

Back to life

The story of a dying plant and what saved it from a familiar fate

PAGES
9-12

FAREWELL

CAS Dean announces his retirement

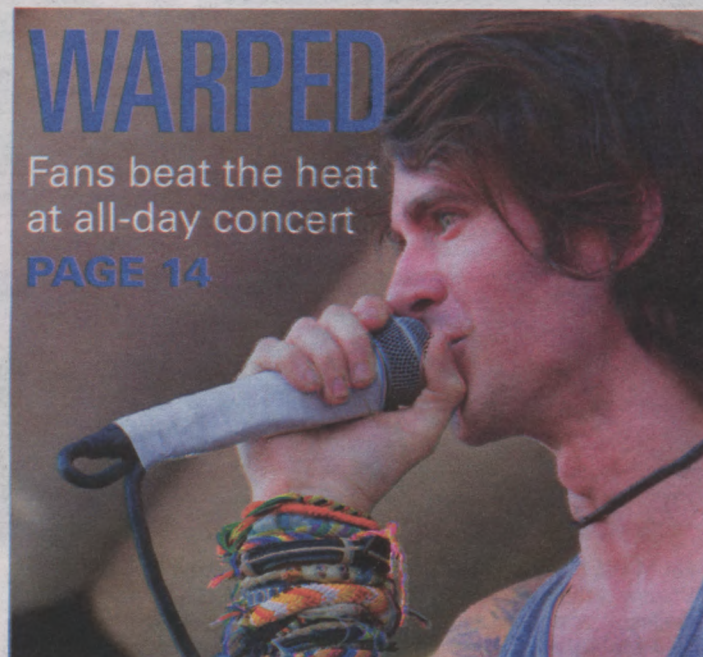
PAGE 6



WARPED

Fans beat the heat at all-day concert

PAGE 14



CAMPUS HOUSING OVERBOOKED FOR FALL SEMESTER

PAGE 7

LIFE STUDENTS SWEEP MISS MICHIGAN PAGEANT

PAGE 18

SPORTS OAKLAND SWIMMER VIES FOR OLYMPIC SPOT

PAGE 15

New website lists all of OU's free services

PAGE 13

Two interim vice provosts named

PAGE 6

thismonth

July 11, 2012 // Volume 38. Issue 33



ontheweb

Check out videos for the special section on the Lake Orion Assembly plant, which feature a step-by-step process for production.

www.oaklandpostonline.com



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

OOPS // Is it Meadowbrook or Meadow Brook? Well, it's 'Meadow Brook,' spelled with two words, according to Oakland University archives. The signs along Squirrel Road, however, like to tell otherwise. Meadow Brook Hall was recently named a national historical landmark. It was donated, along with 1,500 acres of property, Sunset Terrace and \$2 million to create the campus of Oakland University in 1957. *DYLAN DULBERG // The Oakland Post*

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

POLL OF THE WEEK

Which issue at the next Board of Trustees meeting concerns you the most?

- A** The 2012-13 budget
- B** On-campus housing shortage
- C** A potential AAUP lawsuit
- D** I am not concerned

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST MONTH'S POLL

How would you solve the marijuana debate?

- A) Make it legal**
19 votes | 35%
- B) Keep it illegal**
18 votes | 33%
- C) Make it only legal for medical reasons**
11 votes
- D) I don't care**
12 votes | 22%

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

JULY 14, 1961

Four buildings and an addition are added to the university, including the \$1.5 million Kresge Library, an addition to the Student Center, the first dorms and a science building.

JULY 27, 1962

The Board of Trustees voted to increase tuition by 16%, or \$22 a semester. For Michigan residents, tuition would now be \$163 a semester.

JULY 30, 1965

Intercollegiate basketball was endorsed. A faculty committee was established to review an athletic budget, the hiring of personnel for the athletics department, and to formulate rules and regulations.



8

FROM THE BOARD TO THE SCREEN
Utilizing technology, several OU students transformed a board game, called "The Realm of Agennul" into a thriving, multi-platform business.



14

GOLF, GRIZZLIES AND GIFTS
The annual 29th Golden Grizzlies Golf Classic returns. The tournament is open to teams and individuals, with all proceeds benefitting OU athletics.



19

WHAT'S IN YOUR OFFICE?
A new Life series explores the ins and outs of faculty offices. This month, President Russi explains the symbolism behind his decor and why his room colored blue.

BY THE NUMBERS
MEADOW BROOK HALL

110
rooms in Meadow Brook Hall

88,000
square feet

39
brick chimneys

70,000
visitors a year average

\$4
million spent to construct the Hall

Perspectives

STAFF EDITORIAL

Oakland University in flux

Oakland University as we know it is changing.

Even before starting the 2012-13 school year, the school has a hefty 'to-do' list to check off and many unsettled issues to resolve, including finalizing the university budget, finding a home for the 200 already displaced students who plan to live on campus next year and settling the American Association of University Professors contracts.

However, nothing is settled yet.

Typically, budget negotiation and tuition increases for the university are decided mid-June or July every year. This year, however, we were taken aback when we found out the meeting to discuss the budget had been postponed until August 8 — a mere month before school begins for the fall semester.

We were also surprised to find out that, three months into summer, housing for next year is already over capacity. Considering the fiasco that took place last year when 100 male students were forced to spend their semester living in an off-campus hotel, we had hoped the university would have been more careful with planning this time around. Then again, perhaps this interest in on-campus living is exactly what housing leaders need to finally get their new (and much needed) housing facility.

In addition to figuring out budget and housing needs,

Though AAUP negotiations do not focus on pay increases this year, we're still worried about how they're going to play out.

another more serious issue remains at large: Contract negotiations between Oakland and AAUP officials are currently underway and — judging by the tone in the AAUP budgeting diary — they still have a long way to go.

Every three years, Oakland and AAUP bargainers work to negotiate a three-year contract for all university professors. In 2009, teachers went on strike after the university bargaining team presented a contract that included a three-year wage freeze along with cuts in health insurance benefits. Classes resumed after a week and professors got what they wanted — pay raises and the protection of their intellectual property.

Though negotiations this year do not focus on pay increases, we're still worried about how they're going to play out.

The two main issues for this year are the university's maternity policy and salary compression, which is when senior faculty at an institution are paid less than recently appointed junior faculty.

Karen Miller, AAUP president of the Oakland chapter,

said the compression issue has increased since the 2009 contract. In order for them to create a proposal, Oakland needs to release information from subscription national databases only available to universities. Failure to comply could result in a lawsuit from AAUP.

As far as the maternity policy goes, well, it's non-existent. It's currently a decision made by the department in context of the time of year.

The university should take the initiative and formulate a set maternity policy, thus preventing sloppy and incoherent rules each time an instructor is expecting. This will bring a standard to the maternity debate, allowing expecting instructors to plan ahead.

OU should also release the necessary salary compression documents to avoid a lawsuit at all costs. However, the teachers should take in to consideration the context of the economic climate, especially in Michigan. At best, we are on the tail end of a recession, and since we are in a state with one of the highest unemployment rates, professors should choose their fights wisely.

With the decisions of all three issues looming in the distance, we hope decisions will start to be made soon.

The staff editorial is written weekly by members of The Oakland Post's editorial board.

Corrections Corner

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

Letters to the Editor

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



follow us on Twitter
[@theoaklandpost](https://twitter.com/theoaklandpost)



find us on Facebook
facebook.com/theoaklandpost



watch us on YouTube
youtube.com/theoaklandpostonline



THE OAKLAND POST

Address 61 Oakland Center,
Rochester, Mich. 48309
Phone 248.370.2537 or 248.370.4268
Web www.oaklandpostonline.com
Email editor@oaklandpostonline.com

editorial

Nichole Seguin

Editor-in-Chief
editor@oaklandpostonline.com
248-370-4268

Jordan Gonzalez

Managing Editor
managing@oaklandpostonline.com
248-370-2537

section editors

Steph Preweda Campus Editor
campus@oaklandpostonline.com

Natalie Popovski Asst. Campus Editor
campus@oaklandpostonline.com

Damien Dennis Sports Editor
sports@oaklandpostonline.com

Chris Lauritsen Local Editor
local@oaklandpostonline.com

Clare LaTorre Life Editor
life@oaklandpostonline.com

copy editors

Justin Colman Chief Copy Editor

Brian Figurski Copy Editor

Brian Johnston Copy Editor

Haley Kotwicki Copy Editor

advertising

Devin Thomas Lead Ads Manager
ads@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.2848

Brittany Haney Asst. Ads Manager
Krystal Harris Asst. Ads Manager

Madeline Loshaw Promotions Manager

Devin Thomas Distribution Manager

art & media

Alexandra Bosch Graphic Designer

Chelsea Bistue Photo Editor
photos@oaklandpostonline.com

Dylan Dulberg Photographer
Olivia Kuchlbauer Photographer

Jordan Reed Multimedia Editor
Misha Mayhand Multimedia Reporter
Stephanie Sokol Multimedia Reporter
Shannon Coughlin Multimedia Reporter

reporters

Kevin Graham Senior Reporter
Sarah Hutton Senior Reporter
Tim Pontzer Senior Reporter
Shelby Reynolds Senior Reporter

Sarah Blanchette Staff Reporter
Jennifer Holychuk Staff Reporter
Lauren Kroetsch Staff Reporter
Mark McMillian Staff Reporter
Katie Williams Staff Reporter

Eric Bartsch Staff Intern
Rachel Chastain Staff Intern
Stefan Pelak Staff Intern
Constance Jarbo Staff Intern
Rosie Striker Staff Intern

advisers

Holly Gilbert Editorial Adviser
248.370.4138

Don Ritenburgh Business Adviser
248.370.2533

The Oakland Post is always looking for fun and talented students to join our staff. Visit us in the basement of the Oakland Center or send a résumé and clips (if applicable) to editor@oaklandpostonline.com to get involved.

Facebook
Twitter
YouTube
Flickr
Vimeo
Issuu

facebook.com/theoaklandpost
[@theoaklandpost](https://twitter.com/theoaklandpost)
youtube.com/theoaklandpostonline
flickr.com/theoaklandpost
vimeo.com/theoaklandpost
issue.com/op86

EDITORIAL

Weighing in: In for a penny, in for a pound

At the end of May, New York City's Mayor Bloomberg proposed a soda ban to limit the amount of sugary drinks citizens can purchase. Within weeks, fast food chain Burger King released their latest dessert, the bacon sundae.

In today's health-centered economy, these kinds of mixed messages are all too confusing. When you turn on your television and see constant ads encouraging the use of drugs for prevention and treatment of illness, as well as the importance of exercise and nutritious diet, it's difficult to believe that something like an ice cream treat topped with bacon would even exist. But it does.

WHY DOES THE GOVERNMENT FEEL THE NEED TO BAN THE SALE OF ONE UNHEALTHY ITEM WHILE CONTINUING TO PERMIT THE SALE OF OTHER UNHEALTHY FOODS? IT IS NOT RIGHT FOR THEM TO TARGET ONE FOOD GROUP.

510 calories, 75 grams carbohydrates, 61 grams sugar, 18



STEPHANIE SOKOL
multimedia reporter

grams fat, 40 milligrams cholesterol and 670 milligrams sodium.

Saturday, May 30, Mayor Bloomberg proposed the soda ban for New York City.

The goal behind the proposed ban is to lower obesity levels in children and adults by

fighting the increasing portion sizes of beverages.

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's release of Amend Food Establishments states that "obesity is an epidemic: more than half of adult New Yorkers (58 percent) are overweight or obese; and 44 percent of NYC children aged 6 to 12 years consumed more than 1 sugary drink per day (in 2009)."

If passed on Tuesday, July 24, the ban will prohibit the sale of non-alcoholic sugary drinks larger than 16 fluid ounces. Sellers who breach this ban will be faced with a fine of no more than \$200 per offense.

Restricting restaurant beverage sales would prevent citizens from purchasing what the NYCDHMH considers to be an unhealthy beverage amount, which could improve overall health. But if the government is going to take this stand against restaurants, they should do something about the other unhealthy

menu items being served up, as well as providing facts why the rest of the menu won't be regulated.

While both the government's allowance of the bacon sundae and proposed soda ban attempt to make an impact on health, their intention is illogical. Since government is going to start controlling beverage supply at restaurants, they need to regulate sales of other food products, from large corporations like Burger King, to prevent them from releasing other unhealthy menu items.

Why does the government feel the need to ban the sale of one unhealthy item while continuing to permit the sale of other unhealthy foods?

In today's modern society, government involvement is increasing. But it seems to be extending past what the founding fathers originally intended.

The government shouldn't be discriminating against certain unhealthful foods. If health regulation is necessary, it is not right for them to target one food group when there are so many other harmful ones out there.

Stephanie Sokol is a multimedia reporter for The Oakland Post.

Email her at asokol@oakland.edu

COLUMN

OUSC seeks to create an atmosphere full of creativity, culture

Have you ever had the opportunity to be someone else's voice? Have you ever been able to give a group of people the ability to amplify their concerns? Have you ever given yourself the chance to stand up and let your voice be heard?

Recently, Student Body President Samantha Wolf and I sat down and discussed our vision for the next year for Student Congress.

We talked about what we would want people to remember us for 10 years down the road. We talked about what kinds of things we can do now for the students at Oakland University, or what we can do now that will affect the students in five years. Mostly, we talked about the things we are doing that will give people the opportunity to get involved and let their voices be heard.

We asked ourselves what a vision is. What defines a vision? Is it where we see ourselves at the end of a set time period? Is it the things we want to accomplish while we're in office? Is it something nobody really holds a lot of weight with?

I'll tell you what our vision is for OUSC.

Our vision is to create an atmosphere here at OU where innovation and creativity are invited; an atmosphere where culture and service are embraced; an atmosphere where people are given a chance to learn and grow; an atmosphere where voices are heard miles away.

The thing I always tell myself when I start something new is even if it's temporary, I'm being given a chance to make the most of it, and I'll do nothing short of that. Our vision includes just that — giving people that atmosphere to prepare them for the next level while still giving them the best experience while they're here.

We've told you our vision OUSC. What's yours?

Robbie Williford is the Oakland University Student Congress Vice President.

Email him at rwillif@oakland.edu



ROBBIE WILLIFORD
columnist

Have an opinion on something?

Submit an opinion column to editor@oaklandpostonline.com and you could see it in print.

Be sure to provide contact information, class standing and field of study.

EDITORIAL

Consider majoring in biomedical engineering

Biomedical engineering is the bridge between two majors — engineering and medicine. It's a unique field of engineering that provides students an opportunity to learn about the human body, while also learning to use engineering tools that solve real world problems of the human health care system.

The Biomedical Engineering Society defines a biomedical engineer as one who "uses traditional engineering expertise to analyze and solve problems in biology and medicine, providing an overall enhancement of health care." Because of its interdisciplinary nature as well as its importance to human health, biomedical engineering has become a large field of work and research. Professionals with different backgrounds come together to improve patient care and safety.

Medical doctors are divided into specialties that revolve around important organs — physicians specializing in the heart are cardiologists. There are also neurologists, nephrologists, orthopedists, dermatologists and so on. Similarly, biomedical engineers have specialties involving fascinating areas such as the development of artificial organs, biomedical instrumentation and signal processing, biomaterials, biomechanics, clinical engineering,



AVINASH KOKANI

guest writer

medical imaging, orthopedic bioengineering and physiological modeling.

I am so excited to be able to work in such an interesting field — a field especially geared for helping others in this high-tech era the health care system heavily depends on technology for patient treatment and care. By working in this field you have the satisfaction not only of working with cutting-edge technology, but also using your knowledge and expertise to

help people return to their normal lives after their stay at the hospital.

Many scholarships and research grants are available from the different professional bodies associated with biomedical engineering that can help you study or carry out research work in biomedical engineering.

The Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation Foundation awards two scholarships each year to students who are committed to healthcare technology management. The Whitaker Foundation has a fellows and scholars grant, a summer grant and an undergraduate grant. OU has a B.S. program in engineering biology; if you are interested in this program, contact the program coordinators.

There is also a thriving IEEE-EMBS Student Club.

There's a lot of enjoyment in becoming a member of such a nice group, where you can discuss the exciting field of biomedical engineering with your fellow students.

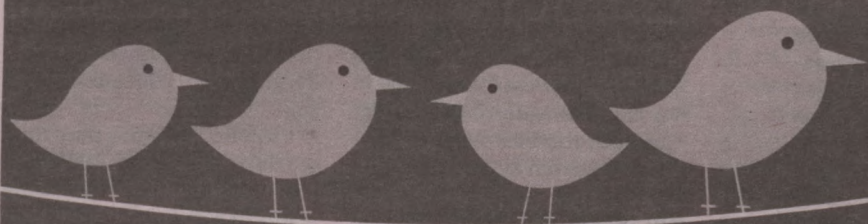
Dr. Barbara Oakley, associate professor of engineering in the department of industrial and systems engineering at OU, has co-edited the volume "Career Development in Bioengineering and Biotechnology." This book is one-of-a-kind and provides in-depth knowledge on how to build your career in biomedical engineering and other related engineering fields. I encourage you to read this book, which is available in the Kresge library.

"The 15 Most Valuable College Majors," a very recent report from Forbes, states, "At No. 1, biomedical engineering is the major that is most worth your tuition, time and effort. Biomedical engineers earn a median starting salary of \$53,800, which grows an average of 82% to \$97,800 by mid-career. Moreover, the BLS projects a whopping 61.7 percent growth of job opportunities in the field—the most of any other major on the list."

Biomedical engineering is a fantastic field and I feel very lucky to call it my own.

Avinash Kokani is a doctoral student in Systems Engineering. Email him at akonkani@oakland.edu

Follow us on Twitter!



Become our fan on Facebook!

www.twitter.com/theoaklandpost
www.facebook.com/theoakpost
www.oaklandpostonline.com



AllegraDirect
COMMUNICATIONS

Looking for a new Job?

Customer Service Call Center Representatives

Jobs Available

in Macomb and Oakland counties

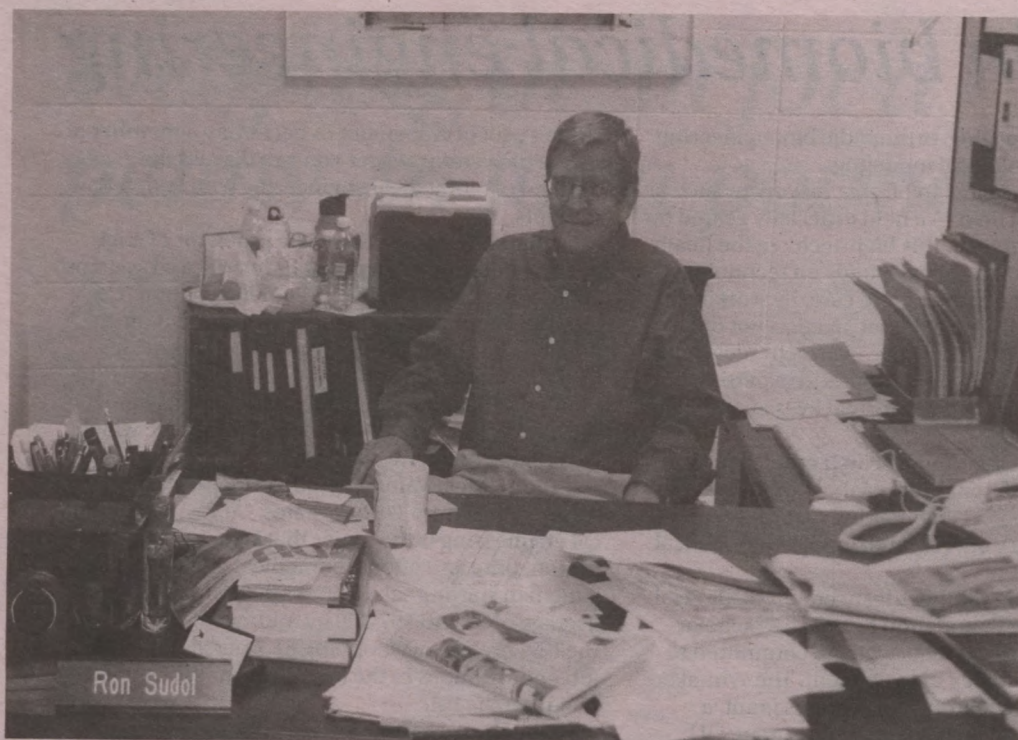
In-bound health insurance and claims call center.

A growing field offering stability for reliable employees seeking consistent income!

- **FULL – TIME**
- **STEADY WORK**
- **\$8 / hour**
- **Benefits available**
- **No Medical Experience Necessary – training is provided**
- **Excellent Communication skills required**
- **Accuracy in typing**
- **Ability to multi-task**
- **Full time availability**
- **Friendly Work Environment**

EMAIL RESUMES TO: HR@ALLEGRA-DIRECT.COM

Over 50 positions



STEPHANIE PREWEDA/The Oakland Post

Ron Sudol, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, will be retiring on Aug. 14. Sudol has been a part of Oakland University faculty and administration since 1977, coming to OU from New York.

Dean retires after 35 years

College of Arts and Sciences dean plans to write a book using research from OU

By Stephanie Preweda
Campus Editor

Ron Sudol, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Oakland University, announced his retirement on July 3. He will step down as dean on Aug. 14.

Sudol said he will not fully retire until next year, as he will still be on campus doing research.

"I felt I had been out of (retirement) long enough, it didn't make sense to go back to it," he said.

After retiring, along with traveling the world, he plans to write a book about higher education.

Using research and his experiences as a dean, he hopes to finish the book within a year.

"I think I've got more and more interested in writing this book as I've been thinking about it and that has a lot to do with (retiring)," Sudol said.

Sudol has been the CAS dean for seven years and has been active in both OU's fac-

ulty and administration since 1977.

"Dean Sudol has served Oakland University for many years in key faculty and administrative roles," Susan Awbrey, interim provost, said. "His deep commitment to strengthening academic programs in the College of Arts and Sciences has had a positive impact on students and faculty. He made a significant difference during his many years at Oakland."

A celebration in honor of Sudol will take place in August. According to Stephanie Lee, administrative associate to the Provost, the date is yet to be determined.

Among many of his accomplishments at OU, Sudol is most proud of the department of writing and rhetoric, inaugurating the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Engagement Award in 2011.

"Oakland is aspirational, he said." It has the good fortune to have started out as a branch of Michigan State University, making itself attractive

by bringing in a faculty who is interested in doing something different."

The CAS is the largest college at OU, offering more than 75 majors and 16 departments. The Board of Trustees approved four more degree programs for the college on March 28 — a master's and Ph.D. in psychology and bachelor's programs in both graphic design and criminal justice — all of which will be available for the 2012-13 school year.

Discussion for the process of selecting an interim or acting dean with the Assembly Executive Committee has already begun.

Applications will be accepted through July 23. For more details on how to apply and to learn more about the job description, visit Oakland's academic jobs website www.academicjobs.oakland.edu

Contact Campus Editor Stephanie Preweda via email at sdprewed@oakland.edu or follow her on Twitter @stephsocool

Awbrey names interim vice, associate provosts

By Natalie Popovski
and Nichole Seguin
Asst. Campus Editor
and Editor-in-Chief

Though the quest for a new Oakland University Provost has yet to begin, the Interim Associate Provost and Interim Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education positions have been appointed by Interim Provost Susan Awbrey.



Stein, Interim Associate Provost

Mary Stein, professor of science education and associate dean,

has been appointed to serve as Interim Associate Provost and Scott Crabill, associate professor and the director of integrative studies and undergraduate initiatives, has been appointed to serve as Interim Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education.

As Interim Associate Provost, Stein will be in charge of overseeing several university level units, working on major initiatives and working with the vice provost for research in a campus-wide dialog to figure out the best ways to support research at Oakland.

She will also be in charge of finding new ways to target high-achieving students to bring to the university. She begins her job in August, according to Ted Montgomery, director of media relations at OU.

Stein, who has been a faculty member in the science education department since 1999, said once she started her administrative career, she wanted to explore new opportunities.

"I first entered administration two years ago, at that time I was just happy to learn and be challenged," Stein said. "As I settled in, I thought about new opportunities. Not specifically (the Interim Associate Provost) positions, but I enjoyed the (administrative)

work."

When it comes to approaching the duties of her new position, Stein said she believes she can approach issues creatively in hopes of creating solutions.

As interim vice provost for undergraduate education, Crabill will be in charge of monitoring student success and school completion as well as faculty development.

He will also be leading an initiative to have Oakland designated as a Carnegie Engaged University, which "describes the collaboration between

institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources

in context of partnership and reciprocity," according to the Carnegie website.

"I don't know if I've ever had my sites set on something like (interim vice provost for undergraduate education)," he said.

Crabill began part-time teaching at OU in 1998 and reached full-time teaching status in 2001.

He is currently working on bettering student retention rates and said it is time to start talking about what OU can do to improve success for both students and faculty.

"(The) focus is student success and faculty development," Crabill said. "(It's a) complex problem to address."

Crabill said he is honored, excited and grateful for his new position, but finds that his new duties will put a limit on his time spent in the classroom.

"My hardest part is not being able to teach as much as I used to," Crabill said. "But I will find ways, believe me, I will."



Crabill, Interim Vice Provost

Campus

Student housing overbooked for fall

University Housing facing similar dorming problems as last year

By Jennifer Holychuk
Staff Reporter

Last fall, Oakland University housing was forced to accommodate 100 students, who were left without an on-campus room, by placing them in a nearby Homestead Suites hotel. Of these 100, 30 students were never placed on campus and had to stay in the hotels all semester.

This year, Oakland may face the same problem, as there are currently not enough beds to accommodate the amount of students who wish to live on campus.

Jim Zentmeyer, director of university housing, said last year was the highest request rate — ever.

The shortage of on-campus housing last fall left 60 students without a campus room. Half of the students agreed to

commute, while the remaining ones were placed in the hotel until enough spots were available in the dorms.

According to Zentmeyer, some of the students were not able to move into actual campus housing until Dec. 9, the last day of the 2011 fall semester.

This year, housing is already over the capacity limit and may face a similar dilemma come August.

"We have already crossed the 2,300 application threshold for 2,100 beds," Zentmeyer said.

Although housing is overbooked by 200 students, Zentmeyer said the number of applicants is expected to significantly drop before August, calling it "a university universal."

"Between now and the end of the summer, we usually see some level of attrition in applications," he said. "That 200 count is about what we average as far as normal

attrition goes."

Despite hopefulness that applications will decline, Zentmeyer said OU still has a block of rooms in Homestead Suites on reserve for housing overflow. He believes an overbooking situation is still likely.

Owen O'Connor, resident assistant for students at Homestead Suites last fall, said the opportunity to work in Homestead for a second year has been brought up to him by housing staff.

According to Zentmeyer, the main reason students choose to live in campus housing is to receive the college experience, something that hotels cannot provide.

"It was difficult for some people as freshmen to get involved, which is one of the reasons they sent me over there," O'Connor said.

Overbooked housing also costs OU the extra expense of placing students in a hotel. Students living in Homestead Suites were paying campus housing rates for more expensive lodging, Zentmeyer said, leaving OU to make up for the cost.

According to Zentmeyer, the OU Board

of Trustees agreed that more housing space is needed, and discussion on how this will happen is now taking place.

"It is still pending board approval, but the majority of the university seems to be in favor of," he said.

If new housing is approved, it would take at least two years for new facilities to be up and running.

"We really do need to have more housing on campus," he said.

According to Zentmeyer, it seems likely that some students will be forced to live in Homestead Suites for the upcoming semester, and any students currently applying for housing are being informed that dorms are nearly full and to have an alternate plan in mind.

"Any students currently applying for housing are being informed that dorms are nearly full and to have an alternate plan in mind," Zentmeyer said.

Contact Staff Reporter Jennifer Holychuk via email jholychuk@gmail.com at or follow her on Twitter @jholychuk

Doctoral student awarded prestigious, national scholarship

By Katie Williams
Staff Reporter

Oakland University doctoral student Avinash Kokani was one of two students in the U.S. to be awarded the Michael J. Miller Scholarship from the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation Foundation. Kokani is active within the university's department of industrial and systems engineering, researching and teaching while pursuing his doctorate.

The \$2,500 scholarship is awarded annually by the AAMI to students in the health care technology management field based on academic achievement, technical skills and commitment to the field.

Kokani accepted the award at the AAMI National Conference and Expo in Charlotte, N.C. in June.

He said the scholarship came as a surprise because it was a nationwide competition.

"I didn't expect anything," Kokani said. "I just applied and waited."

Kokani enrolled as a doctoral student at OU during the Fall 2010 semester after earning his bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering from KLES College of Engineering and Technology in his hometown of Belgaum, India. He earned his master's degree in biomedical engineering with a concentration in human factors engineering from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.

Kokani said he wanted a doctoral program that allow him to work in the field as a researcher and eventually as a teacher. He contacted engineering professor Barbara Oakley after reading her book "Career Development in Bioengineering and Biotechnology."

"From our first conversation, it was quite clear to me that he was deeply interested in helping others," Oakley said. "I feel fortunate he contacted me.

We're very lucky to have him."

Since beginning his studies at OU, Kokani has conducted research with Oakley in an effort to reduce noise levels in the pediatric unit at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. The project is funded through an OU-Beaumont Multidisciplinary Research Award and addresses false alarms on hospital machines and their effects on patients.

Kokani and Oakley's research was published in the "Journal of Critical Care" in October 2011.

Kokani was inspired to work in the medical field at the age of 14 when his father died in a hospital due to an incorrect dosage. According to him, his passion to teach comes from his desire to share his own real-world experiences in a classroom environment.

"That's what I like about the education system in the U.S. — it's not just about teaching a skill. The student is developed



Photo courtesy of Robert King

Avinash Konkani and Robin Cady (center) accept the award from AAMI President, Mary Logan and Board of Directors Chair, Ray Laxton.

as a person as well," he said. "I'd like to be in the field and transfer that practical knowledge into the classroom to best prepare students for the real world. They've got to know that the answer's not always going to be in the book."

He is currently a teaching assistant for the Introduction to Industrial Systems Engineering course. His primary responsibilities are organizing and teaching lab sections.

"He has done an excellent job and has received favorable evaluations from the students," Robert said Van Til, industrial and systems engineering Department Chair. "Besides being an excellent teacher and researcher, he is a really nice person."

Contact Staff Reporter Katie Williams via email at kjwilli2@oakland.edu or follow her on Twitter @kwillicando



SARAH BLANCHETTE/The Oakland Post

Pictured from left to right are Steve Stocker, Ryan Gault, Keegan Whitla, Leandra Kramer and Dominic Frigo playing "The Realm of Agennul."

Game on

Students create board game utilizing technology

By Sarah Blanchette
Staff Reporter

A student-run gaming company called Ardent Games has released its first game titled "The Realm of Agennul."

In honor of the new release, the OU INCubator, located in the Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion on Oakland University's campus, will host a Kickstarter campaign July 12 at 5:30 p.m.

Keegan Whitla, the game's creator and a senior studying management information systems at OU, began creating and promoting the game in April 2011.

"I wasn't able to find a game where I could play beyond the actual board. I decided to make my own (and made it) in just over a weekend," Whitla said. "It ended up being a lot of fun. It started from a simple idea and it (has) been awesome to make an idea into reality."

The most important factor Whitla wanted to incorporate into the game was allowing players to impact the evolution of the game. It allows players to contribute to the growth of the experience by submitting art and character backgrounds to the "Agennul" website.

"The game is about constant evolution and that's what makes us different from

other companies and board games," Whitla said.

Ardent Games' adviser Eric Tomei, an OU alum and graduate student, knows what it's like to experience the struggles and successes of a small business.

"Being an entrepreneur and having your own business is great because it gives you the freedom to do what you want with who you want whenever you want," Tomei said. "At the end of the day, it's great."

Dominic Frigo, a graduate student, and Ryan Gault, a senior studying management information systems at OU, are both marketing specialists for the team. Their responsibilities include updating the game's Facebook page and keeping in contact with their online community as well as getting the word out about events.

Frigo and Gault also converse with the writers who are working on character backgrounds as well as clan and race descriptions.

"It's been awesome to see how a writer develops (their work)," Frigo said.

In addition to the marketing specialists, the team also includes two web developers, Leandra Kramer, a senior majoring in management information systems, and Steve Stocker, a senior majoring in marketing. Kramer and Stocker have created

the "Agennul" website.

One aspect of the website the team is excited about is the card generator the web developers created. The generator allows players to create their own cards through the incorporation of art, and the story can be voted on and possibly included in the game's next expansion.

In addition to the success the team has had in the blogging world, Ardent Games is the first company to come out of the Ideas 2 Business program at OU.

According to OU's website, the team hopes to raise \$18,000 in one month during the Kickstarter campaign.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn and play "The Realm of Agennul," as well as observe the process of creating an illustration of a character.

Contact Staff Reporter Sarah Blanchette via email at sblanch@oakland.edu or follow her on Twitter @S_Blanchette

EVENT DETAILS

WHO

Ardent Games, a student-run gaming company

WHAT

A Kickstarter Campaign where attendees can play Ardent Games' "The Realm of Agennul"

WHEN

Thursday, July 12 at 5:30 p.m.

WHERE

The OU INCubator, located in the Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Men's club golf championship to be held at Katke-Cousins

The Men's Club golfing Championship will begin July 14 from 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Katke-Cousins Golf Course.

For more information, contact Perry Busse at 248-364-6300, ext. 2, or at busse@oakland.edu.

Deadline for SBA graduate programs announced

The deadline to apply for the School of Business Administration graduate programs is July 15.

Master's programs include Master of Business Administration, Master of Accounting and Master of Science in Information Technology Management. For more information, contact Paul Trumbull at 248-370-3287 or trumbull@oakland.edu.

OU hosts career expedition

Career Expedition will take place July 18 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. This group workshop will have students utilizing resources such as personality assessments and online career tools to set educational and career goals, as well as formulate ways in which to achieve them.

Register for this event by visiting www.oakland.edu/arcworkshops. For more information, call 248-370-3227 or email arc@oakland.edu.

Katke-Cousins to host women's club golfing championship

The Women's Club Championship will begin July 19 from 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Katke-Cousins Golf Course. For more information, contact Jeremy Moses at 248-364-6300 or email moses@oakland.edu.

Business administration school hosts lecture series

The School of Business Administration is sponsoring a lecture about oral and written communications and messaging July 11 from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The lecture series takes place at the Birmingham Community House on the second Wednesday of each month until September 2012. For more information contact Paul Trumbull at trumbull@oakland.edu

Compiled by Dylan Dulberg,
Staff Photographer



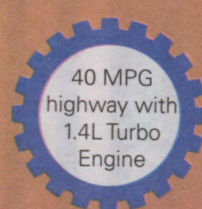
Sonic Boom



Five color options



10 standard airbags

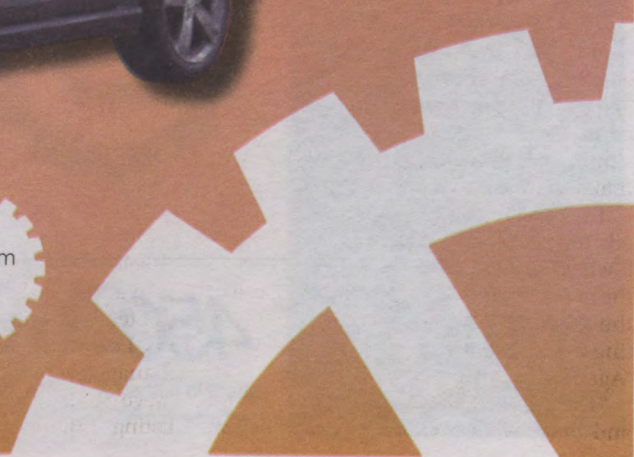


40 MPG highway with 1.4L Turbo Engine



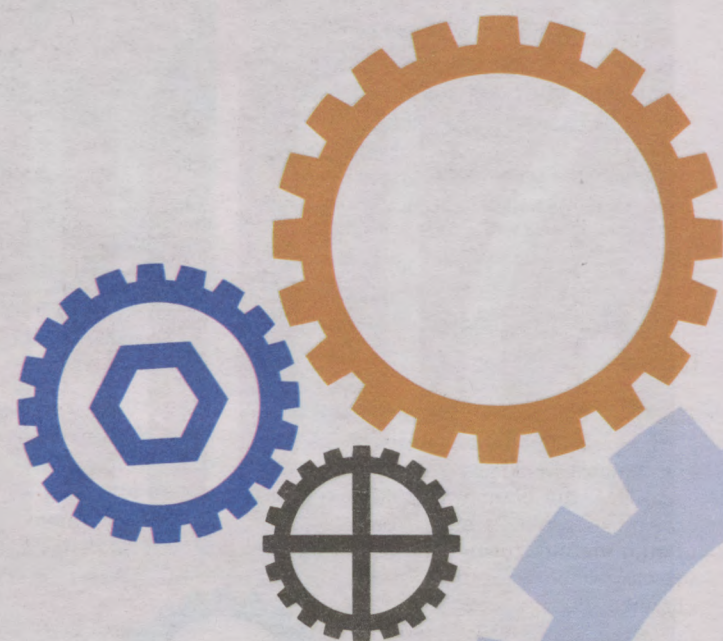
Aluminium wheels

It's been over a year since the Lake Orion General Motors Assembly Plant re-opened in 2011. A post-auto crisis plant, it now produces the only subcompact car made in America: The Chevrolet Sonic. The Buick Verano was added in late 2011.





The recovery of an idle plant



Written by // Jordan Gonzalez
Designed by // Nichole Seguin
Photographed by // Chelsea Bistue and Dylan Dulberg
Videographed by // Jordan Reed and Nichole Seguin

In November 2009, 4.3 million square feet of General Motors property lay idle. The constant humming of machines had vanished — the robots, who normally work tirelessly, were either gone or powered off. The plant, which can hold hundreds of workers, held only silence.

**BY THE
NUMBERS**

450

robots in use at
the Orion plant

850

cars produced in
one day

45

minutes until the
paint is dry

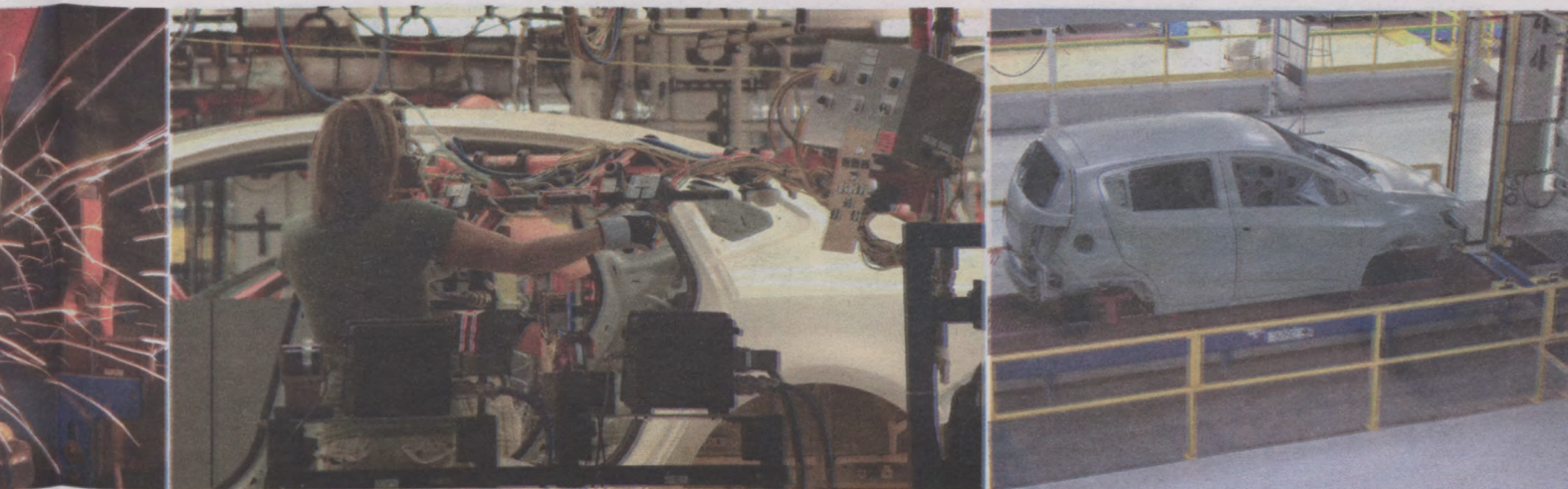
4.3 million

square footage of the Orion
Assembly Plant

10

number of standard
airbags in the Sonic

\$1
total



Throw a financially ailing GM into the mix, and the situation did not look so great at the Orion Assembly Plant in Orion Township, Mich.

A visit to the plant today, however, exposes a drastically different scenario. Each day, 450 robots are busy assembling parts and scurrying around, almost 2,000 people show up to work and 825 cars roll off the assembly line.

Back in motion

After the 2008-09 auto crisis and the post-bankruptcy changes to GM, the plant was modernized to usher in a new era of auto manufacturing. The entire climate of the auto industry changed. The popularity of SUVs declined dramatically due to high gas prices, and the overall economic mood was low in the wake of the recession.

With the exponential popularity of economy cars in tandem with the threat of higher gas prices, many auto companies expanded their menu of compact and subcompact cars. GM followed suit, spending \$545 million in re-tooling the plant to produce the only subcompact car made in America, the Chevrolet Sonic.

The Orion plant is a product of a post-bailout auto industry, with many non-traditional characteristics. The assembly line itself is more compact and has numerous eco-friendly initiatives. The latest four-year United Auto Workers and GM contracts reset entry-level pay rates to an existing wage structure, starting

"THERE ARE NEW AND DIFFERENT CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED TO MAKE (THE SONIC) SUCCESSFUL. THIS IS THE FIRST SUBCOMPACT CAR IN THE U.S., AND TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN, WE HAD TO BE CREATIVE AND WORK TOGETHER WITH THE UNION."

Kevin Nadrowski,
Communications Manager,
General Motors Orion Plant

new hires off at \$15.50 per hour rates. They also simplified work loads, job classifications and labor strategies as part of the small car agreement.

The Orion plant employs around 40 percent of its staff with entry-level hourly employees — a higher percentage than most local facilities.

"(The contract) is groundbreaking in the sense that it is not traditional in how you might be familiar with the UAW/GM contract," said Kevin Nadrowski, plant communications manager for the Orion plant. "There are new and different changes that have been implemented to make (the Sonic) successful. This is the first subcompact car built in the U.S., and to make that happen, we had to be creative and work together with the union."

Sparking a recovery

Carter Sperry, the quality operations manager, said the deal was crucial for the plant's survival in the U.S., especially where compact and subcompact cars are virtually non-existent.

"We are building in the U.S., where the labor costs are higher and it's more difficult to make money," Sperry said. "Traditionally, it has been a very high cost market, so we had to do some very aggressive things here. For example, part of that is entry-level wages, material strategies and job process changes."

Sperry said the "aggressive" changes were not only reduced wages, but a change in traditional plant structure. Kitting and sequencing — getting parts in order to the line — are done by third parties, which is a non-traditional system in a North American plant. There are companies that build underbodies and some that help with sorting and containing, both of which are non-GM companies.

"This is former work that was traditionally completed by plant employees," Sperry said.

"Not only was there a partnership with the UAW and GM, but working with the state, local and township officials was an instrumental part of this process to make the Sonic and Buick Verano programs successful at the Orion Assembly Plant," Nadrowski said.

Gearing up for success

After a year or so of the new products (the Verano

was added to the line-up in late 2011) and systems, the plant has stood out in more ways than just being home of the Sonic.

At the revamped plant's inception, green initiatives were implemented, which has reduced their energy bill from \$18 million to \$11 million, utilizing trash, technology and the sun. Steve Brock, the plant's manager, said several unique steps have been taken by the plant to reduce its carbon footprint.

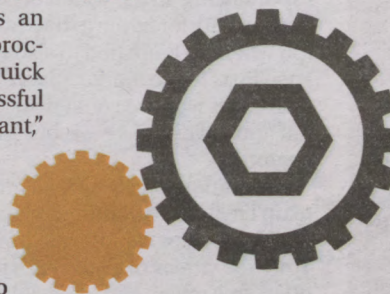
"A lot of (our energy usage) is generated by the landfill gas ... we use that versus using natural gas," Brock said. "We are very focused on the environment."

According to a GM sustainability report, the nearby landfill supplies over 20 percent of the plant's energy needs. Computers control the already eco-friendly fluorescent lights, shutting them off during every break.

The latest in green technology, according to Brock and a GM press release, will be solar array that will supply enough energy to power 45 homes.

"(The energy) all goes back to the power grid," Brock said.

The UAW declined to comment.



Working through an ailing economy

In November 2009, the General Motors Orion Assembly Plant, which set an industry record for most continuous operation without a lost workday, was forced to shut down. For 18 months, the plant sat idle while 2,600 workers including body shop team leader Brad Glende, were forced to look elsewhere for work.

Glende, who has a wife and two daughters, was laid off for 12 months while the plant was closed. He said the plant closure was not too hard on him because he was able to work at GM's Flint truck assembly plant for six of the 12 months.

After being idle for 18 months, the plant was reopened in part because of a nationwide agreement between GM and UAW that reset entry-level union workers wages to previous UAW and GM negotiations.

"It is what it is," Glende said of the entry level pay structure. "In order to be a profitable company, they had to do it."

Orion Assembly's competitive wage structure enabled less-senior employees to volunteer for jobs at entry-level pay. Those employees were able to return from their layoffs sooner for jobs at Orion with possible future recalls to traditional wage positions. Glende was unaffected by the new pay structure.

"Everyone that is working here is glad they have a job," he said. "It's a lot better than being unemployed."

Glende said he is starting to see the economy change. He notices restaurants seem busier and car sales have been increasing. In fact, GM sales jumped 15.5 percent in June, which is the highest they have been in five years.

The plant's current schedule includes four days of 10-hour of operation, and the plant builds to the customer's demands.

"We're building what the customers want us to build," said Kevin Nadrowski, plant communications manager. "If they want more, we'll make more."

— Chris Lauritsen,
Local Editor

\$105 million

total wages for all employees at the Orion Assembly Plant

1908

the year General Motors was founded

1,824

number of employees at the Orion Assembly Plant

\$545 million

amount spent in 2010 to retool the plant to produce the Sonic and Verano

Orion plant goes green

Going green has become a core goal for the General Motors Orion Assembly plant recently.

The plant announced on June 18 they had partnered with DTE Energy to turn an empty 2.1 acres of land on the plant's property into a solar panel array. It will send all the energy it produces back to DTE for distribution and is projected to provide enough energy for 45 homes in the area.

"Along with safety, people, quality and responsiveness, environment is part of our core business drive," said Carter Sperry, Orion Assembly quality operator.

The solar panel array is the latest program implemented to reduce energy costs.

Instead of using natural gas, the plant uses gas-generated by an on-site landfill. The gas in the landfill is produced as garbage breaks down.

Lighting is also automatically turned off by an automated system during assembly crew breaks and shift changes.

The lightbulbs in the plant have been converted from high-intensity discharge lightbulbs to fluorescent bulbs.

Before these changes were made, the plant's energy bill was \$18 million. After the installation of these programs, energy costs have fallen to \$11 million.

"We are very focused on the environment and reducing our energy footprint," said Steve Brock, Orion assembly plant manager.

Besides new programs to reduce energy consumption, the plant has instituted several recycling programs to become more environmentally friendly and generate money.

"We are very driven around recycling," Sperry said.

The assembly plant also recycles paper, plastics and batteries in receptacles that are set up around the 4.3 million square foot building.

All cardboard used in the plant is recycled on-site and then sold to a third-party company.

During the first year of production, the plant generated approximately \$450,000 from selling the recycled cardboard.

— Chris Lauritsen,
Local Editor



Playing to a younger crowd

Sonic social media presence geared towards college students

By Nichole Seguin
Editor-in-Chief

Stunts — from being the first car to skydive off a plane and kick flip over a giant skateboard — are what Chevrolet's marketing team had in mind when creating a plan to increase awareness for the Sonic among its target generation audience, those 25-30 years old.

The vehicle, which debuted September 2011, also starred in an Ok Go music video, bungee jumped off a building and was equipped with a robotic arm to paint a mural. Each stunt was a first time accomplishment for a car and was aimed to channel college students who are starting their lives and experiencing firsts of their own.

"If you look at someone graduating college, they are starting out in life particularly with a new job, new apartment, new adventures, new opportunities and hopefully a new car in that whole process," said Dora Nowicki, Sonic marketing manager.

With college students in mind, Nowicki and her department began brainstorming marketing ideas that would appeal to a generation of tech-savvy individuals, using social media and the Internet as their main tools.

"The original theory is the idea of experiencing 'firsts,' which became the opportunity for Sonic to have a little fun when we launched to also experience firsts in the market place," Nowicki said. "This way, we could tie back to the fun and adventures everyone has in the beginning."

In addition to using social media, the team created letsdothis.com, a website which provides car information, displays YouTube videos of all the car's stunts, offers free music and gives quick links to their social media sites.

"It's an ode to what this car can do and how it can really be the friend in your life," Nowicki said. "It's the friend that takes the chances, the one that really pushes the limits, the one your parents would prefer you to not hang out with. But it's the buddy that you always have



DYLAN DULBERG/The Oakland Post

The Chevy Sonic will soon be equipped with Apple's Siri eyes-free technology, allowing users to complete tasks on their phone without being distracted.

"This was our opportunity to introduce a whole new clientele to the Chevrolet brand."

Dora Nowicki,
Chevrolet Sonic Marketing Manager

fun with and that's the whole premise of the campaign, the stunts and the personification of the car."

And she thinks it's working well. After a commercial for the car was aired during the Super Bowl, Sonic's sales have skyrocketed. After four months, sales surpassed the Ford Fiesta. The Sonic is currently the second bestselling subcompact car in the U.S., trailing the Nissan Versa.

According to Nowicki, half the people who purchase the Sonic are not previous Chevrolet owners. She said most people in the age group were only aware of their trucks, something they wanted to change.

"This was our opportunity to introduce a whole new clientele to the Chevrolet brand," Nowicki said. "The Chevrolet car line up is as compelling from a style, fuel efficiency and functionality perspective as anyone else."

To give buyers the opportunity to provide feedback and critique their cars, GM created SonicSpeaks. The company asked questions about what buyers like and don't like to get feedback while trying to build a community of Sonic owners. The

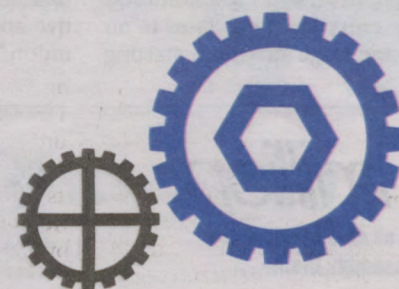
feedback given was routed to the Sonic Team for review and action as warranted.

"It was a different approach to how we get feedback," said Steve Brock, Lake Orion plant manager. "This way, it's constant. It's better than surveys ... people can go out and take a picture of your car or make a video of what they like or dislike and we use their feedback to make the car better."

According to Reuters, the Sonic will be one of the first vehicles offering Apple's Siri eyes-free functionality, which will allow an iPhone or iPad user to use Siri without looking at the device to initiate the feature. It can be used to schedule a meeting, send a text message, among many other tasks, all while using voice commands.

For more information on the Sonic, visit www.letsdothis.com

Contact Editor-in-Chief Nichole Seguin via email at naseguin@oakland.edu



New website lists free services for students around campus

Services include health care, transportation

By Jennifer Holychuck
Staff Reporter

A new website named "Free at OU" offers visitors links and information about a variety of free services students can utilize during their time at Oakland University.

The website, which launched in May, includes a brief explanation of its purpose, a list of every free service OU offers and a two-minute video depicting a student utilizing some of the services listed.

Director of Media Relations Ted Montgomery, along with his colleagues, came up with this idea at the end of last year.

"College education is already such a huge investment," he said. "We thought we could create a target search for all the things at OU that are free."

Montgomery said the goal of the site is to help students, faculty and staff take advantage of everything OU offers at no extra cost. Information about the site and OU's free services are being used in orientation materials as well.

Lindsay Beck, an incoming OU freshman, went through new student orientation in June and was introduced to many of the fee-free things to do on campus.

"When they took us on a tour, they pointed out tons of things that were free, such as tutoring, academic advising, ca-



JENNIFER HOLYCHUCK / The Oakland Post

Free transportation, such as the Bear Bus pictured above, is one service listed on the "Free at OU" website.

reer services, the rec center, newspapers and tech rentals," she said.

Beck believes the website was a great idea and explained it was easy for her to follow.

"I like how the site has links for the different categories where free things will be provided, such as academic services and transportation," she said.

Even though the site lists what it calls "free services," Montgomery said students have already paid for these things

through tuition. He also said offering things such as parking, tutoring and dormitory laundry at no extra cost is an advantage not found at other public universities.

"Students who are aware of these things will take full advantage," he said.

Contact Staff Reporter Jennifer Holychuck via email jholychuck@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @jholychuck

Operating budget remains unsettled for upcoming year

By Kevin Graham
Senior Reporter

Oakland University is not among 11 of Michigan's 15 public universities that have set their tuition rates for the next year.

Any proposed budget, including the operating budget which sets tuition rates, requires the approval of the Board of Trustees.

The operating budget also sets the amount of money allocated to different colleges and the amount received by various university departments.

The Board canceled its June 11 meeting

and rescheduled it for Aug. 6 at 2 p.m.

OU's tuition rate is largely based on the amount of support it receives from the state of Michigan. OU's state aid increase was 2.06 percent, which is less than the state average of 3.5 percent.

Director of Media Relations Ted Montgomery said the low number was due in part to some new language including performance-based criteria in this year's higher education appropriations bill.

Performance funding is based upon degrees in critical skill areas such as technology, science and math.

Within the state's blueprint in House of Representatives Bill 5372, Oakland

received more than \$378,000 for the number of undergraduate degrees completed in critical skill areas. An additional \$489,419 was given based on the total number of degrees and completions.

State Relations Director Michelle Lange said Oakland works extensively with other state universities to gain further funding for higher education.

"As the budget is the one item the legislature is constitutionally required to complete each and every year by the end of the fiscal year, we work closely with members of the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives, as well as the executive office, to inform them on the importance of increasing funding for higher education and Oakland University in particular," Lange said.

Contact Senior Reporter Kevin Graham via email at kpgraham@oakland.edu or follow her on Twitter @KevinGraham88

POLICE FILES

Forced entry in apartment

On June 16, OUPD responded to a forced entry report that occurred in the Ann V. Nicholson Student Apartments. Upon arrival, OUPD spoke with two male occupants who stated three male suspects had forced their way into the apartment, which caused damage to the doorknob latch.

According to one of the occupants, there was a loud party occurring in the apartment complex. One occupant said he kept hearing banging noises coming from the front door of his apartment, and as he got up to see what was happening, he heard the front door crash open. The occupant said his roommate's girlfriend then walked to the apartment where the party was going on and requested that the occupants quiet down. Within three minutes of her return, three intoxicated male suspects came through their closed door, according to the occupant.

The occupant said one of the suspects appeared as if he had been pushed through the door. The matter was turned over to the Dean of Students and none of the occupants want to prosecute.

Larceny at construction site

On June 29, OUPD met with two employees in parking lot 18 in regards to a stolen chipping hammer that is valued at \$400. The two employees were working on the construction project at O'Dowd Hall.

The employee who owned the hammer said he arrived for work that morning and took out the case containing the hammer from a locker in the secured area of the construction site, and then placed the case on boxes in front of the locker.

The employee left the hammer for approximately one hour and 15 minutes. Upon returning, he noticed it was missing. OUPD reviewed security footage from O'Dowd Hall, and noticed that a truck had pulled up to the site and a male suspect got out. After the suspect looked into the hammer's case, he unloaded items from the truck and then placed the case containing the hammer in the bed of the truck and drove away. OUPD is currently investigating this case.

Compiled by Natalie Popovski,
Assistant Campus Editor



DYLAN DULBERG/The Oakland Post

The 29th Annual Golden Grizzlies Golf Classic will be held at both the R&S Sharf and Katke-Cousins golf courses at Oakland University on July 30.

Annual Golf Classic returns July 30

29th Golden Grizzlies Golf Classic returns to R&S Sharf, Katke-Cousins courses

By Mark McMillan
Staff Reporter

The 29th Annual Golden Grizzlies Golf Classic will take place on July 30, utilizing both the Katke-Cousins and R&S Sharf golf courses.

Scott MacDonald, assistant athletic director for athletic communications, said the tournament has multiple purposes but one primary focus.

"The purpose of the outing is to raise money for our student-athletes to help with the expenses an athletic department incurs for travel, scholarships (and) room and board," MacDonald said.

Team play is encouraged for the tournament, as it's secondary purpose is for an enjoyable experience. However, individual play is also allowed.

The format of play for the tournament is Captain's Choice/Scramble — the practice of playing the "best ball" out of all balls hit per team — which is a popular method of playing in modern tournaments.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., which is also when the driving range will open to all tournament participants. The

"The purpose of the outing is to raise money for our student athletes to help with expenses an athletic department incurs."

Scott MacDonald,
Assistant Athletics Director

tournament closes at 1:30 p.m. and the awards presentation takes place after.

Team registration for the Katke-Cousins course is \$700 per team, or \$175 per player. Team registration for the R&S Sharf Course is \$900 per team or \$225 per player. Both courses are highly acclaimed in Michigan. Golf Digest named the R&S Sharf course 12th out of 852 courses in 2009 and The Detroit News named the Katke-Cousins course one of the top 10 in the state.

The tournament will not feature the new Stephan Sharf clubhouse, but a large tent will be set up outside where breakfast and lunch will be served by local sponsor Flat Top Grill.

The tournament is also sponsored by Plastic Engineering & Technical Service Inc. and Farm Bureau Insurance. Addi-

tional sponsorships can be procured by contacting event planner Aaron Epstein at adepestei@oakland.edu.

"The GGGC is a special event at Oakland because it brings all facets of our Athletic Department together ... every team, every department, as well as many of student-athletes and friends," Epstein said. "It gives us a chance to enjoy a day celebrating the common bond we share as supporters of Oakland University."

According to Epstein, the tournament is quickly approaching its limit of 144 golfers. If the tournament fills up, Oakland Athletics could receive as much as \$28,800 in support.

Board of Trustees chairperson Henry Baskin provided some insight into what could be considered the most memorable part of the R&S Sharf course.

"I asked him (Sharf) 'why is there an 'S' bunker? It's quite large out there. And he said 'I want every son-of-a-b---- who goes into that bunker to remember my name,'" Baskin said.

Staff Reporter Mark McMillan can be contacted at mamcmil2@oakland.edu or on Twitter @markamcmillan

GRIZZLIES NEWS

Oakland recruits two basketball transfers

Oakland men's basketball has added two transfers to the squad.

Tommie McCune transfers from West Virginia, where he played 13 games last season for the Mountaineers. Coming out of high school, McCune, a 6-foot-8 forward, earned a recruiting grade of 90 by ESPN, meaning he will sport the highest such rating for a player in OU history.

Ralph Hill spent the last two seasons at Dayton. Hill, a 6-foot-6 forward, played in 25 games for the Flyers, shooting 41 percent from the floor.

OU athletes shine off and on the field

Oakland athletes have excelled in the classroom, as 215 were awarded with the Golden Grizzlies Excellence in Academics honor for the 2012 winter semester.

The honorees make up roughly 68-percent of the student athlete population at Oakland. The award is earned by maintaining a 3.0 GPA or higher.

Hamilton injured in NBA Summer League

After going undrafted, former Oakland star Reggie Hamilton was invited to play on the Indiana Pacers summer league team.

The summer league allows for young players to gain experience and showcase their talents for a chance to make an NBA roster.

In the first game of the summer season, Hamilton saw just 4:49 minutes on the court before spraining his ankle. The injury will cause Hamilton to miss the rest of the summer session, putting a damper on his NBA hopes.

— Compiled by Timothy Pontzer, Senior Reporter



Photo courtesy of Jose Juarez

Oakland's Alex Aceino competed for a chance to swim for the U.S. Olympic swim team in London this summer, competing in the 100-meter butterfly. The trials took place in Omaha, Neb.

Vying for Olympic gold

Oakland swimmer Alex Aceino tried his hand for a chance on the U.S. swimming team in June.

By Damien Dennis
Sports Editor

Many student-athletes across the nation have the dream of one day playing in a professional league, be it the NFL, NBA or MLB. But for athletes of other collegiate sports, a different dream can be had.

The chance to compete for a spot on the U.S. Olympic team for the 2012 Summer Olympics in London is one many have dreamed of, including Oakland swimming's own Alex Aceino.

"Competing in the Olympics is a childhood dream of all kids that compete in an Olympic sport," Aceino said. "I made my goal just to make it to the trials and compete."

The 2012 Olympic Trials for swimming took place between June 25 and July 2 at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha, Neb. The week-long trial event pitted swimmers from across the U.S. against each other in heats to deter-

mine the top two swimmers in each event.

Aceino competed in the 100-meter butterfly trials for a spot on the 2012 Olympic team.

"Qualifying for the USA Olympic Trials is one of the ultimate tests in our sport," head coach Pete Hovland told The Oakland Press.

For swimming, an athlete has to achieve the standard meet qualifying time in order to compete in their respected event.

"For me, that was a time of 55.29 (seconds) in the 100-meter butterfly, which I went .04 (second) faster than at the U.S. Nationals last summer in Palo Alto, Ca," Aceino said.

Swimming since the age of six, Aceino competed on a year-long USA swimming team when he was 11 years old. He has won two junior national titles as part of his team's 200 and 400 medley relays.

Entering his senior season at Oakland, Aceino has won nine Summit

League conference titles in the 100 yard butterfly, 200-yard medley relay and 400-yard medley relay.

"The coaching staff at OU, Shawn Kornoelje and Hovland, have done a great job with training and motivating us. Not just during the NCAA season, but in the long-course summer season for high level competitions, such as national championships," Aceino said.

Aceino's coaches have worked with him not only in preparation for the Olympic trials but also during the course of the swimming season.

"Our training schedule is two to four hours of swimming a day depending if we have doubles or not, an hour of dry land (lifting/core) exercises every day with Sunday usually being our day off. For the NCAA season, we usually have a meet on Saturday," Aceino said.

While Aceino didn't make the cut for the chance to compete this summer in London, the Oakland swimmer said he is happy just for the opportunity to try out.

"All of the OU athletes have competed for their home countries at the Olympics and knowing that the US team is the most difficult to make considering the caliber of swimmers we have," Aceino said. "I know I didn't have a shot at making it, but just competing and having a chance is good enough for me."

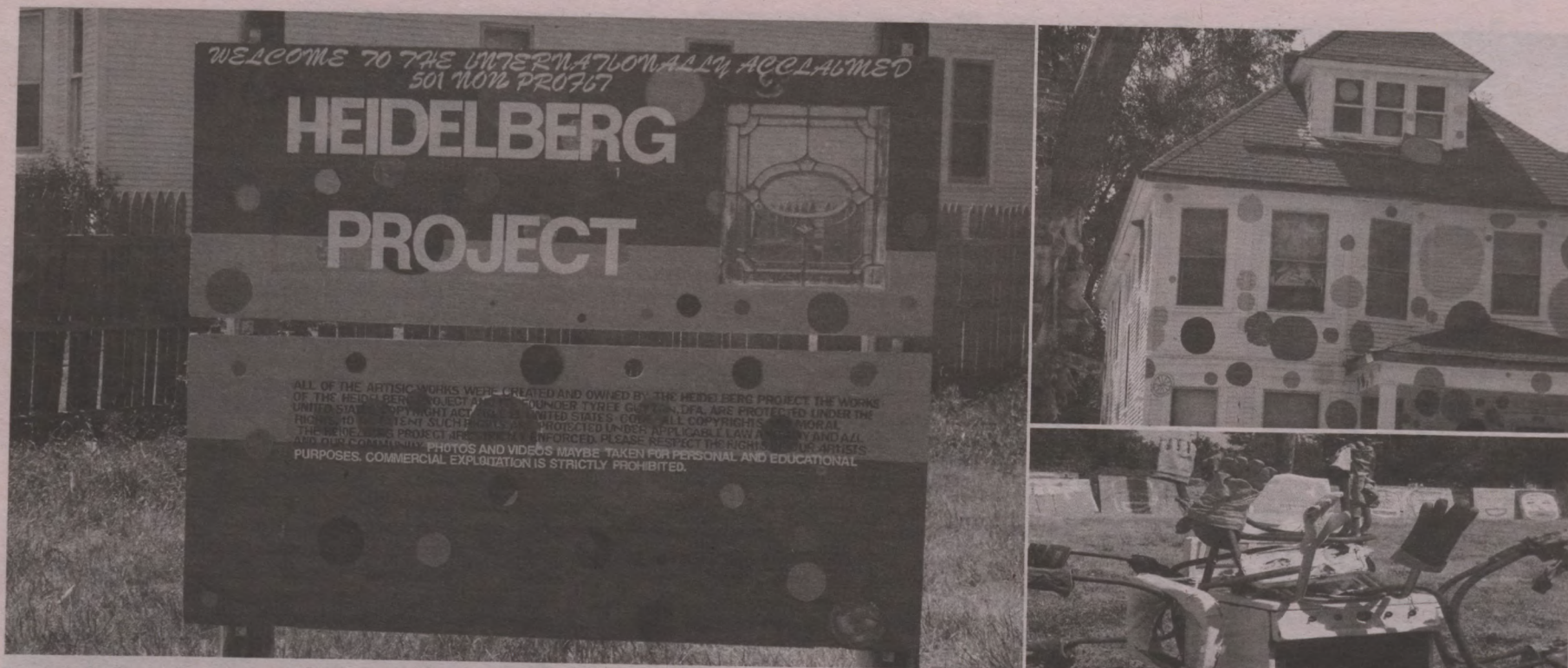
Aceino finished 108th overall in his event, with a heat time of 55.79 seconds and a score of 712. E

Aceino has another year of training and competition to prepare him for the next summer Olympic events.

Aceino was joined in Omaha by fellow Oakland swimmer Alyssa Busch, who competed in the 100-meter backstroke trials.

Busch also failed to make the 2012 U.S. Olympic swim team.

Sports Editor Damien Dennis can be contacted at djdennis@oakland.edu or on Twitter @djdennisOU



LEFT: A sign marks the entrance to the two-block art project, which was started in 1986. **TOP:** Residents of the Heidelberg project decorate their houses in creative and different ways, including polka-dots. **BOTTOM:** The Heidelberg project uses everyday discarded objects like an old stove and oven mitts, to create art around the community.

KATIE WILLIAMS/The Oakland Post

Changing Detroit through art

The Heidelberg project has turned two blocks on Detroit's East Side into a creative safe haven for local artists, destination for tourists

By Katie Williams
Staff Reporter

At first glance, the corner of Mt. Elliot and Heidelberg looks like something out of a Dr. Seuss book. The houses are polka-dotted, splattered with numbers and adorned with stuffed animals. There are shopping carts and shoes hanging from the trees. The lawns are scattered with everything from a robot constructed from car parts, to a toilet with a political agenda and a Barbie car on a roller coaster track.

A diamond in the rough

In the center of an average Detroit subdivision, two blocks refuse to be overlooked. When one steps onto Heidelberg street they become a part of an interactive ever changing art project, which is exactly what Tyree Guyton, the founder and artistic director, was aiming for when he started the Heidelberg Project in 1986.

The non-profit organization uses

everyday discarded objects to bring color and creativity to the impoverished community, while providing art education for neighborhood children and an outlet for local artists.

"It's unique, without a doubt," said Amanda Sansoterra, emerging artist director and executive assistant to Tyree Guyton. "The art is fascinating, the people living in the Heidelberg community are interesting and special. When people visit, all of these components are immediately recognized."

Biennial Festival

The Heidelberg Project is preparing for its ninth Biennial Festival, Detroit's Got Talent, on Aug. 11. The festival starts at noon and will showcase artists in four categories: visual art, culinary art, music and performance. The event is free and open to the public.

The event's artistic directors sorted through artist's résumés and personal statements in order to select the participants for the event. Each

"The art is fascinating, the people living in the Heidelberg community are interesting and special. When people visit, all of these components are immediately recognized."

Amanda Sansoterra,
Emerging Artist Director and
Executive Assistant to Tyree Guyton

category will have a panel of judges who will provide insight and feedback for the artists.

Kate Monaghan is one of four artists selected in the music category. A Royal Oak native, she's a folk singer-songwriter who released her first EP, "Fade," in Oct. 2011. She has recently performed at the Majestic Theater and the American Civil Liberties Union of Metro Detroit benefit show in March.

"I'm really happy to have the opportunity to support such a great

community organization that is working to transform neighborhoods and people through creativity. I really believe in that, as an artist and as a person," she said. "I think it's a great opportunity to put myself and my music in front of a new audience."

The event will also feature a children's corner with arts and crafts and music activities for the day, including presentations by the Detroit Academy of Kinesthetic Arts.

Food trucks from El Guapo, Treat Dreams, Frank's Anatra, The Green Zebra and Ned's Travel Burger will also be present.

"There is something at our festival that will appeal to all, from different walks of life, whether you're 20 or 75. It's a family friendly environment, a huge celebration of community and a coming together through the arts," Sansoterra said.

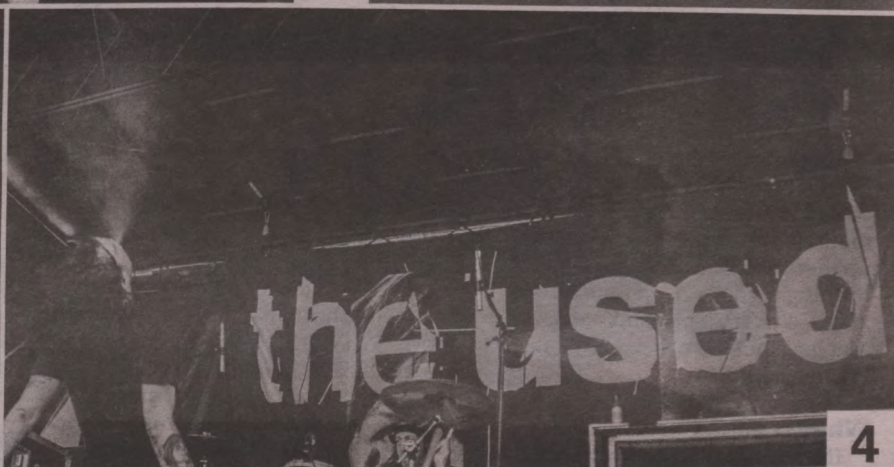
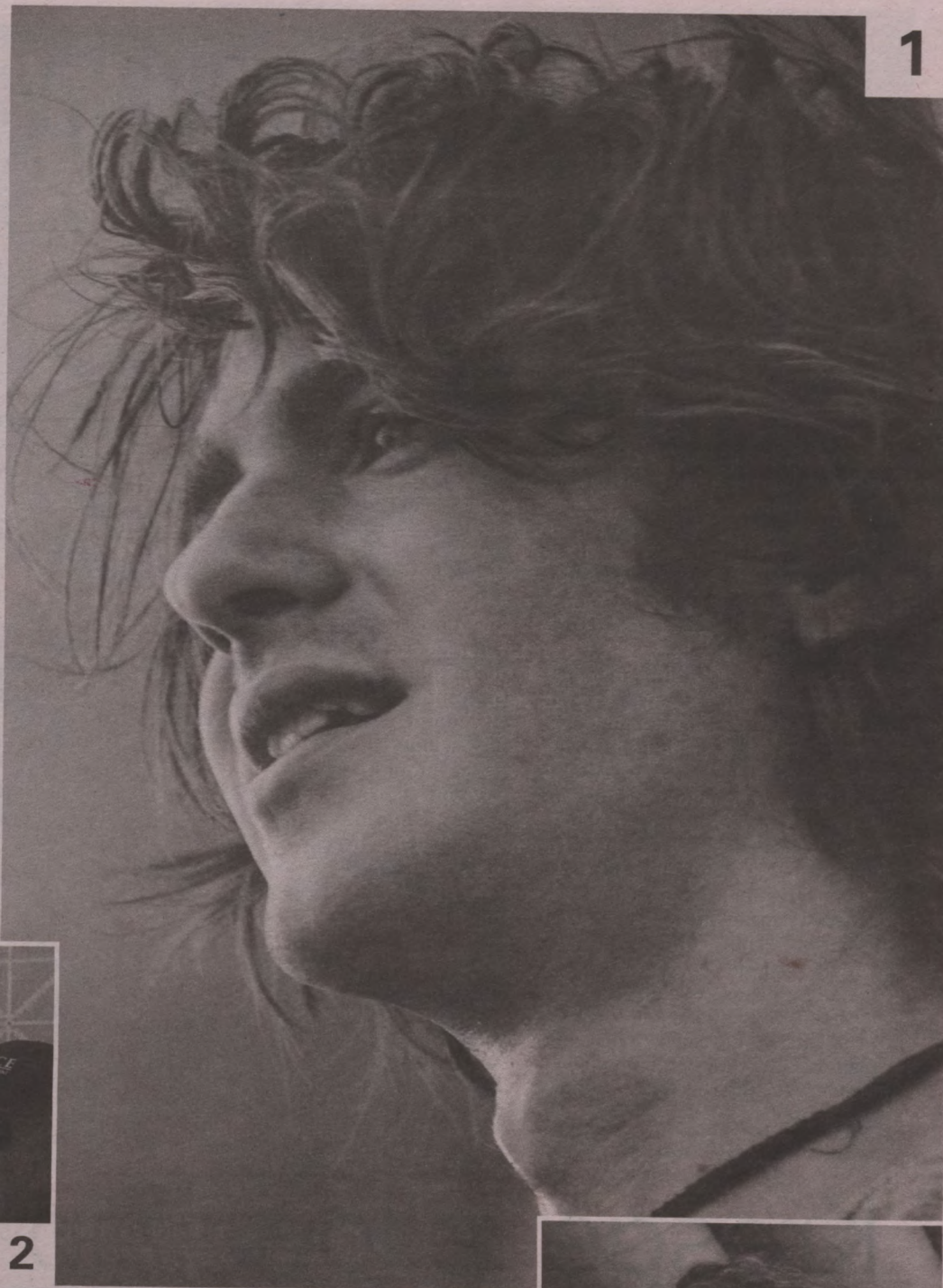
Contact Staff Reporter Katie Williams
via email at kjwilli2@oakland.edu or
follow her on Twitter @kwillicando

Van's Warped tour defeats the heat

*Record-threatening heat does not
deter fans from all-day, outdoor show*

By Christopher Lauritsen / Dylan Dulberg / Chelsea Bistue
Local Editor / Staff Photographer / Photo Editor

1. Mayday Parade frontman Derek Sanders watches the July 6, crowd in between songs. "Detroit ... (is) kind of known as (one of) the best Warped Tour dates," he said. "It's kind of cool to hear people sing along."
2. Due to the extreme heat and risk of heat exhaustion and dehydration, concerned Palace employees sprayed crowd members with water throughout the day.
3. Ryan Key, lead singer from Yellowcard, gave a very enthusiastic performance, playing the band's hit song "Ocean Avenue" as an encore.
4. After throwing the can out into the crowd, Bert McCracken, frontman for The Used, spits a mouthful of Monster Energy drink into the air before starting their set.
5. Mayday Parade rhythm guitarist Brooks Betts plays an impromptu riff while the other band members change out microphones for their next song.



Grizzly royalty

Alumni sweep competition at Miss Michigan pageant

By Sarah Hunton
Senior Reporter

The stage was set, the crown was ready and three Oakland University women were poised to sweep the competition.



Angela Venditti, Miss Michigan 2012

On June 14, Angela Venditti, an OU alumna, was crowned as Miss Michigan. Two other Golden Grizzlies, Shelby Gardiner and Kelly Oles, earned first and second runners up.

Venditti graduated from OU with a communication degree in 2011. She had an administrative assistant position but had to resign when the Miss Michigan title became a full-time responsibility.

As Miss Michigan, Venditti will be doing a lot of community work.

Two large sponsors of the Miss America pageant are located in Michigan, CITGO Oil and the Dr. Pepper-Snapple Group, she will be making appearances with them.

She will also appear and speak on behalf of the Miss America pageant's platform, The Children's Miracle Network Hospital, as well as her own platform.

"Every person who is involved in Miss America has their own platform and I call mine 'Above the Influence: Keeping Kids Drug Free,' so I'll be doing a lot of appearances and speaking on the behalf of drug prevention," she said.

Venditti has been volunteering since she was 14-years-old.

"I began volunteering with CARE, a substance abuse agency, while in high school," she said. "Then about four years ago, I lost a very close friend and cousin of mine to a heroin overdose and that was when I made my platform about this issue. I've been volunteering with different drug prevention groups for 10 years."

Although she has been volunteering so long, she said she found her voice through pageants.

"When you have a crown on your head, people look at you," she said. "So when you have the audience, what are you going to say? I saw it as an opportunity to help others."

Venditti explained that the Miss Michigan pageant process took about a week to complete.

"The competition lasted three days, but for the four days prior we made appearances throughout Muskegon. One day we hung out with Big Brothers/Big Sisters children at Chuck E. Cheese, we went to luncheons with

different groups in Muskegon (and so on)."

Venditti was named winner after two nights of preliminary competitions.

Now she must prepare for the national Miss America competition, where she will prepare a new talent, develop her scholarship applications, tighten her speaking skills and of course, pick a new dress.

Although they were not instructors within her major, two OU professors who stick out to Venditti are Timothy Briggs, special lecturer in writing and rhetoric, and Graham Cassano, associate professor of sociology.

"I'm very pleased to hear that she won, and I think that she's a perfect fit for Miss Michigan, just knowing who she was five years ago, I think she's just a really, really nice person and is (about) trying to bring about good things in this world," Briggs said.

The Miss America pageant is the single largest scholarship available to women in the world and nearly anyone can get involved, Venditti said.

For more information, visit www.missmichigan.org.

Contact Senior Reporter Sarah Hunton via email at sjhunton@oakland.edu



SHELBY GARDINER

First runner up in the Miss Michigan pageant, Gardiner is currently a secondary education major

at OU. She began competing in beauty pageants at 16 after realizing the potential for scholarship opportunities. She won \$300 after competing in her first pageant.

Her platform is 'Date Rape Prevention: Be SMART.'

"I have started workshops for girls to teach prevention techniques about this awful crime," she said.

KELLY OLES

Second runner-up, Oles graduated from OU in 2010 with a degree in communication.

Oles said she wishes she had heard about competing in beauty pageants sooner, because she has earned over \$15,000 in her three years of competing.

"If anybody needs or wants to be involved, please reach out to me," she said. "I've had so many opportunities because of Miss Michigan. It's not a beauty pageant, it's much more and really it's something I'll carry on the rest of my life."



Kresge fellowship picks Pfeiffer

By Mark McMillan
Staff Reporter

On June 27, Kathleen Pfeiffer received additional good news since being named chair of the English department. She had won the prestigious Kresge fellowship.

Pfeiffer, an English professor at OU since 1997, accomplished this by performing exceptionally as an educator and writer.

According to Kresge Arts in Detroit director Michelle Perron, the award is meant to elevate artists in the community. The fellowship accomplishes

this by providing public recognition, professional practice opportunities in metropolitan Detroit and \$25,000 to 12 talented writers and 12 exceptional performing artists from the greater Detroit area per year.

"At the moment, this (accomplishment) is pretty awesome. It ranks right up there with meeting my husband, birthing my son and getting hired at OU — all major, positive events that have put me where I am today," Pfeiffer said.

What it takes

The award is sought by hundreds of

Metro Detroit's most talented writers and performers. While other OU professors have received the fellowship before — 2010's Sociology Professor Vince Carducci is the most recent —

Pfeiffer's recognition comes off the heels of her recent appointment as English chair, as well as her husband's appointment as history chair.

Pfeiffer is currently working on a memoir that delves into the seldom explored world of step-motherhood; a significant departure from her previous books; "Brother Mine: The Correspondence of Jean Toomer and Waldo Frank" and "Race Passing and

American Individualism."

These events, as well as the growing anticipation for her current project, have elevated Pfeiffer to a level she never imagined, but hoped to achieve while staying humble and keeping busy.

"Todd and I are both assuming new positions as chairs of our departments and we can't even really imagine what our lives will be like in the fall, so we're trying to take things slowly and not get too overwhelmed," Pfeiffer said.

Read the rest of the story online at www.oaklandpostonline.com



WHAT'S IN YOUR OFFICE?

*Russi's office examined in
a new series for Life*

By Nichole Seguin
Editor-in-Chief

When Oakland University President Gary Russi takes a break in his office, he's constantly reminded of the principles that made him who he is now. His office is decorated with a mix of memories as well as sentimental items given to him from friends and mentors.

It's here where he can relax and focus on the important issues he deals with every day.

1. Russi pictured in his office, which was painted blue to reflect his favorite color.

2. A medal depicts Oakland's 50th birthday. "It's a special piece," Russi said. "It reminds me every day what pleasure and honor it is to serve as president." Russi has been president since 1996.

3. Russi said the most important object in his office is a rock that says 'create,' which was given to him from a mentor. "It signifies to keep yourself well grounded while you create. It's a great principle," he said. He also has a copy of the OU Emergency Response plan and a picture reminding him to stick to his visions and think of the big picture of Oakland.

4. Stephan Sharf, an OU benefactor, donated a garden on his golf course to Russi shortly after he donated \$21 million to the university. "He wanted people to know how much he appreciated everyone at OU. It's a beautiful garden," Russi said.

5. An analog balance reminds Russi to keep a balance between the two studies he holds degrees in — science and pharmacy medicine and pharmacology.



2



3



4



5

SATIRE

Empty space on campus is 'severely depressed'

Souless matter wonders why it can't be the home to overbooked housing students

By Jordan Gonzalez
Managing Editor

Friends, family and school officials are concerned about the drastic change in the attitude of Oakland University's Empty Space, which has gone from chipper and ambitious to weary and suicidal.

On sight witnesses, as well as university police, said all instances of the Empty Space's depression episodes occurred either by the student dorms or the area between Dodge Hall and Elliot Hall, which is the future site of the new engineering building.

An amateur YouTube video that surfaced earlier this week showed an emotionally distraught Empty Space sobbing about why it wasn't used for student housing.

"Instead, I lie here collecting goose crap and watching as scientific endeavours win the hearts of OU officials ... I just can't like, take this anymore," said Empty Space on the YouTube video.

OUPD is searching to find who uploaded the video, which was uploaded by someone with the user name 'brolianassange.'

In the meantime, doctors are scrambling to figure out the root cause of the depression and can only deduce that Empty Space feels ... empty.

"It is clear from our first tests that it is suffering from a lack of ambition and purpose. No one has given it a reason to get turned into useful matter," said Doctor Ih Majinashin. "For matter like Empty Space, this is potentially devastating. It's heart is broken."

According to OUPD reports,



JORDAN GONZALEZ / The Oakland Post

Although normally empty space on campus has had a positive attitude, as of the last few weeks, it has dipped to a severe depressive drought for lack of ambition.

Empty Space has been crying and lying around and has slipped into "destructive habits and alcoholism."

Last week, it was caught and briefly arrested after trying to summon several ghosts that live in Meadow Brook mansion into forming a powerful, multi-spirit entity.

Chief of Police Eli Elbersen said it was a gravely lethal plot.

"The empty space was attempting to go on a rampage. It planned to destroy all the useful matter on campus," Elbersen said.

OUPD reported that when the empty space was asked for its motive, it "muttered something about campus housing."

"It was bizarre. It kept sobbing and saying how awful it felt that some students won't have a home on OU soil, and that it would rather 'be a hammock, because at least students can sleep on one' ... It was heartbreaking," Elbersen said.

When the news of the foiled ter-

rorist attack leaked, many students immediately tweeted about it, in an effort to raise awareness to the Board of Trustees to fix the housing problem on campus.

Twila, who withheld her last name, said the twitter activism has been incredible.

"Students have been tweeting up a storm. We want to let the world know we need more housing and help this poor, empty matter," she said. "Sometimes all someone or something needs is a pat on the back or a good old-fashioned tweet."

Other students have taken less drastic measures, simply complaining or worrying about bigger problems such as demanding free scantrons or making Moodle more fun.

Contact Managing Editor Jordan Gonzalez at jrgonzal@oakland.edu or follow him on Twitter @el_Doctor23.

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

SATIRE

Monthly TOP 10

America, known for blind overconfidence and being the best at everything has been smashing records all year long.

Setting extreme heat waves, creating The Expendables 2 and having the biggest presidential election to date, America is setting records left and right.

Here are 10 Olympic moments you should look out for...

10. Kanye West attempts to steal someone else's gold medal during their country anthem.

9. The new London-based McDonald's setting the new world record for sending Olympic athletes into cardiac arrest.

8. Adam Carolla and Jimmy Kimmel hosting the trampoline events.

7. Waldo.

6. Nicolas Cage tries to steal the torch, claiming it to be part of some conspiracy.

5. England's subsequent fall as a powerful nation and decision-maker from selecting Duran Duran as a headliner not in 1942.

4. Michael Phelps using a snorkel during synchronized swimming to smoke weed during the freestyle relay.

3. Matt Groening suing the Olympics for their logo, which strangely resembles sexual acts within the Simpsons realm.

2. An airborne release of bath salts, leading to new world records in track due to competitors being chased by face-eating zombies.

1. Spell check is forgotten and all uniforms and leotards become emblazoned with an "Amercia" logo.