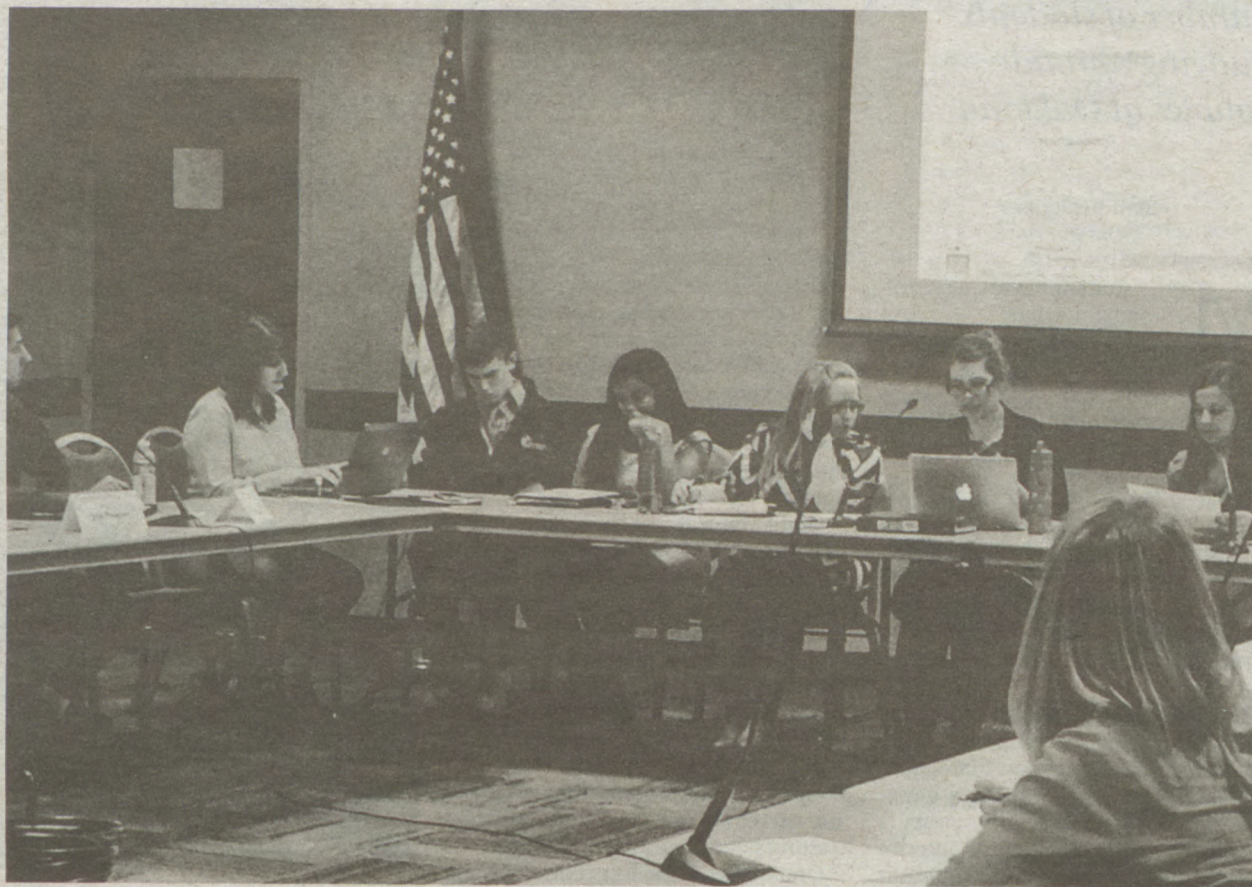
Other dealings

The meeting also featured OUSC Executive Board approval elections, in

which, in a rare turn of events, every chair was unanimously elected. The new board is as follows: Jorge Garcia as Student Activities Funding Board Chairperson, Rylin Ploe as Student Program Board Chair, Bria Ellis as Legislative Affairs Director, newcomer Jessah Rolstone as Multicultural Affairs Director, Wayne State transfer student Sam Harris as Financial Affairs Director, Kyler Johnson as Student Services Director, Josh Pokrefky as Marketing Director, Kathleen Peterson as Visual Communications Director, and Cassie Hock as Administrative Assistant.

Kristie Nixon, Madison Kubinski, Jeffrey Schuett, and Brittany Hall were all elected to serve in the scholarship, steering, judiciary, and parliamentary legislative committee chairs, respectively.

The new executive board and committee chairs will begin Monday, April 21, at 4 p.m., when the second reading and OUSC vote on the health and wellness director proposal will take place in the Gold Rooms of the OC.



Oona Goodin-Smith/The Oakland Post

The Oakland University Student Congress held a student general body meeting and created a new health and wellness director position.

Mascots put the 'tail' in OUSC tailgate party



Ali DeRees / The Oakland Post

A hot-dog-eating contest was one of the luxuries provided for students at the tailgate.

Men's baseball home opener kicks off with a tailgate featuring good food, roaming mascots and fun

Ali DeRees
Staff Reporter

Perfect weather, good food, and great times were all included at the OUSC tailgate held before the first Oakland University baseball home game of the season, where the OU men's team took on the University of Illinois at Chicago on Friday, April 11.

The tailgate was held in front of the Rec Center and included gourmet hot dogs, tacos, music by WXOU, and a visit from both the Grizz and the Detroit Tigers mascot, Paws.

Junior and student-athlete Devon Mahieu attended the tailgate to have a good time and support the baseball team.

"It's a good opportunity for students to go out and make friends," Mahieu said.

She said the tailgates are "good for school spirit" and for creating a family dynamic within athletics.

"I try to go to as many as I can," Mahieu said. "We're one big family."

OUSC legislator Josh Pokrefky organized the event and was very pleased with the outcome.

Pokrefky was on Marlee Hanna's tailgate committee within OUSC, and she helped him organize this event, Pokrefky said.

He said the event provided great exposure for two of the things he is most passionate about at OU.

"I still want it (OU) to be a fun place to be, [I want students to] be proud to be a Grizzly"

Josh Pokrefky
OUSC legislator

"It markets for OUSC, it markets for athletics," Pokrefky said.

Pokrefky first worked for both the men and women's basketball teams, which he said helped him to get involved with OUSC.

He credits his work with the basketball teams with his drive for school spirit, Pokrefky said.

He said he also has meetings with the Coordinator of Marketing and Promotions for Oakland University Athletics, Taylor Blakely, to discuss how OUSC can contribute to athletics promotions.

"I still want it (OU) to be a fun place to be," Pokrefky said. "[I want students to] be proud to be a Grizzly."

Pokrefky was recently elected to the judicial branch of OUSC but will continue to serve on the tailgate committee.

Contact Staff Reporter Ali DeRees at apderees@oakland.edu

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Five lives, infinite lessons

Story by Scott Wolchek



Photos courtesy of families



Design by Frank Lepke

Hailey Brouillet, Maya Michelle Horton, Eric Pauli, DeMal Coleman and Adam Wilson. These are the names of the brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, classmates, friends, family and loves lost during this academic school year.

The oldest of the deceased was 25, the youngest, 18. Combined, they lived 100 years.

Losing somebody is never an easy experience, especially when someone is so young. And just like how the daffodils bloom despite the harsh winter, some of those who have lost are learning to persevere through their tragedies.

"At first it was a struggle," said Dominic Gaudino, Brouillet's boyfriend. "Every day it was different. For the last month or so I've channeled it toward more positive stuff. I'm taking the lessons she taught me and I'm actually applying them toward everything I'm doing."

Brouillet died October 28, 2013 from injuries sustained in a car accident. She was a Troy High graduate and involved in OU's Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) study-abroad consortium.

Since her death, Brouillet's parents, Lori and Wayne, her best friend, Jessica Zacharias and Gaudino, have started a movement called Share Her Spirit. One of the goals of Share Her Spirit is to create a scholarship fund in honor of Brouillet through the CIEE.

"She was the first OU student to go through that program," Zacharias said. "OU was very for it. We are in the process of raising that \$25,000 to keep the scholarship year-by-year."

Taking action has helped both Gaudino and Zacharias deal with the loss of Brouillet.

"I've actually connected with a couple people who had tragedies themselves through Share Her Spirit," Gaudino said. "It's been good to connect with people who know what I'm going through and to know that Hailey can live on."

"The fact that I've been helping a lot of people has been really cool and really rewarding," Zacharias said.

The friends and family of Brouillet aren't the only ones who are staying proactive. LaDonna Scott, the girlfriend of Coleman, is taking action as well. Scott used to play volleyball and Coleman always told her she should get back into it. Now Scott is taking the steps to make the man she loved proud.

"I have a [volley ball] team that I'm coaching right now in his honor," Scott said. "That's how I'm trying to channel things— It's working."

Coleman died February 11, 2014, from complications caused by a pre-existing heart condition. He was a graduate of University High School in Ferndale and a first-year student involved with the Center for Multicultural Initiatives (CMI) program at OU.

Although friends and family of the deceased are

working to overcome their hardships, the journey has not been easy.

"There's sometimes when I just want to call Hailey," Zacharias said. "Because I know she would just have the right thing to say."

"The hardest thing has been those moments where you kind of have a lapse in reality and you think she's just on a trip," Gaudino said. "You have a dream that just feels so real and think you're going to get a message or call when you wake up."

Scott also experiences hardships with the loss of Coleman.

"He and I were more than just boyfriend and girlfriend," Scott said. "We were best friends. It's weird not having him around. We talked all the time, and not having him around is just kind of strange. And that's the hardest part."

The same goes for the loved ones of Wilson.

"It's a hard thing to deal with, but we're trying," said Jonathan Geister, Wilson's best friend. "It's still hard for me to wrap my head around it."

Wilson died April 1, 2014. He was a graduate of Romeo High School and will still be receiving his Bachelor of Arts and Science in Studio Arts, later this month. One of his family members will stand in his place.

Even throughout the lapses and the pain, those who have lost have changed their outlooks on life for the better.

"I'm more open to saying yes when an opportunity is given to me," Zacharias said. "I say hi to people. That may be the last time you see them. I had to face that and that's just the reality of it. Not many people want to be open all the time."

"I've got a greater sense of what happens every day," Gaudino said. "Before, everything was taken for granted. Every day is different, take it in stride, just cherish every moment."

Gaudino and Zacharias both live by a quote they shared with Brouillet.

"I find myself saying 'why not?' Gaudino said. "Hailey and I used to say that together a lot."

This growth the survivors' experience is fueled by memories of the times spent with the people they loved. Most of all, they say the memories inspire them to keep going.

"It's still hard," Scott said. "I still think about DeMal every hour of every day, but I'm getting better. I put my religion into perspective. When my time comes, I'm going to see him again. That kind of keeps me going."

"Anything can happen in your life," Zacharias said. "You just have to keep your head held high and just keep going."

The friends and families of Eric Pauli and Maya Michelle Horton were not available for comment. You can learn more about the lives of Brouillet, Horton, Pauli, Coleman and Wilson at oaklandpostonline.com



Eric Pauli poses with his prized car 'Natalie'. Pauli died February 2, 2014 from injuries in a snowmobile accident. He graduated from Dakota High School in 2013. He was 18.

"I'm taking lessons she taught me and I'm actually applying them toward everything I'm doing"

-Dominic Gaudino, boyfriend of Hailey Brouillet

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He was 18 years old.

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Maya Michelle Horton was a psychology major and a member of OU's ISSO. She died from injuries sustained in a car accident December 12, 2013. She was 19 years old.



DeMal Coleman graduated University High School in 2013. He died February 11, 2014. He was 18 years old.



Hailey Brouillet graduated from Troy High in 2011. Brouillet died October 28 from injuries sustained in a car accident. Her dream was to become a physical therapist. She was 20 years old.



Adam Wilson graduated Romeo High School in 2007. He died April 1, 2014. He was 25 years old.

“Anything can happen in your life, you just have to keep your head held high and just keep going.”

-Jessica Zacharias



Salwan Georges / The Oakland Post

OU pitcher Jason Hagar gave up 11 hits and eight runs in 4.2 innings Friday.

Hung up to dry

OU baseball team loses opening home series, 2-1

Adam Kujawski
Staff Reporter

The Oakland University baseball team (6-19, 1-8 Horizon) lost its first home game of the season to the University of Illinois at Chicago by a score of 11-1 on Friday evening.

UIC (14-15, 9-6) pitcher Tomas Michelson threw eight innings and allowed only five hits and one run in the contest, shutting down a Grizzly offense that scored 14 runs against Central Michigan on Wednesday.

"Their pitcher was pretty tough," OU Head Coach John Musachio said. "I thought we made an adjustment offensively and hit some balls hard but I tip my cap to UIC."

Oakland fell behind early after allowing three runs in the first and one run in the second, prompting Musachio to head to the mound in the second inning in an attempt to calm starting pitcher Jason Hager.

"Jason is a precision pitcher and was getting frustrated with some of his borderline pitches," Musachio said.

"I told him to keep attacking and to concentrate on controlling the things he can control. He's a warrior for us, there was no way I was pulling him in the second inning."

UIC tallied runs in five of the nine innings and even after Hager was pulled in the fifth, the bullpen surrendered three

runs of its own throughout the remainder of the game.

The Grizzlies' offensive woes resembled their pitching struggles. It wasn't until the third inning that OU found its first hit after catcher Jake Morton recorded a single on a ground ball through the middle.

It took until the seventh inning to get a run across when third baseman Spencer Marentette drove an RBI single into left field.

At the end of the game, UIC had scored 11 runs on 14 hits with three errors while OU notched one run on five hits with two errors.

The loss to UIC keeps Oakland winless against Horizon League opponents on the season, dropping them to 0-7 in such games.

"I think we need to execute better on the mound tomorrow," Musachio said. "We have a good team and if we get a couple good starts tomorrow, I think we'll be right there to contend."

The Grizzlies went on to finish the series with a double-header on Saturday at the OU Baseball Field beginning at noon.

The Flames defeated the Grizzlies 16-6 in the first game, with Oakland coming back to win the second, 15-3, good for their first conference win as a member of the Horizon League.

Contact Staff Reporter Adam Kujawski via email at ajkujaws@oakland.edu.



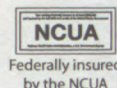
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Photo courtesy of Sarah Merritt/OU Athletic Communications

"I try not to let it affect me," Kisman said. "If I think about it, it's only going to give me more pressure."

Kisman discusses success

Softball player talks expectations, pressure and returning home.

Matt Saulino
Staff Reporter

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies (11-15, 0-2 Horizon) softball team is returning home this weekend for its first home game this season.

OU's Jacqueline Kisman sat down with The Post to give her thoughts on the team and its season so far. Kisman leads the team with a batting average at .394.

I know not every game you've played this season has been designated an away game, but how nice will it be to finally return home and play in Oakland's ball park?

It's always fun to play at home, but even when we are away, every place is our home. A field is a field, no matter where it is. We still have to show up and play the same way we would if we were playing at Oakland. It's always nice to have the extra fans though.

What do you think your team has done well this season?

Out of the three years that I have been here, this year feels like we really are a family. Also, I think we have done a great job of staying positive when things don't go our way; we never stop fighting, and always have faith in each other and our coaches.

What are your expectations for the rest of the season?

I expect us to get better every day in practice and take it into our games. Just because we are 0-2 in conference does not mean we won't be conference champs. We will continue to work hard, and the wins will come.

You're hitless in only two games this season, is there anything you can attribute your success to while at the plate?

During the fall I really worked on my mental game and read a lot books about mentally preparing yourself for competition. I visualize myself succeeding every night before games and then again before I go up to the plate. I always try to visualize a couple different

plans in case the first one doesn't work. My coaches and teammates also provide me with a lot of confidence.

Do you feel added pressure to do well each game because you've proven to be so consistent?

I definitely think about it, but I try not to let it affect me. If I think about it, it's only going to give me more pressure. I just play my game and if I don't get a hit one game then the next game my goal is to get two hits and make up for it.

What kind of support do you offer to your teammates when they're struggling at the plate?

I usually try to tell them to swing at the first strike because it's the best one you're going to see. If they beat you in your last at bat, be ready for the same type of pitches because they will probably come at you the same way. Make the pitcher change her game, not yours. Never let it get to your head.

Are you ready for some football?

Oakland University Football Club gears up for second season on the gridiron

Matt Saulino
Staff Reporter

The Oakland University Club football team is gearing up for the upcoming season.

New head coach Chris Pickney is already evaluating team members and installing his new style to the team as he tries to build off last year's success.

"Everything is too early to tell, but one thing I can tell is this team is going to have a phenomenal work aspect to it," Pickney said.

Although the team has some returning starters, Pickney wants people to earn their positions on the field.

"Every position as of right now is wide open," he said. "It's on a competition base as of each practice, so those guys will be earning their positions."

A quarterback last season, Brandon Tucker looks to be moving to wide receiver, where he was named all-state in high school.

In high school, Tucker was a receiver for Justin Mills, whom may be the quarterback for this year's squad. Tucker kept reaching out to Mills this off-season to convince him to play this year.

"We started right where we

left off in high school," Tucker said. "We clicked, and we know our routes, where to go, where to run, when to stop, we're on that page."

Pickney plans to run a spread-option offense, similar to that of the Oregon Ducks. Players like Tucker believe this plays to their talents.

"Oh yeah, for sure, most definitely," Tucker said. "We're going to be a high-powered offense, and I think it's going to be hard to stop us."

The speed of the offense is sure to increase from last year, and on the defensive side of the ball, Pickney will have a multi-faceted approach, saying the team will move from 4-3 to 3-4, and even some 3-3-5.

One of the bigger losses for the team's defense will be linebacker Nick Taylor, who also saw time at running back.

Running back Marc Wise is another key player returning for a second year.

"We should be pretty good, because we're comfortable in this offense, it's not really a change," Wise said. "All the other teams should be ready."

Contact Staff Reporter Matt Saulino at mssaulin@oakland.edu.



Jake Alska/The Oakland Post

"We're comfortable in this offense," OU's Marc Wise said.

Spring has sprung, so has the scrum

OU's rugby club discusses teamwork, getting involved and fearsome competition.



Courtesy of OU Rugby Club

"The greatest thing I can say about rugby is that there is a position on the field for every body type," Ted Tansley said on the requirements to play rugby.

David Cesefske
Staff Reporter

Coming off a successful season, seniors Frank DeLong and Ted Tansley of the Oakland Rugby club speak on the year's success, what it means to be part of the team, and how students can get involved.

Playing nearly year-round, the Oakland Rugby team learns firsthand what it means to work together as a team.

In the last year the team reached new success. With a record of 4-2, the team tied for second in its division with Saginaw Valley, trailing only Grand Valley State for first.

Building off its early success this spring, OU has been holding up well to high-ranking schools like Central Michigan University (5-0 loss) and University of Michigan (45-42 loss). It has also played well against teams in its own division like Hillsdale (88-15 win).

For DeLong and Tansley, being a part of this team has

meant more than just wins and losses.

What, as an athlete, do you guys get out of being a part of this team?

Tansley: Being part of this team has brought so many memories that I plan on holding onto for my entire life. It has given me so many opportunities to grow myself not only just as a student, but as a leader.

DeLong: Being a part of this team has always meant the world to me. I have never been closer to a group of guys in my life and it's a great feeling knowing I have a supporting cast on and off the field.

What stands out for you as a memorable event, team-wise or for you individually?

Tansley: Scoring two tries in the fall (one against Hillsdale, and the other against our alumni. A good amount play semi-pro rugby. The team also won two awards at the Student Leadership Ceremony this spring [Hunter Michaels won

for best male athlete while the entire team was honored with the We Bleed Gold Spirit Award].

DeLong: The best memory I have with the team this year is when we were able to help organize a lunch with Santa in December. It was a heartwarming feeling to see us all come together on the holidays and help put smiles on the faces of all the families.

As an athlete, what do you guys get out of being a part of this team and why should others be interested in joining?

Tansley: As an athlete, you get to experience playing college ball and going up against big time Division 1 schools like Central and U of M. You also get to play when you want to. It is a sport that you can play even out of college and around the world. They have many local men's teams all over the state and the world.

What types of players are you looking to recruit for the upcoming season?

Tansley: We want as many people possible to come play rugby with us. The greatest thing I can say about rugby is that there is a position on the field for every body type. Tall, short, fat, slim, muscular, not so much, and every combination out there, we have a spot for you. As a student, you get to be a part of an organization that can help you find real opportunities if you get involved with the group. We are very accepting of players.

How can people get more info about the club and become involved?

Tansley: People who want to support can find out about our games and events through Facebook at www.facebook.com/rugbyatou. We are also on Twitter @RugbyatOU. If you want to support, we highly recommend learning some aspect of the sport so that when you go to watch it you are not bewildered.

See the full interview at oaklandpostonline.com

THE SPORTING BLITZ

Men's basketball

Two players from the Oakland University men's basketball team were named Academic All-Horizon League last week. The team's former 3-point star, Travis Bader, and current center, Corey Petros were honored for their strong GPAs. Petros is currently working on his MBA while Bader is finishing up his masters in communication. The two join Evan Bruinsma and Ugochukwu Njoku of Detroit, Kendrick Perry of Youngstown State, and Matt Vest of Wright State on the list.

Track and field

The men and women's track and field team traveled to Adrian this weekend to compete in the Siena Heights Invitational. Aaron Davis finished second in the 200-meter dash and Andrew Bowman took the 5000 meter run with a time of 15:17. Candice Mack won the women's 200-meter dash in a meet that was very windy the entire time. Oakland will next participate in the Al Owens Classic on starting this Friday.

Men's baseball

The Golden Grizzlies baseball team battled UIC over the weekend on the freshly opened OU Baseball Field. The team would win one game and lose two, but the victory would be the team's first Horizon League victory as a new member of the conference. The Grizzlies will be playing Olivet at home on April 15 and then at Youngstown State on April 17.

Compiled by Staff Reporter
Jackson Gilbert



Michael Ferdinande / The Oakland Post

The senior thesis in the Oakland University Art Gallery in Wilson Hall will be open for public viewing until May 18.

Future vision of the arts

Senior Thesis in Graphic Design and Studio Art Exhibition awes

Andrew Wernette
Staff Reporter

In the gallery, the people stared in wonder. One corner of the room was covered in military-themed graphic art on camouflage. Another was bedecked with various sheets of handwritten calligraphy. In between lay a stunning array of artwork. It was a feast for the imagination.

Family, friends and students converged at the Oakland University Art Gallery Friday evening April 11 to attend the opening of MIX: Senior Thesis in Graphic Design and Studio Art Exhibition. The artists were also there to explain their works.

"People often have fixed perspectives of what is graphic design and what is fine art," Director of Studio Art Cody VanderKaay said of this year's exhibition, which is the first to show the two side by side. "I think it works very well."

One of the highlights of the exhibit was the work of PRIIME, a Detroit-based graphic design business founded by students Frank Lepkowski, Kaylee

"People often have fixed perspectives of what is graphic design and what is fine art."

Cody VanderKaay
Director of Studio Art

McWhinnie and Amanda Grzadziel. They presented aspects of their social media presence, photography and merchandise that they designed themselves. Lepkowski received the Graphic Design Exhibition Award for his work.

They were even selling their designed clothing at the exhibit.

"We just sold out!" Grzadziel said of their t-shirt labeled "THA YAC," which references the city of Pontiac, Mich. Their shirts paid homage to other Metro Area locales as well.

McWhinnie said that PRIIME would not end at graduation. "We're going to do another line of shirts," she said, detailing their post-OU business plans. "It's not stopping today."

Caryn Rochfort was also rep-

resented at the exhibit. She showcased two paintings titled You Are Never Truly Alone and No Means No!, both of which, she said, were modeled off of more famous works. She described them as conveying how women feel in vulnerable situations.

So is she happy to be graduating?

"I honestly wish that I wasn't," Rochfort said. She said that her time at OU had been meaningful, and that she would miss the community.

"I'm still trying to decide on a lot of things [for the future], like graduate school," she said. "I definitely want to continue painting."

Lexy Gaduski won the Studio Art Exhibition Award for her installation Clearly Unclear, a series of stencils of a head propped up in the middle of the room. She said that Graphic Design is her minor, and she still has to work on earning a teaching certificate at OU.

"The journey here continues," she said.

The exhibition is being shown until May 18.

A helping hand to kids in need

Student spends time raising money to help feed malnourished kids worldwide

Kailee Mathias
Staff Reporter

Oakland sophomore Tiffany Bellomo raises funds to support Kids Against Hunger through fundraisers and bottle drives.

Kids Against Hunger is a non-profit, non-religious affiliated association that aims to feed hungry children all around the world.

Kids Against Hunger

Bellomo was introduced to Kids Against Hunger in her senior year of high school and decided to incorporate them in the campus event OU Day of Service.

"We had over 100 volunteers come; everyone was really happy to come help," Bellomo said. "It was a really organized process and I really appreciated how organized and effective it was to go through the line and having people standing at each bin and pour stuff into a bag so it can get shipped around the world."

The organization strives to feed the hungry around the world nutritious meals. The food is formulated by scientists to contain easily digestible proteins, carbohydrates and vitamins.

Last year alone, Kids Against Hunger packaged forty million meals for children and their families, according to their website kidsagainsthunger.org.

"We collected 11,000 meals," Bellomo said. "One-third of

that will go around the world to feed people, one-third will feed local charities and the other third will go towards efforts for natural disasters."

Kids Against Hunger is open for anyone to get involved in. The network of Kids Against Hunger reaches beyond 100 satellite non-profit organizations. Anyone interested can set up a satellite from any location, information provided by the official web page. Anyone interested should go to their satellite page to learn more.

Lending a hand

Bellomo, a German and Biochemistry double-major, reached out to get Kids Against Hunger involved in OU Day of Service and raised funds through fundraisers and bottle drives.

"It taught me the worth of a bottle," Bellomo said. "I went out and grabbed bottles lying on the street, go door to door. Every bottle meant a lot. Every bottle meant another meal for someone else."

Bellomo went on to state it felt like her duty as a citizen to help those in need.

"All I can say is I'd want someone to help me if I was in a situation like that," Bellomo said. "I'm still collecting cans, I live in West Vandy," Bellomo said.

After graduation, Bellomo hopes to move on to become an anesthesiologist.

Anyone interested in donating cans can contact trbellom@oakland.edu.

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OU alum examines the impact of life's major stepping stones

Former student speaks about transitions of life

Kailee Mathias
Staff Reporter

Dr. Joel Lane, Oakland alum, is the first annual recipient of the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC), Annual Dissertation Award.

Lane's dissertation examines why transitional periods, like college, can be harder for some young adults than others.

"I was interested in the idea of various life transitions a young adult goes through; entering college, leaving college and starting in the work force," Lane said.

Through surveys given to 18 to 27-years-old, Lane, discovered

that a big part of succeeding in transitional phases was having strong significant relationships with family and friends.

"The biggest finding and what made me happy about the results is that it showed that the quality of the relationships with their parents impacted the ability to make relationships with friends and then that was the thing that was most important in their transition success," Lane said. "The three of them worked together in that order."

"My go-to for stress relief is prayer or family," Amanda Coffee, studio art major, said. "I have an awesome support group that is actively a part of my life. Whenever I'm overwhelmed I know I can go to them."

Part of what sparked Lane's interest was something he noticed upon finishing college through his social network.

"Some left prepared and

"Don't try to go through (changes) alone... Being able to admit you need help is a sign of strength."

Joel Lane
Oakland University Alumni

ready to move on to the next step," Lane said. "Others were sort of getting terrified about the college experience ending and making it in the career world. These huge differences in readiness stood out to me."

Lane views his dissertation as a first step to compiling research on the topic of transitions for young adults. Next, he plans on examining why relationships play such a key role in handling transitions and what counseling methods can be taken to help.

For any incoming freshmen



Photo Courtesy of Joel Lane/The Oakland Post

Lane suggests a good support system to help as a guide through life

worrying about their first college exams, new lifestyle and surroundings can be extremely intimidating, but Lane has advice to help them cope.

"I would say don't try to go through it alone," Lane said. "I see a lot of folks get themselves into trouble because they think if they ask for help it's a sign of weakness on their part. I think it's the exact opposite. Being able to admit you need help is a

sign of strength."

For those of you who are worried about adapting into new social circles, think of the advice given by Kelsey Cumbow, art education major:

"Get your work done and don't procrastinate," Cumbow said. "Homework needs to come before play."

Contact Staff Reporter Kailee Mathias at kmmathia@oakland.edu

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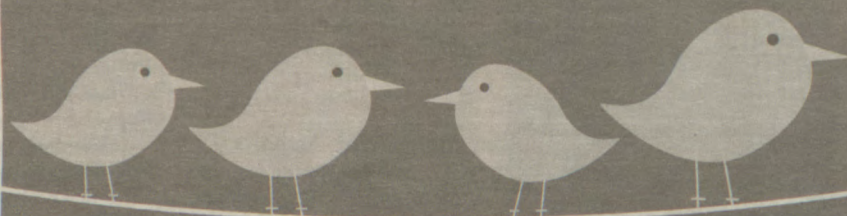
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KINGS AND QUEENS TAKE THE STAGE

Oakland students and performers star in GSA drag show

Ali DeRees
Staff Reporter

Kings and queens alike strutted their stuff at the GSA's eleventh Annual Oakland University Drag Show. The show consisted of student performers as well as professionals.

This was the first show that included student performers, according to Gay-Straight Alliance President Rebecca Reichenbach.

Drag king student performers Jack Dawson and Devin Barrios (Brianna Morgan and Morgan Shaw-Andrade), both freshmen at OU, performed first in the group King II Men. They expressed their excitement and nervousness they had before the show.

"It's exciting, but I'm really nervous," Dawson said. "A lot of my friends are here."

Barrios noted that this is the biggest show he's done and how happy he was to have the chance to participate in the event.

"It's a great way to get involved with the community," Barrios said.

The show was hosted by drag queen Hershae' Chocolatae' (Hershaun Gardner). She has won titles such as Miss Michigan Drag Queen of the Year, 2010 and 2011 Miss Michigan Continental, and was also featured on America's Got Talent in 2011. This was Chocolatae's third time performing in the annual drag show and second time hosting.

Chocolatae' said the student energy makes performing at colleges so much fun.

"They're a group of people who literally, have fun," Chocolatae said.

She said it was nice to see

an almost equal gay and straight audience at the show.

Drag queen Sabin (Tyler Cooper) echoed Chocolatae's happiness about the diversity of the audience.

"The fact that they (straight audience members) were willing to walk through the front door is the biggest compliment," Sabin said.

Sabin said these shows are both entertaining and educational for the student audiences.

"It's more than just giving them a show. It's about education," she said. "The curiosity takes over."

The excitement the audience feels is exactly what Sabin feels when she performs, she said.

"It's my drug, this is my high," Sabin said. "I feel more love in one night than in a lifetime."

Senior and first time drag queen performer Palamecia Mizrahi (Darnell Gray-Shawver) described her experience as "a Cinderella drag story."

Mizrahi said she was blown away by the show and was so thankful for all the love and support from her friends and family.

Mizrahi (or Gray-Shawver) works as the Special Events Director of Student Program Board and is on the Executive board of the TKE fraternity. She said she was happy to see so many of her frat brothers who came to support her.

She said it was four years ago that she told her mom that she wanted to do drag shows. When she learned that this year they were going to include student performers she said, "I just have to be in this show."



Kailey Johnson / The Oakland Post

Mizrahi said the key to doing well at a show is not to stress and not to care about what people think.

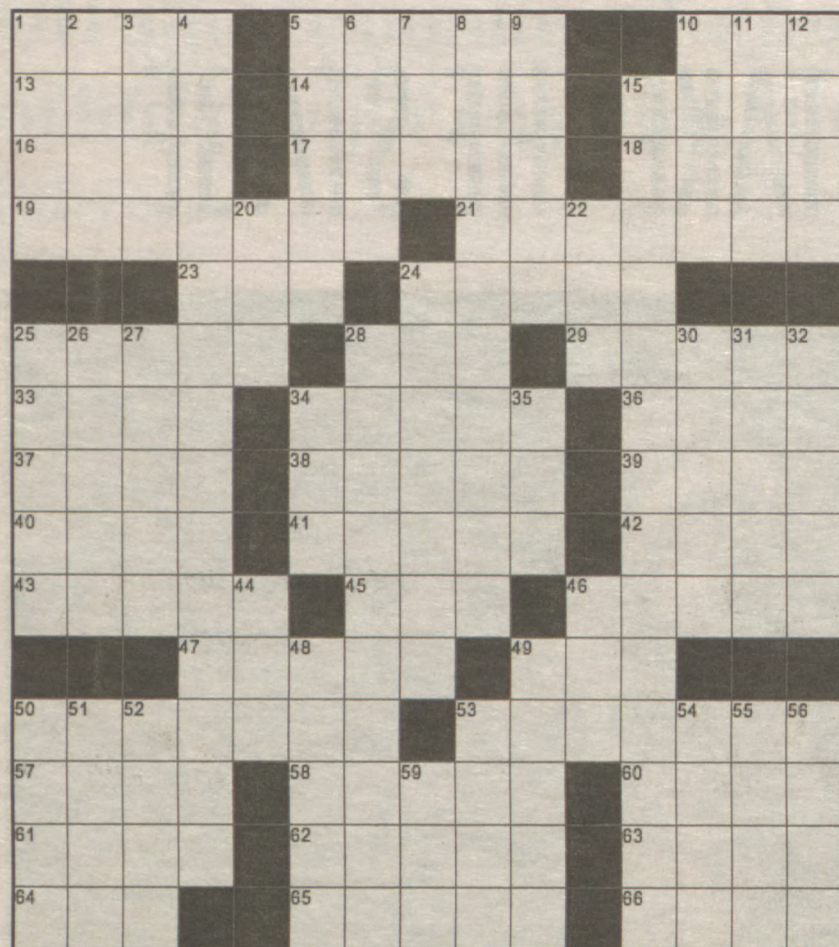
She said she is also happy to see how much more acceptance there is for those in the gay community today.

"I came out six years ago and things have drastically changed since then," Mizrahi said.

TOP Spacee Kadett gets groovy onstage with his Elton John impersonation.

BOTTOM Hershae Chocolate discusses fashion with an audience member on stage

Puzzles



Across

1. Recipe guesstimate
5. Party's candidates
10. Units of oil production, briefly
13. Listen to
14. Tribune or Post, e.g.
15. Burn soother
16. Tide type
17. Fall bloom
18. Like a dangerous wire
19. Extend
21. Kitchen appliance
23. 'Sweet Pea' singer Tommy
24. Least satisfactory
25. Joseph, while in Egypt
28. Wharf pest
29. Oktoberfest toast
33. Heavy book
34. Untamed
36. Flute or saxophone variety
37. Black, to a bard
38. Walk leisurely
39. Abrupt bit of thunder
40. Share a border with
41. Took out
42. Weight allowance
43. Type of poetry
45. Debussy's 'La ___'

46. Knuckle sandwich ingredients?
47. Kids who enjoy gambling?
49. Haunting sound
50. One out?
53. Coat for a carpenter
57. Mukluk, e.g.
58. Brought to bay
60. Emulate a couch potato
61. Problem source
62. Kidney-related
63. Junction
64. Undercover worker
65. In a weird way
66. Spherical shooters

Down

1. Mafia bosses
2. Assist larcenously
3. Cauterize
4. Experience a lack of oxygen, perhaps
5. Spot to park
6. Eyelid attachment
7. Liable
8. Prohibition adherent
9. Fielder's faux pas
10. Utter loudly
11. The death of the

- party?
12. Dirty look
15. Hazzarding a guess: doctors who puts stomach muscles in pulleys?
20. Water temperature 'gauge'
22. Pharaohs' symbol of power
24. Whistles a tune
25. Incredible bargain
26. Influence group
27. Love affair
28. Not forgotten
30. Earthenware
31. Get going
32. Boozes
34. Streaking, once
35. Ran in front
44. Biretta or beret
46. Not against
48. Part of MGM
49. Severely
50. Reduces in intensity
51. Before opera or dish
52. Rabbit fur
53. Calf meat
54. Brainwave
55. Deli side
56. Gropes for words
59. Wrap up

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Scuba Suit Hero Saves Sebring

Meet the man who trudged into Bear Lake's icy waters

Ali DeRees
Staff Reporter

On Wednesday, April 2, senior Shauna Hazime's red Chrysler Sebring was pushed into Bear Lake after a van was unhitched from the motor home that was towing it. The van, in neutral, rolled into the Sebring, pushing it into the thawing lake.

A crowd gathered around and watched for hours as men from Byers Wrecker struggled to extract the car, which entered the lake around 12:30 p.m.

It was after 3 p.m. when one of the workers brought out an insulated red suit to enter the water and help tie the car to be towed out.

The day was warm, but Bear Lake was still covered in a thin sheet of ice as the suited man carefully lowered himself into the chilled water and continued to clear the ice away from the front of the vehicle.

The audience cheered and clapped as he entered and exited the water.

Wondering who the scuba-diving hero was?

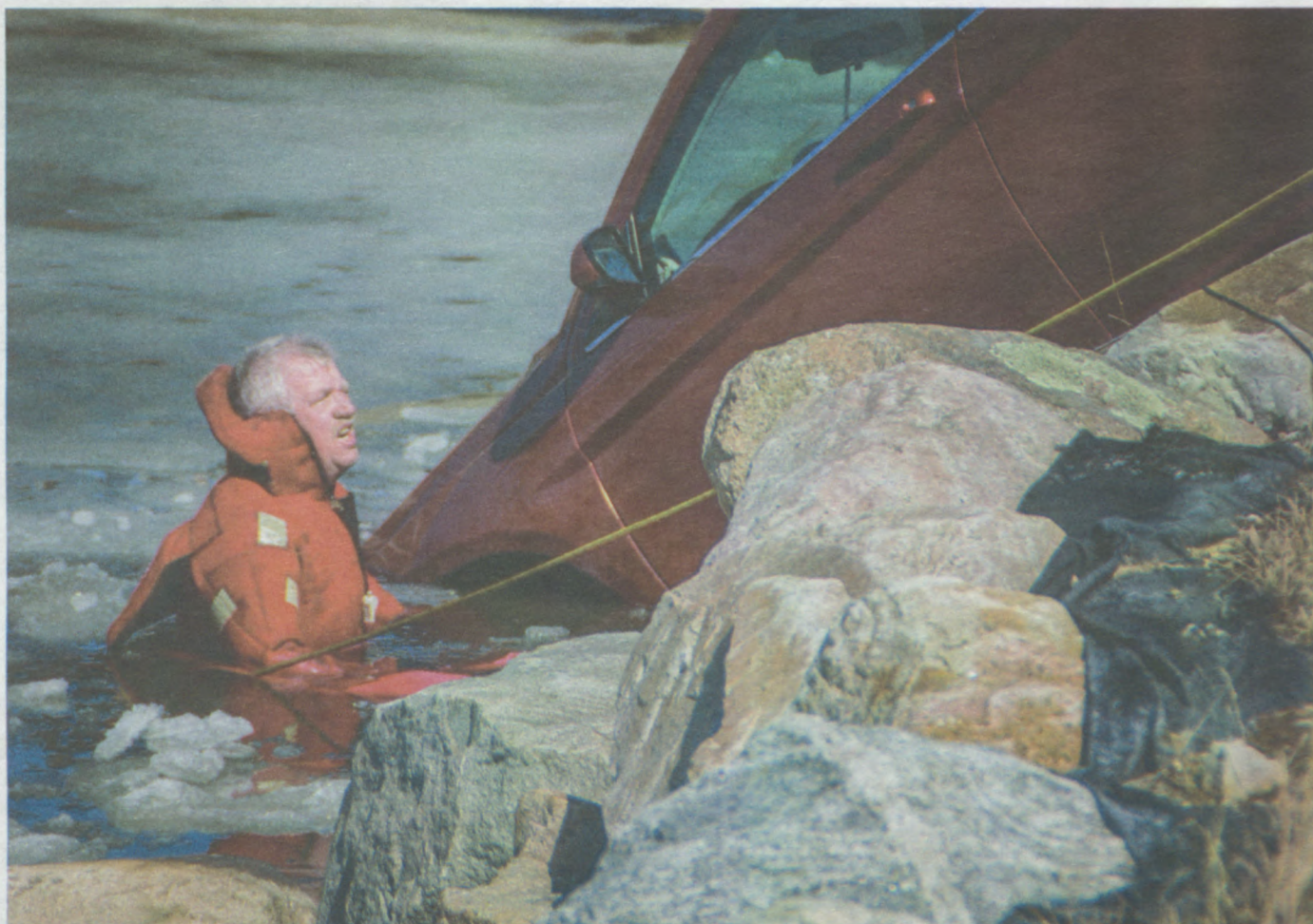
He is none other than Bill Byers of Byers Wrecker.

Byers said these kinds of accidents are not unusual, noting that he's pulled three to four cars out of Bear Lake before.

"It's like a catch basin," Byers said.

According to Byers, the area surrounding the lake leads downward, which makes it easy for vehicles to roll into the lake and also difficult to maneuver a 60,000 lb. truck to a safe position to lift the Sebring.

Byers said there was a large environmental concern



"It's like a catch basin," Byers said of Bear Lake, which he has pulled three to four cars out of before.

when it came to removing the car. Because of its position and damage caused by the rocks, the car could not simply be dragged out for fear of oil and gasoline leaking into the lake, according to Byers.

"Everything was step by step," Byers said.

The four-hour removal of the Sebring from the lake cost a little over \$3,000 and was covered by Hazime's insurance, according to Byers. If the car had simply been dragged instead of lifted, costs could have been as high as \$10,000.



TOP Bill Byers of Byers Wrecker, a local towing company, donned an insulated suit to strap the front end of the half-submerged car. **BOTTOM** Byers and another member of Byers Wrecker formulate a plan to get the car out of the lake. The excavation ordeal took over four hours to finish.

Kaylee Kean / The Oakland Post

Mouthing Off

SATIRE

Clowning around is serious business

Brian Figurski
Mouthing Off Editor/Clown

Golden Grizzlies, it comes with great ambivalence that I give my last formal address, for some foolish human up the administrative ladder has determined I have sacrificed enough time and money to be granted a piece of paper with my name on it.

For three-some years now, I have embraced my inner clown, cut myself open and bled honest opinions to you. You have witnessed my bones and seen me do some impeccably stupid things. You may know me better than I know myself these days.

I thank you all for the vocal support, or mostly hatred, toward my off-beat blackened humor on the backside of this paper many of you use as a napkin for Café O'Bears crumbs. You have watched me grow as a writer, as a humortician. I take writing and humor a lot more seriously than when I started.

Take that with a grain of salt, since I still favor words like smegma and

butthole in every article. In fact, I've probably done more long-term damage to myself by writing these columns. Who is going to hire me? I will probably end up a lifer at Applebee's in a real life purgatory.

In any case of my follies, I hope through my vicarious missteps and expositions I have forced your laughter. One article, one lesson, one single sentence hopefully made you chuckle. That's what clowns do, after all — make you smile. Or sometimes they're horrifying and watch you sleep at night. Sometimes sadness lurks behind the painted smile, but it always encourages laughter.

Let's not get this twisted: I started writing these for myself, not you. You all were collateral damage in my hunt for personal gain. Sorry if I have scarred any of you for life. Mine are permanent. After all, we've been warned you can't erase what's on the Internet time and again. I have not learned much.

That may be the problem I'm looking at — pigeonholing myself as the clown. I'm pretty certain that



Salwan Georges/The Oakland Post

Brian Figurski embraces his stereotype during his last few moments as a Golden Grizzly. human resource representatives from potential jobs have sourced me out online, looked at me and thrown their computers out the window.

I take joking quite seriously, even when it appears childish, and I believe most joke-slingers do. But we are/I am not just a clown. We all share the same skies. We have a similar pulse in us, unless you have a heart murmur or something, in which case you'd better skim this article to ensure you get through the whole thing.

We are all people. We can all do the world a favor and embrace our clowns every once in a while.

Don't deny your laughter. I've been in ruts and I've seen a lot of people predicting the end of the world and feeling rather grim about

it. Crack a grin. If you truly cannot bring yourself to a smile, I counsel you seek a prescription of Zoloft, or email me and I will raid my mother's medicine cabinet and give you a grab bag of goodies.

So thank you for letting me share my jokes and heart with you, for having a splinter of interest. Thank you, OU, for never ejecting me from campus, despite the obnoxious public ass I have made of myself.

What am I talking about? Of course you won't kick me off campus—you want to clean out my bank account!

Farewell, Hasta la Vista, Good Riddance, YOLO. Remember, peers — smile :) Clowns will always get a smile out of you. Or tears of fear. I'm comfortable with both.

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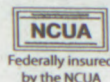
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