

THE OAKLAND POST

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LA PITTURA ART EXHIBITION

Oakland Center displays artwork of recent Art/Graphic Design alumni.

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PHOTO BY AYMAN ISHIMWE

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



MOVIE NIGHT ON THE LAWN Students gathered outside of Elliott Tower last Wednesday for a screening of “Monster’s University.” Story on page 6.
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POLL OF THE WEEK

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

- A) HOCUS POCUS
- B) THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS
- C) HALLOWEENTOWN
- D) HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA

LAST ISSUE’S POLL

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE MUSIC RELEASE THIS FALL?



Homecoming and reunion weekend coming Oct. 8-9: here's the lineup

LAUREN REID

Content Editor

From tailgating and volleyball to happy hour and a movie — homecoming and reunion weekend brings something for everyone. The annual festivities are split into two realms: some events geared at students, and others alumni.

The virtual OU Trivia Night is slated as an alumni event on Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. — geared at celebrating Kresge Library's 60th anniversary. OU prizes will be up for grabs at the event, hosted by Dean of OU Libraries Polly Boruff-Jones and archivist Dominique Daniel.

Student-geared festivities kick off Oct. 7 with Thursday Night Mainstage featuring Mentalist Duo, The Evasons, at 7 p.m. in The Habitat. The following evening at 6:30 p.m., "In the Heights" is playing at the same venue as part of La Hora Feliz Y Noche De Cine (Happy Hour and Movie Night).

On Oct. 8 and 9 are self-guided tours at Meadow Brook Hall: Tour the Great Estate. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (last admittance at 3 p.m.), students, alumni and faculty can see all the historic estate has to offer. And bonus for students — they get in free.

For alumni, the 2021 Golden Celebration Reunion is scheduled for Oct. 8 and 9 in the outdoor tent behind Kresge Library. The reunion welcomes alumni from the classes of 1963 through 1971, where they're invited to reconnect, share memories and take part in a plethora of event programming.

Student film enthusiasts can start gearing up for the 2021 24 Hour Film Challenge on Oct. 9 and 10. The showcase and awards ceremony is slated for 4 p.m. on Oct. 10.

And to all the sports lovers out there, don't worry, OU hasn't forgotten about you. A great deal of excellent sporting events line the weekend — including volleyball, soccer and club football.

On Oct. 8, Women's volleyball is taking on University of Illinois-Chicago at home at 6 p.m. As of Oct. 6, the team is 9-6 overall and 3-1 in their conference.

Men's soccer takes on Cleveland State on Oct. 9 at 2 p.m. at home, and club football plays at 5 p.m. Both games sandwich in the Oakland University Student Congress (OUSC) tailgate party — taking place from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the tent behind Kresge Library.

Senior Director for the Office of Student Involvement (OSI), Jean Ann Miller, mentioned she's excited for the spirited atmosphere homecoming weekend brings.

"We love OU and all [these activities] are a way to show it — that [students] are happy they're going to school here," Miller said.

Miller hopes students will consider hanging around for the weekend to partake in the festivities.

"We want to [try and] make sure students stay on campus and come to these events," Miller said. "Social activities do take place on the weekends, not just the weekdays, for students to participate



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEADOWBROOKHALL.ORG
Students, faculty and alumni can "Tour the Great Estate" during OU's annual Homecoming and Reunion Weekend.

in. They can bring their families back — especially if they're alumni, it's all the better."

For the full rundown of homecoming and reunion weekend events and programming, visit <https://oakland.edu/homecoming/>.

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OUSC rebuilding after E-Board resignations, Legislator strike

JEFF THOMAS

Editor-in-Chief

Oakland University Student Congress (OUSC) is rebuilding mid-semester following a Legislator strike over unpaid wages that led to the resignations of six members of the Executive Board (E-Board) including President Adeline Perhogan and Vice President Annabella Jankowski.

The organization is set to hold its first special election since 1982 to elect a new president and vice president. Voting will be open from Thursday, Oct. 7 to Thursday, Oct. 14. The validations hearing will take place Friday, Oct. 15 and the tentative date for inauguration is Monday, Oct. 18.

Once the president and vice president are elected, they'll have to recruit and hire new staff to fill the vacant E-Board positions. Interim President and Steering Chair of the Legislature Jeremy Johnson has uploaded ads onto Handshake so whoever the next president is can have options to fill these positions. Still, this unprecedented situation presents significant challenges for OUSC moving forward.

The predicament has not been helped by a rocky transition period caused by lasting resentment between former E-Board members and the Legislative Chairs who are now left running the organization. Legislators describe everything from office doors being locked to computers having files deleted. They've struggled acquiring office keys and gaining access to OUSC email accounts.

"What [resigned E-Board members] did and have done and honestly are still doing because we don't have access to any of our accounts ... All of that is disrupting student activities," OUSC Legislative Affairs Director Jordan Tolbert said. "We're just trying to get [OUSC] back on track."

So where does this resentment come from? Well, for most of the Perhogan/Jankowski administration, which officially began last May and lasted until their resignations (Sept. 20 for Perhogan and Sept. 13 for Jankowski), OUSC E-Board members and Legislators have been deeply entrenched in a battle over Legislators not receiving compensation for the hours they were working.

Historically, OUSC Legislators have been unpaid workers. Despite performing services essential to the congress, Legislators weren't ever compensated. Last year under then-President Ethan Bradley and Vice President Jankowski, student workers in the organization decided it was time for a change and that Legislators should be compensated for their work.

"We felt as though Legislators had not been treated as equals," Johnson said. "Out of that came the idea to begin compensating Legislators ... Throughout the Bradley/Jankowski administration, they were never able to finalize it, Legislators were never paid."

A bill sponsored by Bradley, Jankowski and Johnson passed during the Fall 2020 semester that clarified OUSC procedures for compensation and opened the door for Legislators to start getting paid. For the winter semester, OUSC budgeted salaries for Legislators, though none ever received compensation for their work. According to Bradley he made attempts to post Handshake ads that fell through.

"I submitted the form to have legislative positions posted on Handshake multiple times and somewhere beyond my control it fell through so that the application was never posted," Bradley said.

OU uses a service called Handshake for hiring. Organizations post ads on Handshake, students

apply, then a hiring process is completed through the organization (in this case OSI) and Student Financial Services. Students cannot receive compensation for their work until this process is completed and OSI has a policy of refusing any back pay.

With multiple steps and people involved, this hiring process can be cumbersome, though it's not impossible as is evidenced by the fact that Perhogan and Bradley completed the process for E-Board members to receive compensation during the winter and summer semesters. The process just requires follow up and due diligence from those in positions of leadership. Which brings us to a common thread between these semesters: OSI Senior Director and OUSC advisor Jean Ann Miller.

During the process of rectifying a summer budget, despite the bill that was passed the previous fall, concerns were expressed by Miller and E-Board members about Legislators potentially abusing their new ability to be compensated. To help resolve the issue, Legislators began working on specific legislation outlining procedures to prevent corruption, while insisting their salaries still be budgeted for the summer. This was met with resistance from Miller. Tension came to a head during a meeting last May.

"[Miller] was upset with me for pushing for Legislator compensation," Tolbert said. "... She had been very adamantly against it the whole time. I wanted it done. I thought we could do stipends. She said no. I thought that we could do [less] hours. She tried to say no, whatever it was like she just didn't like it ... and was actively involved in resisting Legislators getting paid. At that meeting, she pretty much just ripped into me."

The Post reached out to Miller. She declined giving an interview. Though, according to Tolbert, she apologized generally to all involved in that meeting shortly afterwards.

Bradley says similar resistance, Miller being reluctant about Legislator pay, took place last winter when he was president.

"Yeah, she was saying similar things. I don't agree with the way [Tolbert] represented [Miller's] resistance but certainly she was pushing back at certain points about not only whether we're going to pay legislators but also how," Bradley said. "I think that [Miller] was

trying for a mixture [that ensured] our budget is safe for after [COVID-19] when we're able to spend more money on student activities ... On that same sort of preventing corruption thing, not really suspecting that anyone currently in Congress would make corrupt changes, but that we wanted to make sure they couldn't."

The summer budget eventually passed with salaries for Legislators being budgeted. Legislation passed July 26 to address corruption concerns, still Legislators were not immediately paid despite repeated inquiries about what they needed to do so Perhogan could complete their hiring process.

"Several times I asked [Perhogan] to submit my paperwork," OUSC Judiciary Chair Andrew Romano said. "It seemed like it was always another excuse to why they couldn't get it submitted in time. After we budgeted for it, and after that was approved, and after the Handshake thing came up, then it was [a new excuse] ... There was a resistance ... it was being delayed as much as possible."

The Post reached out to Perhogan with an interview request last week. She never responded.

Student organizations do have limited resources, so hours are often budgeted and capped according to positions and how intensive the required work is. To prevent budgeting issues caused by workers going over budgeted hours, OSI will have workers sign agreements that state any hours worked above their budgeted amount is volunteer work. So while that process exists to reject pay for worked hours, Legislators volunteering was not the case this summer.

"[Perhogan and Miller] should have said something like, 'Okay, until you turn in your financial paperwork, this is [volunteer work],' " Director of Diversity & Inclusion Murryum Farooqi said. "... The only indication we have ... was that they [sent an email to a Legislator], maybe a few weeks after she hadn't shown up to some meetings. And we're trying to say, 'You're not apprentices anymore, because you didn't show up to these required body meetings.' So to me, that's a sign that you're punishing people for not showing up to work when they're not being paid."

Since The Post broke this story last week, Miller and OSI have agreed to back pay for five Legislators. This decision came after a long discussion Tuesday. While those five Legislators will receive something, the back pay doesn't include all of the hours they worked under the budgeted agreement. Compensation instead dates back to whenever the Legislator's paperwork was submitted, a process which was delayed imminently by the inaction of Perhogan and Miller. Of the 10 Legislators who were denied compensation this summer, four remain unpaid and one has apparently opted out of receiving back pay.

While the dispute over compensation was the main conflict, it was enhanced by personal issues between Legislators and E-Board members. These issues date back to last March's contentious campaign between Adeline/Perhogan and Tolbert/Brennan Smith. The campaign was marred by dirty politics and ideological differences over actions taken by the Oakland United Student Workers Coalition (OUSWC).

OUSWC is a student activist group that has made a name for itself by taking direct action to protest university cuts to student jobs and services. Last March they successfully reversed some cuts to housing jobs and this summer they protested to bring back Bear Buses. Their actions brought on retaliation from the university, with several OUSWC members losing their housing jobs following last March's protest. E-Board members say they shared concerns about university cuts, but disagreed over OUSWC's tactics. **Story continued on page 5.**

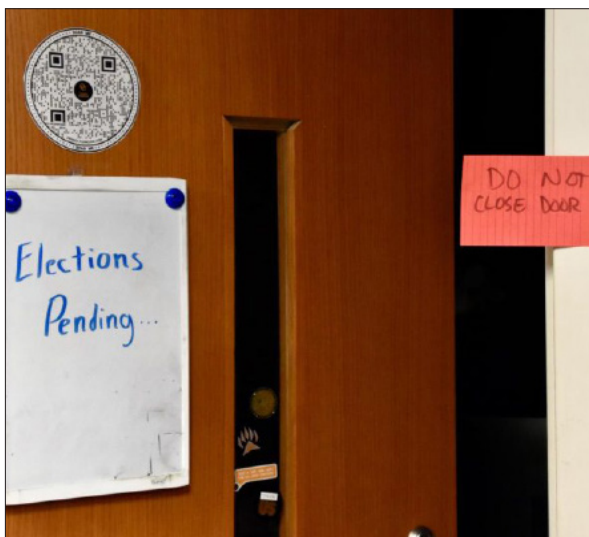


PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
A look at empty offices inside of OUSC's office. With all the recent turnover and special elections coming soon, the space will be seeing some new faces.

“The election was a lot closer than it normally is. And I think I would attribute a lot of that to conflicts over [OUSWC],” Bradley said. “... At the Vice President’s debate, a question was asked about [OUSWC] and [Jankowski] expressed that she was unsure about some parts of it ... that sparked a huge conflict. Most of the rest of the election was centered around people arguing that because of that [Jankowski] wasn’t supporting workers and more generally, that she wasn’t supporting students. In my view, that tension has never been relieved.”

Jankowski’s exact statement in the debate was, “While I do understand the grievances, and I do very much agree with them, I think that there are other ways to go about addressing them.” She also expressed concerns about misinformation in OUSWC’s communications about the issues. Perhogan/Jankowski went on to win the election by 24 votes.

From that point on, there was a clear divide in OUSC between E-Board members skeptical of OUSWC and Legislators, many of whom were involved in OUSWC protests. Of those involved, tension was particularly high between Tolbert and Perhogan/Jankowski.

As Legislative Affairs Director, Tolbert acts as a liaison between the E-Board and Legislators. According to Tolbert, conflict between her and Jankowski put a strain on her ability to perform her responsibilities.

“I believe [the issues were] between [Jankowski] and I ... [Perhogan] and I just never really talked,” Tolbert said. “... [Jankowski] started being hostile towards me ... because she chaired all of the meetings as Vice President, she would just be hostile towards me. Like she would say my name in a rude way ... she would cut me off.”

The Post reached out to Jankowski with an interview request last week. She never responded.

Issues between Tolbert and Jankowski spread through the rest of OUSC. Given the circumstances, tension between leadership and being denied pay, Legislators were generally suspicious of and felt disrespected by the E-Board. Their suspicions were confirmed when screenshots of the E-Board Slack group chat revealed E-Board members were openly mocking Legislators during an OUSC meeting on July 26. Uncomfortable with what was being said by members of the E-Board, Farooqi effectively became the whistleblower, sharing screenshots of the chat with Legislators.

“I was in shock ... I would never expect [E-Board members] to get like this,” Farooqi said. “... I didn’t realize they hated [Legislators] that much ... I knew they didn’t like each other ... I didn’t realize it was that intense.”

The messages in Slack were unprofessional, but nothing egregious. Romano was mocked for trying to enforce rules by Bradley. Jankowski said she was annoyed and that Legislators were wasting time.

“There was some gossip and venting in the [E-Board] channel. Some of us were frustrated by some of the legislators, and we were talking to each other about that,” Bradley said. “Then one of the [E-Board] members shared that with a Legislator, they were understandably upset.”

This event significantly escalated tension between the sides. That night, once word got out that Legislators knew what was said during the meeting, Perhogan deleted their Slack and sent out an email to everyone in OUSC that group chats were banned.

In that email thread Perhogan justified deleting the Slack by saying that “Too many people have gotten hurt and disrespected.” Johnson responded by asking for details about specific instances that would warrant the deletion saying, “This seems out of the blue and very confusing.” Perhogan responded by saying that she couldn’t reveal specifics without violating people’s privacy. She reiterated that, “There have been many hurtful discussions/chats, gossip, disrespect, harassment, and bullying.”

This explanation was polarizing, with different

individual’s interpretations of the event depending heavily on what side of the conflict they were on. Former E-Board members support Perhogan’s explanation that the Slack was used inappropriately by both sides and the deletion was necessary to prevent further toxic interactions. Legislators acknowledge taking part in heated discussions, but say those discussions were always related to work, while comments from E-Board members crossed the line and became personal. Legislators feel that the motivation for deleting the Slack was to destroy evidence. Ultimately, few screenshots of the chat exist and it’s impossible to confirm the exact nature of all that went on.

E-Board members also felt that their privacy had been violated by the screenshots. While the conversation was certainly not intended for everyone to see, the Slack in which the screenshots were captured from was designed specifically for OUSC. OUSC is a transparent student organization at a public university. Any forms of bullying, harassment, etc. between OU students are still considered an OU issue regardless of whether they happen in private.

An emergency E-Board meeting was held via Google Meet on July 27 to address the situation and to try and out whoever had shared the screenshots. Presumably through process of elimination, Farooqi was suspected, though E-Board members never quite confirmed it was her. According to Farooqi, during that meeting Perhogan insisted all E-Board members keep their cameras on and questioned members about what had happened.

“[Perhogan] literally opened [the meeting] being like, ‘so somebody took screenshots of our E-Board chat yesterday during the meeting,’” Farooqi said. “[Saying] that [their messages were] personal information that was shared without consent. And so when they were using words like personal information and consent, that scared me ... they suspected that I told people.”

Following that meeting, Farooqi was essentially othered by the E-Board. In a process she refers to as “the great shunning,” other members of the E-Board started giving her the cold shoulder. This increased tension in the office and ultimately led to Farooqi being excluded from certain E-Board activities.

“[They were] acting like I’m the one that caused the problem,” Farooqi said. “... Acting as if saying ... mean things to Legislators on the chat, as long as if I hadn’t leaked it, nothing bad would have happened. ... [My feeling was] you’re not helping the problem by still saying stuff like that on the chat. You’re still fostering all the tension and negativity and hostility, even if you’re saying stuff behind people’s backs. That’s not trying to move towards the solution if you’re continuing to say things behind people’s backs.”

Tensions continued to escalate in August as OUSC began preparing for the fall semester and the return of students to campus. In what some E-Board members saw as an abuse of power, Legislators used the Slack incident along with other perceived breaches of power to justify a push for the removal of E-Board members.

“Their response to [the Slack incident] was to immediately demand resignation or removal of anyone who had said anything during that conversation. And to write a bill that would reduce the hours of those individuals until they had resigned or been removed,” Bradley said. “They started just refusing to communicate with us in any way outside of general body meetings. What I believe was the appropriate way to go about that would be to set up a meeting with our advisors and show them the screenshots and then let the advisors handle it.”

In student organizations, advisors exist exactly for the purpose of resolving issues between students and making sure the organization functions. However, due in part to OUSC’s design, there is an inequity between the relationship Legislators and E-Board members have with the organization’s advisors. Advisors meet more

regularly with E-Board and therefore are more likely to foster closer working relationships. Legislators perceived Advisors Miller and Jessie Hurse as being totally on the side of the E-Board and weren’t going to ask them for help.

“[If I were a Legislator] having problems with [Jankowski] and [Perhogan] I would never be like, ‘Yeah, let me talk to [Miller] and [Hurse],’ because they always sided with them at meetings,” Farooqi said. “... If it was me, I wouldn’t go to them and expect them to help me out.”

The Post reached out to Hurse with an interview request last week. He did not respond.

In early August, Miller tried to defuse the tension and get Legislators to fall in line by saying during a meeting that the continued conflict was having an adverse effect on E-Board member’s mental health. Ultimately, mental health concerns were a common thread in the E-Board resignation letters that were to come.

Amid all the Slack drama, Legislators renewed their push for compensation and had some success once it was obvious that a strike including their refusal to pass a fall budget was possible. Before the end of the summer semesters, some Legislators received one paycheck. According to former Director of Financial Affairs Ethan Bradley, approximate summer salaries were \$16,291 total combined for all E-Board members and \$473 total for all Legislators.

\$473 total was not enough to pacify Legislators and the strike occurred. A fall budget was not passed and the semester began without most of the organization being able to receive compensation. Articles of Impeachment were brought against Perhogan and Jankowski and the E-Board exodus ensued.

OUSC’s procedures for impeachment don’t allow for much agency from E-Board members once articles of impeachment are filed against them. The Judiciary Chair is impartial in theory, but current Chair Romano has been firmly on the side of Legislators throughout the conflict. While Perhogan and Jankowski could have appealed if their impeachment had gone through, had their case heard by a body of students not involved in OUSC and been reinstated, there was a lack of faith from E-Board members in the impartiality of that process. Based on how the summer had gone, the feeling among those who resigned was that if they didn’t resign they’d be impeached sooner or later.

On Sept. 13, Vice President Jankowski resigned minutes before her impeachment hearing and Director of Student Services Bailee Gierman resigned. On Sept. 16, Director of Financial Affairs Ethan Bradley and Director of Sustainability Mallory Kean resigned. On Sept. 20, President Perhogan resigned minutes before her impeachment hearing and Director of Marketing Jada Fletcher resigned.

The organization now moves forward under the leadership of the Legislators. While their united vision for leadership could in theory be better for OUSC than all the conflict that happened this summer, still members of OUSC with years of governing experience were forced out due to these conflicts not being resolved. The experience has left a bad taste in the mouths of former E-Board members who were caught in the crossfire of this struggle over compensation.

“I don’t think everything should fall on a 22-year-old [Perhogan’s] shoulders,” former Director of Sustainability Mallory Kean said. “The advisors watched this happen and they let this happen ... Advisors stood back and watched and they essentially left [Perhogan] and [Jankowski] to struggle on their own ... the advisor’s job is to step in and help if something like that happens and they did not do that.”

SPB hosts movie night to relieve student stress

RACHEL YIM

Senior Reporter

On Wednesday Sept. 29, Oakland University's Student Program Board (SPB) hosted a fun, getaway event by Elliott Tower for students to relieve their stress and anxiety from academics: movie night.

As the first-time premiere event, movie night presented "Monster's University" — projected on a large projection screen outside. By hosting the event for three consecutive years with a positive return and evaluation, the SPB hopes to turn the movie night into an annual event.

"The night was a success," Joshua Robinson, president of the SPB said. "The event went excellent, especially as we navigate this uncertain period of transition involving reduced COVID-19 restrictions."

To follow the university's guidelines for COVID-19, SPB made sure all 178 students that attended the event maintained their distance from each other, but still enjoyed the night.

Two students — Ashlyn Foreman and Julia Lake, both juniors at OU — shared their experience from the night:

How was the movie night?

Foreman: "The night was a lot of fun. I went with one of my friends and the movie was very fitting

and cute to be shown on campus. The snacks were also an added bonus."

Lake: "The night was a perfect way to come back to the normal fall semester. I went with my friends and it was so nice to be outside while watching a movie. SPB provided awesome snacks."

What does it feel like to be able to have in-person events you weren't able to due to COVID-19?

Foreman: "It's nice to have in-person events again. With this one [the movie] being outside, it was able to be distanced but was also so nice to be able to see other students again. It gave the sense of community that seemed to be missing with the online classes and no events."

Lake: "Having this event in person and outside felt like normal. It was extremely pleasing to see so many people attend and not have to worry. It felt as if almost everyone needed that, or wanted it to feel like how it was before COVID-19."

According to Robinson, the upcoming ticketed trips include the Lions game on Oct. 17 and a HalloWeekend trip to Cedar Point on Oct. 30, both with transportation. The cost for the Lions game is \$30, while that of the HalloWeekend is \$40. Tickets for both trips are currently on sale at the Office for Student Involvement (OSI).

For more information about upcoming events or

to RSVP, visit the OSI website or SPB website.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
Student Program Board (SPB) hosting "Movie Night on the Lawn" featuring "Monster's University."

CAIR facilitates international students' experiences

RACHEL YIM

Senior Reporter

Host families play an important role in shaping the experience of an international student. The CAIR program (Creating American-International Relationships) at Oakland University facilitates these relationships.

Started by Petra Knoche, international adviser with the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) along with her graduate assistant from Pakistan, the program offers an opportunity for international students to be matched with local students and their families for friendship, conversation and cultural exchange. These students are matched through CAIR and enjoy family meals, celebrations and activities with their CAIR partner (OU faculty, staff or community families).

As an international adviser, Knoche mainly advises international students and scholars on their Visa requirements, what their responsibilities are once they arrive on campus, authorizing their employment, helping assimilate to American culture and planning social activities for them.

Coming from the Czech Republic as a 19-year-old international student athlete, Knoche expressed her gratitude for her host family and her first memories she made with the family in the U.S.

"I was very fortunate I had an American Host Family I was able to live with, drive to school with, practice my English with, eat meals with and learn about American culture daily through little interactions or deeper conversations," Knoche said.

The moment she realized the urgency of such a program was when she found out that some

international student at OU are often randomly put in on-campus housing with people who may not appreciate their international background.

"When I would meet with students who were ready to graduate it became eye opening for me to hear that they have not met an American friend or were ever invited to an American dinner, celebration such as Halloween, Thanksgiving etc.," she said. "They were not able to share and educate the people around them about their culture, beliefs, family traditions or their holidays and meals."

Knoche shared a response from one of the international students:

"I am from India and have been an international student myself and understand what it means to be in some other country away from family and friends and how settling in a new place is not easy. I lived in India for about 6 months as a volunteer and love to study other cultures. I took Spanish for 8 years so I know a small amount. In general, I love to lend a helping hand. I am fluent in German and have lived in Germany before. I have been to many countries in Europe and am always open to new cultures and experiences. I would consider myself to be a very inclusive person and think programs like this one are outstanding and amazing for every participant."

In an effort to introduce the students, ISSO recently hosted a welcome event on Friday, Sept. 24 at the Auburn Hills Christian Center, where 50 students and hosts gathered to build new relationships.

Currently, there are 30 students signed up this year for the program and 25 newly signed up OU faculty and staff to serve as hosts for these students. For those who are interested in signing up to be a host, fill out the online form.

ISSO plans to host a Halloween party on Friday, Oct. 29, a Thanksgiving event on Nov. 17, and a variety of Holiday activities after finals in December. They also have Coffee Hours for anyone to attend. There are free pastries and coffee/tea at each of the coffee hours.

"I can't tell you how many times over the years the hosts came up to me thanking me that it was the best experience and they were the one benefiting from it," she said.

To learn more about the CAIR program, watch the CAIR video or visit the ISSO website.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PETRA KNOCHE
International students partake in activities at the CAIR program Welcome Event.

La Pittura alumni art exhibition in Oakland Center

SARAH GUDENAU

Features Editor

The 2021 La Pittura art exhibition — organized by Oakland University’s Art and Art History Organization — is on display in the lower level of the Oakland Center (OC) until Sunday, Oct. 24. The gallery features 18 total works of art from 13 OU alumni undergraduate artists and graphic designers.

The exhibit will be ongoing for an entire month, having had its opening night on Sept. 24 in the Oakland Center’s Habitat Room. The work is from studio arts thesis classes from the winter 2020, fall 2021 and winter 2021 semesters — students who were unable to have a physical exhibition due to the pandemic, which is reflected in the 2021 exhibit’s title “Thank You for Holding.”

“La Pittura chose this clever name, which is what you often hear after being placed on hold during a telephone call,” said John Corso-Esquivel, associate professor of art history at Davidson College and the critic who juried the exhibit. “In this case, the studio art majors were placed on hold in a way, since their in-person thesis exhibitions were cancelled because of COVID. While they had to hold on to exhibit their work, they ultimately were able to show in an excellent group show at the OC.”

While the show’s title unites the artwork into one category, “the art itself did not have a theme,” said

Hannah Rae, a spring 2021 graduate who double majored in studio art and art history. Rae was also the former president of La Pittura up until winter 2021. She and her classmates had worked hard to revitalize the club in fall of 2021, after it had fallen apart in 2016.

Students decided the themes of their artwork, each unique to their individual passions. For example, Rae’s piece titled “Reaching for the Unattainable” was a self-portrait. In the colored pencil on paper piece, Rae is reaching upward, representing personal escapism.

“[In the piece] I connect my reflections of a quarantine world and my outlet to escape traumatic reality,” Rae said. “Reaching for the fantastic worlds that we find in books, movies and video games but never quite being able to grasp it as we are stuck on the ground in our reality.”

Another 2021 studio art graduate Andrea Jones had two oil paintings featured, “The Firstborn” and “The Burden of Gaia” — both with personal meanings. “The Firstborn” is a painting of Jones, her mother and her grandmother, the firstborn children in the last three generations of their family.

“The Burden of Gaia” also relates to Jones’ family, as well as the other people who “unfortunately, have uterus, with all the complications that that entails,” Jones said. The piece centers on a person laying in the middle of a yellow background draped in roses.

“I titled it ‘The Burden of Gaia’ but I don’t want it to be sort of alienating,” Jones said. “Not every

woman has a period and not everyone who has a period is a woman.”

Normally, jurying would have occurred in-person, but due to the pandemic, Professor Corso-Esquivel juried the show based on digital images.

“I grouped the artworks together in many different configurations, looking for combinations of work that would speak to each other,” Professor Corso-Esquivel said. “The works that I finally selected all could ‘speak’ to each other.”



PHOTO BY AYMAN ISHIMWE

Artist Julianne Webb’s paintings “Diptych for the Current Times: ‘Era of COVID-19 & Civil Unrest in America’ and ‘Self Care Strategies’” featured in the La Pittura art exhibition. The gallery will be open in the Oakland Center until Oct. 24.

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VOLLEYBALL DEFEATS RIVAL PFW

Long standing rival — the Purdue Fort Wayne (PFW) volleyball team — put up a tough battle in an attempt to win while visiting Grizzly territory on Tuesday, Sept. 28.

PFW gave a good competition for set wins — the first two sets were nail biters. OU won set one 27-25. The second set was just as close, but OU lost 25-22. Set three and four were steep wins, with OU pulling out on top in a close set five with a 15-13 win.

The theme for the game was a crayon drive — the crayons get donated to local hospitals. Coloring is a great therapy for children to use while recovering to improve their mood and

cope with what they are going through, and there are often crayon shortages in hospitals — as children who color with the crayons can not reuse them due to health risks. Unfortunately, they could reinfect themselves from the old bacteria they had when they were sicker, resulting in them staying sick longer.

Those who donated crayons were entered into a raffle drawing for a prize basket containing an Oakland University scarf, notebook, coffee mug, water bottle, pom pom and stuffed teddy bear.

In a postgame interview with Head Coach Rob Beam, he reflected on the game and their opponents.

“The longest standing rivalry we have here with Oakland volleyball is with PFW, and I always expect a tight match,” Beam said. “Plus, in the winter season, they beat us twice with largely the same roster.”

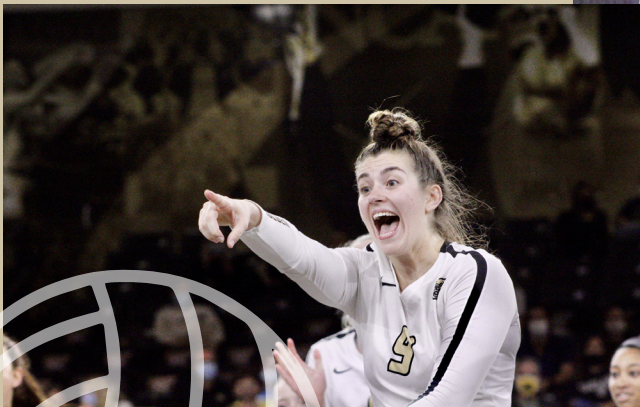
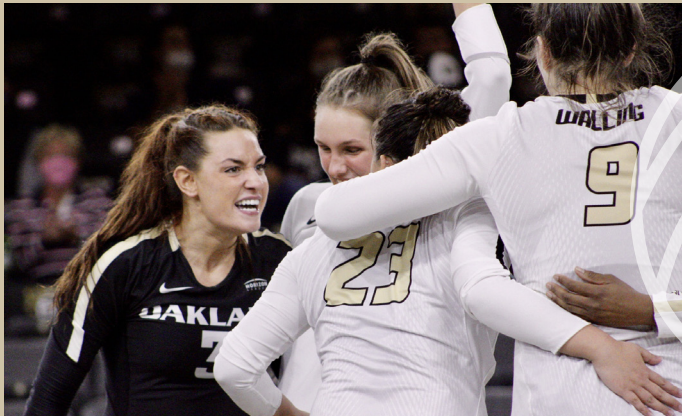
Senior Kerra Cornist had an especially exceptional game — totalling 14 kills and a .435 hitting percentage, a career high. Annabelle Tomei had 29 assists and 16 digs. OU had 85 digs through the duration of the game.

Beam was proud of how the players handled the pressure of the tight sets.

“I am proud of our student-athletes for their resiliency



PFW ON CRAYON DRIVE NIGHT



and making such a big change emotionally in set 4,” he said. “It is a [testament] to the quality of our team to find that under pressure.”

As far as communication and energy, Beam believed the team was able to find momentum.

“I thought we were flat for the first three sets, but that also has to do with how well PFW played. Once we found the right energy and were able to score some points with blocking and

serving, it gave us a lift,” he said.

Beam further explained about the team’s communication saying, “our team has put a large emphasis on communication and connection this season. You can see it in our huddles, there is eye contact and positive body language everywhere. This makes such a difference because it creates trust among the group and a sense that we are doing it together rather than as individuals.”

In regard to if the game was a surprise or expected, Beam complimented PFW’s team.

“Fort Wayne is a quality team with experienced coaches,” he said. “Their record coming in was more a reflection of the injuries and external factors that have affected winning and losing.”

Story by Brittany Kearfott
Design by Bridget Janis
Pictures by Sophie Hume

Jane Briggs-Bunting inducted into NFOIC's Open Government Hall of Fame

LAUREN REID

Content Editor

Known as The Oakland Post's "guardian angel," the late Jane Briggs-Bunting was inducted into the National Freedom of Information Coalition's (NFOIC) Open Government Hall of Fame on Sept. 30. Throughout her impressive and inspiring career — including positions as a journalist, professor, author and First Amendment attorney, among others — Jane advocated tirelessly for First Amendment rights, access to information and open government.

The NFOIC works to ensure "state and local governments and public institutions have laws, policies and procedures to facilitate press and public access to information and proceedings," according to their website. Jane was extremely passionate about access to information throughout her remarkable life and career.

The induction took place during the NFOIC's virtual FOI summit on Sept. 30. The Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who had long-term contributions to open government — which Jane sure did.

In 2012, Jane founded the Michigan Coalition for Open Government — which aims to educate citizens on their right to public information and to watchdog their governments.

As a journalist for The Detroit Free Press, Life Magazine and People Magazine throughout the 1970's and 80's, Jane covered some of the most talked about stories of the time — including Jimmy Hoffa's disappearance (with the Free Press) and the August 1987 crash of Flight 255 at Detroit Metro Airport.

There was only one survivor of Flight 255: a

four-year-old girl. Six months after the crash, Life Magazine wanted Jane to find the girl, which she did, but in accordance with the family's privacy wishes, Jane made the ethical decision to walk away — in the midst of what would have been one of the biggest stories of her life.

She was inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame in 2003.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COALITION
 Legendary OU professor and open government advocate, the late Jane Briggs-Bunting, was inducted into the National Freedom of Information Coalition's (NFOIC's) Open Government Hall of Fame, on Sept. 30.

"Jane [was] the most remarkable teacher I'd ever known," said Garry Gilbert, director of the journalism program at OU. "She was the advisor to the Post for 20 years, where students referred to her as 'guardian angel' — [but] she always preferred 'avenging angel.' [Jane] used her law degree, her intelligence and her loyalty on behalf of her students. She felt most loyal to her students and particularly to the Post."

On three separate occasions, Jane sued OU to get access to information she thought the Post needed, and the law required the school give.

"She wanted her students to understand — part of their job as journalists is to get information and open the doors to the information the government has," said Holly Gilbert, instructor of journalism and chief adviser of journalism and public relations. "Most citizens aren't inclined to pursue those things, so it's up to the media to make sure we have access to the things that really are ours. People don't think of it that way — but these are our reports, our information."

Senior Editor at The Detroit Free Press and a past student of Jane's, Ritu Sehgal, mentioned Jane recruited her to be managing editor at the Post and inspired her to attend law school.

"Jane lived what she preached," Sehgal said. "She taught students to have the courage to stand up for what's right, to not be afraid of challenging authority and to understand that while doing the right thing sometimes comes at a personal cost, it [is] important to have integrity. To hundreds of students around the country, she was someone from whom they learned life lessons that shaped who they became as they grew older."

People of OU: Actress, special lecturer Milica Govich

TORI COKER

Marketing Director

Growing up in the small steel town of Lorain, Ohio — Milica "Mila" Govich never saw her early involvement in school plays and church productions as something she could make a career out of. Today, she not only gets to embrace acting as her profession — she gets to educate others on the artform here at Oakland University.

Fresh out of college, Govich found herself in community theater, first entertaining a continued life within acting upon a friend's acceptance to grad school for the art. She went on to receive her MFA in Acting from Ohio University, before making the move to New York and taking the Broadway stage in a 1995 production of "Hello, Dolly!" starring Carol Channing.

Various roles in theatre, television and film followed, eventually giving way to remarkably big opportunities for the actress — such as her parts in large-scale films "The Fault in Our Stars" and "Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice."

"All those big ones are pretty exciting when you're on set with all these Hollywood people and these big-time [directors]," Govich said. "There's nothing like that — that's a real high, to be doing what you love to do."

Having done plenty of plays at Meadow Brook Theatre and elsewhere in Michigan over time, Govich's first brush with OU was during a 2004 on-campus audition. Motivated by a friend's recommendation that she try her hand at teaching, she stopped by Distinguished Professor of Theatre Karen Sheridan's office to throw her hat into the ring.

"[Sheridan] was there, and I dropped off my headshot and resume — which is what actors do, not teachers!" Govich said.

When offered a position the following summer, Govich happily accepted — and 17 years later, she's still thrilled to be a part of OU's community, making her mark on the School of Music, Theatre and Dance and instilling a love for acting in students across various classes. She even developed a class herself — Advanced Acting for the Camera — after many students expressed a desire for the class to be taught more frequently.

"Teaching is from the same well as my acting," she said. "It inspires me, and [the students] do good work. I love helping them find material, become better actors, and figure out how to navigate the business."

The relationships forged between Govich and her students tend to extend far beyond OU. She finds herself in frequent contact with former students in their individual film careers,

crediting projects she shares with them — such as the short film "Mel," produced by former student Collin Krick — as career highlights.

As someone who's spent much of her life in the very business she teaches, she hopes to impart wisdom she wishes she'd had herself to students. She reminds them to work their hardest from the outset to prevent valuable time from going by, whilst also encouraging them to cherish their non-professional lives and opportunities beyond the entertainment industry that they can fall back on.

Above all, perhaps, she hopes for genuine connection — a highly prioritized goal underscoring both her educational career as well as her one in entertainment.

"You hope that they can get inspired somehow, and you want them to connect with you personally," she said, explaining what she hopes is derived from her work in all its formats. "I think that's what I like as an actor — whatever humanity I find in a role, people walk away and they can relate to that, somehow."

With many of her recent classes having taken place synchronously over Zoom, Govich is returning to Michigan from Los Angeles the week of Oct. 11 for some in-person teaching, and looks forward to greeting faces familiar and new. Her latest acting credit is in the Showtime series "American Rust,"

starring Jeff Daniels and Maura Tierney — and her appearance in episode three is available to view on Showtime's website now.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MILICA GOVICH
 Actress and Special Lecturer in OU's School of Music, Theatre and Dance.



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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7 | 7 p.m.
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The Habitat, Oakland Center
Featuring “In the Heights”

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OU's Board of Trustees appointment process

TANNER TRAFELET

Senior Reporter

The most recent appointment of new members to Oakland University's Board of Trustees (BOT) came with Governor Gretchen Whitmer's 2020 appointment of Trina Scott and Reverend Joseph Jones to the board. These two new members of the board replaced Marianne Fey and Richard DeVore, who had reached the end of their eight year gubernatorial appointment.

OU's BOT is an eight-person governing body that directs the spending of OU's funds and acts as a general oversight body for the university. In addition to guiding the university's direction and spending, this governing body also appoints the university's president.

Article VII of the 1963 Constitution of the State of Michigan established the precedent for the existence of a BOT for a public college in OU's situation and set fundamental guidelines for the duties and responsibilities of the board. Established in 1957, OU is covered by this part of the state Constitution. However, OU is not explicitly named with its governing board's nature explained — as is the case for the University of Michigan (U-M), Wayne State University (WSU) and Michigan State University (MSU) — likely due to OU's small size at the time.

Section six of Article VII of the Constitution establishes a "board of control" for each

individual higher education institution outside of the three aforementioned colleges. This method of governance centers on the appointment of BOT members by the Governor of Michigan as allowed by the state Senate, which contrasts with the provisions for other colleges whose boards are elected by popular election.

The difference between having a BOT that is gubernatorial appointed and one that is popularly elected is quite meaningful when holding such governing bodies accountable. In response to the poor handling of the Larry Nassar sex abuse scandal by MSU's BOT in 2018, State Representative James Lower had proposed a bill that would change the method of selection for MSU, WSU and U-M's BOT from popular election to appointment by the governor as authorized by the state Senate.

Colleges such as MSU — and those others explicitly stated in Article VII of the Michigan constitution — had the candidates for their BOT selected by political parties prior to the proper election. According to Michigan Radio, Michigan is the only state in the United States that utilizes popular elections to select members of the BOT for public universities. This method of popular election is actually not recommended by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, which argues that gubernatorial appointment for the BOT forces candidates to be selected for their tangible skills and benefits that will be brought to their governing position with whatever university that they will serve.

In contrast to simply being charismatic and skilled at winning elections, appointments from the governor's office will need to have a marked benefit that is brought to the board of their prospective school to have a genuine chance of being selected by the governor. However, critics of the gubernatorial method assert that executive control allows the governor to reward political allies or financial donors with board positions.

In OU's case, the governor appoints the members of the BOT. From that, there is a clear line of responsibility to the governor and a clearer image of what political actions lead to the appointment of board members than with a popular election.



PHOTO BY AYMAN ISHIMWE
Chair of the Board of Trustees Robert Schostak at the most recent board formal session on Aug. 12, 2021.

Looking Back: College student goes on game show

BRIDGET JANIS

Managing Editor

College is a time to meet new people, learn new things and go broke in the process. Every college student wishes they could skip the whole thing and become a millionaire.

On Aug. 27, 2000, Greg Hummel, an OU student at the time, wanted to make that dream a reality and appeared on the game show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?"

"I just figured, what the heck, sure I'll go on the show," Hummel said then. "I just wanted to see if I could win some money."

Hummel was a 21-year-old college student majoring in business management. He had high hopes of winning at least \$32,000, but ended up taking home \$1,000.

"Who Wants to be a Millionaire" is simple — contestants answer 15 trivia questions, and the questions get harder the further you get in the game. The goal is to move up the ladder, where each question is worth more money for the contestants.

The money each question is worth has gone up since 2000 and now, there are only 14 questions instead of 15. If Hummel would have competed in the game show today, he would have received \$5,000. Hummel got past the first checkpoint at question five, which was worth \$1,000 at the time but now the checkpoint is worth \$5,000.

The checkpoints back then were — at question five: \$1,000, at question 10: \$32,000 and at

question 15: \$1,000,000. Now, the checkpoints are at question five: \$5,000, at question 10: \$50,000 and at question 14: \$1,000,000.

Hummel ended up losing on question seven, which only passed the first checkpoint. He went home with \$1,000.

"It was exciting, but I was most nervous in the studio," Hummel said then. "[There] were a ton of people in the audience. I wasn't even thinking about the people at home."

The contestants receive three lifelines to help them throughout the game if they want. They can choose to remove two answers, ask the audience or ask the plus one they brought to the show. This can help the contestants a lot, and Hummel actually ended up using those lifelines.

The trivia question that caused Hummel to go home was about geography. He ended up using a lifeline and calling up his mom's boyfriend. The question? Which country was the smallest: Australia, Europe, Antarctica or Asia.

Hummel locked in his final answer as Europe, like his mom's boyfriend suggested, but the correct answer was Australia.

"I have to look on the bright side, you know," Hummel said then. "It could be worse, I could've not gotten in the 'hot seat' at all."

The game show is still running to this day on ABC, and along with shifts in the prices of questions, the game has gone through a couple hosts. At the time, the host was Regis Philbin. Now, Jimmy Kimmel is the host and the show is on season 22.

Hummel was known to be a big fan of Philbin and

was excited to meet him.

"I was excited to meet him, and a little nervous too," Hummel said then. "But he was really nice both on and off camera."

Hummel may not have went home with the big prize, but he did win something on the game show — going home \$1,000 richer. That's more than most college students could say.

This article was written using The Oakland Post's archives. These archives are available to the campus community via the library in the front of The Oakland Post's office.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES
Regis Philbin (pictured here) hosted "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" circa 2000.

HPV and Oropharyngeal Cancer

GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH
Campus Editor

Human papilloma virus (HPV) is a large group of related viruses spread through skin-to-skin contact. It is the most commonly transmitted sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the United States, and nearly everyone will get HPV at some point in their lives, according to the CDC. HPV is primarily asymptomatic, so most people don't even know they were exposed or infected.

While most HPV infections are cleared in the body on their own without treatment and no residing (residual?) health problems, some can cause genital warts (caused by low-risk HPV strains) or more serious conditions like cancer (high-risk HPV strain not resolved by the immune system). It can take decades before HPV develops into cancer. It is important to point out that the majority of HPV infections—low-risk or high-risk—do not develop into cancer, but that does not mean one shouldn't take precautionary measures and undergo necessary screening.

The subject of this week's column, in particular, is the high-risk strain HPV 16, a subtype of HPV most responsible for oropharyngeal cancers. HPV 16 is thought to cause more than 70% of oropharyngeal cancers in the United States. I spoke to Dr. Marvin Jabero, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon and editor of The Livingston Dental Journal, about the virus and preventive measures one can take to protect against HPV.

According to Dr. Jabero, oropharyngeal cancer is cancer of the oral cavity. "You're dealing with the inside of your cheeks, your tongue, your palate, and as you go down the base of the tongue, the back portion of the throat—where your tonsils are located, your soft palate is located—all of that comprises your oropharyngeal pathway," Jabero detailed.

"To this day, there's no real correlation on why or who's getting it, we just know that it's pretty prevalent," Jabero noted. "It's very interesting that something like this can be so high-risk and be so deadly and patients can't really be screened for it or know that they have it."

Currently, there is no test available to test for oral HPV. However, dentists and physicians should look for lesions and palpate the neck during cancer screenings to look for HPV-related cancer as well as other medical conditions.

"Most dental examinations and primary care doctor examinations

should always include palpating the neck for lymph nodes," Jabero emphasized.

For those from the age of 11-12 to 26, there are HPV vaccines that protect against infection and cancer.

"It's [HPV vaccine] there to help minimize the spread and minimize the risk of both getting the virus and the virus staying dormant and developing into a cancer much later in life."

When asked if college students who have not yet been vaccinated against HPV should get the vaccine, Jabero said, "First and foremost, discussing it with your healthcare provider is the first step in making sure it's something that is appropriate for you. But generally yes, especially for those that are sexually active, it puts you at greater risk."

Dr. Jabero also underscored minimizing the number of sexual partners and using protection such as condoms, but noted that any area of the skin that is uncovered is at risk for exposure.

"Being safe is your first priority and then obviously discussing vaccination with your primary care provider would be just as important," Jabero said.

For more information about HPV and oropharyngeal cancers, take a look at the following resources:

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancer-causes/infectious-agents/hpv/hpv-and-cancer-info.html>

https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/hpv/basic_info/hpv_oropharyngeal.htm

Regarding accessing HPV vaccines, take a look at the following resource:

<https://www.oakgov.com/health/services/disease-prevention/immunizations/Pages/cost-schedule.aspx>

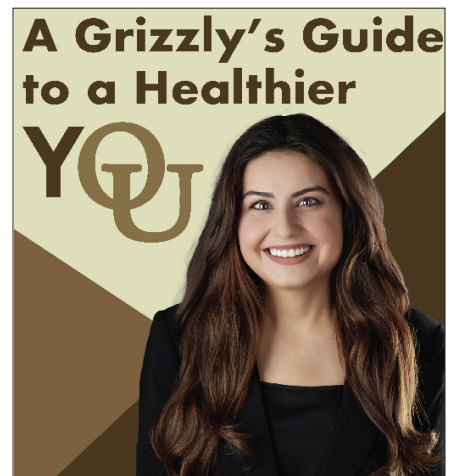


PHOTO COURTESY OF G. ABDELMESSIH
Gabrielle Abdelmessih, Campus Editor of The Oakland Post.

'Defy the Night': an iconic example of world-building

D'JUANNA LESTER
Senior Reporter

In a previous article "Fall 2021 Anticipated YA Book Releases," I listed "Defy the Night" by young adult (YA) fantasy author Brigid Kemmerer as an anticipated September release. The book has been out for a few weeks now, and this page-turner will surely have fantasy fans eager to read!

This first book in Kemmerer's new fantasy duology kicks off with introducing us to main characters Tessa Cade and her Robin Hood-like best friend and fellow orphan Weston "Wes" Lark. Readers are sure to fall in love with these characters, and the dynamic between the two throughout the book will have readers hooked until the very last page.

Cade's point of view (POV) isn't the singular narrative that we get in this book. The book is split into two POVs, Tessa's and Corrick's. Corrick is the rugged, scarred prince and King's Justice. The first few chapters set the perfect stage for the story. We're introduced to many characters that will play important roles throughout the book, and hopefully, the anticipated sequel.

Kemmerer's beautiful storytelling is so unique, and a big part of what makes her such a beloved writer is her characters. If you enjoyed Harper from "A Curse so Dark and Lonely," you will definitely enjoy Cade. Cade is an apothecary in the Wilds, and has been working with Lark since the assassination of her parents. She is strong-willed and brave, much like Prince Corrick. Throughout the book, we see this tough, hard-shelled character grow softer and more humane.

We also get interesting characters like King Harriston — Prince Corrick's eldest brother — as well as the consuls of Kandala. There are also the mysterious Benefactors, who are thought of as the motivators behind the impending revolution.

Besides the intriguing characters, the story follows a compelling plot with twists and suspense that will have readers on the edge of their seats right up until the very end. The plot follows Cade and Lark, as every night, the pair sneak into the Royal Sector to steal the Moonflower petals — the only known cure for the rapidly spreading disease.

The POVs of Prince Corrick go into depth about the political court of Kandala. When Cade ends up working for the king, we see the dynamics between the characters shift. We also see the conflict between the royals and the consuls come to a head when the book reaches the climax. Consul Alisander and Prince Corrick have an interesting dynamic that had me invested, especially when the steps of an incoming revolution are being carried out by the rebels.

Every great first book in a series needs outstanding world-building — it sets the stage for the rest of the series. It establishes characters, the main story and the setting. If readers can't understand where the story takes place, then the world-building isn't that great. Kemmerer's world-building is amazing in this story — you can picture the world in your head like watching a movie. It's a beautifully established world that's fun to follow with political intrigue, twists and character that will tug at your heartstrings.

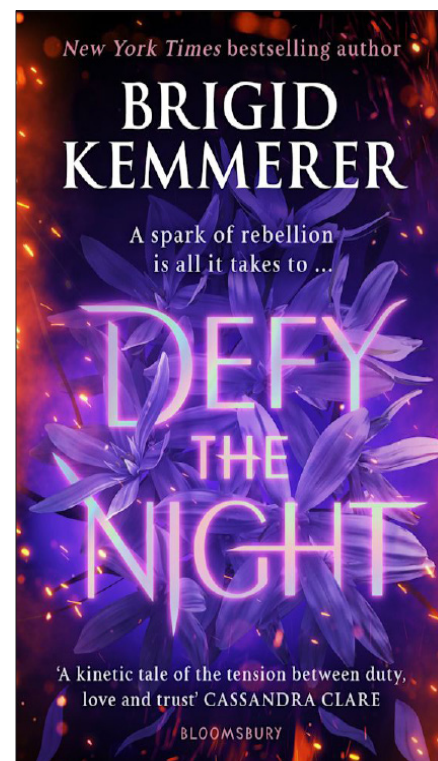


PHOTO COURTESY OF BLOOMSBURY PUBLISHING

Author Brigid Kemmerer's new young adult book "Defy the Night" was released on Sept. 14. The page-turner will surely have fantasy fans eager to read.

It's time for OU to expand their athletic facilities

BRITTANY KEARFOTT

Sports Reporter

Men and women's soccer, basketball, women's volleyball and men's baseball are all Division I sports at Oakland University. This means we compete in the same division as schools like University of Michigan (U of M), Michigan State University (MSU), University of Alabama and more.

Those are some big shoes to fill when you compare a smaller school like OU to schools as big as those mentioned. Some points of the division between the level of DI schools are the facilities, student body and campus life.

For reference, as of fall 2020, OU had a student population of 15,100. U of M had 31,329, MSU had 38,491 and University of Alabama had 37,842. U of M, MSU and Alabama all had enrollment of at least double to what Oakland University experienced.

OU wants a bigger fan base and better fan experience. Outside of basketball and the O'Rena, the facilities are lacking. There is nothing but a scoreboard and portable speaker making the audio subpar at best. The schools we are striving to compete against for a fan base, however, have big screens and surround sound audio with speakers throughout the stadium.

Oakland University averages anywhere from 100-3,000 fans depending on the sport and weather — the O'Rena holds 4,000 fans. Their highest fan attendance is during basketball season, with the average attendance being 2,794 in the O'Rena.

So, the O'Rena can't even hold the entire undergraduate student body. How are we supposed to get fans and students to come if not even half the student body will fit?

Based off solely basketball, U of M holds 12,707 at the Crisler Center — with their average attendance at 12,463, while MSU's Breslin Center holds 14,797 with their average attendance at max capacity. Both of these venues can hold almost half the student body, and also six to seven times the amount of fans the O'Rena can inhabit.

The OU campus community and camaraderie has an effect on the attendance and money received from the community to put back into the programs. OU is

primarily a commuter school, meaning it has to entice those off campus to want to come back — to or stay on campus longer to attend games. Low attendance comes from advertising, getting the word out and the sense of community among the overall university.

Additionally, out of the 15,100 undergraduate students at OU, only 1,661 live in on-campus housing, which means the school has to make the other 13,000+ aware of the events going on. Realistically, most students just don't know about half of the events that go on at OU due to a lack of advertising or other issues.

Without a sense of campus community, OU will get no attendance and therefore no money to put back into programs. The best way to increase ticket sales, season pass holders and fan attendance is to focus on how to make the student body come together for a better campus experience. If we can get that, the student body will have as much of a fan base and following as schools like U of M, MSU and Alabama.

This starts with making everyone on campus aware of what events are going on, improving audio (along with the visual and audio experience at games) and improving campus life.

Oakland University currently has no plans to add to their athletics programs nor facilities. However the expansion, renovation, and addition of buildings and parking garages have proceeded. Varner Hall, Wilson Hall and South Foundation are the current projects slated to get underway.

If OU wants a more impactful fanbase, when will it be Athletics' turn for expansions, additions or renovations?



PHOTO BY AMELIA OSADCHUK
The Golden Grizzly logo on the side of the GrizzDome.

Swimming and Diving prepares for new season

CHRISTIAN TATE

Sports Reporter

With the commencement of the annual Black and Gold Intrasquad Meet, the Golden Grizzlies Swimming and Diving teams have opened the doors to a new season full of possibilities.

Last season, the men and women's teams claimed their 43rd and 27th consecutive league titles during the Horizon League Championships, respectively. Now, for this upcoming season, Head Coach Pete Hovland returns to the pool with a roster full of depth and ready to repeat the same feat.

For the men's roster, the reigning and defending Horizon League Athlete of the Year and Swimmer of the Meet, Christian Bart, will be returning to the pool to try and compete for their 44th consecutive Horizon League title. For the women's team, they have returning All-American and Horizon League Athlete of the Year Susan LaGrand and the reigning Horizon League Freshman of the Year, Ronja Riihinen.

Although both newcomers and returning players posted stellar times across the board during the Black and Gold meet, the evenly-matched meet ended in a win for the men and women's Gold team, as they defeated the Black squad with a final score of 45-43.

After this thirteen event meet, the Golden Grizzlies will look ahead and start the season by taking on the Michigan Wolverines at noon in Ann Arbor on Oct. 9. The Golden Grizzlies have only competed against the Wolverines once, back in 2009, and hope to avenge that one loss given to them with a stellar performance this season.

The Golden Grizzlies will then look to break the tie held between them and the University of Toledo, before welcoming Xavier University into

the pool for the first time. After falling off against Toledo and Xavier, the Golden Grizzlies will travel to Pittsburgh to face off in two back-to-back meets against Duquesne University, a university over which the Golden Grizzlies hold a unbeaten record at 3-0.

After this, the Golden Grizzlies will host a string of first time matchups with Grand Valley State University on Nov. 5, the University of Illinois-Chicago on Nov. 6th, Eastern Michigan University on Nov. 12, and Miami University on Nov. 13., all before participating in the Zippy Invite in Akron, Ohio from Dec. 3 to Dec. 5.

After the Zippy Invite, the Golden Grizzlies will look to continue their run of dominance against Youngstown State University, where the Grizzlies sit with a 3-0 record all-time. The Grizzlies will then look forward to two first time meetings with Wayne State and Cleveland State before prepping for the USA Michigan Open in February.

The Golden Grizzlies will then look to continue their winning ways at the 2021 Horizon League Championships, taking place from Feb. 16 to Feb. 19 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The team will then travel from Indianapolis to Elkhart, Indiana, for the CSCAA National Invitational Championships from March 10-16 to finish up the season.

Head Coach Pete Hovland was not available for comment regarding the start of this season.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
The swimming and diving team practices ahead of the Black and Gold Intrasquad match.

Women's soccer extends winning streak

CHRISTIAN TATE
Sports Reporter

The Golden Grizzlies women's soccer team continue their run of dominance over the Horizon league as they took down the IUPUI Jaguars in a nailbiter of a victory.

From the start, every move made in this game carried a sort of pensive energy that threatened to burst out as each team looked to be the first one to score. There were lots of throw-ins to start the game, as there were many passes and kicks that found their way off the field.

For the first 15 minutes of the game, there were consistent rallies back and forth between both teams, as each pass made was met with a fiery defense. As both teams began to loosen up, the pace and aggression would only pick up.

The pace would pick up so much so that mistakes became seemingly unavoidable. There was a bit of miscommunication from both teams, as passes would occasionally miss their marks and find the feet of the opposing side.

Both teams would get it together, however, and give it their all in a breakneck sprint towards that potential first goal. The first ones to cross the finish line and capture that first goal would be the Golden Grizzlies when Sami Lopez would find a hole in the defense and score an absolutely electric goal to put the Grizzlies up 1-0.

All the energy that felt locked on the field minutes before the goal suddenly burst out, as IUPUI was put on the defensive and had to try and battle back from the deficit. With each and every collision, tackle and pass, IUPUI's desperation to score climbed and climbed.

The high-speed play mixed with the excitement on the field would lead to some daring encounters out there on the pitch. Vigorous tackles and passes that would find heads instead of feet became a mainstay of the game as IUPUI tried to find a way back into the game.

The passionate play, aggressive defense and tenacious offense would lead to an eventual goal for the Jaguars near the end of the half, despite the tight field coverage played by the Golden Grizzlies. Somehow finding a way through the suffocating defense, the Jaguars would look to take the lead after tying the game at one goal a piece.

The tied score would introduce a sense of tension into the game, as



PHOTO BY AMELIA OSADCHUK
Karabo Dhlamini takes a shot on goal against IUPUI on Saturday, Oct. 2.

each team felt the weight of the clock while time ticked away. The first half would end in a tie as neither team could find its way past the defense.

After halftime, the players would continue the pace set in the first half while committing less mistakes. The play on the pitch was calm and calculated as each team tried to break the tie. The Golden Grizzlies would get more aggressive as time went on, constantly pushing the attack to try and find a score.

Not to be left behind, the Jaguars would not join the pace as they desperately searched for openings in the defense. The energy on the field would turn into a fever pitch when Sophie Wilsey would score the eventual game-winning goal for the Golden Grizzlies with five minutes left to go.

The goal would put the Jaguars into survival mode as they tried to repeat their magic from the first half and make a play to get themselves back into the game with mere minutes left on the clock, but it was too late.

As the precious seconds dripped off of the clock, the Jaguars would go into a futile mad dash to try and tie the game up. Their efforts would ultimately go unrewarded, as the Golden Grizzlies would keep them at bay and secure the 2-1 victory, advancing their current winning streak to four.

The Golden Grizzlies will return to the pitch against Cleveland State University on Oct. 7 at the Oakland Soccer Field.

Women's golf places fifth in Golden Grizzlies Invitational

REECE TAYLOR
Sports Reporter

The Oakland University women's golf team placed fifth at the Golden Grizzlies Invitational on Sept. 26-27.

The Golden Grizzlies Invitational is a stroke play tournament at Oakland University's Katke-Cousins Golf Course that follows both individual and team play based on total score. Seven teams were represented with five players each. The course's par is 72.

The women's golf team, coached by two time Horizon League Coach of The Year Alyssa Gaudio-Guss, placed fifth out of seven teams found in its Horizon League Conference scoring +44, falling behind Central Michigan University and Eastern Michigan who tied for 1st at +24, Dayton at +41, and University of Detroit Mercy at +43. Oakland lead over Cleveland State at +61, and Purdue Fort Wayne at +62.

In round one of the two-day tournament, Oakland scored 304 points, led by Graduate student Vanessa Haque with 75. After round one, Oakland was in fourth place but fell to fifth in round two, being overtaken by Dayton and scoring 316 and a tournament total of 620. Oakland placed third in pars on the course behind Eastern and Central Michigan with 95 pars as a team compared to 104 and 98 respectively but finished second to last in Birdies with 15 in total.

Haque led the team with a tournament score of 149, which tied for third overall among players, though her efforts weren't enough to overtake Central Michigan, who took first place in both team and

individual scores. Oakland's Amalia Shahzan tied for 13th with an overall score of 154 and was second among Oakland Golden Grizzlies.

Central Michigan led all teams in Par 4 and 5 scoring and finished second in par 3 scoring, but is the only team to average under par, doing so on par 5 holes. Oakland University finished at 3 in par 3 scoring, fifth in par 4 scoring, but was second only to Central Michigan in par 5 holes.

Terrain was a factor during the tournament as four inches of rain and a steady rain the day before played into field conditions. All teams dealt with both the terrain and drying conditions as they adjusted their game plans.

Oakland, who last season finished third overall in the Horizon League, looks to bounce back at the Shirley Spork Invitational at Eastern Michigan on Oct. 4-5. The Women's Golf Team brings the right mix of experience and skill to rebound against their conference rivals on the road.

The Golden Grizzlies Invitational is Oakland's last home tournament until the Motor City Cup on February 6-7, 2022. Under Coach Gaudio, the women's team has broken records and taken second place in the Horizon League Championship Cup and entered the school's first NCAA regional tournament appearance.

With the next invitationals in Eastern Michigan followed by Charleston, Oakland University looks to regain its status and compete for the Horizon League once again. Led by Gaudio and Haque, competing is a reality for this talented women's golf team.



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
A member of Oakland University's women's golf team lines up for a putt on Monday, Sept. 27.

Volleyball star Lindsay Wightman continues family legacy

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL
Sports Editor

Before she stepped on campus at Oakland University, Lindsay Wightman knew the culture of the volleyball program was the right fit for her. What she didn't know was she would become one of the most decorated players in the history of the program.

"I knew the girls were competitive," Wightman said. "I feel blessed by the opportunity to play with each and every one of them."

Wightman, an integrated studies major with a minor in business, is the third member of the Wightman family to play volleyball for the Golden Grizzlies. Her mother, Traci, played from 1988-91 and her sister, Courtney, from 2016-18.

Wightman said while the family history was a factor, the main reason she chose to play at Oakland was academics.

"I saw pictures [of my mother playing] back when they were the Pioneers at Oakland," Wightman said. "But I did want to play with my sister in college. That was a big opportunity, and I'm glad I got to take advantage of

that, but the reason I chose Oakland is because of the academics. [Another] big reason is the team culture the volleyball program has. The family legacy is kind of a bonus for everything."

Wightman praised the team culture for its positivity and environment.

"It felt like a family," she said. The coaches, especially Rob [Beam] cares about every single one of us for who we

are as a person, not just as a volleyball player. And that stuck out to me because I feel like that's really something that doesn't come along very often."

Recently, Wightman broke the school record for most career digs in a game against Central Michigan. She said it meant a lot to her.

"When I was in the locker room at Michigan State, one of my teammates

told me that I broke the record during our game [against] Central Michigan," she said. "I ended up crying, and it just meant a lot to me because I was able to share that with everyone."

At the time of writing, the Golden Grizzlies are 3-1 in Horizon League play. Wightman said it is going to take "a team effort" to continue to be a force in the Horizon League this season.

Wightman said there wasn't any volleyball player in particular that she models her game after, adding that she plays the game her way.

"My coaches that I had during travel volleyball really inspired me to be the best teammate I can be, work hard and give it all I got."

After she graduates, Wightman plans on going into cosmetology school.

"I love cosmetology," she said. "And eventually I hope to open up my own salon and be able to do that. [It's something I'm] very passionate about."

In regard to the team's successful season, Wightman said "[we just have] to keep doing what we're doing — working hard and focusing on our health and treatment and nutrition and all that stuff. If we can keep that up, I think we'll be able to get that ring."

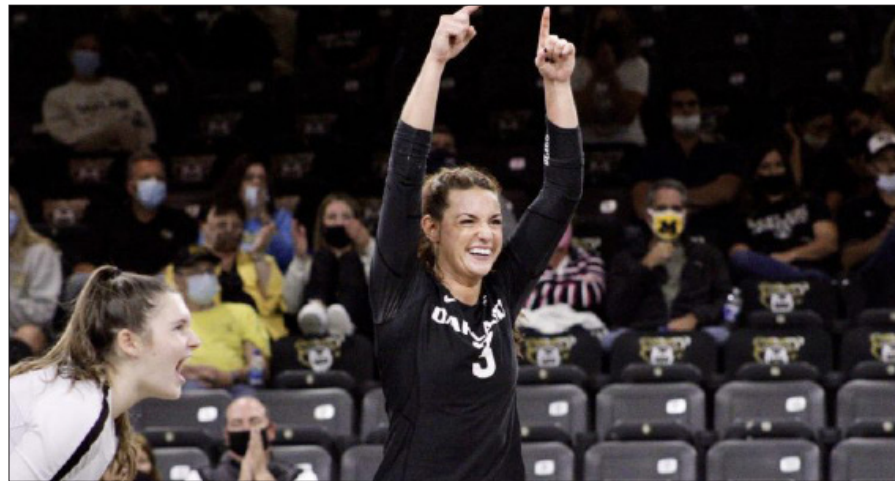


PHOTO BY SOPHIE HUME
Lindsay Wightman celebrates as her team gets a point.

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.

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