

# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 46 | Issue 12 | October 28, 2020



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PHOTO BY: EMILY MORRIS



# THIS WEEK

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



**QUITE THE SPOOKY SIGHT** On a crisp October night, the Elliott Clock Tower lights up a hazy night sky.  
PHOTO / SOPHIE HUME

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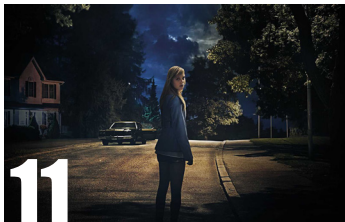
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WXOU and OSI host Birthday Bash at Elliott Clock Tower.  
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Photo/Amazon

## POLL OF THE WEEK

HOW WILL YOU BE VOTING ON NOV. 4?

- A) IN-PERSON
- B) I ALREADY MAILED MY BALLOT
- C) DROPPING OFF MY BALLOT
- D) I'M NOT VOTING

## LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHAT IS YOUR MUST WATCH HALLOWEEN MOVIE OR SERIES?

9%

A) HOCUS POCUS

38%

B) THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

3%

C) THE HAUNTING OF BLY MANOR

50%

D) HALLOWEENTOWN

**CORRECTIONS CORNER:** In the Oct. 21 issue, Clarence Round was incorrectly referred to as “she” on multiple occasions in print when he identifies as a man. The Oakland Post apologizes for the mistake, and corrected it online.

The Oakland Post corrects all known errors of fact. If you know of an error, please email [editor@oaklandpostonline.com](mailto:editor@oaklandpostonline.com).

## CAMPUS

# Emmy nominated comedian Nicole Byer visits OU



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKENTERPRISE.COM  
Nichole Byer at the New York Comedy Festival in 2019

## LAUREN REID Staff Reporter

Emmy nominated comedian, actress and writer, Nicole Byer visited Oakland University on Thursday, Oct. 22 for a virtual, live Q&A. During her appearance, Byer dished on hobbies, career goals, weird celebrity encounters and more.

"I've always been loud, boisterous and performative," Byer said of how she got into acting and comedy. "My grandmother always used to say, 'Oh, Nicole's putting on a show now!' [That] just meant I was being very funny for no reason, because it was just dinner. So it was like, why is she cracking jokes about these potatoes?"

Currently, Byer hosts Netflix's "Nailed It!" (a competitive baking show where home bakers try replicating masterpieces) and podcasts from "Why Won't you Date Me?" and "Best Friends with Nicole Byer and Sasheer Zamata" to "90 Day Bae." She's also been on MTV's "Girl Code," "The Good Place" and a comedy series based on her life "Loosely Exactly Nicole."

"The things they make are so funny [on "Nailed It!"], they make me laugh so hard" Byer said. "This one man on the first season put salt in his cupcake instead of sugar — that was truly a living nightmare."

Byer's career has led her to a 2020 Primetime Emmy nomination for "Nailed It!" — where she's nominated for outstanding host for a reality or reality competition program.

When it comes to quarantine hobbies, Byer said she's been roller skating, pole dancing and getting into yoga.

"I like pole dancing — I just want to do cool shit," Byer said. "I like making

videos, I like doing it, it's a full body workout and I've met some incredible people doing it."

Some other fun questions surrounded fellow celebrities, where Byer said her celebrity crushes were Beyonce and Idris Elba. She also told a story about a weird encounter with Jeff Goldblum in New York City.

"I was rounding a corner, and he bumped right into me," Byer said. "I said 'Hug me like you love me,' and he embraced me and we went about our days. I guess it was strange but fun."

The Nicole Byer event was sponsored by the Student Activity Fund Assessment Committee — made up of representatives from Oakland University Student Congress, Student Activities Funding Board, Student Program Board, Student Life Lecture Board, Student Video Productions, The Oakland Post, WXOU and Club Sports.

"[Byer] is pretty funny and people know her," said Stephanie Jurva, assistant director of student organization programs. "We knew people needed a comedic relief with everything going on in the world, so she stood out."

As far as advice for anyone looking to follow in Byer's footsteps, she stressed the importance of finding one's individualized style.

"Don't follow in someone's footsteps, you have to figure out your own track to get there," Byer said. "You can do similar things [to someone] as long as you're doing it your way and you're not trying to mimic someone's style. Figure out what makes you funny and what you want to put out in the world."

For more information on similar upcoming events, check out GrizzOrgs.

# 24-hour film challenge goes virtual, crowns winner

## BRIDGET JANIS Staff Reporter

The Department of Cinema Studies collaborated with the Oakland University Alumni Association to host another 24-hour film challenge.

OU started the 24-hour film challenge in 2014, it was originally created to have a film related event during homecoming week. The challenge started on Friday, Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. and ended on Saturday, Oct. 24 at 7 p.m.

In the past the films had to be made entirely on campus, using campus locations and the editing lab. This year, the participants had to work from home with people they know. To keep an even playing field among the teams, there was no equipment given out.

The films used to be shown during a showcase event where the winners were also announced, but this year the videos were posted online then there was a zoom ceremony on Sunday, Oct. 26 at 4 p.m.

Some students do the challenge multiple years in a row and even some alumni come back to OU just to participate.

All details for the challenge are released the night before, on Thursday Oct. 22 at 7 p.m., so participants didn't have much time to prepare. The theme of the films this year was "fall." Some of the groups interpreted "fall" as the season, others as the action of falling. The films had to be two-to-four minutes long, and they couldn't be silent films.

"It's a good way to make sure there's consistency between the films," Kyle Edwards, associate professor of English and Cinema Studies said. "But also to challenge them to get creative with them and to see what ideas they come up with."

The films had some content requirements for locations and props. The participants had to include a closet, a park and a garage (either a home garage or a parking garage) in some shots of their film. They also had to make sure

to include an OU logo, an egg and a pumpkin by either using it as a prop or having it in the background.

"It was really wild to see how they incorporated that, whether it was just something that was in the background of a shot or we had some students smashing pumpkins or making it the centerpiece of the movie," Edwards said.

There were eight awards given out during the award ceremony:

- Best story
- Best cinematography
- Best editing
- Best performance (ensemble)
- Best use of sound or music
- Creative integration of required props and/or location
- Creative integration of required theme

The winners of the best film were seniors Michael Dorflinger, Sam Hirsch and Tavian Quince and freshman Anna Dorflinger. This is Michael Dorflinger and Hirsch's second 24-hour film challenge.

"We were very surprised," Quince said. "Maybe because it was one of the silliest."

This group's film was "Coffee Sounds Nice" which was about killing people because they don't like pumpkin spice lattes.

During the creative process, the group evenly distributed the film work while switching on and off between on-screen roles.

"We were throwing out a bunch of random ideas, I was stuck on murder for some reason, don't know why," Dorflinger said. "And then Anna was like 'oh here's a good idea'."

This group felt accomplished with their film — even remarking that after getting into the groove of working from home on the film, they ended up enjoying this year's competition more than past years.

"I thought it was cool how people worked around all the restrictions of [the various creative guidelines and having to film at home with a cell phone]," Hirsch said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CINEMA STUDIES  
Cinema Studies and the Alumni Association hosted a virtual 24-hour film challenge.



# Challenge Detroit program focuses on improving city

**CAYLA SMITH**  
Campus Editor

Thoughts of graduation and what to do post-grad can be daunting, but a fellowship could help clear the way.

Challenge Detroit is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that began in 2012, while the city of Detroit was in the middle of a recession. This fellowship program helps put individuals with leadership skills from the city and across the country with host companies that help accelerate their professional growth.

The program received 400 applications for this year's cohort, but after an extensive interview process that lasts three months 60 applicants made it to the final interview and only 30 of them get to be a part of the cohort.

After being accepted into the program, Monday through Thursday is spent at the individual's host company.

Host companies in the past have included General Motors, Ford Motor Company, Michigan Opera Theatre, DTE Energy Foundation, Detroit Land Bank Authority, Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, Ally Financial and MetroEHS.

The host companies review the applicants they are interested in interviewing, based on the materials that are submitted for the application process of Challenge Detroit. Then the host company and candidate rank their choices to get a match. This ensures that a fellow is paired with a company they would like to work for.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MLIVE  
Challenge Detroit is a fellowship program which aims to share a different narrative about Detroit.

"You are under no obligation to accept any of the offers," Paulette Bolofer-Fulkerson, the talent and engagement manager, said. So if you get an offer from an organization you are not interested in, you are not obligated to accept that offer."

On Friday, fellows work together on intellectually

based projects for local nonprofits. There's a waitlist of nonprofits that are looking to work with the program. The nonprofits chosen for this year include Generation of Promise, Empower, Grandmont Rosedale and the Detroit Phoenix Center.

"Our fellows really explore different topics, and work with different nonprofits," Bolofer-Fulkerson said. "This experience is a good introduction to different work in the city."

When the program ends fellows stay with their host company, start their own business, go on to graduate school or go into a new job.

At the time, Bolofer-Fulkerson was working at Cranbrook Horizons Upward Bound.

The students that she worked with were from Detroit, and she wanted way to connect with them. She found that Challenge Detroit could help her do that.

"One thing I walked away with was this network of people and relationships," Bolofer-Fulkerson said.

She also mentions that Challenge Detroit focuses on all parts of the city and not just the downtown area, making sure that the parts that don't get publicity or attention are focused on.

"Challenge Detroit helps to share a different narrative about Detroit," Bolofer-Fulkerson said.

Applications aren't open until February, but individuals can sign up to be reminded.

# OU AAUW to host walk for breast cancer

**LAUREN REID**  
Staff Reporter

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) at Oakland University is hosting a walk to stand in solidarity with women battling breast cancer on Saturday, Oct. 31.

October is also breast cancer awareness month.

The walk will kick off at Elliott Tower, and then participants will walk past Pawley Hall, Kresge Library and North and South Foundation toward the upper fields, eventually to end back at the Recreation Center.

"Not only is this a difficult time for our country, but especially for people with pre-existing conditions," said President of OU AAUW Maya Ford. "We wanted to show our support and show that we stand by [women with breast cancer], even if we cannot be side by side."

There is a \$10 admission for the walk and participants can also donate in honor of someone, and all proceeds will be donated to The American Breast Cancer Society. In lieu of COVID-19 guidelines, the event itself is limited to OU students, but donations are open to everyone.

"It's just one way we can show we stand in solidarity with women who are battling breast cancer," Ford said. "People have until Nov. 7 to donate if they choose — as much as their heart desires."

Throughout the walk, upbeat music will be playing along with snacks, Halloween candy, poster boards and signs. Participants are encouraged to wear any breast cancer or pink attire, along with a mask, which is mandatory.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU AAUW's TWITTER  
Oakland's America Association of University Women will be hosting a Breast Cancer walk on Oct. 31 to stand in solidarity with women battling breast cancer..

Prior to the event, student participants are required to fill out the COVID-19 health screening questionnaire. The walk will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"I'm most looking forward to seeing OU students come together for a good cause, even despite the challenges we are facing with the COVID-19 pandemic and current state of the country," said OU AAUW Vice President, Olivia Rademacher. "I have faith that the students on campus and anyone else interested in contributing to our fundraising will provide us with not only a sizable donation to give to the American Cancer Society but also great support for what we are trying to do as an organization."

The OU chapter of AAUW is committed to the advancement of all women regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, class or identity.

"We want [members] to leave knowing something they didn't before but also to leave taking some sort of action," Ford said. "I love hearing how AAUW helps [members] in the professional world and in their own lives."

Ford encourages interested students to attend meetings and learn more saying, "we just have fun [and] welcome everyone."

Rademacher had similar thoughts as a new AAUW member, expressing how excited she is to expand the network of women in her life.

"We have a great group of incredibly talented and dedicated women not only on our E-board but in the club as a whole," Rademacher said. "I am super excited to see what ideas we will work together to come up with over the course of the year."

For more information on how to donate or to register for the AAUW Breast Cancer Walk, visit the event's page on GrizzOrgs.



## CAMPUS

## Great Lakes Poll explores election, race relations, COVID-19

**MICHAEL PEARCE***Editor-In-Chief*

With the 2020 presidential election less than a week away, polling numbers are the main topic of conversation.

Polling numbers, while not determinative, can provide an insight into the way citizens across the U.S. think.

Professor Terri Towner went on sabbatical for the summer and fall semesters to conduct research about the 2020 presidential election. After months of research, the Baldwin Wallace University Great Lakes Poll was released.

The poll had four releases and covered many hot button issues for the 2020 election — race, COVID-19 and the media.

Each result has a margin of error to account for the sample size. For Michigan, 1134 people were polled with a 3.2% margin of error, meaning for each result, 3.2% could be added or subtracted, as 1134 people do not represent almost 10 million. Some specific questions had a higher or lower margin of error as well.

Four “Great Lake” states were included in the results for each question: Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

“[Baldwin] Wallace is the principal investigator, and they’ve been conducting this research since 2016,” Towner said. “Our main goal is we’re interested in whether Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are still these main battleground states.”

In 2016, the midwest was pivotal in the election of Donald Trump as President. In Michigan, Trump won by less than one percentage point.

There were four iterations of the poll, starting in January. The subsequent three took place in March, September and October. The March poll was pivotal with the presence of COVID-19.

“Our whole poll in March was pretty much all about COVID[-19],” Towner said.

Voting because of COVID-19 was polled, with 43.3% in Michigan planning on voting in person on election day, 48.9% planned on voting by mail or absentee and 4.2% were unsure.

In Michigan, 50% of respondents said they strongly disapproved of Trump’s handling of COVID-19. Almost 40% of respondents were strongly in favor or in favor of his handling of the virus, with 8.7% only somewhat disapproving of Trump’s COVID-19 response.

As for voting in the presidential election, Michigan participants were in favor of Joe Biden. If the election was that day, 50.2% of participants said they’d vote for Biden. Trump came in at 43.2% and 4.3% of participants were still unsure.

The Michigan Senate race between John James and Gary Peters was included as well. Forty-eight percent of poll respondents are in favor of Peters, 42.1% would vote for James and 9.9% were still unsure.

For Towner, the groups she is keeping the closest eye on is those unsure respondents.

“We’re still in a tight race on the senatorial, which is something I don’t see being covered very much in Michigan,” she said.

After a summer of protests for racial justice, September’s poll focused heavily on race relations in the U.S. Michigan was the state in favor of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement the most, with 56.7% of respondents either strongly in favor or just in favor of BLM.

The state was still split, however, with 38.3% of respondents either disapproving or strongly disapproving of BLM. Exactly 5% were unsure.

Questions 29 through 31 related to privilege and the view of white people in



PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRI TOWNER

Professor Terri Towner collaborated with Ohio Northern University to compile data on the four “Great Lakes States”: Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

rural America. Just over 50% of people in Michigan either agreed or somewhat agreed that “society doesn’t understand the challenges faced by whites living in rural communities today.”

However, despite the majority of Michiganders holding that belief, 63.5% of respondents in Michigan agreed or somewhat agreed that “white people in the U.S. have certain advantages because of the color of their skin.”

Towner believed the reason Michigan was more split on racial issues is the makeup of the state. Despite having many rural areas across the state, Michigan has more urban areas than the other three states.

According to the U.S. Census, Michigan has more counties with two or more races in the population than Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

“Those rural and urban boundaries have really become blurred as we see some areas that were once considered more rural become more urban,” Towner said. “That’s why we see a lot of division on these racial questions.”

Overall, the biggest change Towner saw was the shift in support for Donald Trump after the COVID-19 pandemic, especially

in relation to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who had a 65% approval rating.

“What we see is that we approve of our governor’s handling of the crisis much more so than the President of the United States,” Towner said. “I have to say I was also surprised to see that 8% difference for Joe Biden, because it was very close in the previous polls.”

Towner believed the shift was directly related to the handling of COVID-19, race relations and unrest in the country.

“When Joe Biden and Kamala Harris have campaigned in Michigan recently, not only have they talked about racial and societal issues, they also of course talked about COVID[-19],” Towner said. “I think that resonates with us.”

While the poll is not a determinative tool to guarantee election results, the results do give insight on the mindset of citizens in the U.S.

Early polls, including this one, have Biden winning Michigan. However, only time will tell if that result will align with the poll, as Hillary Clinton was projected to win Michigan in 2016.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF BALDWIN WALLACE

Baldwin Wallace University was the principal investigator in this poll.



## Matilda's 137th Birthday Bash remembers OU's founder

**EMILY MORRIS**  
Managing Editor

Students and faculty celebrated what would have been Oakland University's founder Matilda Dodge Wilson's 137th birthday with music, giveaways and gourmet hot chocolate.

Matilda's Birthday Bash has become a staple of nostalgia during Homecoming Week, building community and honoring OU's history. Attendees gathered under Elliott Tower on Monday, October 19 at noon to sip a seasonal sugary beverage and listen to music provided by WXOU, the campus radio station.

The hot chocolate bar was made with frothy milk with optional whipped cream. Then each customer could choose additional toppings to add, including caramel, fudge, sprinkles and a variety of chocolate chips.

There were also OU swag giveaways. WXOU had fleece blankets with their logos on them for attendees, and there was a table full of small OU buttons.

Oakland University is still in its infancy compared to other universities in Michigan, but some of its history, including Wilson, is more intimate. Many may still remember Wilson's presence on campus as her former home rests on the edge of campus, which has become a national historic landmark, the Meadow Brook Mansion.

Wilson donated 2 million dollars and her estate, where the campus was built. In fact, her monetary donation alone would be equivalent to over 18 million dollars today. Then she continued to stay involved with the campus's growth — she placed the first stone of one of OU's oldest buildings, Wilson Hall. To put her philanthropy and OU's growth in perspective, Wilson Hall is currently navi-



MAGGIE WILLARD | PHOTOGRAPHER  
Students and staff celebrated Matilda Dodge Wilson's birthday as a part of Homecoming

gating a similar sum of money — roughly 20 million dollars — to update the facility.

Although Wilson died 10 years after OU's origin on September 19, 1967, she continued to make contributions. In 1971, the Meadow Brook Mansion was opened to the public, unveiling more history.

Today, students are welcome to take a tour of her home, complete with original furniture and fixtures, for free.

Wilson ignited Oakland University's origin, and although she isn't a fixture of the campus anymore, her personal touches are scattered thoughtful OU: university history, events, like Matilda's Birthday Bash, buildings on campus and tours at the Meadow Brook Mansion. The annual Birthday Bash is a way to remember her contribution to Oakland University.



MAGGIE WILLARD | PHOTOGRAPHER  
Buttons and fleece blankets were given away during the event, as well as hot chocolate and cookies.

## Alumni association hosts virtual events for homecoming

**RACHEL YIM**  
Staff Reporter

Homecoming welcomed back former students and staff and celebrated their contributions to Oakland.

To celebrate homecoming safely this year, the Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) hosted its annual homecoming events virtually.

Established in the early 1970s, the OUAA connects alumni and friends with the university community, which is available to all OU graduates and those with academic certification from OU. It has hosted a fall homecoming since 2014 to bring all OU community members together on campus.

Erin Sudrovech is the director of OUAA. She works to make sure alumni continue to stay involved with OU after graduation through a variety of events, volunteer opportunities or other programs and initiatives. According to Sudrovech, there are changes to the usual way they hosted homecoming events due to COVID-19.

"This year, since bringing people together face to face on campus was not possible, we expanded the normal two-day schedule to a weeklong schedule of initiatives and had a few things going on everyday," Sudrovech said. "We also ramped up our social media efforts and produced a lot of content for contests and games on Facebook, for example."

The homecoming week consisted of a variety of events, including a pumpkin decorating contest, virtual campus tour, drive-in movie, adventures with Grizz and the "Faculty After 5" virtual series. Though most ac-

tivities were available for anyone to participate, some events were created with special meanings, according to Sudrovech.

The "Faculty After 5" sessions were created as a way to highlight OU faculty, while adventures with Grizz was for alumni and their kids to participate in. In addition to the faculty sessions and adventure events, the drive-in movie — collaboration between the OUAA and Student Program Board — was also planned for all alumni and current students to enjoy.

Wrapping up another successful — but different — homecoming week, OUAA will continue to host various events for the OU community members. Upcoming events include a civic engagement virtual series, golden celebration, featuring the class of 1970 and pioneer club winter wonder lights.

Enjoying these homecoming events and friendships with associates who share a common bond, OUAA members continue to be a part of the OU community as contributors to the university, maintain active roles in programs that support OU and build relationships that benefit both students and the university.

Moving forward, Sudrovech hopes to continue to keep alumni engaged with and connected to OU, and looks forward to the stories she hears from alumni. She also said she is grateful to hear about memories about different college experiences.

"Your relationship with Oakland is lifelong," Sudrovech said. "My team is here to make sure there's always a place for you to come home to at OU."

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
The Alumni Association partnered with the Student Board to put on a drive-in movie featuring Hocus Pocus on Saturday, October 24th.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLDEN GRIZZLIES  
OU's mens basketball head coach, Greg Kampe, had his first radio show since COVID-19. Kampe talked about his team and the season that is starting next month.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
Over the course of Homecoming week and lasting until the 27th, the Alumni Association held a pumpkin decorating contest. Result will be posted on October 30th.





# REDEFINING HOMECOMING

Oakland University's homecoming looked different this year, with a mix of social distanced and virtual events. Free hot chocolate to a drive-in movie on campus, the Student Program Board and the Alumni Association put on multiple events from October 19th through October 24th.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



PHOTOS COURTESY OF EMILY MORRIS



On October 19th, The Student Program Board hosted a hot chocolate bar by Elliott Tower. Socially distanced line, outside, and masks were all used to make this event safe. The hot chocolate bar was part of the birthday celebration for Matilda Dodge Wilson. See page 6 for the full story.





# SPB shows crowd favorite ‘Hocus Pocus’ at drive-in

**BRIDGET JANIS**

*Staff Reporter*

Oakland University has been bringing the Halloween spirit to campus for homecoming week, and Student Program Board hosted a drive-in movie at parking lot P37 on October 25. OU had to trade big costume parties for small socially distanced events.

The event required attendees to stay in their vehicles, and snack packs were provided. The evening was successful with a sold-out crowd. The movie shown was a Halloween movie favorite, “Hocus Pocus.”

“Hocus Pocus” is a classic movie by Walt Disney Pictures, it is great for families to watch to get into the Halloween spirit, and it is one of my favorite movies to watch in October. This movie is undeniably charming, and it provides all generations with entertainment. It has a lighthearted plot and a lot of special effects.

The movie starts out in Salem, Massachusetts 300 years ago. The focus is on three witches, the Sandereson sisters (Bette Midler, Kathy Najimy and Sarah Jessica Parker) who steal children’s lives to keep them young. The sisters end up being hanged for being witches,

and then they have to wait around their house for someone to bring them back from the dead.

This brings us to the present time of the movie. After a new family moves to town, Max Dennison (Omri Katz) and his younger sister Dani (Thora Birch) end up trying to impress Max’s crush, Allison (Vinessa Shaw) by visiting the witch’s old house on Halloween. Max believes witches are fake, and they’re just rumors that spread around town.

After entering the house, Max fools around and ends up lighting the candle that is said to bring the witches back. Chaos emerges from lighting the candle. The sister witches appear and try to ruin the town. The three teenagers have to work together, along with the help of a magical immortal cat. They must get the witches spell book in order to prevent them from stealing children’s lives before sunrise.

Many people feel strongly about this movie because it’s a classic. I can’t disagree, it is a fun and enjoyable movie that gives me a couple laughs every time I watch it. This was the movie that made me want to be a witch when I was younger. The film, overall, has that 90s vibe to it, and it was made in 1993. This film practically invented Halloween and has been a blueprint for many Halloween movies since.



SOPHIE HUME | PHOTO EDITOR

SPB put on a distanced drive-in of “Hocus Pocus” to close out Homecoming Week

One part of the movie that will forever live rent free in my mind is Midler singing “I Put a Spell On You” to the crowd of parents at town hall after Max was trying to convince them that their children were in danger. The song, the dance, the crowd — nothing will ever be able to top this scene.

If you’ve never seen “Hocus Pocus,” firstly,

where have you been all these years, and secondly, go watch it right now. I am just waiting for a “Hocus Pocus 2” after the second book was released in 2018. “Hocus Pocus 2” was rumored to come out this year but, the production has been pushed back.

**Rating: 4.5/5 stars**

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# Michigan movies for the spooky season

**EMILY MORRIS**

*Managing Editor*

These are the Halloween movies with Michigan ties to add a frightening and possibly familiar take. Although Michigan isn't the traditional Hollywood hotspot, some believe Michigan could be the next feature area for film with its diverse backgrounds: the Great Lakes, cities, farmland, universities and wildlife.

## "It Follows"

Entirely filmed in Michigan, "It Follows" hit the screen in 2014, but the movie has developed some Oakland University fan theories since its release. The main character Jay Height (Maika Monroe) is projected to be an OU student.



PHOTO COUTESY OF THEMOTIVATEDISTRICT.COM

Jay Height goes on a movie date to the Redford Theater in Detroit, Michigan. This is where the movie offers the first glimpse of someone or something following Height.

After a casual sexual encounter, Heights learns she's being followed by someone or something. To stay alive, she has to unpack her follower's weaknesses and try to stay one step ahead.



PHOTO COUTESY OF MARIONTALKS.WORDPRESS.COM

After becoming scared for her life, Heights enlists the help of her friends. One of first times she confides in her friends is in Clark's Ice Cream and Yogurt in Berkley, Michigan.

Her friends help her unravel the mystery she's suddenly found herself in, but there's a struggle for any true resolution. "It Follows" doesn't offer a clean-cut ending with a happily ever after, and that choice is thoughtful in the horror genre. Naturally, a resolution is something a viewer is looking for, but a final note of uncertainty makes the plot seem more real and suspenseful, especially with the filming locations and fictional characters adding reliability.

She doesn't visit the actual Oakland University while she tries to escape in the movie, but there was filming in the nearby University of Detroit. Although OU only got a fictional nod in the movie, University of Detroit is one of OU's main rivals, making a notable and ironic set choice.

Other filming locations that may ring a bell include the Redford Theater in Detroit, Clark's Ice Cream and Yogurt in Berkley, High Lift Building, Water Works Park in Detroit, Clawson High School, Northville Psychiatric Hospital, the Packard Plant in Detroit and Jaycee Park in Troy.

This is a suspenseful movie that adds more elements to the typical ghoulish encounter. The plot's originality in "It Follows" makes it worth a watch on its own, aside from the additional local elements.

## "The Evil Dead"

The classic horror movie from 1981, "The Evil Dead", still holds true to its alarming and local roots. Sam Raimi, a Royal Oak native, directed the original movie and split the filming locations between Michigan and Tennessee.



PHOTO COUTESY OF EMPIRE

Sam Raimi is from Royal Oak Michigan, and he directed "The Evil Dead." He kept his roots alive in the filming with several Michigan locations and fictional Michigan plot points.

Because of its emphasis on Michigan, some believe the main characters are college students from OU's neighbor and previous affiliate, Michigan State University. There wasn't any filming at the university because the film largely takes place at a cabin in the woods, but there are scenes from Marshall and Detroit.

"The Evil Dead" was the beginning of the classic cabin in the woods scene that has accompanied many movies since — "Cabin in the Woods," "The Lodge," "Cabin Fever."

A group of young adults venture into the woods to stay in a rickety, old cabin to find themselves and relax for a beat, but their plans quickly crumble. Someone unearths a spooky spell book that unleashes a world of terror on the group.

"The Evil Dead" follows a familiar horror plot, and the story comes across as nostalgic yet scary. Despite some expected scenes, the locality lets viewers feel connected to the film, giving an added thrill.

## "Scooby-Doo"

Horror movies aren't the only Halloween route though — the "Scooby Doo" live-action films give lighter lore, still in tune with the spooky spirit. Matthew Lillard, a Lansing native, plays Shaggy and steals the show with his lovable laughs with Scooby Doo.



PHOTO COUTESY OF IMDB

Matthew Lillard is from Lansing, Michigan and has portrayed Shaggy in Scooby-Doo media for almost two decades. His work with Scooby-Doo includes live-action and cartoons.

Lillard has left a lasting impression on Scooby Doo productions as he's represented Shaggy's sweet squirrely voice for almost two decades. His live-action Scooby Doo career includes "Scooby-Doo," and "Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed." Additionally, he portrayed Shaggy in over 30 other Scooby-Doo spin-offs including cartoon recreations, shorts and video games, according to IMDb.



PHOTO COUTESY OF "SCOOPY-DOO! RETURN TO ZOMBIE ISLAND"

This is one cartoon where Matthew Lillard plays Shaggy. Although this animation style is similar to the original show, Scooby-Doo media has used various cartoon styles for the Scooby gang.

Scooby-Doo has a range of stories, depending on the format. The cartoon series will always have a heartwarming nostalgia for young Scooby fans. Each video has a simple layout of solving a mystery with a few snacks and laughs in between. Then the conclusion always leads to a dastardly sign-off: "I would've gotten away with it too, if it weren't for you meddling kids!"

As long as the simple mystery plot suits you, any Scooby-Doo episode or movie should check off a Halloween Michigan movie box.

Starting from the original series and answering, "Scooby-Doo, Where Are You!" is the best way to see where half a century of the mystery machine, Scooby-Snacks and masked villains originated.



# The top five Halloween songs

## The ideal LGBTQIA+ Rom-Com



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON  
'Monster Mash' is a classic, but is it the best Halloween song?

### LAUREN KARMO

Staff Reporter

This Halloween, like everything else, will be looking a little different than usual. While there better not be any ragers, nothing's stopping people from making a sick playlist for Oct. 31.

Before we get into the picks, I will give a shoutout to "Spooky Scary Skeletons" by Andrew Gold and the theme from "Halloween town."

While they are incredible, they just barely missed the cut. That being said, here are the top five Halloween songs that will create immaculately spooky vibes.

#### 5. "Zombie" — The Cranberries

Starting off the list at five is "Zombie" by The Cranberries. This is kind of an oddball choice, but the 1993 rock song always finds its way to my "October Spookies" playlist. The Irish twang lead singer Dolores O'Riordan brings to the table adds a different color unique to this particular band.

I will admit, I'm a sucker for '90s grunge — my first CD was "Nevermind" — so "Zombie" just hits the spot. For a fresher version of the song, look no further to Miley Cyrus' cover from earlier this month, it's a real treat.

#### 4. "Monster Mash" — Bobby "Boris" Pickett and The Crypt-Kickers

This '60s classic could not be kept off the list and clocks in at four. "Monster Mash" is the first song I play on Sept. 1 (the beginning of spooky season) because it is just that iconic. Even though the song itself isn't a hot club banger these days, there is nothing that screams Halloween more than a song about Frankenstein making friends in a graveyard and doing a little jig.

"Monster Mash" packs nostalgia in a fat punch, and for that, it deserves a spot.

#### 3. "Thriller" — Michael Jackson

The king of pop had many great hits, but "Thriller" has been a Halloween anthem, and for that, it's earned the three spot. Not only does "Thriller" hit different at every party, but it also has a choreographed dance we all somehow learned by the time we turned 10. No matter the crowd, you'll get the hype once this starts blasting.

Even though I pray to Biden no one will be throwing a big Halloween bash, the 1982 bop will still resonate with the big Halloween Zoom banger.

#### 2. "Dead Man's Party" — Oingo Boingo

"Dead Man's Party" is everything you could ask for in a song and more — incredible beat, complex melodies and creatively killer lyrics. Near perfection will always be recognized and celebrated, and "Dead Man's Party" is one of those songs I'd listen to all year.

The '85 punk song is one of the most unique songs thanks to lead Danny Elfman, and is worth more than one listen when you're all dressed up with nowhere to go.

#### 1. "Calling All the Monsters" — Chi-na Anne McClain

No. 1 is definitely a hot take, but hear me out — a 13-year-old served us the best Halloween song of our generation. "Calling All the Monsters" was simply the hottest jam ever served to us during this sacred holiday and it was the saving grace of Disney's "Ant Farm."

If the last time you heard this absolute banger was 2011, I suggest you swallow your pride and give it another go.

It oozes late 2000s clubbing energy with a touch of Britney, and a whole lot of Halloween spirit.

### LAUREN KARMO

Staff Reporter

The girls, gays and theys have been forced to consume the same boring rom coms for years, and we are sick of it. "The Notebook" is both overrated and heteronormative, and even if it is a cult classic, it's 16 years old. My most loyal fans already know how I feel about Hallmark movies. We need something new — and maybe with a nontraditional couple for once?

I would like to watch a movie with LGBTQIA+ characters without having it be about an illicit love affair or a painful coming out experience. Directors love to use the "overcoming shame" trope when making LGBTQIA+ media — hello, "Love, Simon" — and for once it would be nice to just have one cute happy movie where two idiots fall in love.

We're getting warmer with the creation of some fresh LGBTQIA+ Y-7 cartoons, but I want to see a live action movie that just ends well and leaves me satiated.

"Brokeback Mountain" was revolutionary for its time, but my God is it sad. "Carol" also ends terribly, and I wish I could see one wlw couple represented outside of the male gaze. A girl can dream.

If Hollywood won't do it, someone else has to. Here is my pitch for the perfect rom com.

The scene is set in a crisp Seattle fall. It is not Christian Girl Autumn, but rather sweater weather. The main character, who uses they/them pronouns, is walking the streets and sighing.

They suddenly stop when they see her at Pike's Place. Who is she? A mysterious, cottagecore farmer selling her wares and excess crops to the locals. Cue love at first sight.

From there, the two engage in witty banter and exchange numbers. We have a beautifully cut montage set to "Strawberry Blonde" by Mitski and everyone is happy and makes plans to attend a Halloween party (because Halloween is for the gays).

At this Halloween party, they have an incredible matching couples costume as Peter Pan and Wendy, but a stranger dressed as Tinkerbell leaves our favorite pair confused. Conflict ensues, even if just to keep the movie interesting.

She leaves them to figure themselves out, and the yearning begins. While they had no interest in the Tinkerbell character, she seemed to pick up on some underlying vibes and something felt off. She ignores them until they stop trying, and they lose touch.

Some time later in the future, they are walking the streets and sighing when they are about to pass Pike's Place. For the nostalgia of it all, they decide to walk around the market. She is there. They dramatically reconnect and fall in love and get married (which hopefully won't be illegal) and have babies and grow old together. Happily ever after, the end.

It's honestly incredible what can be created without including unnecessary trauma and overplayed tropes. Here's the bones, Hollywood — now make it happen. Please, I am begging.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ITHICAN  
We need better LGBTQIA+ rom coms, no more "Love, Simon"s.



## FEATURES

# Honors society wins seventh consecutive award

**RACHEL YIM**

*Staff Reporter*

Oakland University's Nu Omega Chapter has been recognized by Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honor society for political science college students, and will receive one of the Best Chapter Awards for the 2020-2021 school year.

This year marks Nu Omega chapter's seventh consecutive year receiving a Best Chapter Award.

According to their official website, each season Pi Sigma Alpha selects chapters across the country to receive the award in order to "recognize local chapters that are particularly active in their departments and universities and exhibit high levels of energy and creativity in furthering the goals of the honor society."

Cody Eldredge, new advisor of Nu Omega chapter, works with the members and officers to facilitate ongoing programming that is consistent with the mission of the chapter.

His role involves organizing various political events, bringing speakers to campus and other activities.

"I'm thrilled to be advising our honorary," Eldredge said. "Working with this group of talented, engaged and

civically minded students is without question the best part of my job at OU."

The chapter received a \$500 award check for dedication throughout the season, despite complications due to COVID-19. The award money is also to be used for future programming, according to the PSA website.

Nu Omega chapter is dedicated to the academic understanding of politics. The chapter promotes excellence in the study of political science through a variety of programs and activities. Every February, a group of students are sent to the Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Research Conference in Washington D.C.

Despite the pandemic, the chapter has inducted 51 new members – its largest cohort to date – and organized several debate-watch parties and panel discussions this season. It has also organized a variety of social functions including a student-faculty game of "Diplomacy," a popular strategy board game.

The president of the chapter Christina Walker emphasized the importance of collaboration with other members, especially when it comes to accomplishing a project together as a group.

"I feel that leadership and the ability to work with

people is essential," Walker said. "Pi Sigma Alpha has given me, my fellow executive board members and former executive board members the opportunity to work together, build relationships and learn how to plan events and write grants. I think many of these skills are transferable to the job market."

She also emphasized how supportive advisor Eldredge was to her and the members. She said that Eldredge provides his students the capacity to learn and grow while in leadership positions.

"Being a member of the Nu Omega chapter opens doors for students to take part in undergraduate research, travel to conferences and network with professors and alumni," Walker said.

As a group, Walker, Eldredge and the chapter members hope to continue to engage with the OU community on critical matters of politics and policy. They also hope to aid its members in pursuing their desired careers – whether it is in law, graduate school, entry into the policy world or local politics.

"As advisor, I'm amazed by our chapter's momentum against the backdrop of the pandemic," Eldredge said. "They truly deserve recognition for their efforts."

# Local candidate for state representative shares platform

**AUTUMN PAGE**

*Staff Reporter*

With elections right around the corner in November, candidates are actively campaigning for your vote.

Barb Anness, a democrat nominee running for state representative in district 45, is still out canvassing to get voters out to the polls. She's very involved with the Rochester community, having been on the board of directors for Michigan PTA for two years -- she's currently their federal legislative chair.

Her district covers Rochester, Rochester Hills, Oakland Township and voting precincts four and seven.

She has lived in Greater Rochester for 24 years, and moved to Michigan with her husband 30 years ago from Ohio. She has two kids, who are both in college. Her daughter goes to Michigan State University and her son goes to Oakland University.

Anness is a graphic designer by trade and owns a small business called Anness Design. This led to her appointment as a school board trustee in 2017. In 2018, she ran to keep her seat. This position led her to the idea of running for state representative.

"After 2018, a couple people kept telling me 'you should think about running for this statehouse seat here in Greater Rochester' and the more I started considering it, I realized that it would be an open seat," Anness said. "If there's ever a time to flip this district from Republican to Democrat, this would probably be it."

Anness has often felt like her voice wasn't heard in the past by some representatives.

"My views have not been reflected in the decisions that are supposed to be representing me up at Lansing," Anness said. "When I found out the individual that is running on the Republican side, that was really the catalyst for me to say 'you know, I think I'm done being



PHOTO COURTESY OF EVERYDISTRICT.US  
Barb Anness, a candidate for the Michigan House of Representatives, has lived in Rochester for 24 years..

represented by the same old kind of representation."

After gaining experience in education and schools, she finds education to be one of her top three issues.

"When I talk about public education, I'm not just focusing on K-12. What concerns me is that, especially at public universities as a state, we've been disinvesting in K-12 and higher education," she said. "As a state, we only put about 4% of the state budget towards higher education and collectively as a nation, on average, most states put at least 10% of their state budget towards higher education."

Anness believes that the disinvesting trickles down to families and their ability to afford to send kids to college.

Another top issue for her is jobs in the economy because of COVID-19. She wants to make sure that small businesses and families can sustain themselves while Michigan battles with the pandemic.

"We've seen from August to September, over 800,000 women have dropped out of the workforce, mainly because of the current pandemic situation and not being able to sustain themselves," she said.

She supports The Heroes Act, which helps small businesses, and a higher minimum wage. Along with paid sick leave and the development of green technologies and industries, infrastructure and the environment are two key issues of hers.

"Infrastructure and the environment are two things that I think we need to start investing in because it will lay the groundwork for our future once we get through this pandemic," she said.

Anness has been talking to voters, whether very democratic or very republican, and realized that a ton of people right in the middle. She appeals to them by discussing what she sees happening at the state level versus what she thinks.

With her experience in public service, she realized that it's important to reach a consensus that benefits every child in the district. When she and the board speak, they want to be a unified body.

To her, that is something that gets lost at a state level.

"I am one of 110 individuals in the Michigan House of Representatives, collectively, we have to make decisions that are ultimately in the best interests of all Michiganders so that ability to problem solve, collaborate and work with others who may not necessarily agree with my point of view and I may not necessarily agree with theirs," she said.

# SATIRE: Network news begin search for worst debate moderators

**JEFF THOMAS**  
Features Editor

**Washington D.C.** — With the 2020 presidential election debate cycle coming to a close last Thursday, major news networks have begun scouring the earth for the worst possible candidates to moderate the 2024 presidential debates.

The primary scuttlebutt around Capitol Hill this weekend concerned how news networks can carry the momentum of 2020's disastrous presidential debates into the 2024 election cycle.

Reports indicate that media war rooms across the country are scrambling to make sure this lightning in a bottle of absolute trainwreck political drama doesn't slip through the cracks of their fingers.

Stu Pedaz, associate executive vice president of internal marketing television broadcast news production at News Corp, explains the news networks' desperate thirst for the next big debate moderating star.

"The 2020 debates were insane," Pedaz said. "You had Trump out there calling Biden's kid a drug addict and egging on white supremacist groups. I mean the dude literally made fun of Biden for wearing a mask and then was in the hospital with COVID two days later, Hollywood can't write material this good."

And upping the ante they are. Reports this weekend indicate that all major multi-media conglomerates are fully intent on lurching their wretched tentacles to the darkest corners of the globe as they look for uniquely horrific debate moderating talent.

"Trump's mouth is a force of nature," Pedaz said. "But, Trump won't be running in 2024. And, I mean,



BEN HUME | WEB EDITOR

After disaster in 2020, networks are searching for the worst moderators possible to further disaster in 2024.

how likely is it that we're going to get two candidates like this again? So, the only way to ensure the kind of drama that draws ratings is to up the ante with our debate moderators."

This early in the search, all manner of deranged humanity and exotic wildlife remain on the table. There are even rumors that Tesla has begun developing debate moderating cyborgs. The eight-foot tall abominations against god are said to be armed to the teeth with air horns and taser guns. Pedaz elaborated on the matter.

"Listen — that Elon Musk is always cooking up something," Pedaz said. "Frankly, I think it's genius. Anytime a candidate is courteously belaboring some

point that isn't escalating the tension then, BOOM! Air horn. Anytime a candidate starts expressing a perspective that's not in the best interest of corporate America, then Elon's terminator hits them with that taser and next thing you know they're flopping around like a fish on the debate stage. I love it! People are gonna eat this up."

Las Vegas is even getting in on the fun and excitement, as dozens of money lines went out amid all the speculation this weekend. A reported \$17 billion in bets have already been placed on who the awful debate moderator might be. Surprisingly, the odds aren't exactly what you'd expect.

While Tesla's terminators are currently heavily favored to win if the networks decide to go with a cyborg option, the odds of the carbon based life form category indicate a scintillating field of potential moderators.

Some of the likelier candidates that have emerged include: Daniel Day-Lewis reprising his "There Will Be Blood" role as a sociopathic oil tycoon, former UFC champion Connor McGregor and the perceived feisty dark horse — 30 to 50 feral hogs.

While news networks are beaming with excitement over these prospects, some United States citizens are concerned that debates are getting too much away from the purpose of helping voters decide how to cast their ballots. When asked about those concerns, Pedaz had this to say.

"It is true that some may have viewed the 2020 debates and felt like they were watching American democracy collapse before their eyes," said Pedaz. "But that's not what I saw. Everytime Trump opened his mouth I saw ratings baby! And ratings equal money. What could be better than that?"

## Second 2020 presidential debate: So, there's a mute button?

**AUTUMN PAGE**  
Staff Reporter

The 2020 presidential debates are now implementing a feature where the microphones can be muted -- and why it is just being added is beyond me.

The Commission on Presidential Debate (CPD) announced on Oct. 19 that it planned on muting Donald Trump and Joseph Biden's microphone during the opening statement of each topic.

"In order to enforce this agreed upon rule, the only candidate whose microphone will be open during these two-minute periods is the candidate who has the floor under the rules," the CPD said.

It's an effort from the commission to "avoid the unruly spectacle that played out at the candidates' first meeting in Cleveland last month."

I find this not only very funny, but also really sad. It's very funny because two "seasoned" adult men (mostly one in particular) can't let the other person talk without being interrupted.

That reason is also why I find it really sad. Like, really guys? You HAVE to talk right as the other person is talking?

Trust me, I think the person will still be there after the first minute of them talking.

This would have been extremely helpful in the 2016 presidential debates.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DALLAS MORNING NEWS  
Finally, the second debate between Biden and Trump had a mute button to stop interrupting.

You know what I'm talking about. If this had existed back, then I wouldn't have had to listen to a minute long compilation of Trump interrupting Hillary Clinton with the word "wrong".

I apologize for any flashbacks you might have gotten from that sentence. It was bad for me, too.

Unfortunately, their microphones can't be muted the whole time. After their opening statements, they can speak freely.

Trump isn't a fan of the change of rules, stating it's "very unfair."

I think it's a needed change whenever Trump speaks.

The commission added in a statement: "We realize, after discussions with both campaigns, that neither campaign may be totally satisfied with the measures announced today. One may think they go too far, and one may think they do not go far enough. We are comfortable that these actions strike the right balance and that they are in the interest of the American people, for whom these debates are held."

Honestly, the muting of microphones was very nice.

Ok, I have a conspiracy theory. I'm sure that if the CPD told both candidates that the microphones were muted, and they actually weren't, the outcome would be the same.

The moderator telling the candidates to speak one at a time was a nice touch.

I thought Trump was disrespectful towards Biden during his opening statement. Biden didn't shake his head or show any signs of not caring about what Trump was saying.

Trump did the exact opposite — he shook his head, and it looked like he rolled his eyes?

What is this, high school?

I thought the beginning of the debate was very civil and as the NBC pre-debate discussion mentioned, it needed to be to somewhat save Trump's campaign.

Overall, the microphone muting I think should be integrated into all debates. It worked out well and created some calmness within the gradual chaos.



# Baseball team hosts alumni for fall world series

**MICHAEL PEARCE**  
Editor-in-Chief

New baseball Head Coach Jordon Banfield has dealt with an unusual fall season. In order to get more competitive reps for his guys, Banfield started a fall world series.

The fall world series split the 42-man roster into two teams, picked in a fantasy draft style. The series is a best of five, which takes place over two weeks. The winning team wins a high-end meal.

"This is something new and something I'm really into," Banfield said. "I think it's really interesting to see what the players think of each other and where they draft guys."

The second game of the series coincided with the team's alumni day, where Oakland Baseball alumni were welcome to watch the game and meet the new team. Players' families and friends also came to watch the fall championship.

Pitcher Dan Rutan and pitching coach Dan McKinney's team won on alumni day, 5-3, giving them a 2-0 lead in the series.

This was the most game-like atmosphere the team had competed in since Banfield took over as head coach in May.

"I think it is a good way to wrap up

the fall to give us as much of a game-like atmosphere as possible," Banfield said.

With a new atmosphere comes some challenges. Players and coaches had to wear masks at the plate and in the dugouts. Banfield also noticed some spots where his team could improve in the new format.

"Our focus level and execution level wasn't where it needed to be, but the competitiveness was really good," he said. "The guys really want to win — which sounds simple, but it's important and isn't always the case."

Banfield decided to switch things up and create a fall classic because the team has been in the same routine all fall. Usually, they'd play a few games in the fall against other schools.

"We lost that this year with all the changes and everything," Banfield said. "This sort of replaces that and it gave us a chance to go through gameday protocol."

The second game of the series on Saturday, Oct. 24 had more people in the stands than the first, as alumni from multiple years mingled and watched their alma mater.

For Banfield, fostering a positive relationship with alumni and creating a "family" atmosphere is important for the success of his program. After the game, Banfield, his staff and the alumni went to



EMILY MORRIS | MANAGING EDITOR

OU Baseball hosted alumni, friends and family to watch their first intrasquad fall world series. After the game, the team, coaches and alumni got dinner together at RJ's Pub.

RJ's Pub in Rochester Hills for dinner.

"It's really good for our program to get those guys back, have them around and make sure they know they're welcome," he said. "We decided to hang out with them for a couple hours and introduce myself, my coaching staff and let them know that we want them around the program."

The alumni support the team the most, according to Banfield, so keeping a good relationship with them is a priority.

"We want to do everything we can to make sure that we foster a relationship that makes it clear to them that they're wanted and in turn will support us in a number of ways," Banfield said.





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