

# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Rochester, Michigan

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## HOMECOMING HEART-STOPPER

Men's soccer's thrilling  
comeback win against  
Cleveland State last Saturday

*Page 15*

### ORA'S DONATION

President Pescovitz gifts \$1 million  
toward scholarships

**PAGE 3**

### CONTRACT FINALIZED

New faculty contract is official,  
professors distrust admins

**PAGE 4**

### A HEALTHIER Y(OU)

Taking care of your mental health at  
this stage in the pandemic

**PAGE 12**

PHOTO BY AMELIA OSADCHUK



# THIS WEEK

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



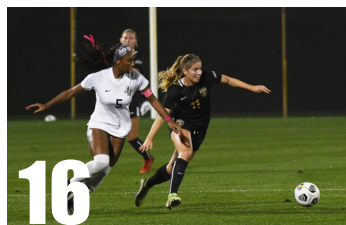
**CRAFTS WITH A PURPOSE** (CWAP) held their first club meeting of the year last Wednesday. They plan to keep using art to positively impact others. Story on page 6.  
**NOORA NEIROUKH/ PHOTOGRAPHER**



**5 HISPANICE HERITAGE MONTH**  
"In the Heights" screening nearly filled The Habitat last Friday.  
Photo/Anna Drumm



**10 BLACK LIVES MATTER**  
Rec Center holds workshop in the OC to discuss history of the BLM movement.  
Photo/Sophie Hume



**16 A RAINY HOMECOMING**  
Women's soccer beat Cleveland State in rainy night game.  
Photo/Amelia Osadchuk

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Editor-in-Chief  
jdthomas2@oakland.edu

**Lauren Reid**  
Content Editor  
lrreid@oakland.edu

**Bridget Janis**  
Managing Editor  
bridgetjanis@oakland.edu

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**Sophie Hume** Photo Editor  
sophiahume@oakland.edu

**Matthew Scheidel** Sports Editor  
mscheidel@oakland.edu

**Gabrielle Abdelmessih** Campus Editor  
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**Sarah Gudenau** Features Editor  
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## POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT'S YOUR BIGGEST OBSTACLE AT THIS POINT IN THE SEMESTER?

- A) ANXIETY/STRESS
- B) SLEEP DEPRIVATION
- C) PROCRASTINATION
- D) ALL OF THE ABOVE

## LAST ISSUE'S POLL

CHILDHOOD HALLOWEEN MOVIE THAT YOU'RE MOST LIKELY TO REWATCH THIS YEAR?





## Dr. Pescovitz gifts \$1 million dollars to fund scholarship for future leaders

**GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH**  
Campus Editor

This past week, Dr. Ora Hirsch Pescovitz announced that she has gifted \$1 million dollars to OU in the form of a scholarship that will be administered by the OU Honors College.

Dr. Graeme Harper, dean of the OU Honors College, told The Detroit News, “This magnificent new scholarship has the potential to change the world for the better through students right here on our campus.”

Over her tenure as president, Pescovitz’s philanthropy has reached a total of \$1.78 million dollars since she began leading the university in 2017. Endowments to the university include the Malouf, Pescovitz, Ruchim Family Endowment for Global Student Experiences; the Rabbi Richard G. and Bella Hirsch Faculty Endowment for Racial and Social Justice Endowment; and the Bella Rozencweig Hirsch Endowment for Biomedical Ethics.

The “Pescovitz Presidential Scholarship” is intended for high-

achieving, creative and innovative students who will become the next leaders in business, civic affairs, and the community. Dr. Pescovitz hopes that this will assist in making OU the “university of choice” in the region and bolster community success.

“I want the most competitive students to consider Oakland University as their university of choice. I’ve given contributions in a variety of areas, but this particular gift is to attract the most competitive and talented and entrepreneurial and creative students who I believe will become the future leaders in our country through Oakland [University],” Pescovitz said.

For students entering/enrolling at OU starting next fall, this scholarship will be available to four to five students. In four years, the scholarship endowment will be available to 16 to 20 students annually. To qualify, students must demonstrate intellectual vision and creativity, an ability to solve problems and a commitment to improving their communities, according to Oakland University News.

For more information regarding the “Pescovitz Presidential Scholarship,” please view the following link: [https://www.oakland.edu/oumagazine/](https://www.oakland.edu/oumagazine/news/president/2021/ou-presidents-1m-gift-for-scholarships-cultivates-next-generation-of-leaders-)

[news/president/2021/ou-presidents-1m-gift-for-scholarships-cultivates-next-generation-of-leaders-](https://www.oakland.edu/oumagazine/news/president/2021/ou-presidents-1m-gift-for-scholarships-cultivates-next-generation-of-leaders-)



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH

Over her tenure as president, Pescovitz’s philanthropy has reached a total of \$1.78 million dollars since she began leading the university in 2017.

## AAUW hosts menstrual product drive to end period poverty

**RACHEL YIM**  
Senior Reporter

More than 800 million people menstruate daily. Nearly a quarter of college students, however, experience what we now call “period poverty,” according to a 2021 survey.

To promote menstrual equity for women, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) at Oakland University hosted a period product drive, collecting pads, tampons, pain relievers, etc. from Sept. 6 through Oct. 31.

“For most college students, money is tight,” Olivia Rademacher, vice president of the AAUW said. “Although the university offers resources for students like free printing, free toilet paper for students in the residence halls, and the OU food pantry, we recognize that feminine products are hardly ever something people think about as a necessity for students with female anatomy. Periods are a normal bodily function and students who have them deserve quality products that they shouldn’t have to worry about paying for. We hope this drive helps students receive a necessary resource which is overlooked most of the time.”

While this fundraising event raises awareness about the seriousness of “period poverty,” the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented initiation of such events. AAUW’s period product drive wasn’t an exception. Due to COVID-19, the period product drive couldn’t make its way out as not many students were on campus.

“During the pandemic I had some friends who were struggling to attain period products,” Amanda Pordon, secretary of the AAUW, said. “Whether this was due to money or the fact that they were low in supply at the time, I do not know. Because of this, I suggested to the AAUW E-Board that we hold a drive for feminine supplies. Unfortunately, people who experience periods need these products so they can continue to go about their daily lives like society demands. Without them, we struggle through this natural process.”

Despite the difficulties, the drive was a successful event as they have collected many products from the students.

Gender gaps are constantly narrowing, and the number of females in male-dominated fields have always been increasing. However, unconscious gender disparities in healthcare still remain as an urgent

matter that needs to be solved.

“I think women’s health will always be taken less seriously,” Rademacher said. “Especially African American women, who are far more likely to die in childbirth. Look at Serena Williams: her doctors didn’t believe that this woman – whose entire career is based on her understanding of her body – could tell something was wrong, and she almost lost her life over it. Women in healthcare – and society in general – are separated from their bodies and discouraged from asserting any control over them. I hope our period product drive helps OU women feel like they’re getting even a small amount of power back.”

According to Rademacher, through a variety of fundraising events, AAUW strives to connect OU women with leadership opportunities and educate OU students about the gender issues facing women in hopes that it will inspire a change.

The club’s meetings are held virtually on a Wednesday each month from 5-6 p.m. Each month has a theme, typically surrounding a specific issue relating to women, and is dedicated to education and conversation about the issues.

Throughout the month of October,

AAUW is hosting a fundraiser in support of breast cancer research, and at the end of the month, they are planning on having their second annual Breast Cancer Walk on OU campus as well as participating in Make A Difference Day on Oct. 16.

For more information regarding AAUW or events hosted by the club, visit their GrizzOrgs page.



PHOTO BY SARAH GUDENAU

The AAUW at OU is hosting a menstrual product drive through Oct. 31. The drive is an effort to end period poverty.



# Faculty contract finalized: faculty, admin relationship still strained

**JEFF THOMAS**

*Editor-in-Chief*

The new three-year faculty contract agreement for 2021 through 2024 is now official, with OU's chapter of the American Association of University Professors (OU AAUP) voting in favor of ratification on Sept. 30 and the Board of Trustees (BOT) voting to ratify the agreement during Monday's BOT meeting.

The agreement comes on the heels of a nasty negotiating period between the two sides that ultimately led to the faculty work stoppage that delayed the start of the fall semester. While the agreement is now finalized, the relationship between OU AAUP faculty and President Pescovitz's administration was significantly damaged by negotiations.

Faculty discontent with the administration is evident in the vote tallies for ratifying the new contract agreement. Out of 739 eligible voters, 558 ballots were cast. Voter turnout was approximately 75%, which is a high number indicative of faculty interest in the agreement. Out of those 558 votes, 448 (80%) were in favor of the agreement and 110 (20%) were against it. That 20% "no" vote number

is historically high.

"Historically, [75% is] a pretty good turnout. I was actually shocked because ... people were really angry," OU AAUP President Karen Miller said. "... But typically, we get far fewer negative votes."

Also worth noting is that a significant portion of those who voted in favor of the agreement were voting in support of the union bargaining team and having a contract, not because they thought the university had offered a fair deal.

Aspects of the deal that faculty were happy about included finally receiving paid parental leave, and the protections that the bargaining team won for Special Lecturers. They were dissatisfied with the merit based increases to salary that were offered.

"There was great unhappiness with the lack of significant salary improvements and the nature of those improvements," Miller said. "Faculty believes that the merit system is designed, essentially, to occupy our time. It's very time consuming, particularly in some departments, to fill out those forms. And you know, you're fighting over a few dollars a year."

Speaking to the current state of the faculty/administration relationship, responses to a recent OU AAUP workplace satisfaction survey were also telling. Results of the survey indicate that a majority of professors don't feel: that they're fairly compensated, that President Pescovitz and the BOT advocate on their behalf, that administrators are open to faculty-driven change, that administrators work with them to solve problems, that administrators value their input, that OU rules and procedures make it easier for them to perform their jobs and that administrators value the work they do as professors. The survey indicates that communication is a major issue, as faculty don't feel they can reach out to administrators about problems.

"We've got a huge problem here. Which is not [one] the union created," Miller said. "This is a problem that, first of all, is very long standing. I've been here for forever, and I can remember years where we probably would have gotten similar [survey results] about exactly the same stuff. And it's like, we try to be nice. We try to tell the administration that there's an issue and we get this — 'well, you know, we're sorry, that you feel bad.' And it's very frustrating ... the administration seems incapable of understanding that we're upset."

Apparently perturbed by the idea that faculty would dislike her after a months-long campaign to cut



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

The new faculty contract for 2021 through 2024 is now official. The way negotiations unfolded has left a bad taste in the mouths of faculty.

their compensation package was orchestrated by her administration, Pescovitz had the Office of the President email a communication out to faculty last Thursday morning in an attempt to bridge the gap between faculty and the administration.

Pescovitz wrote the following in the email: "I want to apologize to those of you who feel hurt by the negotiations. I am aware that some of you experienced feelings of disappointment, distrust and anger. I take full responsibility for not communicating more effectively how much I value each of you and all of your contributions, as well as how we must work together to foster a campus environment that supports your important work. I also should have communicated more often about the financial realities that both COVID-19 and a decrease in enrollment created on our ability to offer more generous salaries and benefits."

Whatever Pescovitz's intentions were, this message was not well received by faculty.

"It's the first time I've ever seen [Pescovitz] do anything that approximates an apology. And so, there are some worlds in which we could think this is a good first step. But it was not handled well," Miller said. "It still displayed a lack of understanding of where the anger rests, but at least it seemed to be an effort. The problem is so much of the language in it. If you study it, if you study counseling or if you study rhetorical strategy ... It was the language that abusers use towards the abused. 'If you were just a better person, I wouldn't beat you.' It wasn't that bad, but it was that same kind of rhetorical framing. And so people who teach those areas flipped out."

At this point, differences between the two sides seem insurmountable. Given the way negotiations unfolded, faculty don't feel respected or appreciated by the university.

"It's been really hard for me. Because I teach and I love my students, I want to spend all my time working with them, and working on my own research," Miller said. "... I have to spend all this time trying to explain to administrators that [something] is a really stupid idea. And I can't imagine a universe where that's not going to be the case. I think the rest of my career at Oakland is going to be spent trying to explain to administrators how they don't understand us, because I don't think we're that hard to understand."

Given apparent ideological differences, it's hard for faculty to see a path forward in their relationship with the administration. Many faculty believe that university administrators are not interested in working with them to ensure the health and longevity of OU.

"There are people on the [BOT] who have this imagination, that higher ed in the United States has to undergo a revolutionary transformation, that it has to be all consumer driven," Miller said. "That you have to have a completely flexible workforce. That there's no such thing as a liberal arts curriculum. That [faculty are] not consumers, nor are we the product. Okay, [that faculty are] sort of the guys in the Amazon warehouse that pack up your stuff. And they don't understand why we object to being treated that way ... There is absolutely no commitment to shared governance."



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH

One of OU's landmarks, Elliott Tower stands at the heart of campus where tension still exist between administration and faculty.



## OU equestrians to raise team awareness through cornhole fundraiser

**SIERRA OKONIEWSKI**

*Contributor*

The Oakland University Equestrian Team is galloping into harvest season with a cornhole tournament on Saturday, Oct. 16 to raise funds and awareness for their organization.

The event is open to the public and will also consist of dinner, dancing, a gift basket raffle and children's pony rides. Bake Station Bakeries will cater dessert, including sweets geared toward nut-free, Kosher and gluten-free guests. The winner of the tournament will receive a brand-new cornhole set.

The fundraiser aims to raise money to cover coaching fees while promoting campus-wide recognition of the team.

"We've had riders join in their junior or senior years who would have joined sooner if they had known about us," said equestrian team President Shelby Agnew.

Agnew, who grew up around horses, has ridden with the OU team since her freshman year in 2018. Her experience with the club has uniquely connected her to campus founder and fellow equestrian, Matilda Dodge Wilson.

"Matilda had horses — she rode during her lifetime," said Agnew.

"She actually passed away in Europe while she was horse shopping. The [university] police station used to be a stable. It's safe to say that horses are a main part of OU's history."

Agnew's team members agree that if Mrs. Dodge Wilson had lived longer, she would have been invested in keeping equestrianism at the forefront of the university.

"If Matilda were still alive," said Agnew, "... she would have put effort into ensuring that more of the elements in riding and horses could be kept here [at OU]."

The OU equestrian team was first organized in 2008 but was discontinued soon after. It was revitalized in 2014 by student Samantha Buckert, who graduated in the spring of 2019. Buckert played an essential role in recruiting veteran equestrian Aimee Latsch as coach for the team. Latsch manages the Fox Pointe Equestrian Center in Ira Township, where the team now holds their practice sessions.

The equestrian team, which accepts riders ranging in experience from beginner to advanced, has reached regional levels during their last two years of intercollegiate competition. They aim to continue the Dodge Wilson riding legacy by sharing their passion for horses with their fellow students.

"The cliché that 'riding a horse, you borrow freedom' — it's true," said Agnew. "It goes back to the connection you share with another animal. I think pretty much any rider will say that's a main reason that they love riding."

The team's fundraiser, which runs from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm, will take place at Fox Pointe Equestrian Center, located at 7800 Dixie Highway. Admission is

\$30 per adult and \$10 for children 12 years old and under.

Additional information about the Oakland University equestrian team and its upcoming events can be found on Facebook and Instagram under @OUEqteam. Students can also email Shelby Agnew directly at [sagnew@oakland.edu](mailto:sagnew@oakland.edu).



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHELBY AGNEW

The OU Equestrian Team is hosting a cornhole tournament to raise funds and awareness.

## Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with 'In the Heights'

**TANNER TRAFELET**

*Senior Reporter*

The Oakland University Office for Student Involvement (OSI) and Center for Multicultural Initiatives (CMI) co-sponsored a screening of the film "In the Heights" on Friday, Oct. 8, in the Oakland Center's Habitat as part of OU's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM). Preceding the film's screening, students were able to partake in a non-alcoholic "Hispanic Happy Half Hour." Following this introductory event, students settled into the Habitat's seating, which was at near full capacity.

Directed by John M. Chu and based on the stage musical of identical name composed by Quiara Alegria Hudes and Lin Manuel Miranda, "In the Heights" is a musical drama film. It is centered on the pursuit of a better life by residents of the Washington Heights neighborhood in the Upper Manhattan area of New York City. The film spotlights Hispanic culture and acting talent.

Observation of Hispanic Heritage Week began in 1968 under President Lyndon Johnson, and was expanded under President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to a month-long period. HHM has come to encompass the Caribbean, Central and South America, Mexico and Spain, and it

runs for a thirty day span from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15.

"We're very dedicated and committed to diversity, equity and inclusion. For as long as I can remember we've been celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month," said Senior Director of the OSI Jean Ann Miller. "It's part of Oakland — it's always been a part of Oakland."

This year's celebrations have included documentary screenings, faculty panels, a round-table on immigration with regional experts and leaders and even a presentation on the "Cajamarca Encounter" by University of Missouri-Columbia Associate Professor of Spanish Ivan Reyna. OU's celebration of HHM will conclude on Friday, Oct. 15, with

a traditional Mexican dance performance from the "Ballet Folklorico de Detroit."

"We picked it [the movie] because it is such a good representation of Hispanic culture," said Jennifer Yetter, programming assistant for student organizations. "You can tell in the movie that it is widely depictive of different types of skin tone and race. Also, I love musicals and I think this one really fit in for the theme in the month that we wanted. And it is homecoming also, so I think it was a really fun homecoming thing."

OSI representatives reflected positively on how many students came out on a Friday night — away from studying or extracurricular activities — in order to gain a better understanding of Hispanic culture, and how that culture's impact was recently translated into a Hollywood film with "In the Heights." They also expressed how full the Habitat was throughout the entirety of the event, and showed hope that sometime in the future, campus life may regain some semblance of normalcy.

"It is a more recent film," said Miller. "It had just come out during the summertime and a lot of us weren't able to see it on the big screen. We had that opportunity to show it on the big screen, which makes a big difference when compared with television [or streaming] for viewing the movie."



PHOTO BY ANNA DRUMM

Students gathered in the Habitat on Friday, Oct. 8, to watch "In the Heights." The film screening was part of OU's Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations.



## OUSC special election: how to vote, meet the candidates

**JEFF THOMAS**  
Editor-in-Chief

For the first time since 1982, Oakland University Student Congress (OUSC) is having a special election to elect a new president and vice president. Voting opened Thursday, Oct. 7 and will continue until Thursday, Oct. 14. Students who want to vote can access the link to the ballots by visiting @ouscofficial on Instagram and Twitter.

While there is an option to write in candidates, with two candidates dropping out before the tickets were finalized, current OUSC Judicial chair Andrew Romano and Director of Diversity & Inclusion Murryum Farooqi are running unopposed for president and vice president. Their ticket also features current Interim President and Steering Chair of the Legislature Jeremy Johnson running for Speaker of the Legislature, as well as Nayah Pitts and Amir Richards both running for positions as Legislators.

Specifics of Romano/Farooqi's platform can be accessed via the link in bio @romanofarooqi on Instagram, but generally they're running on the goal of making college more affordable for students. With goals like increased sustainability, raising the wages of student workers and fighting for transparency from the administration — if elected, they plan to use their influence to redirect tuition dollars in a way that benefits students. Their vision for the organization is to move it away from hosting events, and move toward being a real governing body that represents students.

"We want [OUSC] to function like a student congress, not just to do events," Farooqi said. "We're trying to advocate for the students and we don't want to stop at, 'oh [the] administration said this.' We want to really try to push the administration."

They see communication currently between OU administration and the students as a "deteriorating" relationship. If elected, they plan to use their positions to give students a voice and to advocate for more direct action from the

university about student concerns.

"It's not deteriorating on a personal level, but on a level of action, yeah, there's a lot less action being done," Romano said. "There's a million committees, and [the administration] just keeps adding committees for things. I see committees as inaction at this point ... On Earth Day [President Pescovitz] announced this Grizzlies Healthy Planet Initiative and made a bunch of committees. But we still don't have an office for sustainability on campus. We're one of the few universities in Michigan that doesn't have a dedicated office for sustainability. So we're not actually paying people to focus on sustainability ... It's like, where are we putting our money? ... We usually don't see ... much action taking place [about] student concerns."

Those who cast a ballot, will also have the option to vote on two different referendums — C.B. 22-22 which aims to edit Article I of OUSC's Constitution and C.B. 22-23 which aims to assimilate the language in OUSC's Constitution with language in their Bylaws pertaining to committees.

Following a Legislator strike over unpaid wages, all but one member of the E-Board have resigned since the beginning of the fall semester. Whoever wins the election will be tasked with rebuilding the organization mid-fall semester. OUSC's validations hearing will take place Friday, Oct. 15 and the tentative date for inauguration is Monday, Oct. 18.

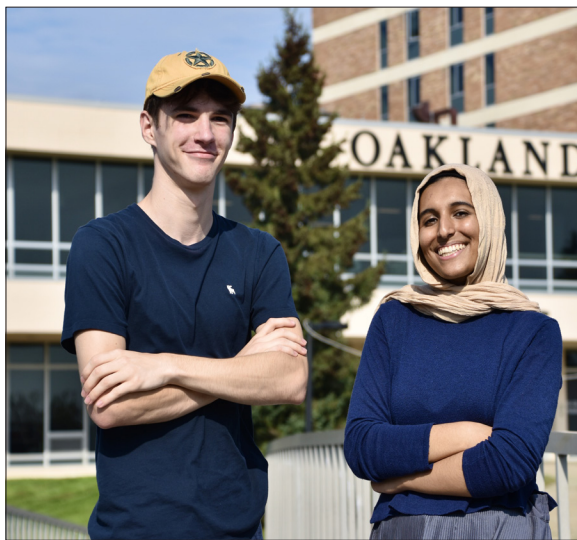


PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH  
Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates Andrew Romano and Murryum Farooqi.

## Crafts with a Purpose makes a positive impact in OU community

**RACHEL YIM**  
Senior Reporter

Crafting, simply put, is an activity of making decorative articles by hand. While it may seem as easy and not time-consuming, it can sometimes make a positive impact on others' lives.

Crafts with a Purpose (CWAP) at Oakland University serves this purpose. It aims to provide a creative and fun environment for students to make something that will be used for a specific cause.

The club recently held its first meeting on Oct. 6, where the members of CWAP spent time making and decorating cards that will be handed out to janitorial staff at OU who have worked tirelessly to keep our school clean and safe while accommodating for the difficulties the past year and a half have presented.

In a society where online technology has limited communication methods, handwritten letters and cards can often leave a powerful and long-lasting impression on the recipients.

"We [the eboard] were all very pleased with how the first meeting went," Alyssa Paul, president of CWAP. "We had more students participate than we had anticipated, which was amazing. We got to meet new people, make and admire beautifully decorated cards, and have a productive and creative outlet for the stress that comes with college and exams."

Paul, alongside the other executive board members, comes with the role of event planning, ensuring community involvement and making sure students feel welcome when they participate in

an event. She decided to be a part of the club because of her love of crafting.

"I decided to be a part of this club because I have always loved doing crafts, but college has made it difficult to find the time to do them," Paul said. "This club provides an opportunity to turn crafts into a fun, social, and stress-relieving activity that is easier for students to fit into a busy schedule because the crafts are planned and ready for participants to make during the meetings."

Appreciation: One of the quickest ways to brighten others' days.

The very first step in making a positive impact on others starts with appreciation. It makes people feel valued, drives them to do their best, and helps with mental health; thus making a difference.

With the plan of gathering the members once or twice a month, CWAP hopes to put students' creative energy to work making crafts that will be used to brighten campus atmosphere or will be donated to local charity groups and organizations.

CWAP's next meeting will involve making tie blankets for "Fleece & Thank you," a nonprofit in Farmington Hills that donates finished blankets to children in the hospital, and will be held on Oct. 18, from 1:00-2:00 pm in room 126 in the Oakland Center. Upcoming events are to be announced to the members via email.

For more information about CWAP and the upcoming meetings/events, visit GrizzOrgs.



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH  
Students get their craft on to show appreciation to OU janitorial staff.



## Mentalist Duo turns skeptics into believers at Thursday Night Mainstage

**LAUREN REID**

*Content Editor*

The Habitat was captivated last Thursday, Oct. 7 as Mentalist Duo and real life couple — The Evasons — seemingly did the unthinkable. Filled with a mix of skeptics and believers, Tessa and Jeff Evason certainly had the audience thinking: is mind-reading real?

The night was unpredictable and audience members were actively involved with the show. From Tessa correctly guessing the amount of contacts on one attendee's phone without looking, to audience members coming forward with random objects for Tessa to read — the show was ever-changing.

One attendee had a bracelet that was given to her by a friend after her dad passed away. Not only did Tessa guess the object (blindfolded) — she guessed the friend's name and vocalized how meaningful the bracelet must have been.

"I began with this sort of phenomena [when I was a little girl]," said Tessa. "I grew up in the Caribbean [and one] of my grandmothers actually read tea leaves. There was a strong belief in strengthening the intuition — so that's where it began for me [and I] developed some skills along the way."

There were certainly some skeptics in the audience, but by the night's end, most were left perplexed.

Megan Jaworowicz, a senior majoring in Actuarial Science, was an instrumental part in a couple sections of the show. Although she admitted to being

generally skeptical, The Evasons certainly had her thinking.

"I'm usually a skeptic because I love watching these things, so usually I [say] 'oh, I don't know' — but it's definitely different seeing it in person, being on the stage, and being that shocked," she said.

At one point, a group of attendees were asked to select a colored envelope to hold. Facing the other direction, Tessa was able to correctly identify who was holding which color, along with adding additional insight as to why they selected that particular colored envelope.

"[Tessa] was saying how the color we chose went with our energy," Jaworowicz said. "She said [to me] 'yeah, you don't belong over here, you belong down here because you're sweet and kind.' And I thought, 'how do you know that?'"

The Evasons duo works with Jeff interacting with the audience and narrating what's going on — almost like the emcee. Tessa stays on stage and does what most would think to be impossible: reading minds and energies.

Jeff mentioned the energy at Oakland during the show was good, and the crowd size was decent. In lieu of the COVID-19 pandemic, it felt nice to be in front of everyone in person.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD  
Attendees take the stage with Mentalist Duo — The Evasons — at Thursday Night Mainstage.

"It's a weird time — people are not accustomed to getting together and seeing shows, especially indoor shows," Jeff said. "It's a weeknight, it's COVID-19 — the crowd was decent, not anything like we've had in the past, but nowhere is. It was a good energy."

Thursday Night Mainstage is put on by OU's Student Program Board (SPB) — their next event is a drive-in movie on Friday, Oct. 15. For more upcoming events put on by SPB, visit their GrizzOrgs page.

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Story by: Christian Tate  
Photos by: Ayman Ishimwe  
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## OU fights hard in four sets for Homecoming victory over UIC

The Golden Grizzlies showed off just how much they could endure as they fought through adversity to capture the win against the University of Illinois-Chicago Flames.

The Grizzlies kicked off the game red hot with three straight kills before UIC locked down defensively to bring the score up to 7-5. After UIC found their footing, the game became much more evenly matched as the two teams traded points in kind.

OU would eventually capture the lead and tried to protect it as best as they could, but UIC's solid receiving and well-paced offense led them to mounting a run that would enable them to take the lead in the first set and run away without ever looking back. UIC would win the first set 25-17 despite OU trying to fight their way back into the game.

The second set started off with the same evenly matched play that filled much of the first set. It was here that the game turned into a question of "Who can last the longest?" UIC started to break away after taking a 6-4 lead before OU would quickly catch up and eventually take the lead.

The second set would heat up into an all-out race for the win as OU looked to tie the set count and UIC

looked to win back-to-back sets and solidify their winning position. Both teams would swap leads at one point during the set, but OU would reach the win first on the back of an amazing block that would tie the set count up 1-1.

Another bout of even-matched play started off the third set before UIC started to pull away with a commanding 6-point lead. An OU spike ended the run and was the catalyst for the comeback that the Golden Grizzlies would then mount.

OU's tenacity, well-paced offense and great defense helped them stay in the game but UIC's ingenious offense was keeping them in the front. OU was in a precarious position, as they kept trading points with UIC. The consistent scoring helped OU to stay in the matchup, but the fact that UIC would score just as easily meant they were always able to extend their lead. The Golden Grizzlies were essentially stuck in "No Man's Land."

OU would eventually close the gap and make it into a one-point game, as UIC scrambled to recover the broken pieces of their once commanding lead. As the game raced to a thrilling conclusion, the score felt deadlocked with UIC leading 24-23. With the set

on the line, OU would make play after play and take the hard-fought set with a score of 28-26.

After the most brutal set of the game, OU opened up the fourth set with a commanding 4-0 start that included a service ace. UIC struggled to stop their momentum as kill after kill would find their side of the floor, widening the OU lead and increasing the momentum they carried into every play. The lead would eventually grow to six points, forcing UIC into a timeout to try and collect their bearings and figure out a way to fight back into this game.

Eventually, UIC found their footing and tied the set up 10-10. UIC would build that tie into an eventual three point lead and push OU back onto their heels. OU fought back into the game, and tied it up 18-18 after treading water in the fourth set despite a red hot start.

After continuous trades, OU would take the lead back and sprint to the finish line to take the final set and win the game 3-1. A game of ups and downs ended with a win for the Golden Grizzlies, as they increase their record to 10-7 on the season.



# Golden Grizzlies Lead: Black Lives Matter workshop

**D'JUANNA LESTER**

*Senior Reporter*

On Monday, Oct. 4, the Oakland University Recreation Center held a workshop in the Oakland Center to educate students on the history of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement to connect and recover with students on campus.

During the hour-long workshop, students gathered together to view a slideshow and discuss their thoughts on the history of BLM. The presentation consisted of a brief history, demands and principles of the movement, communication and a conclusion.

The presentation opened with a discussion about ROPES, which can apply to all social topics and discussions, not only discussions of the BLM movement. ROPES is an acronym for Respect/Risk, Openness/Ouch, Participation/Permission, Education and Sensitivity/Safety. It's important to remember these principles to make conversations a safe space for all parties involved.

While 2020 was a monumental year for the BLM movement globally, it was not the start of the movement. The movement began in 2013 by Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi. Over the next seven years, protests ignited after the murders of several Black people throughout the U.S. These deaths include Eric Garner, Michael Brown and so many more.

More protests sparked in June of 2017 after Philando Castile's murderer was found not guilty. In 2020, protests sprouted around the world following

the deaths of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd.

Because of the pandemic, people were particularly tuned into the media and the movement garnered even more attention. Currently, the movement may be the largest in U.S. history — since May 2020, 15 to 26 million people have participated in demonstrations.

The demand of BLM is to stop the war on Black

people — which isn't just physically, but mentally as well. The principles are to divest/invest, economic justice, reparations, political power and community control.

What do all these mean? According to the presentation, it boils down to seeing where money is being spent, investing in Black and brown communities and economics. Since 2020, the U.S. has seen a spike in members of Black and brown communities, as well as Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) running for political office. The BLM movement holds that in order to make any real change, money needs to be invested in communities of color.

Communication is also an important piece. According to the presentation, someone's impact is more important than their intentions — there are ways to recover when a person offends someone, but that person does not get to dictate how to keep moving forward. Offering an apology, promising to do better, reaching out to the person/community directly and showing that one has learned are steps that need to be taken. It's vital to stand up for communities even when someone from that community is not present.

The presentation concluded with talking about how exposure impacts people's perception of BLM, as well as a discussion among students about how they felt and their personal experiences.

The impact of racism has negative effects on mental and physical health. The presentation concluded, as for allies, they must remember that such adverse effects exist and need to be respected, and that it is their role to listen.



PHOTO BY SOPHIE HUME

OU students gathered near Elliott Tower for a BLM demonstration last April. On Monday, Oct. 4, the Recreation Center held a workshop to educate students on the history of the BLM movement.

## OU alumni capturing Black experience through art

**BRITTANY KEARFOTT**

*Sports Reporter*

Jonathan Harris, an Oakland University graduate, has been making a name for himself in the arts of Detroit. At OU, he majored in graphic design with a minor in studio art after graduating from the Detroit School for the Fine and Performing Arts. Harris talks about his work, experiences and inspirations for his art and exposure.

Over the last year, there have been countless demonstrations as part of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement to shine a light on police brutality, inequality and unjust treatment of people of color. Harris talks about the Black experience and the BLM movement as inspiration for his artwork.

"I have really been passionate about selling the Black story or African American story from an African American point of view," Harris said. "We go to these museums and things like that and the way we are portrayed is weaker or less of, or sometimes we may not even be in the picture, and we didn't just come out of nowhere. I

just wanted people to see us and us to see us, and I wanted to just spread awareness. Not anything of revenge, just awareness that we are human."

Harris was able to meet and sit down with Henry Harper, the co-founder of the Detroit Fine Arts Breakfast Club — an artist enthusiast group encouraging and supporting fine arts in the Metro Detroit area.

"Before I met Henry I was just painting celebrities and things like that," Harris said. "I was just getting into the art and trying to figure it out. He just sat me down and was like if you go into a museum you're not going to see pictures of celebrities — you're going to see pictures of people's stories of their lives. When we went he pointed that out to me and was like 'You, you have a story.' Everybody has a story. I started to pay more attention to what my story actually was and is as it is being written, as well as people around me."

Besides representing the Black experience through his artwork, Harris also shares his personal experiences.

"Sometimes I'll just be listening to

music or I'll be reading something, or just in everyday life and I can't believe that happened," Harris said. "Or I'll think of something in the past that happened, and I'll think [about] how I can portray that into a painting and make it beautiful and interesting where everybody can look at it and question what is going on there and have that experience."

While art degrees are frequently undervalued, Harris' experience is proof to the contrary. He went through two different art programs furthering his experience, skill and technique in the arts, which has led to his current success with shows, programs and exhibitions for his artwork.

"My experience has been pretty good," Harris said. "It seems right now in Detroit it seems like this art renaissance, just an explosive art thing right now. I feel like I am a part of that and I feel that people recognize that and they trust me. They trust me when I put on a show to participate. Galleries trust me. Collectors trust me — collectors buy work with the intent that it will increase over years. They aren't eyeing people's work who they don't feel are focused or trying to do more."

Harris has a new exhibition coming up at the Irwin House Gallery called TRIPTYCH: Stronger Together which is starring Crystal Starks-Webb, Terrell Anglin and Harris himself opening on Nov. 5 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTEN LYNNNAE  
Harris talks about his work, experiences and inspirations for his art and exposure.



# OU's Association for Women in Communications' chapter

**TORI COKER**

*Marketing Director*

The field of communication's wide breadth poses both vast opportunity and decent struggle for those studying it here at Oakland University and beyond. To supplement the various Communications-related programs taught at OU and equip students with the resources to succeed in their professional futures, the OU chapter of the Association for Women in Communications (AWC) is reaching out a helping hand.

As explained within their mission statement, the AWC is a national professional organization aimed at advancing the careers and skillsets of women in communications-related fields. Founded in 1909, the organization has expanded through dozens of professional and student chapters over time, including one at OU.

AWC OU was first brought to campus in 2005. Sixteen years later, the chapter is still working hard to provide valuable programming and support to all students who are interested.

Dr. Rebecca Mercado-Jones, associate professor of communication at OU, is the current faculty advisor to the organization.

"The Association for Women in Communications is a professional organization that is geared [at helping] promote personal and professional growth for anybody who exists in the broad field of communications," Mercado-Jones said. "I think one of the benefits of being in a professional organization is that we get to really listen to students and tailor [our programming] to what you think is missing in your classrooms."

Senior Maia Maola is the current student leader of the organization. As an Integrative Studies major, Maola feels connected to many of the concerns common to Communication majors whilst acquiring her own degree, as both are degree programs upon

which doubt is often cast and criticism applied for a lack of specificity or professional salience. Her venture into this organization came from her desire to learn more about the field and to meet others who'd figured it all out, and she encourages anyone whose discipline overlaps with communications to join — not just Communication majors, and not just women.

"I know that the title of the group is Association for Women in Communications, but we are open to any student who is a Comm major or who may not be," Maola said. "I joined the group mainly to have networking opportunities in the professional field, particularly with communications because it is such

a broad subject matter — you can go anywhere with it. I really wanted to learn more about the field and the people who are being successful in it."

Communications professional Jennifer Peters-Hamilton is one of these people. The OU alum and former Oakland Post employee now works at the Detroit chapter of the AWC as VP of Marketing and Membership Ambassador, and she credits her membership in AWC OU during its first year with setting her on the right path.

"I was able to connect with like-minded communications students and attend many events with guest speakers from advertising and journalism professions. Even though the logo has changed, I still proudly wear the pin I was given when I first joined," Peters-Hamilton said. "If you are a communications student and looking for ways to get involved before graduation, the AWC OU Chapter is a great way to start."

Opportunities for student involvement have manifested in various events for the organization in the past, including elevator-pitch practice sessions, vision board creation sessions and career panels — often consisting of previous students of Mercado-Jones' who are now flourishing within their professional lives.

The organization currently meets biweekly, gathering over Zoom every other Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. The board hopes to welcome many new faces at their next meeting on Oct. 13th, which will feature guests including Peters-Hamilton and Laura Oliveto, President and Programs Co-Chair at AWC Detroit.

Those interested in attending the event can email Mercado-Jones at [rebeccajones@oakland.edu](mailto:rebeccajones@oakland.edu) for an invitation.

"Come as you are and come with your guard down, because we're here for you and listening to you," Mercado-Jones said.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

Opportunities for student involvement have manifested in various events for the organization in the past, including elevator-pitch practice sessions, vision board creation sessions and career panels.

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## ‘A Grizzly’s Guide to a Healthier Y(OU)’: COVID-19 and Mental Health

**GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH**

*Campus Editor*

For almost two years, COVID-19 has had significant effects on mental health. The lack of social interaction, increase in economic hardship, fear of becoming sick and the fact that millions of people have died due to this virus, among other changes, have been difficult to handle, to say the least.

Several studies have found that the mental health of college students has declined as a result of the pandemic and has negatively impacted higher education. In a nationwide survey led by researchers at Boston University, two-thirds of college students said they deal with feelings of isolation and loneliness.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes Oct. 10 as “World Mental Health Day” to raise awareness about mental health and mental health support and resources. So, for this week’s column, I spoke to Dr. David Schwartz (Ph.D.), a licensed psychologist and director of the OU Counseling Center (OUCC), about mental health and what resources are available on campus.

“During the pandemic, 1 in 4 adults in the U.S. have reported symptoms of anxiety or a depressive disorder. This is up from 1 in 10 adults who reported these symptoms from the time period of January to June of 2019, so right before the pandemic,” Dr. Schwartz said. “What’s interesting is that if you look at depression, anxiety, substance use, eating issues and many more, the group that has seen the highest increase in all of these things is young adults, 18-24-year-olds.”

With increases across the board in many mental

health situations, Dr. Schwartz stressed that these issues have continued at this phase in the pandemic, with anxiety and depression being prevalent. He also mentioned that people may struggle with hybrid learning, workloads, re-entering social situations, among other factors that can influence our mental health. To adjust to current life, Dr. Schwartz underscored the importance of expectations and to recognize that functioning pre-pandemic is a very different experience than today.

“It’s really important to adjust our expectations to meet the reality of the situation,” Dr. Schwartz said. “If we fail to adjust those expectations, we’re constantly going to be feeling like we’re failing or we’re behind, and we’re not able to do as much...it’s allowing yourself to adjust, to ease back in, not expecting yourself to be at pre-pandemic levels in terms of productivity and how successful you are as a student, as a worker and as a family member or friend.”

Dr. Schwartz also acknowledged mental health and healthcare disparities that exist in specific populations.

“The pandemic has not affected every group equally. There are certain groups that have been disparately impacted negatively much more than other groups,” Dr. Schwartz noted. “Unfortunately, they happen to be groups that were already marginalized and had more barriers to good access to mental health and healthcare. People in the BIPOC community, LGBTQ+ community...those groups we have seen even more of an increase of things like depression and anxiety.”

In terms of measures one can take to improve their mental health, Dr. Schwartz highlighted getting professional care, allowing social grace to ourselves and others, and making a commitment to self-care

“If you’re even toying with the idea of it [getting professional help], reach out,” Dr. Schwartz said.

It is important to point out that the OUCC is offering free therapy sessions for the 2021-2022 academic school year, among other mental health resources, like support groups.

For more information regarding OUCC therapy sessions and other resources, please visit the OUCC website.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH  
Campus Editor and Columnist, Gabrielle Abdelmessih.

## OU alumnus researches economics of marijuana legalization

**TANNER TRAFELET**

*Senior Reporter*

Former Oakland University student Cooper Hazel — who graduated in 2021 with a degree in economics — conducted a research paper titled “The Munchies: Marijuana Legalization and Food Consumption in Washington” in which he examined one of the least studied areas of economics: the effect that recreational marijuana consumption can have on an individual’s expenditure toward food consumption.

Such an issue was first contemplated by Hazel during his fall 2019 “Urban and Regional Economics” course with Associate Professor of Economics Timothy Hodge, Ph.D. Upon undertaking this research project in coordination with Dr. Hodge, Hazel experienced a forceful reassurance of the graduate school and professional aspirations that he held.

“Economics is about making lives better and increasing well-being, and this research could help me help Americans,” Hazel told the Oakland News. “I was interested in marijuana public policy, and this was a great starting place.”

Dr. Hodge discussed the initial difficulties of the academic research process, and specifically elaborated upon Hazel’s learning experiences with the time commitments required for professional research, as well as the rigors of data collection and analysis on a tight schedule. The literature review of the few similar (yet lengthy) economic studies was also something that Dr. Hodge helped Hazel

reinforce his appreciation of, especially in the context of considering pursuing a master’s degree in economics or an MBA.

“I think Hazel grew a lot,” Dr. Hodge said. “I think that he has a much better understanding of what the research process entails ... It gave him a brief insight as to whether he wanted to pursue [a career] in academics.”

The research the pair conducted revealed that there is statistically meaningful correlation between the amount of recreational marijuana consumed and the amount of money that someone spends on “snack foods” which typically have a dense caloric structure and a high sugar content (such as chips or cookies). Additionally, the paper asserts that there is a statistically significant increase in the amount of drunk driving someone does and the amount of taxable income entered into the economy when someone consumes recreational marijuana.

“Instead of being uninformed about the true effects of these policies [public policies concerning recreational marijuana], you have to try and understand every aspect of these policies,” Dr. Hodge said. “Informed citizenry is important. A lot of times, we don’t have the answers to everything and we make an assumption about how this is just a bad policy. Obviously, there’s arguments against recreational marijuana on the health of kids. But, are there other arenas where now we are dealing with adults who can make that decision for themselves?”

Recreational marijuana in Michigan was legalized in 2018, and in 2020 the State of Michigan collected

\$169 million from tax and fees within the marijuana industry, with the market of raising and selling marijuana totaling \$3.2 billion.

“If the food industry goes up, if we see an increase in sales, maybe that could increase the number of jobs [generated indirectly by the cannabis market],” Dr. Hodge said. “Cooper saw a research opportunity here, and he capitalized. Going into this research project together, he was very interested in economics. I knew about Cooper, I had him in class and I knew that he had the potential goal of going to graduate school. I think he grew a lot through this experience.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROB HALL  
During his time at OU, graduate Cooper Hazel (left) conducted research on the economics of the legalization of marijuana. His economics professor Dr. Timothy Hodge (right) mentored Hazel during his project.



Speculations on Taylor Swift changing ‘Red (Taylor’s Version)’ release date

D’JUANNA LESTER  
Senior Reporter

For many Taylor Swift fans — also known as Swifties — they’ve been anticipating the release of “Red (Taylor’s Version [TV]).” The re-recorded album was supposed to be released on Nov. 19, which is why many were shocked to find out that the singer will be releasing “Red (TV)” on Nov. 12 — a whole week early.

After dropping “Fearless (TV)” back in early April, Swifties have been speculating which re-recorded album will be released next. Many fans were wondering if she was going in chronological order, starting with her debut album.

After “Fearless (TV)” was released this year, and now that “Red (TV)” will be dropping next, people were stunned when Swift released “Wildest Dreams (TV)” from her album “1989” two weeks ago. Swifties have been curious about what singles will be released next, and from which album. Everyone thought we were on the “Red” course, but with the surprise “1989” drop, many are even more confused.

On Sept. 30, Swift posted on her Instagram story. The post read: “Got some news that I think you’re gonna like — my version of ‘Red’ will be out a week earlier than scheduled (including the 4 disc vinyl) on November 12th! Can’t wait to celebrate the 13th with you and our new/old autumn heartbreak album.”

The internet immediately freaked out, over the

moon about getting our heartbreak album a full week early. Now the question is when will the first single be out? Which song will it be? An old song or a song from the vault?

Fans have speculated why the date was changed from Nov. 19 to Nov. 12. Many have come to the conclusion that the reason the date was changed was because of Adele announcing that she plans to release her album on Nov. 19 as well. With both artists releasing albums within a week of each other, sad girl fall is definitely approaching sooner than we think. Time to bring out the cardigans.

A few months back, fans decoded a cryptic message from Swift’s Twitter about the vault songs being released on “Red (TV).” They are: “Ronan,” “Better Man,” “Nothing New” featuring Phoebe Bridgers, “Babe,” “Message in a Bottle,” “I Bet You Think About Me” featuring Chris Stapleton, “Forever Winter,” “Run” featuring Ed Sheeran, “The Very First Night” and of course, the ten minute version of “All Too Well!”

As the singer has been more active on social media sites like TikTok and Twitter over the past few weeks, fans have been trying to figure out the cryptic easter eggs on her posts. In a TikTok video posted on Sept. 17, viewers can see a glitch in the transition, which could be an easter egg pointing toward a certain music video from one of the singles from her “Red” album. Many have speculated that “22” will be the first single announced and released soon. While many of these are wild theories, no one

expected a “1989” single dropping late last month.

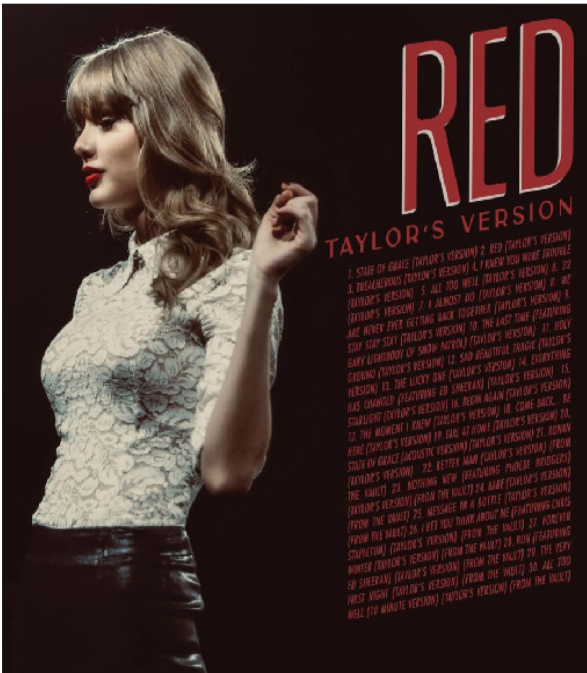


PHOTO COURTESY OF TAYLOR SWIFT ON INSTAGRAM  
Taylor Swift has announced that her album “Red (Taylor’s Version)” will be out on Nov. 12, a week earlier than the original release date.

‘Sex Education’ season three perfects the high school drama

SARAH GUDENAU  
Features Editor

The long-awaited third season of the teen comedy-drama “Sex Education” recently dropped on Netflix on Sept. 17, 2021, and once again, writer Laurie Nunn just doesn’t miss. From the show’s expansive representation and accurate depiction of the awkwardness of high school to its absurd humor, season three was chock-full of everything that made the first two seasons a success and more.

The show takes place in Moordale Secondary School in England. Main character Otis Milburn is the son of Dr. Jean Milburn, a sex therapist. Learning that he has a natural talent for therapy, he follows in his mother’s footsteps and starts a “sex clinic” at school with the super smart badass feminist that is Maeve Wiley. The two make an effort to help out the school’s insanely uninformed and misinformed student body — who suffer from the school’s lame sex education classes.

The show can certainly be praised for its representation, with actors of color, students from different socioeconomic and family backgrounds and the whole rainbow of the LGBTQ+ community present. Season three introduces the show’s first nonbinary characters: Cal and Layla, a milestone in enby representation which usually doesn’t get too much screen time.

It’s worth noting that its representation goes further than just having different people present without sufficient character development. For example, I love “Glee,” and its mark on television was certainly iconic, but it’s cornering to

stereotypes left more to be desired from the show — “Sex Education,” on the other hand, doesn’t stop at tokenism.

Season three also introduces an extremely hateable villain, new headmistress Hope Haddon. Determined to break away from the Moordale’s reputation as “Sex School,” Haddon tightens the reins, promoting abstinence in sex ed classes, publicly humiliatingly her students as “discipline” and refusing to acknowledge nonbinary students’ needs. She’s so detestable, right from her first personal interaction with a student when she microaggresses Jackson Marchetti. You’ll join teams with the students instantly and the season will have you wanting to punch your screen.

Speaking of detestable characters, this season was full of twists and turns — more so than any prior season. Let’s talk character development. Without spoiling the specifics of those twists, I found that my favorite characters, Maeve and Eric, were heading downhill while more backstory was unraveled for Ruby and former Headmaster Groff, my previous least favorite characters. I grew to like them much more. Who would’ve thought I’d be rooting for Groff cooking like that?

Another thing that I especially appreciate about this series is how they really capture high school students well. Actors who so obviously look 30 playing teenagers written by some boomers with gross misunderstanding of trends and language are so washed out. Let me tell you I was amazed to hear Eric use “camp” and to use it correctly. Too often are shows of high school students so inaccurately written. (See, “I beg your misogynistic pardon?”) “Sex Education”

is really giving what it needs to give.

The ending leaves room for another season, with fans excited to see the new Milburn-Jacob family dynamic unfold, hopeful for continued development of Groff and his relationship with Adam and curious over Otis’ messy love life. I’ll be eagerly waiting for season four of my comfort show.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX  
Otis and Ruby from season three of “Sex Education.”



## Volleyball swept by Milwaukee in clash of Horizon League titans

**MATTHEW SCHEIDEL**  
*Sports Editor*

The Oakland University volleyball team fell to the Milwaukee Panthers in straight sets last Thursday. Milwaukee came into the match undefeated in conference play at 4-0, while the Grizzlies were 3-1 coming in. This was a tough test for both teams early in the conference schedule.

The first set was back and forth, starting with a 9-9 tie. Just when it seemed like one team was taking control, the other would come roaring back.

The set was tied at 18 when Milwaukee put up consecutive points to force a Grizzlies' timeout. Two more Milwaukee points forced another timeout. The Grizzlies responded with two points of their own, forcing a timeout from the Panthers. You could feel the tension in the O'Rena during this highly contested first set.

In the end, it was the Panthers who would take the set 25-21.

Heading into the second set, the game remained highly contested. Milwaukee started on a 3-0 run, then the Grizzlies came back to tie.

Milwaukee then forced a Grizzlies' timeout after four straight points to take an 11-8 lead. That didn't seem to do much, as Milwaukee put up three straight following the timeout.

After Oakland started a little run of their own, Milwaukee could sense danger — so they took a timeout.

The match remained highly contested deep into the second set, with the Panthers holding a 19-17 advantage. But again, the Grizzlies just didn't have enough in this set. Milwaukee would take set two 25-23.

Milwaukee's strong play continued into the third set, where they got off to a 9-4 lead to force a Grizzlies' timeout. It just seemed like they were always one step ahead of Oakland.

Head Coach Rob Beam said most of the problems for the Grizzlies revolved around execution.

"That's basically the game from a coaching standpoint is to empower the athletes to be on assignment correct and [to go after it]," Beam said. "I thought [Milwaukee] did a great job and I think there are places where we played

well. Our athletes did a really good job but especially [in] the third set, we just didn't do any of the things that we were trying to get done, and we've got to correct them."

The Panthers would take the third set pretty handily, and sweep the match. Beam said the team has to move on from this game considering the tough conference schedule.

"I think there's a lot of volleyball left to play," Beam said. "The secret is gonna be with the density of the scheduling, we've got to be able to rebound and play another good team tomorrow night. This one's all the way done, we can't control it. Maybe we can learn a lesson that we can apply to how we come out tomorrow. But other than that, we just got to get ready for UIC."

Beam continued to say there are many things that the team needs to work on.

"I think there were spaces where we played really well," Beam said. "Then when we didn't defend the court, maybe we missed out on some opportunities for block scheming, and then ultimately like we've got to serve a pass more accurately and more efficiently. I think we were chasing points a lot tonight, and then they [executed]. I think we gave up 22 more points in the kill category than we scored and that's not going to get it done so we're gonna have to do a better job preparing our athletes giving them opportunities to score and be successful."



PHOTO BY SOPHIE HUME  
Kerra Cornist and Jamie Walling go for a block against Milwaukee on Oct. 7.

## Pistons power past Spurs in preseason opener

**REECE TAYLOR**  
*Sports Reporter*

The Detroit Pistons beat the San Antonio Spurs 115-105 in the 2021-22 NBA preseason opener.

The Pistons, who were without No. 1 overall pick point guard Cade Cunningham, were lead by forward Jerami Grant's 19 points in 24 minutes of play. Former Michigan State guard Bryn Forbes, now playing for the Spurs, registered a game-high 20 points in a losing effort.

Cunningham, who is dealing with ankle soreness, was held out of most of training camp and ruled out of Wednesday night as a precautionary measure. Detroit was also without guards Killian Hayes and Frank Jackson among the eight inactive players as they look to make adjustments and finalize their roster for the upcoming regular season.

Head Coach Dwane Casey's Pistons jumped to an early lead, ending the first quarter 39-22 over Head Coach Greg Popovich's Spurs. The Pistons outscored the Spurs in three out of four quarters and led by as much as 17. The Pistons showed flashes of great offense, as they shot above 50% as a team and had 46 total field goals and 25 coming off of assists. The Pistons set the tone early on defense, and led both teams in total blocks and steals, recording nine each.

As well as the Pistons played, the true extent of their talent won't be seen until the introduction of Hayes and Cunningham to the roster, as there are questions about how the Pistons' star guards will fit in the backcourt. Sophomores, forward Saddiq Bey and center Isaiah Stewart, look to improve and solidify their roles within the Pistons' future. Grant, who won a Gold Medal with Team USA at the 2020 Olympics, looks to lead the young but talented team back into the playoffs.

The shift in tone within the franchise has made a notable shift under General Manager Troy Weaver,



PHOTO COURTESY OF DETROITBADBOYS.COM  
The Pistons, who haven't won a playoff game since 2008, have a new sense of excitement in the organization as the young core and breakout players look to make noise and develop in a now stacked Eastern Conference.

who has rejuvenated the franchise. Since joining the franchise, Weaver has drafted and signed players who embody the modern analytic league but fit the grit and grind mentality of previous generations. In this time, Detroit also extended Casey, who looks to adjust and mold players into a contending team. The team has also enlisted legends like recent Hall of Famer Ben Wallace, who was in attendance, to mentor the team's young frontcourt.

The Pistons, who haven't won a playoff game since 2008, have a new sense of excitement in the organization as the young core and breakout players look to make noise and develop in a now stacked Eastern Conference. Detroit looks to compete in a conference containing NBA Champion Milwaukee Bucks and the Brooklyn Nets as they vie for a spot in the Play-In Tournament at the end of the season.

The Pistons begin a two-game road trip facing the Memphis Grizzlies and the New York Knicks before ending the preseason at home vs. the Philadelphia 76ers. The regular season begins for the Pistons on Oct. 20 at home against the Chicago Bulls.

Though the team hasn't been shown in full strength, the Detroit Pistons are showing signs of life in a competitive East.



# Men's soccer takes home Homecoming win

**CHRISTIAN TATE**  
*Sports Reporter*



PHOTO BY AMELIA OSADCHUK  
Ville Ahola tries to slip a defender against Cleveland State on Oct. 9

What started out as a hopeless affair for the Golden Grizzlies last Saturday, quickly turned into a golden example of the team's perseverance as they clawed their way back from a deficit to bring home the win in their Homecoming game.

After both teams finished their feeling out process and finished getting their feet underneath them on the pitch, the first half felt like it was all Cleveland State as they would end with 12 shots on goal as opposed to the five shots recorded for OU.

CSU would end the first half with a 1-0 lead after scoring off the back of a penalty kick in the last few minutes of the half, leaving the pitch with the upper-hand and returning after the break to further assert that advantage.

The second set is where the game would pick up, as both teams would score the bulk of their points here. In ten minutes, the comfortable one point lead that OU would have to climb would turn into an near-insurmountable three-point lead as UIC would turn up the aggression and take the wind out of the Golden Grizzlies' sails.

The energy on the pitch for the Golden Grizzlies continued to deflate with each passing minute until the first OU goal was scored by Dawsun Schrum. The goal would become the catalyst for the eventual comeback that the Grizzlies would mount.

Just two minutes later, OU's Charlie Braithwaite would score another goal and breathe life back into their own hearts as the game now looked

winnable. The newfound energy on the pitch would enable Noah Jensen to score the game-tying goal just a few minutes before to complete the comeback.

In just five and a half minutes, the lead was toppled and the energy flipped on the pitch as the Golden Grizzlies fought their way back into this game. With mere minutes left to go in the game, both teams desperately tried to break the tie and go home with the win. After treading water for the entirety of the game, OU's Noah Jensen would score an absolutely electric second goal off the back of a scramble to send both the crowd home happy and Cleveland State home in tears.

The electricity on the pitch would reach an all-time high as all the players on the field and the bench would swarm Jensen to celebrate the potential game-winning goal. Cleveland State would try to score one more goal to tie the game up and send it into overtime, but their efforts were all for naught as the Golden Grizzlies would persevere and pull out the hard fought, well-earned win with a score of 4-3.

The sadness and despair that once filled the air on the pitch would dissipate and turn into pure joy and happiness as OU had their hard work rewarded and they would increase their overall record to 4-5-2, and their conference record to 3-1-1.

The Golden Grizzlies will return to the pitch on Oct. 13th to face off against Green Bay University in Rochester at 1 p.m.

# Volleyball rallies to beat Green Bay

**REECE TAYLOR**  
*Sports Reporter*

The Oakland University volleyball team rallied from a 2-1 deficit in five sets to beat the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay in a dramatic home game on Oct. 10, improving to 5-2 on the season, and fourth in the Horizon League standings.

Led by middle hitter Jaime Walling's 20 points, the Golden Grizzlies overcame a feisty Green Bay Phoenix team as they battled back from an even series to take the series three sets to two.

The first set of the afternoon saw the Golden Grizzlies go up 13-9 before ultimately pulling away to secure a 25-14 victory. The second set was the most competitive out of the series and saw Oakland lead as much as five before going back and forth until Green Bay capitalized on a mistake and saw them go up by two, and securing the set 29-27 — evening the series 1-1.

In the third set, Green Bay started with seven unanswered points and pulled away to win the set 25-14, putting them up 2-1 in the series. Oakland answered back in set four, beating Green Bay 25-14 and evening the series at 2.

The final set featured an early lead from Oakland, who pulled away and won 15-5, which won the series 3-2. Oakland led both teams in scoring, taking the advantage 106-87.

The game advantage came from Oakland's aggressive scoring, only giving up 13 attack errors to Green Bay's 30. Both teams were tied in total assists with 54. Oakland had the major advantage in defense, narrowly winning the battle with 65 digs to 59, and winning in blocks 11-6.

Both were even on blocking errors and reception errors, with one and 7 each respectively. Setter AnnaBelle Tomei leads Oakland with 28 assists, though opposing Setter Calli Gentry led both teams with 49 total assists.

Oakland's Walling, outside hitter Patti Cesarini, and middle blocker Jessica Riedl combined for 50 of the teams 108 points as defensive specialist Lindsay Wightman led both teams with a game-high 21 digs, accounting for nearly one-third of the team's total.

The Golden Grizzlies won a competitive match before they start a three-game road trip beginning with Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis on Oct. 12th. Oakland is 5-2 on the season and looks to improve after a 7-9 finish in the spring season that was shortened by the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.

Their next match-ups feature a winless IUPUI team as they look to upset Oakland for their first win of the season, and a match with Western Kentucky, who is currently second in the Horizon League. The Golden Grizzlies have won two straight after losing the previous two games.

Head Coach Rob Beam, currently in his 15th season, looks to lead a promising Golden Grizzlies team to their first NCAA tournament appearance since 2014, as well as their first winning record since 2019. Led on the court by Wightman, who is the first All Region First Team member in school history, the team hopes to be at top of the Horizon League by season's end.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD  
Haley Brown gets ready to serve against Green Bay on Oct. 10.



# Women's soccer takes down Cleveland State in rainy affair

**BRITTANY KEARFOTT**

*Sports Reporter*

Thursday morning started out with low visibility, and as the day went on the weather did not seem promising for a dry game between Oakland University and Cleveland State University.

Starting the game, Oakland was coming out of a four game winning streak. The game prior to those ended with a tie. The team has just under an overall 50/50 win/loss rate with a 6-7-1 record for their season stats. Cleveland State walked into the game with roughly a 30/70 win/loss rate and 3-8-1 record.

The game was cloudy, but clear skies shone through the first half. The girls on both teams played aggressively with their attacks and passes. They finished the first half leaving the points on the board null — fighting hard into halftime.

When they came back out to the pitch, the fog started to roll in, and the rain progressively came down as the second half continued on. Even with the unfortunate Michigan weather keeping its reputation up, the girls pushed through and did not take defeat from the weather, continuing the aggressive play from both teams.

Cleveland State put the first goal on the board a minute into the second half. It woke the OU girls up to fight harder in the continuing slick conditions. With passes between teammates Sami Lopez and Alexa Sabbagh, they landed the possession with Ashley Postma who was able to land the goal — putting their first goal on the board and tying up the game a few minutes later.

Wrapping up the game in a mild rainfall, Oakland scored two more goals wrapping up the game at 3-1. Excellent training, conditioning and encouragement from the coaching staff assisted in the team's successful night.

Head Coach Juan Pablo Favero explained how the weather shouldn't play a factor in games like this.

"The weather is not something we control, so we teach our players not to get distracted by those types of things," Favero said. "Of course, a slick playing surface can make the ball move quicker and make it especially difficult for the goalkeepers, so it was essential for us to keep possession of the ball and generate shots to test their keeper. Our team did an excellent job in both categories with over 65% possession for the game and

created a season-high number of shots."

While tonight ended on a high for the Grizzlies, they did celebrate and highlight international students and players at tonight's game with the theme of International Night. Ten out of twenty six players are international students.

"Our recruiting strategy is to bring the best players and people to our program. We focus those efforts in Michigan, the midwest and nationally as well. In addition, like many other Oakland teams, we do recruit Canada quite heavily. The final recruiting peg is the rest of the world, and we certainly feel great about the players we have from Europe and Africa. Soccer is the world's game, and as such, there are so many quality players all over the planet," Favero said.

Favero went on to explain what these international players bring to the table.

"Besides playing a style of soccer that is very compatible with our coaching philosophy, they also add so much depth to our team's overall experience," he said. "International players enrich our diversity and enlarge our worldview, and in turn, they get to learn about the US culture and get supported by their local teammates and their families. We love

our team environment and culture and are grateful for all of our players and their families."

For more, check out the #GrizzVision interview with Head Coach Favero for his perspective on the game and season so far — along with more of his encouraging words and congratulations to the girl's effort.

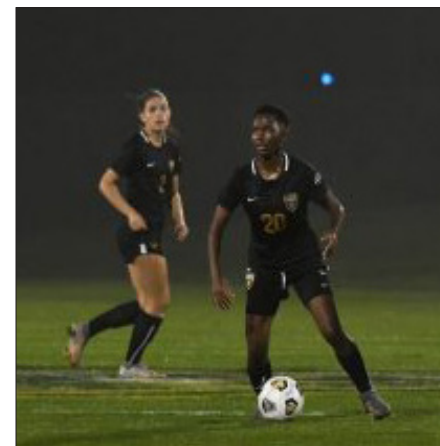


PHOTO BY AMELIA OSADCHUK  
Karabo Dhlamini stares down a defender against Cleveland State on Oct. 7

## FALL 2021 PAYMENT DUE DATE

**OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S FALL PAYMENT DUE DATE: AUGUST 15, 2021.**

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

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

Payment  
Due

**LEARN** how to avoid cancellation (drop) at [oakland.edu/financialservices/payments-refunds/payments-cancellation](https://oakland.edu/financialservices/payments-refunds/payments-cancellation)