

# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 46 | Issue 24 | March 17, 2021

## Protest turns to Celebration

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Prescribed burn is scheduled  
for OU's preserve in April

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Softball team moves to 3-1 in  
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PHOTO COURTESY OF NOORA NEIROUKH



# THIS WEEK

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



**CONSTRUCTION CONFLICT** Southeast Michigan construction workers upset about OU outsourcing jobs to Grand Rapids companies took to University Dr. to protest, using giant inflatable animals to make their point heard.  
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# THE OAKLAND POST

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Editor-in-Chief  
mpearce@oakland.edu

**Emily Morris**  
Managing Editor  
emorris@oakland.edu

## EDITORS

**Ben Hume** Web Editor  
bhume@oakland.edu

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

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

**Cayla Smith** Campus Editor  
caylasmith@oakland.edu

**Jeff Thomas** Features Editor  
jdthomas2@oakland.edu

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jaylonjohnson@oakland.edu

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laurenkarmo@oakland.edu  
**Madeline Parker** Ads Director  
mparker@oakland.edu  
248.370.4269

## ADVISING

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ggilber@oakland.edu  
248.370.2105  
**Don Ritenburgh** Business Adviser  
ritenbur@oakland.edu  
248.370.2533

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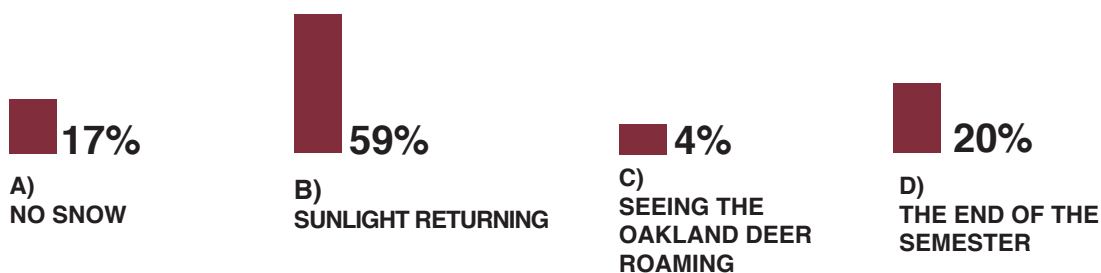
## POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU HOPE THE NEXT OUSC ADMINISTRATION FOCUSES ON THE MOST?

- A) LOW MINORITY GRADUATION RATE
- B) TUITION COSTS
- C) INCLUSION FOR ALL GENDERS/RACES/IDENTITIES
- D) STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS

## LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF SPRINGTIME?





# CAMPUS

## ‘Hamilton’ star Javier Muñoz on activism, acting during pandemic

**CAYLA SMITH**

*Campus Editor*

In honor of Pride month, Student Life Lecture Board virtually invited “Hamilton” star and LGBTQIA+ rights activist Javier Muñoz to speak on Wednesday, March 10, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Being a New York City native, Muñoz didn’t leave when the pandemic hit — he wanted to help in any way that he could, so he founded the “Broadway Relief Project” to raise money for the “Actor’s Fund” and “Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.”

It had only been a week after Broadway shutdown when Muñoz realized that there were artists all over the city, so he got to work. The project created two million medical gowns for New York public hospitals and raised \$30,000 from the project alone.

The project not only gave stitchers employment, but it also gave hope and provided PPE for frontline workers.

“The fact that it was received, and it was successful. It was the best news in the

world to hear that we were bouncing back as a city and getting it under control,” Muñoz said.

Besides the creation of a foundation, amid a pandemic, Muñoz also experienced a personal setback because he wasn’t creating.

“My activism and art are the same. I can’t separate them and I don’t. For weeks I didn’t know what to do — I wasn’t hopeful that we were going to come back as an industry after conversations with people on the frontlines,” Muñoz.

The pandemic got to the point where it began to pivot with figuring out new ways to film and create amid COVID-19. But not everyone could get up and get back to set, even with precautions and bubbles in place.

Muñoz is one of them with his compromised immune system, so he couldn’t take the chance like other actors.

“I couldn’t go take a test and take a chance on set with folks,” Muñoz said. “I’m so glad other people can do that, but I can’t do that.”

Muñoz is a cancer survivor and has

lived with HIV since 2002. He is a Global Ambassador for (RED), which fights to end HIV/AIDS, and stresses the need to continue talking about these things because it erases the stigma around HIV/AIDS.

This led to the creative compromise of the short-film he created with GQ during lockdown.

“They [GQ] sent me all of this equipment, and via Zoom we shot a mini movie that was 3-4 minutes,” Muñoz said. “I was an actor, lighting, costume, set design and they were on zoom directing me on where to put the camera, where to light, what to add to the set, what to take away, if I could rig something to make it look like a table but it wasn’t.”

Even with his success that came from being in the theater performing in shows like “Hamilton,” and “In the Heights,” Muñoz didn’t initially see himself pursuing it professionally. He actually wanted to be an astrophysicist until he stumbled into the theater to meet up with friends one day in high school.

When the world shifts back into the

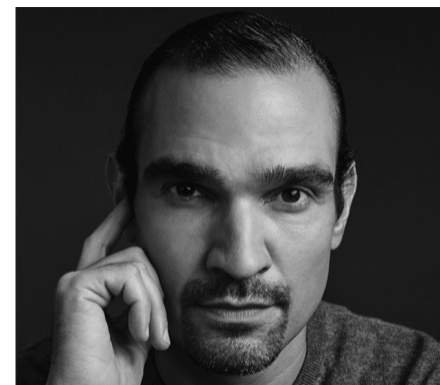


PHOTO COURTESY OF SLLB  
Muñoz, who notably starred in “Hamilton,” spoke to OU students Wednesday, March 10

world we all knew pre COVID-19, he hopes that the industry embraces balance.

“Yes, I want to work, and I want those opportunities — but yes, I come first, too,” Muñoz said.

## ‘Swallow The Moon’ journal accepting submissions

**DEAN VAGLIA**

*Staff Reporter*

The Oakland University Student Writers Group is taking submissions for the 2021 volume of the arts journal “Swallow the Moon.” Visual and written works by OU community members can be submitted by April 1.

Now in its 12th year of publication, “Swallow the Moon” was started to give OU community members a place to get published and learn how the publishing process works.

“There was not really a publication on campus that highlighted student work, whether it be writing or photography or art or even language pieces,” Ashley Cerku, faculty advisor for the Student Writers Group, said. “The original founding members wanted to have a place where current students could submit their work and be featured and have an actual copyright to their work they can put on their resume or to show at portfolios.”

Another journal, the Oakland Arts Review (OAR) fills a similar role by publishing undergraduate work, but focuses on students from outside of OU.

“It is very rare that the OAR accepts work from OU students, whereas

‘Swallow the Moon’ is open to anyone who is affiliated with OU and it is centered specifically on the OU community,” Caitlyn Ulery, president of the Student Writers Group, said.

“Swallow the Moon” accepts fiction and non-fiction work as well as poetry, photography and other art pieces. Works can be in English or in a foreign language, and there is no set theme for works to be centered around.

Submissions are reviewed by the journal’s editorial board, which is composed of the Student Writers Group executive board and members of The Writing Center. For writing submissions, the editorial board looks over, comments on and discusses each entry and determines whether to accept an entry.

If accepted, the authors are notified and are given the editors’ comments and suggestions, allowing them to modify the work before publication. Visual arts have a different editorial process.

“We have more people look at [visual art entries] because you do not have to take the time to read it,” Cerku said. “We look at the appropriateness of it, the creativeness of it, the subject, just to see if it is something our audience members want to see.”

According to Jaclyn Tockstein, vice



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE STUDENT WRITERS GROUP

The flier from last year’s “Swallow the Moon” journal. Applicants are encouraged to send their work to [ouswallowthemoon@gmail.com](mailto:ouswallowthemoon@gmail.com) for the 2021 journal, which has an April 1 deadline.

president of the Student Writers Group, the best way to get the editors’ attention is by making a work distinctly yours.

“Craft something that is so unique to your talent[s] that no other individual can replicate it,” Tockstein said via email. “Publishers (whether big or small) receive hundreds, perhaps thousands of submissions at a time. If you want your work to stand out, craft it in a way that brands yourself. What can you do that we have likely never seen/read before?”

Interested OU community members

can submit up to three entries to [ouswallowthemoon@gmail.com](mailto:ouswallowthemoon@gmail.com). Submissions are due by April 1 and should include a cover page with the entrant’s name, email and an identification of whether they are a student, alumni, faculty or staff member.

While “Swallow the Moon” has been physically published in the past, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the editorial staff to switch to virtual publication as a PDF out of safety and convenience



# Prescribed burning of biological preserve



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PLANTWISE LLC  
These are before and after photos of other restoration projects.

## EMILY MORRIS

*Managing Editor*

Ten acres of Oakland University wetlands have been issued a prescribed burn for April, an “experiment” to insight restoration, according to Scott Tiegs, Ph.D., associate professor of biological sciences.

In a panel discussion on Tuesday, March 9, various environmental specialists chimed in about OU’s impending burn.

The biological preserve has “suffered” from an array of problems — poor water quality, decrepit buildings on the preserve and invasive species, according to Tiegs. This is a common occurrence in preserves surrounded by urban environments.

For instance, Galloway Creek has experienced increased salt content from runoff and some pollution. Tiegs said the abandoned buildings on the preserve can become “wildlife traps.” Additionally, many trees and grasslands are being lost to invasive species — specifically, thousands of dead ash trees due to the emerald ash borer.

Britt Rios-Ellis, executive vice president for academic affairs and provost, advocates for the burn because of her personal experience from Carmel fires in California.

“I speak from direct experience... In fact, controlled burning may have been able to prevent the fires that ravaged the western U.S. in 2020,” Rios-Ellis said. “The truth is the controlled application of fire to contain ecosystems by experts... [and] the Native American populations — who originally populated this land — have long been demonstrated as beneficial in many ways.”

Controlled burns can prevent future wildfires from happening and reignite the environment, helping indigenous species. This is done by removing excess or anything that’s hindering the health of the environment and allowing more growth after.

Plantwise LLC, a company specialized in ecological restoration, will be executing the burn next month. Owner Dave Mindell has initiated restoration through burning, Tiegs feels “comfortable” because of his experience.

“He has done a thousand burns today, and he’s never filed an insurance claim,” Tiegs said.

The burn is sponsored by the Center for Credentialing and Education, the Campus Alliance for Sustainability and the Environment, the College of Arts and Sciences and the Oakland University Department of Biological Sciences.

There is not a specific date set for the burn yet because burners will need to consider weather conditions, ensuring safety. Additionally, Tiegs ensured plants and animals would be safe during the burn too because this is a “fire-adapted landscape” — the fire focus would be dense and invasive brush.

“The animals that live on our campus are fire adapted,” Tiegs said. “They have ways to get away from the fire — they can burrow... The plants are still relatively dormant.”

Ten acres will be burned, but there will also be five control plots to compare and learn from the burn. This burn will be an “experiment” to plan for the future and give students the opportunity to research a restorative burn.

“We have some really nice habitats on our campus,” Tiegs said. “I feel really fortunate that we have these... the presence of these and other ecosystems on campus really contributes to the OU mission as it relates to teaching, research and outreach.”

OU’s wildlife preserves have been a resource for students for years, making its preservation a priority. In fact, Tiegs was drawn to OU because of the extensive preserves.

“This is one of our classrooms, and I don’t think there’s really an adequate substitute for fieldwork,” Tiegs said.

# Three professors awarded distinguished professor rank

## DEAN VAGLIA

*Staff Reporter*

Three Oakland University professors — David Garfinkle, Zissimos Mourelatos and Barbara Oakley — were appointed to the rank of distinguished professor at the Feb. 15 Board of Trustees (BoT) meeting.

“[A distinguished professor] is a faculty member who has risen far, far beyond the place of a full professor,” Britt Rios-Ellis, executive vice president of Academic Affairs and provost, said. “These are individuals who really stand out in terms of their work on both a national and international level. They are doing things to really put OU on the map regionally, nationally and sometimes internationally.”

The BoT appointed each of the nominated professors to the rank by unanimous vote. The promotions go into effect on Aug. 15, 2021.

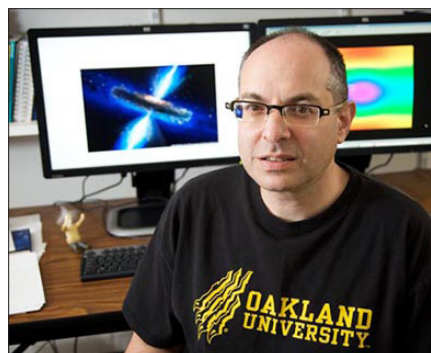


PHOTO COURTESY OF OU

Garfinkle was nominated for his work in the field of theoretical physics, especially relating to black holes and the big bang. Garfinkle teaches undergraduate and graduate level courses on subjects such as astronomy, nuclear physics, quantum mechanics and thermodynamics. The National Science Foundation, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and the Research Corporation have funded Garfinkle’s work.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU

Mourelatos was nominated for his work in mechanical engineering, particularly regarding designing and decision making under uncertainty — noise, vibration and harshness (NVH)— and reliability, safety and quality. Mourelatos joined OU in 2003, after 18 years at General Motors’ Research and Development Center. His work has been funded by GM, Chrysler, the National Science Foundation, General Dynamics Land Systems and the Army.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BARBARA OAKLEY

Oakley was nominated for her work regarding STEM pedagogy, neuroscience and social behavior. Oakley is the author of over 10 books such as “Evil Genes: Why Rome Fell, Hitler Rose, Enron Failed, and My Sister Stole My Mother’s Boyfriend” and “Pathological Altruism.”

Using her book “A Mind For Numbers” as a basis, Oakley created the massive open online course (MOOC) “Learning How to Learn,” which has become one of the most popular MOOCs with over 3 million students.

“It is a very nice thing [to be a distinguished professor,] but there are actually so many great professors at OU that all I can say is I am not worthy but I am very grateful,” Oakley said.

Distinguished professors are the highest ranking professors at OU. To become a distinguished professor, candidates are nominated by a dean and their academic peers from OU and other universities. Nominees are presented to the office of academic affairs, reviewed by the office and the provost before being sent to the BoT to vote on whether to promote.

The section of professors to be nominated is an annual occurrence, but only a select few have been awarded the rank since the BoT established it in 1988. Along with the title’s prestige, distinguished professors are awarded a one-time stipend of \$2,500 and a yearly allocation of \$1,500 for supplies and services for up to five years, totaling an extra \$10,000 in funding. The additional funding lasts for five years in order to allow for more professors to be promoted.

“[As a distinguished professor,] you are in a class of class,” Rios-Ellis said.



## CAMPUS

## Cycling for a cause: OU and AHA partnership

## AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

The School of Engineering and Computer Science will be adding an Augmented Reality Center (ARC) into its building, which will provide opportunities for students and faculty.

Augmented reality is somewhat similar to virtual reality, but it's more immersive.

"Let's say you're wearing clear glasses and you're seeing the whole world in front of you. Suddenly you see an object on your table, it's not there in real life, it's a virtual object in your real world that's acting like a real object," Khalid Mirza, founder of ARC, said.

Augmented reality is useful for new employees when doing their training, and is a new approach to absorbing and applying new information.

Oakland University, the College for Creative Studies, and a coalition of regional industry partners have joined forces to establish this space. The collaboration with the College for Creative Studies will allow the user interfaces experience to be optimal.

The industry partners include ABB Inc., AM General, Continental, General Motors, Hirotec America, KUKA Robotics, Magna International, MAHLE Industries, Rave Computer, Siemens and

US Military Ground Vehicle Systems.

The main partner is Epic Games, the video game company most known for the 2018 viral sensation, Fortnite.

They're giving support through their Epic MegaGrants Program, a \$100 million initiative designed to service and assist game developers, enterprise professionals, media and entertainment creators, students, educators, and tool developers doing outstanding work with Unreal Engine or enhancing open-source capabilities for the 3D graphics community.

"They're [Epic Games] going to use whatever they're doing in games in the industry and it makes sense to everyone to include them," Mirza said. "There's an area that is going to develop most cost effective hardware, most eye popping software interfaces. We can use this for industrial applications — it just makes sense."

The center is going to be in an immersive lab, showcasing engineering, science and art.

Students will engage with and explore augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR) and their applications.

Workshops are going to be available for students to learn about AR and the applications and other workshops to learn about how to use it in their facilities to prepare for Industry 4.0.

Industry 4.0 is the ongoing automation



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

A student tries out virtual reality while playing Minecraft. The School of Engineering and Computer Science will be adding an Augmented Reality Center (ARC) into its building.

of traditional manufacturing and industrial practices using modern "smart" technology, according to OU News.

The ARC will be collaborative, where industry partners and companies, faculty and students can engage, learn and partner on emerging technological advancements.

"I can imagine a demonstration where everyone is wearing a headset and they see virtually all the same object and can interact with it together," he said.

ARC was created with the support and expertise of an Industrial Advisory

Board (IAB) and OU faculty to provide a learning platform where engineering and art intersect.

The center is still in development and has yet to announce a launch date.

"We're figuring out things as we go along," Mirza said. "There's so many possibilities, and it opens doors for things that we haven't tried before."

The center will be open to students, faculty and staff, along with visitors. More information can be found on their website.

## Activist and author encourages students to "find potential"

## JESSICA ORLANDO

Staff Reporter



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

Last Thursday, March 11, Oakland University hosted another webinar in their ongoing OU Encore series. The webinar featured Haile Thomas speaking about wellness, compassion and nourishing someone's potential.

Thomas is an international speaker, wellness and compassion activist and the author of "Living Lively". She is also the youngest to graduate from the institute for

Integrative Nutrition as a certified health coach. Thomas is also the CEO of the non-profit HAPPY.

Thomas has personally engaged with over 90,000 people around the world and has spoken at numerous notable platforms such as TEDx and Teen Vogue Summit. She has also been featured on Rachel Ray and Today, as well as given the title "Young Wonder" by CNN.

Thomas explained that the beginning of her interest in food was through her family's cooking and her overall childhood experience with the Jamaican culture.

"Our lunches were curry goat and oxtail as well as rice and peas which most kids in my school thought was super weird, but for me I really enjoyed this incredible diversity of food," Thomas said.

In 2009, everything changed for Thomas. After her dad was diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes, her perspective on food and wellness was thought about more critically.

"We started to really become empowered and discovered that nourishing foods could potentially bring a solution to the illness

[Type 2 Diabetes] he was facing," Thomas said. "Within only a year we were able to completely reverse my dad's condition without the use of medication."

After Thomas' dad recovered, she realized that she wanted to take action and share her knowledge of nourishment with the rest of her peers.

"I had no idea how to translate a message on healthy eating, but I knew that the way I learned about it was through love, compassion and creativity," Thomas said.

Thomas realized that her initial approach to spreading the message of well-being wasn't necessarily educational or empowering for her peers.

"Unfortunately, for a short period of time, I was that super annoying kid with her quinoa salad and yelling at her friends for eating pizza because it was clogging her arteries," Thomas said.

Effective communication and education should be fun and exciting, not about yelling at your peers. Thomas noticed that her creativity and passion for cooking could fuel her outreach to grow in a more positive direction.

"I founded my non-profit HAPPY, which stands for 'healthy active positive purposeful youth,' and our entire mission is to provide wellness education from an empowering standpoint, but also making it super fun and engaging," Thomas said.

Through HAPPY, Thomas has been able to focus on the education and understanding of why individuals should eat certain ingredients over others.

"We do a class called Sugar Shockers and it's where we investigate food labels and we also look into certain ingredients," Thomas said. "Some of my favorite moments are when we can shock them with certain ingredients like duck feathers in Hot Pockets."

Thomas expressed how lucky she is to be able to share her message of wellness and empowerment with the world. She hopes that everyone can be well during these hard times and continue to find a place of enrichment within themselves.

"I think that's the really beautiful thing about our journeys, is that we can learn and grow with each other and through our own individual experiences," Thomas said.



# Working to provide students with valuable internships

**MATTHEW SCHEIDEL**

*Staff Reporter*

What all students deserve, regardless of economic background, is opportunity, and Oakland University is trying their best to make sure that happens.

“We offer a whole bowl of them,” Brian Hlavaty, director of the internship program, said. “It just depends on what the student is interested in — we’ve got students wanting to go into advertising, we’ve got students who are PR majors and that’s all they’re interested in, we’ve got some students that just want television or radio, so we try to offer a little bit of everything.”

Hlavaty explained the process of an employer looking for interns from OU, and what the university expects from the employer.

“So a company comes to us and says ‘hey we’ve got this [opportunity],’” he said. “‘What do we need to do to make it work?’ We give them the rules and the regulations, and tell them, ‘here’s what the student has to do.’ Here [are some] things we don’t want the student to do: we don’t want them running errands, fetching coffee, all of the stupid things you hear interns do. We want them under a mentor, doing work that appropriately falls under the skills that they’re seeking to learn about.”

According to Hlavaty, the COVID-19 pandemic has hurt the internship program.

“[The pandemic] just gutted the internships,” Hlavaty said. “They’ve all switched to remote internships — and that happened a year ago. As a matter of fact, that just abruptly shifted remote. Then many companies finished up a year ago in the winter semester of 2020, and decided to put internships on hold. So, dozens of them just said



OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES | LAUREN KARMO  
Professor Katherine Roff, who is aiming to change the News Bureau experience for students, calling it “solutions journalism.”

‘we’re not going to do it right now’. And they haven’t done it in the fall, they haven’t done it this semester, and some of them are telling me, ‘well maybe next fall — call me in June and we’ll see what happens.’”

The university is currently working on a replacement for the OU News Bureau course. Journalism professor Katherine Roff is one of the people leading the charge on that front.

“[Solutions journalism] is more of an approach to journalism as opposed to a specific theme,” Roff said. “People who advocate for solutions journalism would probably argue that solutions journalism can be applied to any of society’s issues that you’re covering. That could lean a little bit naturally towards social issues,

environmental issues, but it can be applied to anything.”

Roff said that much like the previous OU News Bureau course, this course will be offered as an alternative to an internship.

“A lot of this course would be looking at inclusive pedagogy and practice,” Roff said. “So that means things like universal learning design, which is where we’re recognizing lots of different ways of contributing to the class and not just a final exam or anything like that.”

According to Roff, the class attempts to replicate the internship experience, tailored to what the student is best at.

“It would be working on projects throughout the semester — collaborative learning — so not too different from a newsroom,” Roff said. “People will be researchers, they will be photographers, and we’d have that collaboration going on through forums and quizzes, not just that focus on one assignment, or on the final score. We’re looking at trying to make it as inclusive and accessible as we can.”

Roff elaborated on how they plan to keep the class accessible, mentioning a wide variety of student interests will be included.

“We want to try and make it as representative as we can in terms of student interests,” Roff said. “If students are really interested in broadcast, then they might choose broadcast as a final medium. If they are interested in feature writing, that might be the medium they present their final assignments [with]. [Students] will build up a portfolio throughout the semester to show editing processes, reflective processes, things like that.”

Roff is hoping to have the course ready to offer by Winter 2022.

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## FEATURES

# Professor Alison Powell releases book, reflects on COVID-19 learning

**JEFF THOMAS**  
Features Editor

With her own unique brand of humor and enthusiasm, Oakland University English Professor Alison Powell has been holding down British and World Literature courses and poetry workshops ever since she arrived at OU in 2014. Her new book “The Art of Perpetuation” draws inspiration from a life of movement and an innate desire to grow and make sense of the world around her.

Growing up in rural Indiana, Powell became aware and troubled by a problematic duality that currently exists in the midwest.

“I grew up twenty minutes away from the place that is generally referred to as the birthplace of the KKK,” Powell said. “You grow up with these contradictions, right? ... a variety of unpleasant experiences, and yet at the same time parts of Indiana are beautiful. And [growing up] we just had the run of the land ... it had this feeling of magic or unboundedness. It felt very romantic on one level and then the other side of that was all this really horrifying social stuff.”

For Powell, that “horrifying social stuff” included not only backwards thinking on race and religion, but also issues of gender.

“When I was growing up, I experienced mixed messages around what my femaleness was supposed to look like,” Powell said. “I was kind of

a tomboy, and [at first] that was great. Then as I got older, I became a little more political ... that was forcefully rejected.”

It was ultimately this discomfort that drove Powell to leave the state. In pursuit of more freedom and the opportunity to grow into the person she wanted to be, she started moving around the country following the completion of her master’s degree in fine arts at Indiana University in 2005.

First Powell headed down to Missouri and started a Ph.D. program at University of Missouri. After a year there, she decided she wanted to get out of the midwest, moving first to work for a nonprofit in San Francisco before eventually going to New York to finish her Ph.D. at City University of New York.

“It was really good for me to be in a city,” Powell said. “I needed to leave ... San Francisco and New York were good places for me to figure out who I was and what I wanted.”

2014 became an important year for Powell. That year, the end of her coast-to-coast journey came with the completion of her Ph.D., her award winning first poetry book “On the Desire to Levitate” was published and she moved to Michigan to become a member of OU’s English Department.

“I mean to get a job as a poet is like the dream ... this is great,” Powell said. “I love talking to my students. Teaching has been where I’ve kept alive that more critical side ... I feel an obligation to keep myself quick on my feet. And I get to read different kinds of texts than what I would read otherwise.”

Influenced in recent years by her new experiences as an educator and as a parent of two young children, Powell has taken her creative writing into a different genre for this new book.

Written from 2016 to 2019, “The Art of Perpetuation” is a collection of lyric essays where Powell’s voice as an artist shines through. The lyric essay form, which is more poetic than traditional non-fiction but more non-fiction than most poetry, allows her to tie her sensibilities as a poet into the fierce urgency she feels to address current affairs.

“Being able to move fast and loose within the essay form is really fun,” Powell said. “I found myself writing essays because I felt like the things I wanted to talk about were too hard to contain in a poem. I needed something new.”

This collection, which was released as a chapbook by Black Lawrence Press last October, covers a wide array of



PHOTO COURTESY OF PBS

Powell has taught at Oakland University since 2014. Her new book “The Art of Perpetuation” draws inspiration from a life of movement and an innate desire to grow and make sense of the world around her.

topics from her experiences with gender identity, to man-made environmental destruction, to her concerns as a parent raising children in the toxicity of our current society.

Powell is enjoying the lyric essay format and plans to continue adding to this collection, eventually publishing the entirety of the work as a full length book some time in the future. Additionally her latest collection of poems entitled “Boats in the Attic” is currently being shopped around for publication.

Admittedly, Powell’s work as a creative writer has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“[For me] writing has essentially come to a standstill,” Powell said. “Which is not the end of the world ... but it is increasingly frustrating. I’m a person who needs to feel sort of invisible when writing. I need an empty space where I can write ... it’s really hard to get that time.”

Her work as an educator has been similarly strained. While she had experience teaching online courses, asynchronous classes taught over video conferencing platforms like Zoom have been a difficult adjustment.

“The video conferencing is really strange,” Powell said. “I’m noticing my professorial persona is being compromised to some extent by Zoom. I think that students and professors are

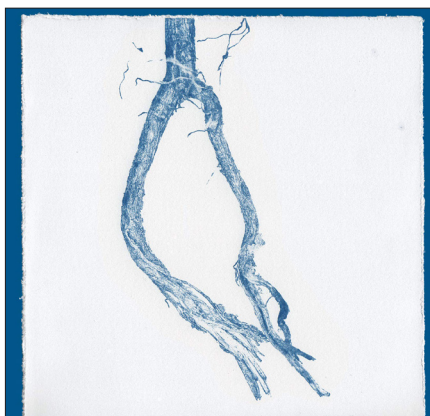
more downtrodden in some ways than before ... we’re just all so tired of this.”

For her students, Powell sees the lack of mobility and human interaction during the pandemic as a real detriment to the creative writing process.

“One thing that I think is really interesting is the serious lack of sensory stimulation,” Powell said. “To only ever be in one to five spaces, it’s bad for your brain. All the same sensory experiences over and over again ... it’s not good for writers.”

Despite the difficulties, Powell is somewhat optimistic about the pandemic as a catalyst for change in a positive direction.

“One of the things that the pandemic has done is exacerbate existing strains on social structures,” Powell said. “There’s this unevenness in people’s experiences ... some people are saving money and coming out fine ... others are losing family members ... lost jobs ... children are suffering from the lack of childcare in schools. I hope [COVID-19] will urge forward conversations about how our society does or does not take care of people.”



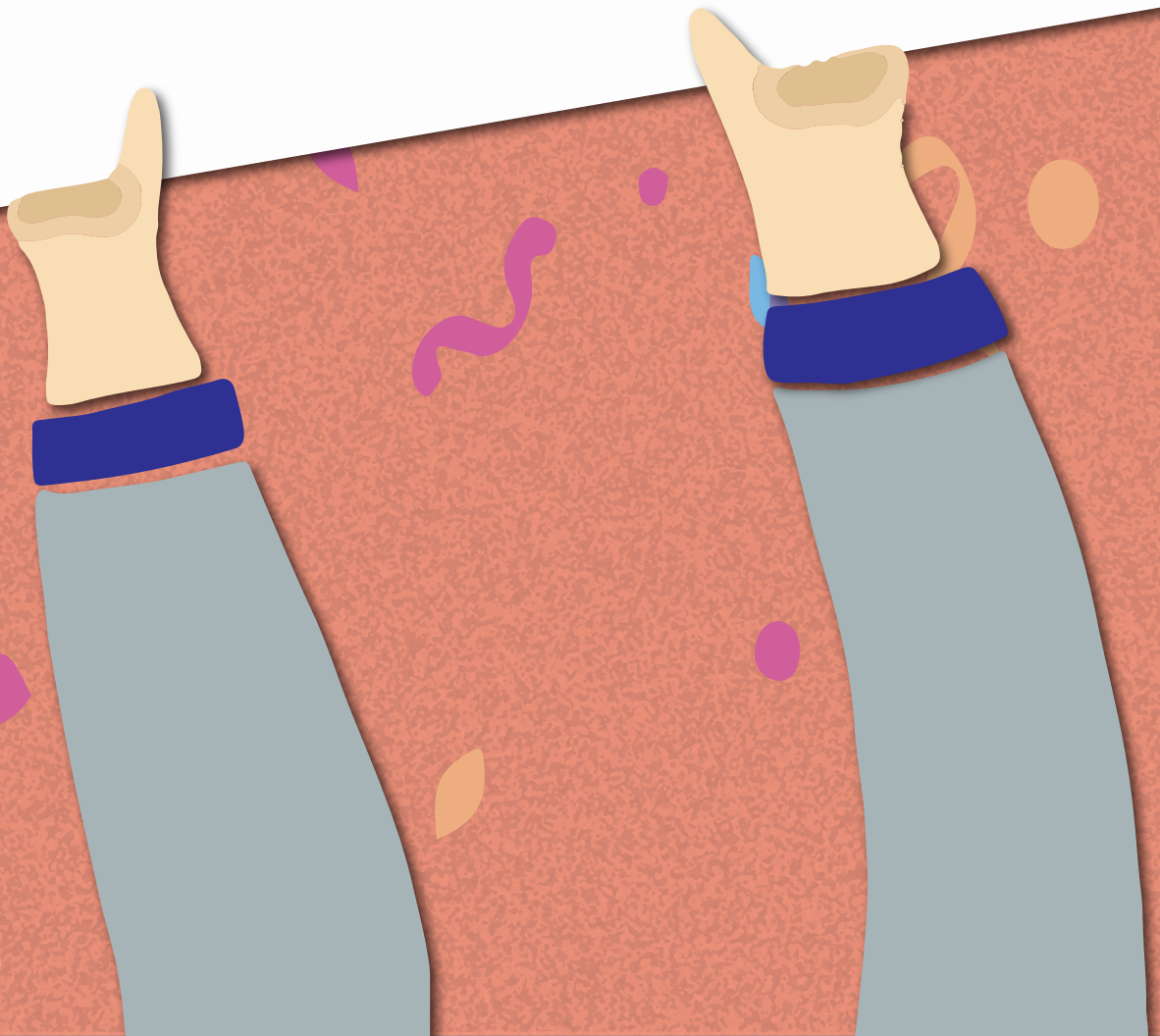
**THE ART OF PERPETUATION**  
LYRIC ESSAYS

Alison Powell

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM



HOUSING EMPLOYMENT  
PROTEST...





# ...TURNS TO CELEBRATION

## EMILY MORRIS

*Managing Editor*

Students planned to protest cut housing positions — Sustaining Our Planet Earth, nightwatch and the bear bus — but University Housing reinstated several positions the morning of the march, Thursday, March 11.

### **Igniting the employment protest**

Oakland United Student Workers Coalition began drawing attention to eliminated programs, positions and benefits a week ago. The group also gained recognition from Black Lives Matter OU and OU Student Congress running mates Jordan Tolbert and Brennan Smith.

Students discussed their concerns at the OUSC debates and in a Resident Life Association meeting both on Monday, March 9. To encourage change, a petition was also introduced, which had almost 700 signatures before the scheduled protest.

Jeremy Johnson, OUSC director of civic affairs and Oak View Hall residential assistant, began the discussion in the RLA meeting by comparing the level of funding and necessity of SOPE.

“SOPE has a very small budget compared to the larger budget of housing as a whole,” Johnson said. “For the output that they give housing — having multiple programs a month that are also bringing in hundreds of residents — from where I’m standing... cutting them doesn’t make sense.”

All five SOPE positions were cut for the 2021-2022 school year. As a replacement housing introduced an RLA sustainability position though.

“We are down in numbers — both individuals on campus as well as dollars within the budget,” Housing Director Jim Zentmeyer said. “I hate to put it in these terms — but it is the reality.”

The elimination of nightwatch was also introduced, and Zentmeyer referenced the same budgetary issues.

With unresolved concerns, students continued to plan on a protest from TreeRunner Adventure Park to Sunset Terrace — the home of OU President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz — at 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 11. Protesters intended to stay until sunset as well.

“We were going to march from TreeRunner’s parking lot to Sunset Terrace to make our voices heard because our voices hadn’t been heard, until this point,” Johnson said.

However, fifteen hours before the protest OUSWC posted on Instagram that Zentmeyer still thought reinstating SOPE and nightwatch was “unlikely,” and protesters’ jobs could be in danger.

“... Given the fact we haven’t been guaranteed any job returns, the protest will be happening and we hope to get everyone’s attendance,” the OUSWC Instagram post read. “If you work for OU Housing, the Director of Housing [Zentmeyer] could not guarantee that you will not be terminated if you attend the protest...”

### **Transition to celebration**

Thursday morning students were notified SOPE and nightwatch (45 jobs) would be saved by directing funds from the CARES act into those positions’ wages. Roughly three hours before the protest, OUSWC announced a celebration was in store, instead.

Students were instructed to gather at Elliott Tower for snacks and drinks.

Before the celebration began, Jesse Hurse, associate dean of students and deputy title IX coordinator, stopped and greeted all the students. Zentmeyer also made an appearance, but left quickly for a COVID-19 vaccine appointment.

“This solidarity of student employment has been outstanding,” Hurse said. “It’s something I’ve truly missed. It’s a glimmer of hope for what we can look forward to in the fall semester.”

Johnson welcomed around 20 students to the celebration, and then Sam Torres, Oakview Hall RA, explained the trajectory of the past week.

“This is relatively quick, and that’s a testament to how incredible you guys are for making your voices heard so quickly,” Torres said.

Torres also emphasized the “longevity” of their movement, ensuring their work wasn’t done yet. Continued communication will be key going forward, according to Torres.

Next, OUSC presidential candidate Tolbert took the microphone. She thanked students for their involvement and creating an “amazing turnaround” in less than 12 hours, but she also reminded attendees of the work still to be done.

“There’s still so much more to be done,” she said. “We will [n]ever become housing. We will never stand against student workers, and we will work to get everything done in our petition.”

Attendees insisted she speak about her campaign as well. Tolbert initially hesitated but reminded everyone of her platform — focusing on diversity and inclusivity — and that voting does begin on Friday, March 12.

“It’s not about my campaign — it’s about all of you,” she said.

Andrew Romano and Emily Sines spoke on behalf of SOPE. Both discussed SOPE’s sustainability efforts on campus.

More than 500 people have attended SOPE’s events with a budget of under \$2,000, and RLA had under 200 students attend events with a budget of over \$20,000, according to Romano.

“What are the university’s priorities?” Romano asked.

### **OUSWC’s next mission**

While this was a celebration, there is still more OUSWC is fighting to bring back.

They are pushing to increase desk attendants’ hours, offer academic peer mentors full benefits and bring back the Bear Bus.

Desk attendants’ maximum hours were reduced to 10 from 25 for the 2021-2022 school year. Attendants handle some mailing, issuing toilet paper and guiding anyone entering their assigned building.

Previously, APMs received free housing, which was revoked. APMs tutor and mentor students and offer programs.

Romano and Tolbert agreed that bringing back the Bear Bus would be their next mission. Students with physical disabilities and international students without a U.S. license relied on the bear bus, according to Romano.

Each of these changes were made due to budget restrictions, but Romano doesn’t agree with that logic and plans to continue this movement.

“I don’t think we should ever put a price tag on making OU accessible,” he said.



# Professor uses language to reduce health care disparities

**GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH**

*Staff Reporter*



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
Dr. Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo, spanish professor at Oakland University.

For six years, Dr. Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo, an associate professor at

Oakland University, has been teaching Spanish Language and Culture for Health Care Professionals (SPN 3580).

This course was designed to help students achieve an intermediate level in Spanish while placing a special emphasis on oral communication in areas related to health care.

“I thought it was important to do a 3000 level course because when a healthcare professional is working with a patient, you want to go beyond the initial rapport that you develop by making a quick introduction in Spanish,” Campoy-Cubillo said. “You want to be able to actually assess what the perception of the patient is when it comes to their own disease and how they react to it and how they perceive their pain.”

The course not only concentrates on medical terminology and improving Spanish oral communication skills, but it also focuses on developing a cross-cultural understanding as well.

“Cultural scripts and cultural responses to disease and health are not unique to minorities in the United States,” Campoy-Cubillo said. “Everybody has a

cultural response to health and disease, and when we approach cross-cultural work from that perspective, I think it’s more efficient.”

“When we understand that we’re not just looking at the exception of the patient that has a cultural response — we look at a cultural response as something patients do,” Campoy-Cubillo said. “We all have cultural responses to disease and health.”

Dr. Campoy-Cubillo also stressed the importance of taking other Spanish courses to learn about Latin America countries’ culture, politics and to remain current on health-related issues pertaining to those countries.

“A doctor wouldn’t think of going to see a patient without taking into consideration the added stress of what COVID-19 brings to the patient,” Campoy-Cubillo said. “Imagine when you have a patient that comes from any Spanish-speaking country. If you’re not aware of what’s going on in that country and where that person is coming from, you’re missing half of the picture.”

This course helps students lay down a

strong foundation in medical Spanish to build upon, assists with improving cross-cultural skills, and raises awareness on language barriers in health care for Hispanic and Latino patients. In a time when health care disparities are so starkly apparent for individuals of color and Hispanic and Latino communities, this class starts the process of bridging those gaps.

“I think by raising awareness and preparing the student at an intermediate or advanced level of Spanish, you have the students understand that you need to have a high level of competence to conduct your business in the language,” Campoy-Cubillo said. “Every step counts. You cannot win the war with one step. Every step you take in that direction is positive and helpful,” he said.

Spanish Language and Culture for Health Care Professionals is offered during the fall semester.

For more information about SPN 3580, please [campoycu@oakland.edu](mailto:campoycu@oakland.edu).

## Police Files

### Occupational Hazards

An officer of the Oakland University Police Department was walking down the left side of the outside stairs to the OUPD station on Feb. 11 around 2 p.m. when she stumbled and fell down the stairs toward parking lot P-41. The officer landed on her left knee at the bottom of the stairs and her face struck a parked vehicle next to where she fell. The officer did not request any medical attention, but another officer still produced two ice packs for the injured officer to use in her office if needed for swelling later. The incident was captured on security footage.

### Caught on Camera

During a night class on Feb. 12, a professor called OUPD dispatch to report a possible Minor in Possession over a Zoom call. The professor told dispatch that one of her students on the call was drinking a beer on camera. Two officers were sent to the room of the student in question. Upon arriving, the student admitted she drank half a can of Bud Light and produced the can in question. The officers advised she pour out the rest and issued a civil infraction citation. The student was very cooperative with officers during the incident. The officers then cleared the scene.

Compiled by Ben Hume, Web Editor

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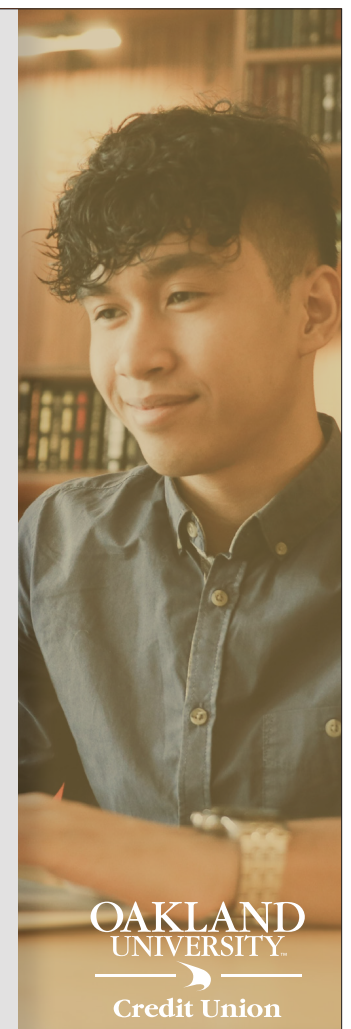
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# OPINION

## ‘Music on a Mission’ concert helps artists worldwide

### MEGAN SPEAKS

*Design Editor*

The Recording Academy’s MusiCares Foundation is on a mission to help artists, crews, and all people in the music industry that suffered due to COVID-19.

The “Music on a Mission” fundraising concert normally costs hundreds or even thousands of dollars, but without a live audience, they lowered the cost to 25 dollars and made it virtual.

There were only five acts-- Jhenè Aiko, John Legend, HAIM, H.E.R. and BTS-- who recorded new performances for the virtual concert.

Jhenè Aiko and John Legend both performed more intimate versions of their songs. “Love” by Aiko was accompanied on by a conga and acoustic guitar while Legend sang alone at his piano.

The sister trio, HAIM, performed “Don’t Wanna” with a full band. They also performed on the Grammys two days later and were nominated for Album of the Year and Best Rock Performance.

H.E.R. sang her song “Fight for You” from the movie “Judas and the Black Messiah.” She was nominated three times and won Song of the Year and Best R&B Song.

BTS, also recorded a new stage for their song “Dynamite,” which they also performed at the Grammys where they were nominated for Best Pop Duo/Group Performance. According to the live chat and Twitter, they brought in the most

viewers from their fanbase.

All other performances were recordings from past MusiCares concerts. Viewers saw past stages from Lady Gage, Usher, the Jonas Brothers and many more.

The MusiCares foundation was made in 1993 in order to be a source of help for financial, medical and personal issues and is available to all people in the music industry. They offer services for addiction recovery, emergency medical costs and even senior housing.

The foundation started the annual concert in 2005, and this brought more attention to the cause and allowed them to expand the amount of support they could give to the industry.

Throughout the virtual event, there were also messages and spotlights on people that MusiCares is supporting. With music venues closed for over a year, event and touring crews, as well as less well known artists have been suffering through the pandemic.

According to Grammy.com the foundation has given over \$22 million to people “including songwriters, musicians, engineers, producers, bus drivers, crew, guitar techs, label employees, makeup artist, and more.”

MusiCares made it clear that their mission is going to continue to provide support to those in the music industry who are suffering through the pandemic.

## Five quarantine albums while you wait for a vaccine

### LAUREN KARMO

*Marketing Director*

With the Grammys this past weekend, everyone is talking about their favorite albums and projects from the last year. Besides the socially-distanced awards show, COVID-19’s isolation periods have impacted another part of the industry — with no touring, musicians have been writing and producing from their homes and creating quarantine masterpieces.

Here are my five favorite albums to come out of quarantine.

#### 5. “how i’m feeling now” — Charli XCX

This May album was constructed in just over a month and was our first taste of the creativity that can come out of the pandemic. Queen of Hyperpop, Charli carefully constructed each of the 11 songs to be distinct and worth listening to, but unified under central musical and lyrical themes.

While this album needs to be listened to in order, some of the best tracks include “detonate,” “C2.o” and “anthems.” Charli is known for her colorful mixing and chords, and “how i’m feeling now” makes you feel like you’re riding a sugar high off Pixy Stix.

#### 4. “Man On The Moon III: The Chosen” — Kid Cudi

The thrilling third installment to Cudi’s MOTM records, “The Chosen” is exactly what fans needed in December. The near-hour album is divided into four acts, each of which follow Cudi’s alter ego, Mr. Rager. What sets him and this album apart from others is the sheer mastery in storytelling — you aren’t just listening to some notes and words that sound cool, there’s a deeper meaning behind every second.

Highlights from MOTM3 include “Tequila Shots,” “The Void” and “Lovin’ Me.” These are not the songs blasting at a frat house at midnight, but they hit different on the drive home after a long day.

#### 3. “folklore” and “evermore” — Taylor Swift

Taylor has dipped into a totally new sound following her “Lover” era, which earned these sister albums No. 3 on the list. These albums have dominated playlists and changed the game for pop artists — what else would we expect from Miss Reputation? “folklore” begins the series by playing with heartbreaking storytelling elements that harken back to Queen and Bowie. The sequel,

“evermore,” centers around healing.

While Taylor once again outdoes herself by dropping two albums within six months, there is nothing rushed about the two hours and 16 minutes of artistry in these works. “cardigan” and “betty” rightfully hold out as the best tracks on “folklore,” while “tolerate it” and “no body, no crime” top on side b.

#### 2. “Good News” — Megan Thee Stallion

A debut album has never done what Meg does with “Good News.” Inspired to give people something positive to talk about, Meg dropped this album in November and features Beyoncé, Young Thug and SZA. Even with collaborations like these, the “Savage” singer really stars on her solo tracks.

Any song on this album will get you in the mood for some real hot girl shit, but “Body,” “Freaky Girls” and “Girls in the Hood” are Meg’s best hits on “Good News.”

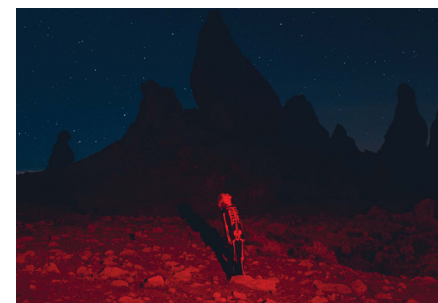


PHOTO COURTESY OF SECRETLYSTORE.COM

#### 1. “Punisher” — Phoebe Bridgers

The “Motion Sickness” singer released her second studio album in July, and it has been on repeat since. Phoebe’s songwriting is some of the most unique I’ve heard in a while — her chord progressions take a roundabout way to completion, coloring traditionally happy phrases with a heavy coat of melancholy. Like Phoebe herself, “Punisher” is unafraid to be exactly what it’s meant to and nothing it’s not, making it the go-to for a night-in with candles, cozy blankets and self reflection.

While most rave about “Kyoto,” which is definitely worth a listen, “Punisher” shines in songs like “ICU,” the titular track, “Savior Complex” and “I Know The End.” Phoebe brings raw emotion and talent to each note, making it my album of the quarantined year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BILLBOARD.COM

The Korean band, BTS, brought the most viewership from their fanbase, helping the first ever virtual MusiCares concert.



# Shooting in Uptown Minneapolis kills one person

**AUTUMN PAGE**

Staff Reporter



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTUMN PAGE

A shooting occurred in Minneapolis on March 6 — in the same intersection where George Floyd was killed.

Police found a man who had suffered a gunshot wound and was immediately taken to Hennepin County Medical Center to be treated for his injuries.

When they arrived, “officers were met with some interference at the scene,” John Elder, Minneapolis Police Department spokesman, said.

The possible interference could be because the intersection is considered a memorial site for Floyd.

Police were told that the victim had already been taken to a hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

There isn’t very much clarity on if the victim was taken to the hospital by an ambulance or another EMT vehicle. The way it’s being described and/or covered seems suspicious or like there are things being intentionally left out of the story.

According to Elder, officers responded to a report of a shooting, using an automatic sound detecting system called ShotSpotter, around 5:45 p.m. on Lagoon Avenue between Girard

and Hennepin Avenues. Not long after police received 911 calls reporting two people had been shot.

“The victim and the suspect had a verbal disagreement, and the suspect shot the victim,” Elder said.

One of the victims, a man believed to be in his 30s, was identified by friends and colleagues as Imez Wright.

Wright worked for Change Inc. — a Twin Cities organization where he was part of a team of 10 social service staffers who mentor Black youth in St. Paul.

The Ramsey County program is funded by the state Department of Human Services. He was training to be a mental health practitioner.

Authorities said that they had not located a second victim who is reportedly injured. Elder considers the second victim armed and dangerous.

Police said the suspect fled in a light-colored Chevrolet Suburban with a body style used between 2005 and 2016.

The SUV is believed to have damage from gunshots.

This incident comes at an interesting time for Minneapolis — as the trial for

Derek Chauvin would have taken place two days after.

Chauvin is on trial for the murder of Floyd, and the city is anticipating city-wide unrest during this time.

The shooting came just hours after over 150 people protested in front of the Governor’s mansion. They gathered to demand accountability for the police offers in advance for the trial.

The unrest that we saw back in May when Floyd was murdered has a chance of coming back twice as hard. There has been no confirmation that any of these incidents are related in any way, and I will not imply that they are.

The lack of details is unnerving within the reports of Wright’s death, and it could be from the trial of Chauvin — which has been delayed because of a possible additional murder charge. I’m hopeful that, even with everything going on, Wright can get the justice he deserves.

# The stock market is fine, what about the economy?

**RACHEL YIM**

Staff Reporter

2020 was full of unprecedented events. COVID-19 caused over 530,000 deaths and weakened the economy in the U.S.

As we slowly recover from the pandemic with the vaccine and new \$1400 stimulus, investors expect a bright future of the stock market.

The country is trying to improve the national economy, stimulus relief bills and the fast distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines are playing key roles in the recovery. As of March 12, more than 35 million Americans (10.5% of the population) are fully vaccinated. An increased number of people in public places such as shopping malls, theaters and restaurants is one of the signs.

While there are many signs of recovery, they also signal inflation. As an example of inflation, starting from late February, the yield of 10 year-treasury-bond quickly increased up to 1.6%. This has caused a tantrum in the stock market: approximately 10% of drop in terms of NASDAQ index.

Some investors anticipate that the FRB would execute monetary policies such as Yield Curve Control (YCC) or Operation Twist to stabilize the yield of the 10 year-treasury-bond and the stock market. Realistically, however, it doesn’t seem



PHOTO FROM CONSTUCTCONNECT.COM

COVID-19 has weakened the economy and stock market, but it seems people only really care about the stock market, and not the economy.

as the FRB is executing these policies to support the stock market prioritizing it over recovery of the national economy.

At the beginning of the pandemic, anxiety and fear from COVID-19 caused S&P (Standard and Poor’s) 500 index — a market-capitalization-weighted index of the 500 largest U.S. companies — to plunge 35%.

Shortly after, however, the Federal government and the Federal Reserve Board (FRB)’s quantitative easing has led the stock market to unexpectedly rally in V-shape and eventually to exceed

the index level before the pandemic due to optimism vaccines will help return the world to normal in the new year and businesses will do well.

Everything happened in a blink of an eye, even before the recovery of the national economy. As soon as the stock market began recovering, many investors received a capital gain, and turned greedy with the expectation of continuous growth of the stock market.

Currently, there are many signs that the economy is improving, which can also bring a positive impact on the stock

market in the long term. However, some investors are near-sighted as they only focus on the crushed stock market.

At one point, a question we need to ask ourselves is what is more important for the country, the stock price or recovery of the economy? Though the stock market is important, the recovery of the economy can support the stock market. The stock price, however, cannot directly improve the national economy.

One piece of good news is that soon enough, we all will be able to gather, laugh together and spend the time with our loved ones in a world where no mask is required. Looking at the speed of how this country has been recovering from a global pandemic, this is all very possible.

“Every day that goes by that we keep the lid on things will get better and better because we’re putting now at 2 million vaccinations into the arms of individuals each day, and as the days and weeks go by, you have more and more protection, not only of individuals, but of the community,” Dr. Anthony Fauci, chief medical adviser to President Biden, said. “So, we’re going in the right direction. We just need to hang in there a bit longer.”



# Disney offers strong female lead in Raya

**BRIDGET JANIS**  
Staff Reporter

A strong female lead is always something to look forward to in a movie. In Disney's latest Disney+ release "Raya and the Last Dragon," a fantasy warrior princess steals the screen in her role as the main character.

This movie has a lot of the classic Disney-animated movie traits. Everyone knows no Disney movie would be complete without the cute little sidekick. Just like the legendary Pascal and Abu, Raya also has a fun little animal that helps her out.

Her main sidekick Tuk Tuk is an armadillo-like creature, one that Disney is going to make a fortune selling themed items about, especially the baby version of Tuk Tuk.

For Disney this movie had a lot more adventure than their average animations. Raya (Kelly Marie Tran) has to travel around the five Kingdoms to piece together a gem after stumbling upon the last dragon, Sisu (Awkwafina).

The only reason the dragons become extinct is because the monsters, known as the Druun, attacked both humans and dragons. The dragons sacrificed themselves to save the humans. Now the Druun are back and it's up to Raya and Sisu to save everyone.

Of course, the animation was extremely well done. The effects and powers the dragons held were super well done and gave off good impressions. It would have been an amazing movie to experience on the big screen at a movie theater. The colors were vibrant and the dragons were interesting. Simply put, it was fun to look at.

A lot of things were going on in the movie. There were a lot of components that went into the story line, and



PHOTO COURTESY OF INDIEWIRE

"Raya and the Last Dragon" provides an inspiring woman lead and sticks to the classic Disney-animated tropes.

sometimes they seemed a little underdeveloped. But this target audience is kids, so I understand the hesitation to explain things in a lot of detail because it could make it harder to follow. Still, the story matters, and for this reason I don't think it will go down in history as a Disney fan favorite.

The cast was great. Awkwafina did amazing in the role of the dragon, she always does great in every role she plays. Her voice acting in this film did not disappoint.

The reason this movie stands out against other Disney movies is because this warrior princess is fighting her own battles. Everyone loves a female empowerment film and this one is another hit from Disney in that perspective and

that perspective only. It can set a great example for this generation of kids to follow.

While the film gives off total "How to Train Your Dragon" vibes, it was nice to see Disney take a steep dip into a fantasy world that isn't focused on a fairytale.

While it was interesting to watch, I still wouldn't justify buying it on Disney+. I would just wait until it becomes free. At this point, I don't think buying movies on a streaming platform will ever be deemed as worth it to me.

**Rating: 4/5 stars**

# If Biden is serious, he'll do more than promise

**JEFF THOMAS**  
Features Editor

In President Joe Biden's first National Address to America last Thursday — he mourned, celebrated and challenged the American people.

During the address, Biden did a fine job congratulating himself and his cabinet, but he failed to convince America the government is on our side and ready to be transparent in their actions.

The American people have not believed in government truthfulness since the start of the 1960s. In fact, there has been a steady decline in public trust since the start of Johnson's presidency. With their self-serving chicanery, our obviously-corrupt political class has eroded the public trust.

It's no secret that right now public tension is high in the United States. A lot of Americans are fed up with politicians pitting us against one another. The amount of lying and deceiving just to have another vote or advance an agenda is disgusting, but it's also leading to real violence.

During Biden's Address he mentions some of the Asian-American hate crimes going on in merely one sentence, which he calls "un-American." These vicious hate crimes have been going on for quite some time against the Asian-American communities. These crimes deserve coverage. Biden has real power, but he fails to do much with mere mentions of injustice.

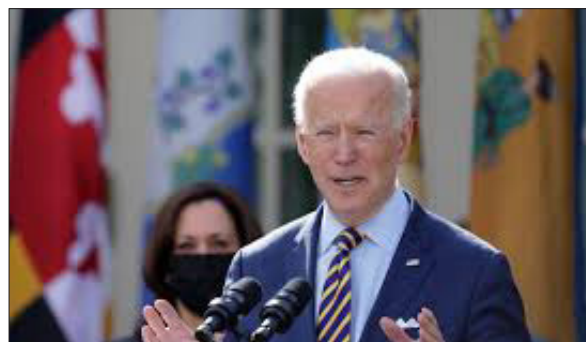


PHOTO COURTESY OF POLITICO1

Notably, the mention of the attacks being "un-American" is problematic in the sense that hate crimes have nothing to do with being American, but they have everything to do with being human. What's being damaged by consistent violence and resentment is the humanity of our nation. A more honest and forthright approach to addressing these crimes should be to call these perpetrators "inhuman."

On the topic of hate crimes and prejudices, Biden emphasized "telling the truth" in his Address. He promised people they can trust in the government. To meet this moment in American history, Biden needs to do a little bit more in order to gain our trust back. Simply asking for it is not enough anymore.

Social justice is currently at the forefront of American

consciousness, and that discussion is directly related with our trust in public officials.

This is especially true with the ongoing trial of Derek Chauvin, the police officer involved in the killing of George Floyd. Chauvin's trial is receiving local media attention, but isn't getting enough attention from national outlets.

This past week the city of Minneapolis paid a \$27 million wrongful death settlement to Floyd's family. Still despite overwhelming evidence, doubt remains that Chauvin will be convicted of murder charges.

These doubts are rightfully founded in decades of foul play without justice. For instance in Kentucky, the Taylor family received a \$12 million settlement from Louisville for the wrongful death of Breonna Taylor. However, even with a monetary settlement, none of the officers involved were charged with murder.

Overall, Biden has done a lot in his 60 days in office that has been a tremendous help to the people, like the American Rescue Plan, which will provide aid and relief to Americans. His statements about Americans needing to work together and do their part in minimizing the spread of COVID-19 needed to be said.

Give credit where credit is due, but we still need to remain critical and outspoken on promises that our politicians aren't following through on. If Biden is serious about honesty and justice being served, he'll do more than just give speeches.



# Opinion: Kampe's rebuild looks ahead of schedule

**MATTHEW SCHEIDEL**  
Staff Reporter

When the Oakland University men's basketball team started the season 0-9, many people just saw it as the growing pains of a rebuild.

After all, that is how Head Coach Greg Kampe described this season several times throughout the year.

"This was a total rebuild," Kampe said back in February. "We mucked it all up a year ago, and we completely opened up the roster. We said that when [Braden] Norris and [Jaevin] Cumberland left we tried to put a bandaid on it and it didn't work, and we tried to put a bandaid on it because we had Xavier [Hill-Mais] and Brad [Brechtling] and Tray Maddox and we thought we could still find a way to win."

Then the Golden Grizzlies won 12 of their last 20 games, going on to reach the Horizon League Championship game, where they fell 80-69 to the Cleveland State Vikings. It was the first time they reached the Horizon League Championship game since joining the conference in 2013.

Had they won, they would have made their first NCAA Tournament since 2011. That's right, this team, which is considered to be rebuilding, nearly made the big dance.

Not bad considering this team also lost their

first nine games. Maybe this rebuild is further along than we realize.

How was Kampe able to do it? Well, arguably the biggest factor in the speed of this rebuild was the transfer portal. For all of the talent this program has lost to the portal over the years, they sure have gained a lot as well.

The first big addition was forward Daniel Oladapo, who transferred to Oakland in the spring of 2019. He played a pivotal role in the team's Horizon League tournament run.

The next addition was guard Rashad Williams from Cleveland State, who was ruled eligible to play by the NCAA in January 2020. He was and still is known for his shooting ability.

But arguably Kampe's best find in the transfer portal was point guard Jalen Moore, who was a junior college transfer from Olney Central College. Moore broke out this past season, becoming the point guard Kampe was looking for.

"I have a weird relationship with my point guards," Kampe said back in January. "I'm very hard on them, but they get the keys to the car. It's a bumpy road when you're first in that position and [Moore is] navigating that bumpy road pretty well. There's still a lot to learn — a lot for him to get better at — and I really firmly believe he will."

That's not to mention last year's recruiting class — Micah Parrish and Trey Townsend



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS

Kampe vs the University of Michigan in 2020. Kampe, who described this season as a "total rebuild," saw his team reach a conference championship game for the first time since 2011.

both were named Horizon League freshman of the week twice this season. Freshman forward Chris Conway is 6-foot-10. There's a lot to be excited about.

The craziest part about all of this? Most of this team will be back next year.

The only senior on the team is guard Kevin Kangu, who just entered the transfer portal to

take advantage of his extra year of eligibility.

Next year this team will be more experienced and have more chemistry. One year from now, there's no reason to believe Kampe won't have this team right back in the same position they were last week.

And who knows, maybe this time, they'll finish the job.

## Softball starts conference play on a high note

**LAUREN REID**  
Sports Editor

Oakland University Softball opened their season at the Purple/Gold Challenge in Nashville on Friday, March 5, dropping the first three matchups against Loyola but snagging a 4-2 win on March 6. Since Horizon League play started in Indianapolis on March 12, they've gone 3-1 in the conference.

"My goal [this season] is to win every series to help us get into a better position to make it to the championship, which is only four teams [this year]," Head Coach Lauren Karn said. "Once we attain that goal, I'd like to win the championship."

Over the weekend, the team won their series against Indiana University — Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) 3-1, winning their first two games 7-5 and 6-3 respectively, and splitting their second doubleheader — first with a 7-5 loss and then a 12-1 victory.

"I feel really good, the team looks good," redshirt junior Cammie Brummitt said. "I felt this way last season, and it only solidifies it more because I think we've added more weapons going into this season. I think we're going to be quite the force heading into Horizon League play."

Karn agreed with Brummitt, saying the Purple/Gold Challenge was great to fit in some non-conference play.

"We were fortunate enough to play at least one non-conference weekend to work some things out after training in the dome and only hitting against our pitchers for the

better part of an entire year," Karn said. "Seeing some other opponents has definitely helped us. By the fourth game [at the Purple/Gold challenge], we were looking more normal and that makes me feel good going into [conference play]."

In light of COVID-19, things have certainly been different for the team.

"[COVID-19] has altered our training, it's altered the way student athletes are living their lives — there's been a lot of challenges outside of softball," Karn said.

Brummitt said COVID-19 has definitely put a "damper on things," but at the same time, has "forced everyone to buy in."

"If you're not with us, if you're not fully with the team, you won't be successful because of [COVID-19] — you've got to get with the program or you're going to be out of the program," Brummitt said. "It ties into mental toughness. A lot of us aren't able to see our boyfriends, see our friends, our family, and those are all key pillars to people's lives — when you can't see [them] you kind of go insane. It makes [us] rely on the team a lot more than [we] have in the past."

Karn said she's seen the pandemic bring the team together, and it's perhaps teaching them to hold each other accountable.

"It has brought them together, and is also teaching them to hold themselves and each other accountable in certain situations," Karn said. "In the past, they maybe weren't comfortable holding each other accountable for things



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS

Cammie Brummitt rounding the bases after a home run. The softball team is now 3-1 in Horizon League play.

outside the field. Now, it's very clear what the expectations and rules are, they can hold each other accountable before it even gets to me. That's making them better teammates on and off the field."

The Golden Grizzlies play at home for the first time this season in their series against Northern Kentucky University starting Friday, March 19.



# Making this St. Patrick's Day unforgettable

**BRIDGET JANIS**

*Staff Reporter*

St. Patrick's day is always a fun little celebration, an excuse to avoid doing schoolwork at the very least. And damn it, this year doesn't have to suck just because we can't go out.

Let's take the time to find the joy of St. Patrick's Day and get in the spirit of the holiday. Here are some fun tips and tricks you can try out this Wednesday evening all while social distancing and still celebrating. Just remember there is still a pandemic, so maybe skip out on the "kiss me I'm Irish" part.

Of course you have to start off the day by eating a bowl of Lucky Charms. I don't even know what other kind of cereal you would eat anyways, I mean do you want to start the day off right or what?

From there, you can always get right into things and make yourself a St. Patty's Day themed mixed drink. Be sure to pace yourself. In fact, it might be better to take a lunch break and head to McDonalds for a Shamrock shake.

Once you've got your beverage of choice, you can spend the day doing St. Patrick's Day crafts. For instance,

making a fun tissue paper clover is a really simple and fun way to keep yourself busy. To create your own little lucky four leaf clover, you just take a bunch of green tissue papers and cut them into little hearts to glue together on paper or a pipe cleaner.

Another fun arts and crafts option is making a paper plate rainbow with a fun pot of gold at the end. To do that first you cut an arch in your paper plate to make the rainbow, and make sure to color it in. Then add a fun pot of gold made out of construction paper, attach it to the end of your rainbow's arch. Once you're finished you can put some chocolate coins on the paper plate rainbow and watch how quickly the vibe starts to feel like your lucky day.

If you happen to finish any of these fun and family-friendly crafting ideas, make sure to email a picture of your work to The Oakland Post at [editor@theoaklandpostonline.com](mailto:editor@theoaklandpostonline.com).

Finish the night off strong by watching the iconic "The Luck of the Irish" Disney original on Disney+. While it might be cheesy and weird, it sets the right tone for a great St. Patty's Day.

If you want a different movie choice, try watching "Leap Year" to get a more

mature rom-com vibe for your St. Patrick's Day night in.

Even though you'll probably be staying socially distanced and safe by getting drunk or sipping on your shamrock shake at home, still make sure you're wearing green. You wouldn't want to have to pinch yourself. And look, if you're not wearing some type of clover necklace or leprechaun

hat — you're just doing it wrong.

Remember, you don't have to be Irish to be lucky on St. Patrick's Day. And also remember that it is a Wednesday, so try not to tank your entire school week by going too hard on green booze.

Stay safe and be well! Have a happy St. Patrick's Day!



BRIDGET JANIS | STAFF REPORTER  
One example of the crafts you can do, using sweetart jelly beans



## NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2021-2022 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

EIC is responsible for the management and production of the Oakland Post and reports to a board of directors. Responsibilities include:

- Updating the website daily and overseeing production of the weekly newspaper
- Recruiting editorial staff members and determining job responsibilities
- Deciding what is fit to print in the weekly newspaper
- Creating and maintaining relationships with university and department officials
- Working with the advertising and distribution directors to oversee those departments
- Organizing and submitting staff payroll every week
- Mentoring, guiding and teaching the staff to create quality journalism
- Overseeing The Post's administrative functions and assisting in creating a yearly budget
- Representing The Post on the SAFAC board
- Being available to readers with complaints, corrections and suggestions
- Working closely with The Post's Editorial financial advisors
- Being a collected and professional leader for the staff

Applicants do not have to be journalism majors, but should be:

- Excellent writers and communicators with great command of AP Style and news media standards
- Excellent with people and have the patience and heart to manage a group of peers

Compensation includes weekly pay.  
Position effective late April 2021

Applications will be accepted through **March 15, 2021.**

Applicants can send resume, cover letter and work samples to editorial advisor **Garry Gilbert** at [gjgilber@oakland.edu](mailto:gjgilber@oakland.edu)



# Oakland University's perfect, precarious picnic tables

*Stop by for an OU picnic — Just try not to lose your appetite first*

**EMILY MORRIS**

*Managing Editor*

Emerging from winter and a pandemic leaves a questionable list of springtime activities, but visiting OU's picnic spots should be near the top of your list.

There's countless cozy spots across campus, but these picnic tables are the peak.

## Countryside counseling

The pandemic has taken a toll on many, but OU has a solution. Nuzzled up against a counseling room in Graham Health Center, there's a picnic table.

Guests normally schedule indoor therapy sessions, but the picnic table is much more versatile. Picnickers can choose from two therapy methods: knocking on the window for service or eavesdropping on someone else's session.

For a private session, students can talk through the window, similar to a McDonald's drive-thru. Even though there's no chicken nuggets or burgers, therapy can be even more satisfying.

Don't let the Catholic confessional set-up be a detour either, there is actual counseling on the other side.

On the other hand, a second-hand therapy session is more eco friendly. Eavesdroppers can balance improving mental health and hearing a little gossip — helpful and entertaining feedback.



EMILY MORRIS | MANAGING EDITOR

The Graham Health Center picnic counseling is only offered at one window so far. Custodians are still looking for a way to remove all the nose smudges before more tables are introduced.

## Music making

A step over from Graham Health Center, new construction is beginning on Wilson Hall, alongside another picnic table.

The Wilson Hall picnic table doesn't offer the services of its counterpart, but it is cozied into a corner of construction.

Relaxing rhythmic clanks and smashes are not only within ear sight, but only about five feet away.

In fact, some even report hearing improvised yells and calls.

The location is currently OU's rendition of "Stomp," only more musically experimental.

"Most of our audiences just don't have a trained-enough ear to recognize any sense of music, but that's just how unique my work is," Robert Builder, a construction worker, said.

Picnic-goers can take in each mechanical marvel — even if not musical — at least reviving memories of driving in Michigan.



EMILY MORRIS | MANAGING EDITOR

The Wilson Hall picnic table is angled so visitors can take in all the clamor. Music lovers are working to introduce a picnic table within the construction site for full immersion though.

## Picnic pit

A quieter spot is just a plummet away, near the heating building.

Visitors can either somersault into the abyss or scooch down, like a sticky playground slide.



EMILY MORRIS | MANAGING EDITOR

The red circle indicates picnickers end goal: the picnic pit. Because of the springtime mud, the current recommended access method is scooching or sliding.

While there's no clear path to this picnic table, the challenge can make the summit more rewarding.

This is the perfect date spot for picnickers — an activity and meal spot.

"Every date I've brought here is always so surprised," Barney Stinson, avid dater, said. "I try a new falling technique every time, but still haven't fallen in love."

The red circle highlights the tables. If you squint really closely you can see the picnic destination that might make you fall [in love] at the bottom of the pit.

Once you're there, watch out for the springtime mud though, you might become love-stuck instead of lovestruck.

## Tasty trash

Right outside the Oakland Center, picnickers can find a more eco-friendly version of farm-to-table — there's a picnic table squished near a trash compactor.

Guests can choose to bring their own snacks or take a snack dip in the dumpster. Either way, picnickers can truly experience the ambiance with each inhale.

This is often overlooked natural reservoir, where guests can really understand where their meal is coming from — Chartwell's leftovers.

This isn't Gordon-Ramsay fine dining, but dumpster divers may find gory and risky dining, depending on the day.

Picnickers should plan ahead to visit this location though. The time of the day and season will determine if hot or cold lunch is on the menu for the day.



EMILY MORRIS | MANAGING EDITOR

This picnic table sits between two trash areas with an excellent view of the loading docks. Visitors are welcome to really 'dive' into their lunch (dumpster).

Each location has their own alluring atmospheres, but there's still time left in the semester, maybe you can try them all — just try not to lose your appetite along the way.