

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Rochester, Michigan

Volume 47 | Issue 11 | October 20, 2021

GRIZZLIES STAY UNDEFEATED

Women's soccer dominates in one-sided win against Wright State last Saturday.

Page 15



SPECIAL ELECTION

Student Congress elects new president mid-fall semester

PAGE 4

PIECING IT TOGETHER

La Pittura Art and Art History club host Collage Making Day

PAGES 8-9

SHIFTING LANDSCAPE

Coach Greg Kampe participates in panel on future of college sports

PAGE 14

PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



HEADSHOT HAPPY HOUR OU's chapter of PRSSA hosted their events for students to come get headshots taken last Monday and Thursday. Story on page 6.
MAGGIE WILLARD/ PHOTOGRAPHER



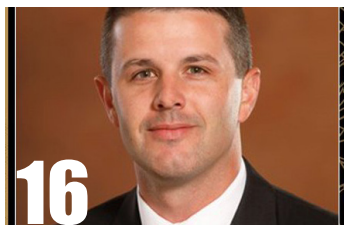
ENGINEERING SCOOTERS

OU and Beryline Corporation work together on new hybrid scooters. Photo/Brian Bierley



PEOPLE OF OU

Songwriter, skater, actress, and future linguist strives to accomplish her goals. Photo/imdb.com



BUILDING A CONTENDER

New director of basketball operations is focused on winning. Photo/Oakland Athletics

THE OAKLAND POST

EDITORIAL BOARD

Jeff Thomas
Editor-in-Chief
jdthomas2@oakland.edu

Lauren Reid
Content Editor
lrreid@oakland.edu

Bridget Janis
Managing Editor
bridgetjanis@oakland.edu

EDITORS

Sophie Hume Photo Editor
sophiahume@oakland.edu

Matthew Scheidel Sports Editor
mscheidel@oakland.edu

Gabrielle Abdelmessih Campus Editor
gabdelmessih@oakland.edu

Sarah Gudenau Features Editor
sgudenau@oakland.edu

COPY & VISUAL

Jennifer Wood Graphic Designer
Megan Parker Graphic Designer
Carolina Landeros Graphic Designer
Elizabeth Foster Graphic Designer

Noora Neiroukh Photographer
Maggie Willard Photographer
Ayman Ishimwe Photographer
Anna Drumm Photographer
Amelia Osadchuk Photographer

DISTRIBUTION

Erika Beechie Distribution Director
erikabeechie@oakland.edu
Ryleigh Gotts Distributor
Katie Reid Distributor
Jillian Wood Distributor
Sam Poudal Distributor

REPORTERS

Tanner Trafelet Senior Reporter
Rachel Yim Senior Reporter
D'Juanna Lester Senior Reporter
Grace Lovins Senior Reporter
Joseph Popis Senior Reporter
Christian Tate Sports Reporter
Brittany Kearfott Sports Reporter
Reece Taylor Sports Reporter

ADVERTISING

Tori Coker Marketing Director
toricoker@oakland.edu
Bridget Janis
Interim Ads Director
ads@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.4269

ADVISING

Garry Gilbert Editorial Adviser
ggilber@oakland.edu
248.370.2105
Don Ritenburgh Business Adviser
ritenbur@oakland.edu
248.370.2533

VOTE AND CONNECT AT:
oaklandpostonline.com

POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE HORROR MOVIE FRANCHISE?

- A) HALLOWEEN
- B) SAW
- C) THE CONJURING
- D) ALIEN

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

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

31%

A) ANXIETY/STRESS

2%

B) SLEEP DEPRIVATION

19%

C) PROCRASTINATION

48%

D) ALL OF THE ABOVE

OU's net position increases

\$71.6 million in fiscal year '21

SARAH GUDENAU

Features Editor

On Monday, Oct. 11, 2021, prior to the Oakland University Board of Trustees (BOT) formal session later that afternoon, the BOT met in Banquet Room A of the Oakland Center for an audit committee meeting to review the draft financial statements for fiscal year 2021 (FY21). The financial standing of the university has improved — as Vice President for Finance and Administration and Treasurer to the BOT John Beaghan explained.

"The university's net position increased by \$71.6 million in FY21, primarily due to investment income of \$50 million, gifts of nearly \$8 million, additions to permanent endowments of \$9 million, capital gifts and grants of \$4 million, and an increase in state appropriations, which was a direct offset to a prior year appropriation decrease of \$6 million," Beaghan said. "These increases in net position were reduced primarily by a decrease in tuition revenue of \$7 million. A decline in auxiliary activities revenue \$9 million, primarily due to the pandemic, was largely offset by a reduction in auxiliary operating expenses."

Beaghan listed other FY21 financial highlights before representatives Stephan Bondar and Amanda Coon from the BOT's external auditor Plante Moran presented. Another highlight was the federal funding OU had received — the grants were to support students and offset the impact of costs and revenue losses during FY20 and FY21.

"The grants were primarily from Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) awarded by the U.S. Department of Education," Beaghan said. "The university was allocated HEERF grants totaling \$75.6 million with 33.6 million earmarked for direct student support. The remaining \$42 million was granted to the university

to defray expenses and lost revenues associated with the pandemic."

To date, the university has distributed \$28.9 million of these HEERF funds to its students. The remainder, according to Beaghan, will be distributed to students later this fall.

Out of the \$42 million institutional portion of the relief funds, \$11.2 million has been used for personal protective equipment, pandemic-related training, IT, air handling unit upgrades and enhanced campus cleaning protocols. The remaining \$30.8 million will offset revenue losses during FY21 and FY22, which are primarily from tuition declines and auxiliary operations — the majority of which is housing, as well as Meadowbrook Hall and the Golf and Learning Center expenses.

The university's endowment value is \$149 million and during FY21, \$4.6 million was spent from the endowment on scholarships.

In September 2019, OU issued \$98 million in tax exempt bonds to fund renovations for Dodge Hall, South Foundation Hall, Varner Hall, Wilson Hall, an off-campus research facility, central heating infrastructure and other projects. As of June 30, 2021, \$17.5 million of the bond proceeds have been spent on such renovations, all of which are "proceeding and upon budget," Beaghan said.

As for the loss in revenue from student housing, the university still has a demand, but it is currently undersubscribed.

"We're at about 2,000 students in the halls," Senior Vice President for Student Affairs & Chief Diversity Officer Glenn McIntosh said. "We've budgeted officially around 60% [occupancy in student housing], so we're still on target to reach that number, and we plan to recover next fall."

The meeting adjourned after the BOT approved the draft financial statements.

Meadow Brook Theatre brings

'Clue' to life

JOSEPH POPIS

Senior Reporter

The classic murder mystery Hasbro board game and movie by Paramount Pictures is being theatrically performed on stage by Meadow Brook Theatre. The murder-mystery-themed show, "Clue: On Stage," is being shown from Oct. 13 through Nov. 7.

"Clue: On Stage" is for people who love a good murder mystery, but also for those who love comedies," said Travis Walter, artistic director at Meadow Brook Theatre. "This show brings to life the characters from the game and film, but fleshes them out in a way that gives each character a unique personality and wonderfully witty dialogue."

The characters present in the show include: Professor Plum, Colonel Mustard, Mrs. White, Mrs. Peacock, Mr. Green, Miss Scarlett and Wadsworth. These individuals are invited to a secluded mansion where their host unexpectedly dies. They are all given weapons and must discover the many clues, along with the audience, that leads them to the killer.

"When creating characters that are already known to the public, there is pressure to make sure that certain aspects of character, sets and costumes are reminiscent of what people are expecting to see," said Walter. "While we have done that, we also have a lot of unique moments that come from what the actors themselves bring to their roles."

The production of this show is distinct because it moves much quicker than the standard theatrical performance. In addition, this show

exhibits a style of entertainment that will keep audiences guessing and trying to find clues throughout.

"It is a fast show, less than an hour and a half, with no intermission," said Terry Carpenter, associate director/stage manager at Meadow Brook Theatre. "Things start to happen quickly within the show. This show will seem shorter as it is pretty fast-paced. You see the whole story in a very condensed time."

All age groups are welcomed to attend. Even though it is a murder mystery, it does not have horrific effects on audiences like a horror movie.

"It's appropriate for kids, there are murders within the game, but there is nothing bloody or terribly scary," said Carpenter. "It is all played in a comedic style. Nothing anyone would be offended by."

Audiences will be pleased to know that safety is of top priority to Oakland University and Meadow Brook Theatre. Therefore, guidelines and rules for attending this event are set in stone to protect the audience and the crew members.

"We currently follow OU's mask policy, so the audience is required to wear a mask during the performance," said Walters. "The HVAC system has been updated— there are hand sanitizing stations in the lobby and touchless ticketing scanners. The entire staff is vaccinated and tested three times per week, and the front row is left open to separate the actors from the audience."

Tickets can be purchased at the Meadow Brook Theatre box office or by buying them online at ticketmaster.com.



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH

The BOT met for an audit committee meeting on Monday, Oct. 11 before the formal session later that day. The primary purpose of the meeting was to review the draft financial statements for fiscal year 2021 (FY21).



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEADOW BROOK THEATRE ON FACEBOOK

"Clue: On Stage" is being shown at Meadow Brook Theatre from Oct. 13 through Nov. 7.

OUSC election: new student body president, v.p. elected

JEFF THOMAS

Editor-in-Chief

Election results for Oakland University Student Congress' (OUSC) first special election since 1982 are in — Andrew Romano and Murryum Farooqi have been elected as OU's new student body president and vice president. Their administration marks a new era in the organization, as student activist group the Oakland United Student Workers Coalition (OUSWC) have effectively taken over OUSC and now have real power to pressure the administration.

"It's a big opportunity ... When you don't hold a position that gives you power, then admins will try to push you aside and won't listen to you," Romano said. "... [Now] there is a lot more responsibility to represent [all students], because I am the representative."

Farooqi seconded this sentiment, expressing her enthusiasm to get to work on making change.

"Initiatives wise ... I feel like we have a lot of momentum right now," Farooqi said. "I'm excited to push things that I've worked on [especially] diversity ... We had one indigenous student [and] one indigenous professor [we talked to recently] about how they're really on board with the idea of working as activists and pushing for money

being diverted for scholarships [and] aid toward students services... [and following through with the] the land acknowledgement."

564 total votes were cast in the election, of those 546 votes were validated. Romano (formerly a Legislator and Judiciary Chair) and Farooqi (formerly a Legislator and Director of Diversity & Inclusion) received 540 of the 546 validated votes, or 98.9% of the vote. Specifics of Romano/Farooqi's platform can be found here, but generally their goal is to make college more affordable for students.

Their vision for OUSC is to move it away from hosting events, and move toward being a real governing body that represents students. They plan to use their new power to give a voice to the campus community. Immediate ideas for accomplishing those goals include a new open door policy where concerned students can speak directly with OUSC leadership and appointing an OU AAUP faculty advisor as soon as possible.

The idea of having a closer relationship with faculty is particularly important, as they see OUSC's prior cozy relationship with administrators as a conflict of interest that compromised the organization's ability to function effectively in advocating for students.

"[Only having admin advisors] is probably one of the bigger reasons why there have been a lot of roadblocks," Romano said. "This is what I've seen as a student — I've never had a professor not be able to help me when I needed something, but I've never had an administrator be able to help me. So in general, professors are just tremendous. Personally, I know professors are more useful. The relationship I have with my professors is way better than anything I've had with any administrator ... Advisors do have some type of a power dynamic because they are older individuals. So they do command [authority]. Matching that power dynamic with a check, which is a

faculty advisor, is one of the biggest things on our agenda."

Also featured on their ticket -- former Interim President and Steering Chair of the Legislature Jeremy Johnson has now been elected as Speaker of the Legislature, and Nayah Pitts and Amir Richards have both been elected as Legislators.

"My biggest goal for us ... and it's always been my goal, since I decided to run for speaker, is to, once we get more legislators in Congress, give them a platform to expand upon their own ideas," Johnson said. "For a long time student Congress has been missing a key component of teamwork, which is celebrating each other's victories and giving the recognition to each other that we deserve. A lot of the time, at least in my experience ... it's been doom and gloom, [the feeling that] we can't accomplish [goals] for [whatever] reason, or [we] shouldn't even try ... But [now] I don't think that we need to limit our ambition for any reason."

Romano and Johnson are founding members of OUSWC. They were both retaliated against by the university last spring, getting fired from their housing jobs following a protest to protect student jobs. They have a history of working together and standing up to the administration.



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
New student body President Andrew Romano and Vice President Murryum Farooqi. Their election marks an organizational shift in Student Congress.

OU Inc. and Beryline are developing a new electric scooter

BRIDGET JANIS

Managing Editor

With technology and electric cars being all the rage lately, Oakland University and Beryline Corporation have been working together to create a new hybrid electric scooter.

Beryline's project originally started 10 years ago when the first sketch of the scooter was made. They have been involved with OU Incubator for the past 5 years. The OU Inc SmartZoner is one of 21 smartzones in Michigan. The smartzone allows for collaboration between Michigan Economic Development Corporation, a university and a city.

"Our mission is to help high tech startups get established and grow in Michigan — so that our economy is diversified, as opposed to just being automotive," Stephan Kent, manager and client strategist of SmartZone Development at OU said. "The reason for the high tech is because in general, if you're high tech, you pay high wages."

This partnership allows for Beryline to receive the start up and the help of engineering students at OU, and in turn, OU receives students

that gain experience and a client to work with. Working through OU also saves Beryline money as the space they provide is significantly lower in cost than other places.

"It's a fantastic, great program, even with the future development of other products after this," said President of Beryline, Dennis Dresser. "Eventually, if we can do well we'd certainly like to get into small delivery vehicles and things like that

with covers on them so I think we will always kind of have a spot at Oakland University in terms of working with them and working with the talent pool there, it's been great."

Hybrid scooters was the direction that Beryline chose to go with because of the versatility it has to offer. The rider can decide if they want to use the electric battery for short distances, or if they want to use gas for longer distances. That combination has been the goal since the beginning.

The design of the scooter is three wheels with a wide stance so it mirrors how you drive a car. The target audience of the scooter is in the United States coastal areas and ages 50 to 55 — but Beryline also hopes for some college students to be interested in the scooters.

Since the project has been developed, the cost, capacity and size of batteries have been increased. Right now, the scooter has about a 50 mile range and Beryline hopes to increase that to a 100 mile range with the help of OU Inc.

"Right now, all of our activity in terms of actually moving forward on this is really going to be in the electric area," Dresser said. "Trying to double the capacity for the patterns

as they continue to get smaller and less costly, then I think we could have two or three batteries in these scooters that you could probably get 100 mile range."

With OU always having a goal of community involvement, OU Inc. generates a lot of that traffic by working with so many clients and helping build students' portfolios in the process. OU Inc. has to report to MEDC every six months. For the last report sent out, OU helped their clients generate \$7.7 million.

Beryline comes with a lot of background information in the automotive industry. To get a project like the hybrid or electric scooters off the ground, being near Detroit is the best opportunity for the company.

The goal is to sell 50 to 100 of the scooters by the end of the year with most of their advertising and marketing being directed at baby boomers in the south.

"I think you're gonna see more of this kind of vehicle. I mean, you're seeing other things out there right now that are coming with these stand up scooters and these e-bikes and things like that, so there is definitely a trend moving in that direction," Dresser said.

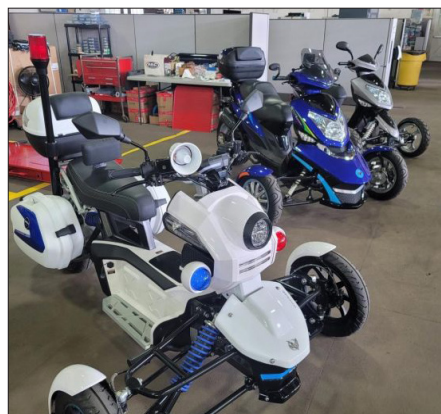


PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN BIERLEY
OU and Beryline Corporation are working to create a hybrid electric scooter.

BOT meeting: research, investments and new faculty contract

TANNER TRAFELET
Senior Reporter

On Oct. 11, the Oakland University Board of Trustees (BOT) met to discuss the acceptance of gifts and pledges to OU, to vote on the acceptance of union collective bargaining agreements from the OU Campus Maintenance and Trades Union and the OU American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and to discuss the 2023 fiscal year capital outlay program.

Recently appointed the chair of the BOT — following his tenure in the vice-chair position — Robert Schostak expressed how “amazing” it was to be presiding over the BOT this semester. He also expressed extreme happiness when reflecting on how he has come to participate on the BOT and offered his view on what a BOT member should bring to the table.

“I was a graduate of Oakland University,” Chair Schostak said. “I’ve always been interested in serving at Oakland. I graduated from here 43 years ago ... and my personal interest was first to come back and serve first as an ambassador to one of the advisory boards, and then ultimately to be appointed [to the BOT]. Every board member should bring some to the needs of the university.”

To start the meeting, the BOT highlighted and applauded OU President Ora Hirsh Pescovitz’s gift of \$1 million to the university. Given in the form of endowments, Pescovitz’s gift will fund Honors College scholarship programs for students who have exceptional problem-solving

skills, display high levels of creativity and intellectual curiosity and who are committed to improving their communities.

Following the applause for her gift, President Pescovitz spoke about the importance of the recognition of Indigenous people and gave a short presentation about OU’s relationship with Indigenous Peoples Day. This gradually transitioned into a brief presentational overview of the last academic year, with a particular focus on the amount of on-campus resurgence in student involvement that the university has experienced so far this semester.

An issue that was presented at length by David A. Stone, associate vice president for research, was last year’s success in the areas of faculty and student research. Despite the restrictions and difficulties that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic, departments and areas throughout the university — from the Center for Cybersecurity to the Political Science Department Professor Peter Trumbore’s research on the North Ireland Peace Process — worked vigorously throughout the year.

Research funding requests made by university faculty were surprisingly high — given the expected downturn in research due to in-person collaboration restrictions — with professors receiving assistance from and working with entities ranging from the General Motors Company to the United States Army.

Much of the meeting was spent on the BOT’s discussion of financial matters. The “Fiscal Year 2023 Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan,”

Treasurer’s Report and Financial Statements constituted a majority of the discussion following presentations by the academic department representatives on the growth of their respective schools. Following updates given by firms responsible for managing OU’s short term and long term investments — in the areas of equity, real assets, fixed income and alternative investments — the BOT was quite focused on the role of the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion within these companies.

“The totality of the investment manager is looked at — meaning their capabilities, their diversity, the diversity of their investments and their historical returns,” Chair Schostak said. If they have a great history of great returns [on investments], with diversity, they’re going to be thought of highly by us.”

The end of the BOT meeting saw President of Oakland University’s Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (OU AAUP) Karen Miller utilize the public comment function of the meeting to address lingering concerns held by OU AAUP members on the recently finalized three year faculty contract. They explained that the university’s administration should not consider this agreement a permanent solution to the fundamental disagreements that persisted in the contract bargaining process. After the speech concluded, the BOT did not offer a response or comment on Chair Schostak’s procedural inquiry.

THE

OP

YOU CAN
FIND US ON



VISIT US
ONLINE

WWW.OAKLANDPOSTONLINE.COM

OU's PRSSA Chapter hosts "Headshot Happy Hour"

GRACE LOVINS

Senior Reporter

Oakland University's Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) chapter hosted "Headshot Happy Hour" on Monday, Oct. 11 and Thursday, Oct. 15 to provide students with the opportunity to receive a professional headshot. The event was open to all OU students and faculty — offering three headshots for \$2 or five headshots for \$3, taking place outside of the Oakland Center near Elliott Clock Tower.

PRSSA, a student version of the prestigious Public Relations Society of America, provides an outlet for students to collaborate and develop their professional skills while networking with other students and faculty at OU, and professionals in Public Relations, Communication, Marketing and other related fields. An important part of developing this level of professionalism is through a digital presence.

"This is the time that students are looking for internships and professional opportunities — their digital presence is very important and to have that digital presence, have that professional look, is everything," said Chiaoning Su, assistant professor of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations and the PRSSA advisor. "This is a time where everything is visual driven, so to have that professional look and from there to establish your professionalism and credibility, I think that is essential."

Vice President of PRSSA, Emily Osani, mentioned professional development is at the core

of the organization's goals.

"I think the fact that we're doing headshots ties into how focussed we are on professional development, and I'd say that's a big part of what PRSSA is ... a way for [students] to connect with other students and network with different events that we have," Osani said. "The big focus of what PRSSA does is professional development and even personal development, too."

The executive board of PRSSA was excited to share their resources with the campus community. Kaleigh Wright, secretary of PRSSA and spearhead of Headshot Happy Hour, hoped the event would prepare students for entering the professional workforce.

"[The event] offers students an opportunity for a service that is much needed," Wright said, "Having a headshot creates a professional presence and maintains a level of respectability."

Wright stated she had hosted this event previously while she was attending another university and thought offering headshots would be a helpful tool for others at OU.

She was also one of the photographers taking headshots for participants along with other OU students who volunteered their skills. The organization plans to send participants their headshots via email so they are easily accessible on either a phone or computer.

The event, which Osani stated to be a fundraiser for PRSSA, raised \$98 total. Wright confirmed PRSSA will be hosting Headshot Happy Hour again in the winter semester and invites all interested

students to participate in future events.

Although the organization is centered toward individuals seeking a career in Public Relations and/or Communication, students do not have to be a Public Relations major to join or attend events. For more information, visit the organization's Instagram page.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

Some PRSSA Executive Board members. From left to right: Kaleigh Wright, Emily Osani, Lauren Reid, Madeline Mason and Leticia Santos.

Hundreds of students participate in Make a Difference Day

JOSEPH POPIS

Senior Reporter

There are many important volunteer opportunities here at Oakland University. One of these opportunities was Make a Difference Day 2021, which occurred on Oct. 16. The event ran from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. as OU students met at Hannah Hall to sign up for registration. Then, groups departed from OU between 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. to go to their assigned service locations. Lunch was provided, and students were responsible for their transportation. Students were sent to a mixture of non-profit organizations and completed different service projects.

"There is a variety of services taking place," said Daryl Blackburn, coordinator of leadership and service programs within the office of student involvement(OSI) at OU. "We have about 11 different sites that we are sending people to. We have a group going to The Bottomless Toy Chest in Troy, where they will be wrapping toys in silicone wrapping that will be given to children going through hard times. We have people going to the Stage Nature Center; what there going to be doing is they will be helping preserve the center before winter comes. We have people going to Reroot Pontiac. We have sites that have been developed on campus. So, on campus will be making fabric loops for Arts and Scarps in Detroit, and we will be making blankets that will

be donated to different hospitals. Another one is Oakland Hope, where they will be working with the food pantry and clothes closet."

This national service day opportunity allowed OU students to offer their help to several non-profit organizations. In addition, students were given a chance to help out all around the community. No matter how big or small the service is, they made a difference.

"These students will be working either in a community they haven't worked or a non-profit that they haven't work with before," said Blackburn. "It's going to open up their horizons to see different experiences and what other people may be going through. They are going to realize that what they are doing is so helpful."

Non-profit organizations need help, especially now more than ever during the Covid-19 pandemic. The ability for students to go out and volunteer for others not only supports the community but also supports themselves. It is an opportunity to learn and grow as a person.

"They can learn the value and power of lending a helping hand," said Emily Bernas, graduate assistant in the leadership and volunteer center. "Learning the power of community, because they all are going out in groups too so hopefully they'll bond with the people in their group and bond with the different organizations they are helping."

Volunteer events like the Make a Difference Day are critical to OU and the people who participate in them. Students have plenty of opportunities to

volunteer as a similar event called MLK day of service is happening in the wintertime. For more information on upcoming events, visit the GrizzOrgs home page at oakland.campus.com/engage.



PHOTO BY COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
Make a Difference Day is an annual volunteering event hosted by Oakland for students to get involved.

Faculty request BOT liaison, admins actively nonresponsive

JEFF THOMAS

Editor-in-Chief

During the public comment portion of last Monday's Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting, Oakland University chapter of the American Association of University Professors (OU AAUP) President Karen Miller urged the BOT to appoint a faculty liaison to better facilitate the process of rehabilitating the relationship between faculty and admins following this year's nasty round of contract negotiations. Miller's request and entire statement went unanswered during last week's BOT meeting.

Last week, The Post reached out to the administration for an interview to address the faculty liaison request and the current state of relations between admins and faculty. An individual significant to the governance of the university and these contract negotiations was requested for the interview. As of writing, the interview request has not been responded to.

It's not unusual for public universities to have a faculty liaison to the BOT. Central and Northern Michigan University, as well as Michigan State, have faculty liaisons to inform their BOT. The idea is to help provide

perspective to Trustees who aren't in the classroom. Miller elaborated on her vision for a liaison at OU.

"The idea would be that hopefully there would be some trust developed," Miller said. "Hopefully that liaison could make recommendations to members of the board specifically on policy issues, and say, 'if you do this, this would be good, this would be bad,' and help them [make decisions] ... [Also] that faculty liaison could be a kind of conduit to other connections with the faculty and with the student body."

Back in August, the BOT selected Robert Schostak as their new chair. To the best of Miller's knowledge, he has made no attempt to form a relationship with faculty leadership.

While contract negotiations were settled in early September, with OU AAUP members voting to ratify the agreement on Sept. 30, significant developments in faculty/admin relations have come to light in recent weeks.

Results of a recent OU AAUP survey reveal faculty's lasting concerns about the administration due to their behavior during negotiations. In short, the survey revealed that a majority of faculty don't believe that admins value or support the

work they do as professors.

This feeling from faculty was not in any way abated by last week's audit committee meeting revelation that the university has significantly increased its financial portfolio. This revelation was noteworthy because the narrative from admins during negotiations was that the university's poor financial standing prevented them from offering a more equitable contract. Miller elaborated on faculty feelings about that revelation.

"People were already really, really upset," Miller said. "To have that announcement be made in the same board meeting where they ratify the faculty contract ... I wouldn't say that the anger has increased enormously. I think the contempt and hatred has, because the anger was already really, really hot. And to then find out because everybody was highly suspect ... Every year we do a budget analysis ... We don't want to ask for money that the university doesn't have. We already knew that the university was a whole lot healthier than they said it was ... What is happening here is that the people who are in charge of the finances of the university seem to believe that the endowment is more important than the university. And until somebody can explain to me why they make the spending decisions that they

do to prove me wrong, I've got to keep believing that."

The idea of governance and university leadership's vision for the future is a major faculty concern. The lack of transparency from admins in university decision making, has helped facilitate the faculty belief that people in power are trying to reform education and disregard faculty involvement in governance of the university. A liaison would be one way of restoring faculty faith in university leadership.

"Often [BOT members] feel that higher ed is broken and feel that they have been appointed to fix higher ed," Miller said. "The problem is they don't know very much about higher ed, but they go ahead and try to fix it ... if board members want to be activists then they at least have to know what they're doing. They have to understand [faculty] from our perspective. They don't have to agree with us but they at least have to understand how we think and what we value. And it'll make them much better board members. I think the more information that the board has access to, the better they can do their jobs. And it doesn't help them to operate in a vacuum, where they're not interacting with the student body or the faculty or the staff."



The Oakland Post

NOW HIRING

Reporters

TO APPLY EMAIL
EDITOR@OAKLANDPOSTONLINE.COM



\$100

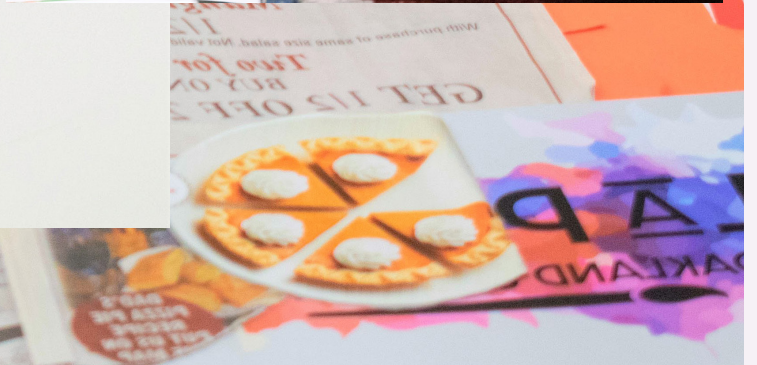
FOR STUDENTS

Open your OU Credit Union account, use your debit card 10 times, and you'll receive \$100.

oucreditunion.org/students



Offer of \$100 valid 5/1/21 to 10/31/21 for members who qualify under the OU student SEG. OU Credit Union Visa Debit Card must be activated by 10/31/21 and 10 debit card purchases must post within 30 days of card activation to qualify. The \$100 will be deposited into member's checking account within 4 to 6 weeks of the 10th purchase. Not valid for existing members with an MSU/OU checking account. May not be combined with any other deposit offers. If new member is referred to the Credit Union, member referral offer will not apply.



La Pittura hosts “Collage Making Day!” with guest speaker Sally Schluter Tardella

The La Pittura Art and Art History Club hosted “Collage Making Day!” on Friday, Oct. 15 for any students interested in mixing and matching both pictures and peers. Students with a passion for art were invited to Wilson Hall to meet with others in the organization and create a unique piece of art to take home. The free event featured guest speaker Sally Schluter Tardella, associate professor of art at OU, to discuss the history and importance of collage-making.

La Pittura is a student-run organization that aims to create an art-loving community in which students are able to explore different art mediums and participate in various art-related activities. Collaging, in particular, was a medium chosen by the executive board because of its thought-provoking ability and overlap with careers of interest, such as graphic design.

Coral Sifre, president of La Pittura, wanted to provide the opportunity to participants as a way to broaden their creativity.

“[Collaging] opened up a world of possibility that my brain didn’t know how to put on paper...it’s a kind of freedom from the rules inside art, I think,” Sifre said. “I wanted to

give this opportunity to other people...It’s a gateway for them to open their creativity and it’s not so strict.”

Rorry Gilkinson, secretary, and Darby Gilkinson, vice president, hoped the event would spark inspiration or a new interest in art for participants while offering students an outlet to connect with each other to create an art piece.

“It doesn’t matter what your experience is with art at all...You come, you hang out, you have fun, you learn a bit more about maybe a different process or time period in the art movement and we make something together,” R. Gilkinson said.

The organization suffered a hard hit when the COVID-19 pandemic began. Offering virtual activities became common but for La Pittura, it was difficult to substitute the hands-on interaction with a virtual learning experience.

“They were starting to get people, then COVID-19 hit, so it was hard to promote activities [and] was just about being there for each other, the people that wanted to,” Sifre said. “That interaction is what we’re trying to keep now but being more active, so we want to create that sense of community — and that we got

each other. La Pittura is excited to dive back in with hands-on events and collages were a fun way for the members to get together while maintaining comfort for those involved.”

Guest speaker Tardella presented the history of collage making during a Zoom conference at the beginning of the event. She was excited to participate in the event and share her perspective on collages.

“Collages are fun, easy and accessible,” she said. She also expressed her appreciation for interactive learning, especially when it comes to the creative process saying, “when you have a community that works together, all learning is easier and more exciting.”

“Collage Making Day!” was held inside Wilson Hall for students able and comfortable to participate in an interactive art experience, as well as through Zoom. The La Pittura executive board encourages any students with an interest or appreciation for art to come and connect with other students who share these interests.

The club will be holding future interactive art events and invites students to check out their Instagram or GrizzOrgs for more information.



People of OU: Songwriter, skater, actress, Bella Javier

RACHEL YIM

Senior Reporter

One shocking data point tells us that one language dies out every 14 days, making as many as half of the world's 7,000 languages expected to be extinct by the end of this century.

Every language deserves to be preserved for its own sake, and linguistics can offer insights and ways forward in the resolution of problems related to language in a wide variety of contexts.

For Bella Javier, a junior in OU's Honors College, this is her dream: to better understand language that is universal and fundamental to all human interactions and increase our knowledge and understanding of the world. Javier is double majoring in linguistics and philosophy. During her time at OU, she has become a teaching assistant (TA) for the Honors College, vice president of Filipino-American Students of Oakland University (FASOU), earned her TESL certification and joined the Ethics Bowl team, etc.

Growing up sheltered, Javier couldn't be more appreciative of the plethora of opportunities she was provided with at OU.

"It really wasn't until my creative and cultural opportunities at college that I was able to learn and grow and break out of the world I was confined to," Javier said.

Her passion for linguistics began in her high school years — primarily motivated by her high school German teacher. According to Javier, her German teacher was the first person to recognize her love for language and her analytical skills and to steer her in the right direction. Her

teacher's guidance only made her fall in deeper love with the field of linguistics.

Her experience in film, in which linguistics is applied, first started with her friend's suggestion in auditioning



PHOTO COURTESY OF BELLA JAVIER
Songwriter, skater, actress and future linguist, Bella Javier.

for the lead role in a short film called "Reina." After a successful experience during her first film experience, she was recruited by the director of "Reina" to be a part of his creative collective. Since then, Javier has been working alongside the director and other creatives.

"I love participating in film, it's such a beautifully intricate thing," she said. "Every time I'm on set, I learn something new. I'm happy to announce that next month, not only will my third film be released, but I'll be acting in my fourth film."

After her graduation from OU, Javier hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in linguistics to further her education in the field. During this time, she plans on continuing her research on Tagalog syntax and delve into more niche languages — specifically languages spoken by the indigenous Philippine population. In addition to her education, she also plans on creating a feature film with the director she's been working with.

"I want to pursue a Ph.D. in linguistics, that's really my dream; getting into a good grad school and continuing to study what I love, that's all I want after my undergrad."

Although her passion revolves around linguistics, her talent doesn't stop here. Outside of school, she mainly spends her time thrifting, on a coffee run, writing lyrics and skating.

Songwriter, skater, actress and future linguist Javier strives to accomplish her goal of furthering her education within and out of the field of linguistics in an effort to contribute to her community.

"I can often be spotted roller-skating around campus, so if you see me feel free to say hi!" she said.

The Holidays at Meadowbrook to feature light show

LAUREN REID

Content Editor

With the holiday season right around the corner, tickets for The Holidays at Meadowbrook are now on sale. The traditional Holiday Walk and sparkling Winter Wonder Lights line the festivities, running from Nov. 26 – Dec. 30.

Unlike the Holiday Walk — which has been going on for 50 years — Winter Wonder Lights is new this year, as attendees have the opportunity to walk the grounds amidst a stunning and immersive light display. Food, concessions and music will add to the environment and get everyone in the holiday spirit.

"Winter Wonder Lights is going to be really exciting," said Marketing and Communications Manager of Meadowbrook Estate, Katie Higgins. "It's super family friendly, great for a date night — it should be a ton of fun for anyone."

Winter Wonder Lights will also allow visitors to get a brief tour of some of the rooms on the first floor of the mansion.

The Holiday Walk, on the other hand, is indoors during the day. Visitors are able to tour the historic mansion (self-guided) as it's decked out for the holidays. According to the Meadowbrook Hall site, there are "more than 50 magnificent trees, flickering fireplaces and lights galore."

"Meadowbrook Hall is a place to connect, to be inspired and enjoy some unique cultural opportunities in our community," Higgins said. "The

Holidays at Meadowbrook are both a longstanding tradition for us, and gives us the opportunity to bring more members of the community in through our doors and into our gates than any other time throughout the year."

According to Higgins, Meadowbrook is expecting 10,000 plus visitors this holiday season — many of whom will be returning, but also welcoming some new faces.

Meadowbrook Hall also provides a unique opportunity for students, as most universities don't have anything comparable.

"For OU students, [Meadowbrook gives them] a sense of place, a sense of purpose behind the university because of course Meadowbrook Hall is the birthplace of the university — the home of Matilda Dodge Wilson and Alfred Wilson, the founders of the [school]" Higgins said. "It's very special, very unique and very tied into the OU student experience."

OU students also get a great discount on Meadowbrook attractions. They can go to Holiday Walk for \$5 as opposed to \$20, and \$12 for Winter Wonder Lights.

OU Night at Meadowbrook is another exciting opportunity for students and the OU community at large — where students, faculty, staff and alumni get a discounted rate for family and friends. OU Nights are scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 2 and Thursday, Dec. 16 for Winter Wonder Lights, and Thursday, Dec. 19 for the Holiday Walk.

Meadowbrook is also hiring seasonal employees

for the holiday's. These positions include Seasonal Visitor Services Assistant and Operations and Grounds assistants.

For both the Holiday Walk and Winter Wonder Lights, facial coverings are required indoors as a COVID-19 precaution. For more information on The Holidays at Meadowbrook or job openings, visit their website.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
The Holidays at Meadowbrook will run from Nov. 26 to Dec. 30 this year.

B.A. of English program modernizes curriculum, adds courses

SARAH GUDENAU
Features Editor

The English Department at Oakland University is modernizing its curriculum for its Bachelor of Arts in English program. The department has introduced four new courses, as well as two new requirements for the degree.

The program changes have launched this school year with its new courses having begun at the start of the fall 2021 semester. The four new courses include Indigenous Literature; Literature and the Environment; Gender, Sexuality and Literature; and Disability Studies and Literature.

One of the new requirements is that students must take a course in the category of Global and Ethnic Literatures — which can be fulfilled by classes such as Indigenous Literature or African American Literature. A second new category of courses is Critical and Cultural Approaches to Literature — which can be fulfilled by Literature and the Environment; Disability Studies and Literature; or Gender, Sexuality and Literature.

The program will retain some of its former requirements — such as classes in British Literature, for example — but they have been reduced in order to provide students a more well-rounded program of study. The department's mission with the changes they are implementing is to diversify the education, as well as respond to the interests and needs of both faculty and students.

Dr. Kevin Laam, associate professor of English, explains how historically speaking, English departments in universities have served to entrench English dominance in language, literature and culture. However, this historical fact does not reflect the

advancement of literary studies over the last decades, according to Dr. Laam.

"It [this historical fact] doesn't reflect the diverse fields of study our faculty are engaged in and it doesn't address the wide and growing range of theoretical global perspectives that comprise literary studies in the 21st century," Dr. Laam said. "This historical fact also doesn't address the needs of our students who love reading and writing, but also want to be introduced to a variety of perspectives in the books they read and write about."

The department is rich in faculty with diverse areas of expertise and research. The new courses intend to highlight the professors' specializations.

Since the change in requirements was recently put into effect at the start of fall 2021, students who entered the program semesters or years prior can still follow the former curriculum as to not interfere with their current degree progress.

"The way it works is when a student comes into the university, they are under the requirements that are in existence at the time," said Chair of the English Department Dr. Robert Anderson. "Every student who comes to Oakland University in fall of 2021 will use these requirements."

Discussions about program updates have been ongoing among the department faculty since 2019. Faculty have been working on restructuring the program and developing the new categories for nearly a year.

"As our discipline evolves, our curriculum ought to evolve accordingly," Dr. Laam said. "Because we still have students who are on the old program, we have to make that transition gradual, but we do hope to be more aggressive in both offering and developing new courses as we move further along."



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
Dr. Kevin Laam (pictured here), associate professor of English, explains how historically speaking, English departments in universities have served to entrench English dominance in language, literature and culture.

Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority to host fundraiser for illness research

BRITTANY KEARFOTT
Sports Reporter

Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority, Theta Theta Chapter, is one out of five sororities on campus. They can be seen as the underdogs as the newest sorority on campus — having been established at Oakland University for only six years — along with being the only sorority at OU without a house. However, this does not limit their ability to provide opportunities to their members or the community.

Their philanthropy is The Tri Sigma Foundation. The foundation was started to help fund finding a cure for polio after one of the founding member's sons was diagnosed and lost his fight. Once a cure was found, the funding continues to go towards research on cures for other illnesses.

Sigma Sigma Sigma holds a handful of fundraisers throughout the academic year for their philanthropy as well as their community. Their fall events consist of their Kindergarten Dinner, Adopt-A-Family and Tie Blankets/Care Packages. Their spring events are the Community Babyshower and March of Dimes march.

On Oct. 7 Jennifer Bond, Sigma Sigma's Philanthropy Chair, hosted a Drawing with the Sigma's event. The event consisted of the sorority's members and the Oakland community coming together to make pictures, draw and color for children in hospitals. The final products will be donated to children's hospitals to brighten up the kids' days.

During the event, the alternative goal was to collect unused crayon boxes. In children's hospitals, they are unable to reuse crayons in more than one sitting — this is to stop spreading the sickness back to the kids as they get better from what they are fighting. Bond explained the ways the community can donate at these events or to Sigma Sigma Sigma.

"For donations in general, there's a few routes you can take," Bond said. "The first is, you can make a direct donation to the foundation. You can visit the Tri Sigma Foundation website and under the 'Ways to Give' tab, you can peruse which option will be the best course of action for you. Secondly, at any philanthropy events, you're more than welcome to give monetary donations — whether that be cash, check, Venmo, we're always more than happy to accept anything you wish to give. We appreciate any and all support we receive from our community."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OU TRI-SIGMA WEBSITE
A couple Sigma Sigma Sigma members proudly hold up their flag at Elliott Tower.

Bond continued by explaining the different kind of items they accept as donations.

"Lastly, depending on the event we've done with Drawing with the Sigmas, we accept items such as crayons as well as hand-made drawings and cards," Bond said. "For our annual New Member Adopt-A-Family event, we accept an array of items for the holidays, since every year a new family from the community is 'adopted.' In this instance, it can be toys, non-perishables, clothing, bedding and much more."

Bond talked about this year's Kindergarten Dinner, saying it's "going to be a blast."

"First and foremost, the money we're raising for this event goes directly to the Tri Sigma Foundation, which is our national foundation that directly aids children in need at medical institutions all across the country," she said. "Apart from the philanthropic side, this event is going to take you back to your childhood. We'll be providing food, games and music that bring a sense of nostalgia. We'll be providing raffle baskets, as well, where you can purchase additional tickets for a chance to win. There's so much to look forward to for this event, and I encourage you all to come see for yourselves."

This year, the Kindergarten Dinner will be held on Nov. 12 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Human Health Building, room 1050. Check out their Instagram page to stay updated on the event and to buy your tickets.

OU Professor and NASA scientist awarded Scialog Fellowship

TANNER TRAFELET
Senior Reporter

Assistant Professor of Environmental Chemistry at Oakland University — Dr. Ziming Yang — is one of this year's 53 Scialog Fellows. The Scialog Fellow program is sponsored by the Research Corporation for Scientific Advancement (RCSA), NASA, the Heising-Simons Foundation and the Kavli Foundation.

Scialog: Signatures of Life in the Universe brings OU's Dr. Yang together with both American and international scientists as they research things such as the evaluation of extraterrestrial life signatures and planet habitability. The program awards \$110,000 total to Dr. Yang and his collaborator Dr. Marc Neveu, assistant research scientist at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

The project that Dr. Yang and Dr. Neveu will collaborate on (titled "How may Biosignatures in Icy Ocean Worlds be Affected by Plume Ejection?") examines the effects of planetary conditions on the ejection of biosignatures — which are evidence of past or present life on a planet — through construction of an experimental plume simulator.

"The project will focus on biosignatures in geysering plumes from icy ocean worlds such as Saturn's moon Enceladus," Dr. Yang said to the Oakland News. "We proposed to build a plume simulator that can experimentally examine how biosignatures are affected through the plume ejection. Our goal is to seek bridging an essential gap for interpreting and validating plume measurements in future search-for-life missions."

Such research, however, will likely not result in the confirmation that possible alien forms of life within Earth's solar system are the little green monsters of Hollywood films. More likely than this, is the possibility that life exists in its most rudimentary evolutionary stages.

"We know that life on Earth requires at least three ingredients," said Dr. Neveu. "Life needs water, energy and something to eat — really, organic forms of our essential elements like carbon, nitrogen, sulfur, oxygen, hydrogen, phosphorus. On Earth, wherever we go and there are these ingredients in the right combination, we find life."

The circumstances that would result

in the coincidental creation of the conditions necessary for developing life are quite rare. Planets such as Earth, which have the right atmospheric and elemental conditions, are similarly sparse within what little stretches of space humanity may observe. In most cases, such as with Mars or the Saturn moon of Enceladus, there are only basic traces of what Dr. Neveu considers to be the elemental building blocks of extraterrestrial life.

"Over the past few decades, missions by NASA and other space agencies have identified places in our solar system where the ingredients for life may be together," Dr. Neveu said. "The surface of Mars is one. The oceans in the sub-surface of Saturn's icy moon Enceladus is another one of those locations."

The challenge for Dr. Yang and Dr. Neveu will be to recreate the conditions of biosignature ejection on a different planet — all by creating a research experiment environment that gives both scientists a realistic idea of what the conditions on an icy ocean planet such as Enceladus would be like.

"It is about figuring out each of these steps that might happen," Dr. Neveu said. "And figuring out both how you would optimize the sample [taken from a plume ejection], and how you would input the measurements for such a sample."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OAKLAND NEWS
OU Professor Dr. Ziming Yang (pictured) was awarded the 2021 Scialog Fellowship. The program awarded \$110,000 total to the Dr. Yang and his collaborator, Dr. Marc Neveu from NASA Goddard Space Flight Center for their research.

'World War C': A thorough examination of the COVID-19 pandemic

GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH
Campus Editor

Before I begin this review, let me preface it by saying that I think of Dr. Sanjay Gupta, neurosurgeon and CNN's chief medical correspondent, as the medical and journalistic equivalent to a rock star. For twenty years, Dr. Gupta has covered major medical events, highlighted scientific breakthroughs, and championed human resiliency.

He has reported on the ground from war zones in the Middle East, St. Vincent's Hospital in New York on 9/11 and natural disasters across the globe. In this year alone, Dr. Gupta covered the devastating Surfside condominium collapse, the dominating COVID-19 pandemic and infection prevention measures at the Tokyo Olympic Games not to mention, also guest-hosted "Jeopardy!"

It is no secret to the people in my life, including those I work with at The Post, that I look up to Dr. Gupta. Just ask our editor in chief! I was partly inspired by Dr. Gupta to add journalism to my undergraduate studies and start the first public health column for The Post. His ability to clearly convey information, humbly admit when he doesn't know something and willingness to have difficult conversations is something I strive to emulate every day.

As someone studying biomedical sciences and journalism, I most definitely have similar career aspirations to what Dr. Gupta has achieved, but it goes beyond that. I want to be someone who approaches her (hopefully!) future career in medicine with kindness, compassion and a commitment to clear and effective public health communication. Throughout his career as a physician journalist, Dr. Gupta has been a public figure who has embodied all of those qualities and is someone to learn from. Plus: He is a fellow Michigander!

Dr. Gupta's new book, "World War C: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic", is a perfect example of his signature clarity. Written in a postmortem perspective, "World War C" offers an autopsy-like analysis of the COVID-19 pandemic, examining what went wrong, what went right and what lessons we have learned, because, as Dr. Gupta wrote, "The pandemic has been so undeniably brutal, but the experience has also equipped us with the knowledge to not only better survive the next time around, but to thrive. The obligation is to embrace the lessons and never forget what really happened during World War C."

Everything from investigating the origins of COVID-19, to the nefarious

mechanisms in which it attacks the body are included. Readers also get eye-opening insight into how notable figures like Dr. Anthony Fauci, Dr. Deborah Birx and former director of the CDC Dr. Robert Redfield approached the fight against this virus. There are so many fascinating discussions involving pandemic research and vaccine development from experts from around the world. If it involves COVID-19 or helps one better understand the context of the virus in human and pathogenic history, this book goes there.

I was particularly struck by a story included about identical thirty-five-year-old twin sisters, who both got infected with COVID-19 in the spring of 2020 and were treated at Ascension Providence, a hospital just a few miles away from Oakland University. The story highlights how we all assess risk differently, a thought I hadn't really considered until reading.

The pandemic has taken an obvious toll on all of us and has left devastating effects in its waning aftermath, which Dr. Gupta acknowledges. However, he stresses that the future isn't entirely bleak. By taking what we have learned into account and prioritizing our physical and mental health through sleep, exercise and a healthy diet, we as individuals and as a collective humanity can be better prepared for the next time because there will be a next time.

My one complaint is that some of the material is a bit repetitive if you have seen Dr. Gupta's COVID-19 documentaries, listened to his podcasts, or read some of his other work. With that being said, it doesn't necessarily mean the information isn't worth repeating!

If you love science and history, then this book is a must-read for you. If you are vaccine-hesitant or have any outstanding questions about COVID-19, then this is a must-read for you.

In "World War C" Dr. Gupta examines COVID-19 and its effects around the world much like a competent physician gathers information about a sick patient. In medical school, students are taught to approach illness in a thoughtful, ordered manner. Many call this the SOAP note. This acronym stands for the Subjective, Objective, Assessment and Plan process. When reading this book, it is apparent that Dr. Gupta follows a very thorough, ordered pattern of thought to examine this very sick global patient.

By the time the reader is wrapping things up, they have a much better understanding of the predicaments that led to the illness, the treatment plan moving forward and a prognosis for how the patient will handle future illness.

5 sitcom episodes to enjoy this Halloween season

TORI COKER

Marketing Director

With Oct. 31 right around the corner, time is running out to carve your best pumpkins, consume all your favorite seasonal drinks and snacks of the pumpkin variety and enjoy all of the incredible Halloween themed shows and films out there.

If you're looking to embrace the spooky season without committing to too long a running time or too heavy a theme, I invite you to join me in diving into the vast world of Halloween sitcom specials — five essentials of which I've highlighted here.

"Epidemiology" — Community (S02E06)

Community always seems to find a way to take things one step further and a whole lot wilder than most other sitcoms, and this 22 minute zombie thriller is no exception. Watching the same characters you've seen experiencing life as you know it in every other episode suddenly engulfed in a sea of the undead is bewildering and thrilling at once — oh, and the entire, gloriously chaotic thing is soundtracked by ABBA's greatest hits. Need I say more?

"Sal's Dead" — Superstore (S03E05)

I will sing this sorely underrated NBC gem's praises to anyone who will listen. With a magnificent array of characters and writing that gives it an arguable edge in the funniest workplace comedy debate, Superstore produced hit after hit in their six season run — including an array of truly fantastic Halloween episodes. The bulk of this episode's hilarity actually lies within a plot troubling one side of the series' will-they-won't-they duo, involving a Tinder misclick and some in-store catfishing as damage control. Meanwhile,

the entire cast is costumed-up and confronted with the discovery of a formerly employed corpse in the walls — so rest assured, the Halloween vibes are still overwhelmingly and comedically present.

"Halloween" — That '70s Show (S02E05)

In this hilarious season two episode, the That '70s Show gang ditches Forman's basement for the night and heads off to spend their Halloween at their abandoned, burnt down former elementary school.

Upon discovering their permanent records in the rubble, friendships are tested and long buried truths uncovered — oh, and a Batman-costume-clad Fez gets a go at Trick-or-Treating. Airtight jokes throughout act as fun testaments to the vibrant personalities of each character in the circle, with flashes of tongue-in-cheek nods to classic scary imagery and tropes tying everything together into a lighthearted Halloween special worth coming back to each year.

"Halloween" — New Girl (S02E06)

Of all the sitcoms I've watched — which is almost an embarrassing plenty, if you couldn't tell — New Girl always makes me laugh the hardest, and their season 2 Halloween episode is no exception. The episode follows the Apartment 4D gang to a haunted house where Jess is working, and we watch as Schmidt and Winston end their own relationships and attempt to poke holes in others' — all surrounding the topic of iffy costume ideas.

However, the true highlight of the episode is the internet's darling Nick Miller, of course — seen facing his fear of haunted houses by screaming (and punching) his way through in an effort to be there for Jess. It's heartwarming and stupidly funny in true New Girl fashion, and will have you crying with laughter this October.

"The Ghost in Suite 613" — The Suite Life of Zack & Cody (S01E19)

This beloved token from our childhoods is a must re-watch at this time of year for two reasons. First, for the pure nostalgic giddiness it'll wash over you, settling you into the comforting memories of viewing it on Disney Channel so long ago. Second, for the bone-chilling creepiness you might have forgotten how genuinely it channels for a kids show, even by today's standards. Seriously, my childhood life was divided into two eras — before and after witnessing Esteban's false possession.

This list is certainly not definitive — there are so many fantastic Halloween sitcom episodes out there that we've barely scraped the surface here. Nonetheless, I hope you take some enjoyment from this list, and perhaps find yourself reminded of or introduced to a new go-to spooky special to queue up.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB
Jake Johnson and Zooey Deschanel as Nick Miller and Jess Day in "New Girl" episode "Halloween" (2012).

What to wear: top trending Halloween costumes 2021

D'JUANNA LESTER

Senior Reporter

With Halloween quickly approaching, many people are scrambling to find activities and costumes to ring in the spooky season. There are so many costumes to choose from, not to mention, deciding if you're going solo, planning a couple's costume or hanging out with a group. Popular costumes change and vary throughout the years — let's talk about the top trending Halloween costumes of 2021.

"Bridgerton"

The December 2020 Netflix show produced by Shonda Rhimes was a huge success, immediately gaining a following, as well as several social media trends. Many people are using the show's main character, Daphne, as inspiration for a Regency Era Halloween costume. Must have costume pieces include white gloves and a ballgown, and some are taking it a step further with sparkly necklaces and feathered headbands.

"Squid Game"

"Squid Game" — a hit Korean show airing on Netflix — has taken over pop culture over the past few weeks. Between social media trends and a global appreciation of the show, many people have started coming up with costume ideas. There are the "Squid Game" players who wear green jumpsuits, and then the guards who wear mysterious masks.

"Cruella"

The latest Disney live action, which is a prequel of

the 1996 "101 Dalmatians" movie, has sparked a lot of Cruella costumes. The born brilliant, bad and mad fashion-obsessed diva wears various revolutionary looks throughout the film, giving people several options to choose from in terms of costumes. The most popular of her outfits is the red dress at the big party scene in the middle of the movie.

"Wandavision"

"Wandavision" was a massive success. Airing in mid January 2021, the Disney Plus series has become another Marvel phenomenon. There are several interesting characters to dress up as this Halloween, such as Wanda, Agatha and Vision. The most popular of them all is, of course, the titular character Wanda in her scarlet witch costume.

Olivia Rodrigo

The "Driver's License" singer took over the charts in 2021. Many people have taken it upon themselves to make DIY costumes of various Olivia Rodrigo looks. For her "Good 4 U" music video look, a cheerleading outfit and leather gloves are essential. Others are using her album cover for "Sour" as inspiration, using stickers and crop tops to improvise a similar look. The most popular would have to be her "Sour" prom queen look. Extravagant makeup, a pink gown, and, of course, a tiara will make a look worthy of a prom queen.

"Suicide Squad"

For those who want to go in a group, why not be one of DC's iconic groups of heroes? Or maybe villains? The "Suicide Squad" movie released

earlier this year, and group costumes are blowing up on social media with Harley Quinn's stunning looks taking the spotlight.

"Gossip Girl" 2021 Reboot

The reboot of this classic TV show took social media by storm during the summer of 2021. As fashion has always been an integral part of the franchise, it was bound to spark various trends, especially around Halloween. Many people are going with redesigns of the school uniform look.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DISNEY
Cruella from Disney's live action movie is one of the trending Halloween costumes of 2021. Her red dress is one of her most popular looks.

CCE sports panel highlights major changes in college athletics

REECE TAYLOR

Sports Reporter

On Thursday, Oct. 14, the Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) hosted “The Changing Landscape in College Athletics” to discuss the ongoing changes in favor of National Collegiate Athletic Association athletes.

The conference, which was presided over by 97.1’s Rico Beard and featured Michigan State Representative Joe Tate and ESPN’s college basketball analyst Jay Bilas, discussed the ongoing NCAA changes in regulations that will allow collegiate athletes to be paid for the use of their Names, Images and Likeness, also known as NIL deals, in an era that has seen a drastic increase in annual revenue.

Bilas, 57, noted that since 1986, the average salary of an NCAA coach has increased by 957%, and that the NCAA is a multi-billion dollar industry, with one speaker noting the average income generated by college athletics is around \$14 to 15 billion annually. According to multiple speakers, the issue in the NCAA is a morality issue in that the players are producing and having their likeness used but are not allowed to be paid for it.

The NCAA allowing NILs [name,

image and likeness deals] is a major step forward for collegiate athletes, who were noted as not being able to capitalize on their skill as other students at the same college can. Though students with band scholarships can be paid to play at local clubs, athletes are not given the same opportunity with their skillset, though they are directly utilized for their abilities.

The NCAA used the idea of amateurism to offset pay and noted

scholarships at their payment. After numerous athletes filed lawsuits against the NCAA, this ruling allows athletes to be paid for the work they put in for the NCAA.

Though the NIL allowance is still in its infancy, athletes will be allowed to negotiate their NILs to use their likeness and make appearances to generate income. Though the NCAA states that the schools and officials can not help in terms of finding opportunities or finding

representation, they are allowed to give advice and discuss the deals with athletes as long as schools don’t help broker the deals.

Other discrepancies were discussed, including the understanding that not every athlete will earn the same amount since the university won’t have a budget for the players. The idea of a salary cap also seems likely for the near future but isn’t necessarily on the table currently. Smaller schools and non power five conferences may be seen as having a disadvantage to the larger conferences having more national outreach, but it was stated that the idea of payment isn’t to build a better team, but to pay their athletes for their services.

As the revenue and exposure of the NCAA grow further, so will the opportunities for athletes. Many of these athletes won’t make the pro leagues but work hard to further their craft as well as showcase their talents. The NCAA for years has profited off of the hard work and sacrifice of these athletes who dedicate their bodies and their time to their college sports, but these aren’t kids trying to make a buck. These are men and women who work as hard as any student to succeed.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
Oakland University's men's basketball Head Coach Greg Kampe participated in a panel discussion on athletics alongside Jay Bilas, Steve Waterfield and Jay Tate.

OU's Esports League of Legends team gets a buff

CHRISTIAN TATE

Sports Reporter

The 2021 recruiting class for Oakland Esports has taken a huge leap with the addition of three new freshman players to the collegiate gaming scene.

Oakland Esports Head Coach Carl Leone has announced that Alyssa Christoff, Eric Cheang and Henry Huang have been brought onto the League of Legends roster as a part of the 2021 recruiting class. Alyssa joins the team as the very first female player in Oakland University Esports history to be added to the roster and Leone couldn’t be happier with all of these new additions.

“We are very excited to bring Alyssa on board,” Leone said in a press release, “Alyssa is a historic addition to our program as the first female player to join. We have always been an inclusive program and we certainly hope that Alyssa is the first of many female players to come! Alyssa is a talented League of Legends player and is ranked within the top 4% of all players in North America.”

“ThePurpleAce,” as she is known online, comes from Lake Orion High School and is a two-time winner

of the Galentines Tournament. She joins an OU Esports team that continues to make a big splash during their tournaments this year in the school’s debut season. While her groundbreaking addition to the team is very exciting, she’s not the only top prospect that Oakland Esports has managed to recruit.

Freshman players Eric Cheang and Henry Huang join the team alongside Christoff and have already been designated by Leone as the potential future foundation of this program.

“We are very excited to bring Eric and Henry on board,” Leone said in a press release. “I expect these promising freshmen to set the foundation for our League of Legends team in a year or two.”

Eric Cheang, who goes by the online gamertag of “Wzec,” joins from Troy High School and comes onto the team as a seasoned winner in his own right. He has two state championship wins in the Esports League of Legends Spring Tournament to his name, alongside a first place finish in the PlayVS League of Legends Spring 2021 Michigan MASSP.

Not to be outdone by his recruiting classmates, Henry Huang aka “Hensap” is also a decorated player

in the League of Legends community. The Macomb-native from Dakota High is a consistent mainstay in the League of Legends PlayVS Tournament and has made back-to-back runs to the PlayVS Finals. He also doubles as a tennis player, where he’s collected two silver medals during his time with the sport.

With the League of Legends team currently sitting undefeated on the

season at 2-0, these signings only bolster the already star-studded roster. All three of these players will be looking to make an immediate impact and continue their stellar play under the black and gold banner for Oakland University during their debut season.

Along with League of Legends, Oakland Esports competes in Rocket League, Overwatch and Super Smash Brothers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS
Alyssa Christoff is one of three new signees to the Oakland Esports for the 2021 recruiting class.

Women's soccer dominates in victory over Wright State

CHRISTIAN TATE
Sports Reporter

The Golden Grizzlies came onto the pitch firing on all cylinders Sunday against the Raiders in an evenly matched game that quickly turned into a one-sided beating.

In the first 20 minutes of the game, both teams came out and played very aggressively. Both sides ran drives that were continuously stuffed by the defensive efforts of the opposing team, before retrieving the ball and meeting the same fate on offense.

It went on like this for a while until Jessica Shears broke through the monotony of the match to put the first goal of many behind the Raiders' goalie for the Golden Grizzlies to lead the match by one. This goal lit a fire of inspiration under the Golden Grizzlies, as they continued to push the envelope against the Raiders.

Eight minutes later, Sharon Sampson and the Golden Grizzlies would take advantage of the Raiders' lack of focus by scoring after the defense gambled for a stop and lost. This extended the Golden Grizzlies' lead to 2-0, and further took the Raiders out of the game.

In retreat mode, the Raiders would try their best to regroup and put an end to the run but they would give up another goal as an errant shot would ricochet off of the shin of their goalie and meet with the feet of OU's Karabo Dhlamini as she scored the third goal just two minutes after the second one would touch the net.

In the span of about 11 minutes, the Golden Grizzlies had put themselves

up three to nil and completely sapped the confidence of this Raiders team in the first half. Avoidable mistakes and unnecessary fouls plagued the Raiders play, and they found themselves in a near-insurmountable hole as they prepared for the second half of play.

The Raiders would come out of the half with a new energy and renewed resolve while the Grizzlies came out with the same focus that filled their first half play. Both teams seemingly kicked it into high gear as Wright State tried desperately to get back into this game and the Grizzlies defended their lead with everything they had.

The Raiders seemed to be a bit more prepared for the task coming out of the break than they were going into the first half. The sloppy play became calculated, and their play had more cohesion in it as a result.

Both teams fought relentlessly and showed off amazingly smothering reactionary defense, but the Raiders would catch the Grizzlies off-guard and score their first goal of the game after making the defense frantic and unorganized.

The time continued to tick off the clock as the plays would get riskier and riskier, leading to collisions out on the pitch. As the aggression on the field died down, so did the Raiders' chances of winning this game.

The Raiders tried their best to mount a comeback, but their efforts were all for naught as OU sailed ahead for a dominating 3-1 victory.

The Golden Grizzlies will return to the pitch on Oct. 23 to face off against Milwaukee on Senior Night at 4 p.m.

Men's Soccer defeats UW-Green Bay

D'JUANNA LESTER
Senior Reporter

On Wednesday, Oct. 13, the Oakland University men's soccer team played an intense game against University of Wisconsin (UW)-Green Bay. With the ending score of 3-1, the Golden Grizzlies had their second straight league match win of the season.

With both teams taking four shots on goal, OU had three saves compared to Green Bay's single save on goal. In total, OU had nine corner kicks and Green Bay had four. OU had 11 fouls in total to Green Bay's eight fouls. By the end of the game, Green Bay took 12 shots in total, and the Golden Grizzlies took 19 shots in total.

The first half of the game started out intensely, with OU maintaining possession of the ball for a majority of the 45 minutes. Both teams began taking shots toward the beginning of the half, with OU having a memorable save. With the game intensifying on Green Bay's half of the field midway through the first half, OU had four corner kicks, one right after another. An OU goal was not counted as the referee called offsides. At 44:44, OU's Owen Smith scored the first goal of the game, assisted by Charlie Braithwaite and Noah Jensen, concluding the first half of the game.

Starting off the second half of the game, Green Bay took a goal kick at the top of the half, which was saved by OU. Both teams took corner kicks toward the start of the second half, with Green Bay taking two and OU taking one. OU managed to hold onto possession of the ball for a good

portion of the second half as well. There were more foul kicks in this half of the game compared to the first half of the game.

The second half of the game ended with several goals scored in the last chunk of the game. At 72:53, OU's Mikey Kettelman scored the second goal of the game, assisted by Robbie Cleary and Kai Garvey. Dylan Borczak scored OU's third and final goal of the game at 87:18, which was assisted by Smith. In the last minute of the game at 89:29, Green Bay scored the last goal of the game, leaving the final score to be 3-1.

"I thought we came out and played a really good first half. I think we got the ball in some dangerous positions," OU Men's Soccer Coach Eric Pogue said. "We had two or three goals called back for being a yard or two offsides so we were real close, but to be able to push through and get that goal in the waning seconds of the first half — I think was a big weight off our shoulders going into the first half."

Coach Pogue explained the team's strategy going into the game: "We want to do whatever it takes to get a win. Winning games in this league is really difficult. Anything we could do today to win the game. This was a difficult game — Green Bay's a difficult team. To play on a Wednesday at one o'clock where you're not going to have as many fans out is difficult."

The next game for the men's soccer team will be an away game on Saturday, Oct. 16 at 2 p.m. against Wright State University.



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
Golden Grizzlies out maneuver opponent in last Saturday's game against Wright State.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSE JUAREZ
On Oct. 13, OU men's soccer played against University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. With the ending score of 3-1, the Golden Grizzlies had their second straight league match win of the season.

New director of basketball operations is ready to build consistent winner

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL
Sports Editor

DJ Mocini has lived and worked in Michigan for the majority of his life, so it was only fitting he end up at Oakland University.

“This is kind of like a hidden gem that has a lot of potential for growth, not only from a basketball program standpoint, but from an athletics department and university wide standpoint,” Mocini said. “This is just such a phenomenal place to be a phenomenal place to live and all those things together made it a very desirable job.”

Mocini, a native of Saugatuck, was named the new director of basketball operations on Oct. 8. He had a similar role at Central Michigan University, but thinks he’ll bring a unique perspective to his new role thanks to his experience as an assistant coach.

“I think from a coaching standpoint I maybe have a little bit better understanding of what the goals of the job are, more so than somebody who has not had those experiences [of being an assistant coach],” Mocini

said. “So I think those experiences make it a little bit easier maybe to succeed in a role like this, because you know what is really needed from that position when you’re in the coaching role, and how much you can impact the program overall.”

Mocini spent the last eight seasons at CMU, where he started as Coordinator of Basketball Operations before being promoted into said assistant coaching role from 2019-21. Mocini was heavily involved in recruiting, academics, budget, fundraising and team travel during his time at CMU. From 2015 to 2019, the Chippewas advanced to postseason play four times, including a trip to the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) during the 2014-15 season.

He said he still has hopes of being a head coach someday, but right now his focus is on Oakland, where he’ll be responsible for day-to-day operations, — including travel, budgetary management, camps and donor relations.

“To say that I’m still not chasing that dream would be a lie,” Mocini said. “Yes, it’s still very much on the

forefront, but right now I think my focus really is just to learn as much as I can from Coach Kampe and his staff and to do whatever I can to help this program win.”

Mocini said Men’s Basketball Head Coach Greg Kampe was a big reason for him wanting this job.

“The most outward thing when you’re looking at a place like Oakland is the success that Coach Kampe has had,” Mocini said. “He’s one of the all-time winningest coaches, especially actively in the game. This guy’s done it for a long time. The wealth of knowledge he has, his leadership style, — the whole thing is something that just kind of draws you to a place like this.”

Mocini said his overall goal is to “make the program the best it can possibly be.”

“[My goal] is really just doing whatever I can to help this program win, but also improve and sustain the winning,” he said. “So whether that’s with our budget, with fundraising, with team travel, with nutrition, whatever the case may be, that’s my job and I will do that to the best of my ability.”

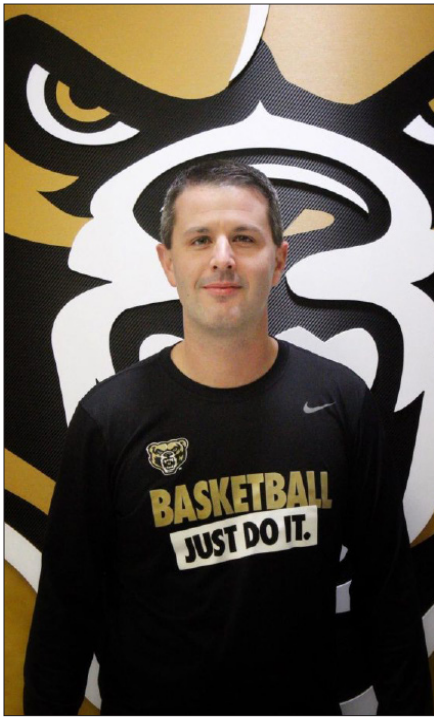


PHOTO BY SOPHIE HUME
New director of basketball operations, DJ Mocini.

NOW HIRING!

ADS DIRECTOR

Job Responsibilities:

- Create contracts and invoices.
- Contact clients and actively seek new clients on and near campus.
- Track weekly ad sales.
- Communicate effectively with the Editor-in-Chief.
- Attend weekly editors’ meetings.

Apply to the ad on Handshake

Send resume and cover letters to Editor-in-Chief Jeff Thomas at editor@oaklandpostonline.com