

# THE akland POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Rochester, Michigan

Volume 48 | Issue 3 | July 20, 2022



## 3.9%

BOT unanimously approves 3.9% tuition increase, \$273.5M budget

PAGE 4

## ROE v. WADE

Students share opinions on Supreme Court decision

PAGE 5

## PEOPLE OF OU

Premed student and bat boy Emilio Romano has "best seat in the ballpark"

Page 14

DESIGN BY MEGAN PARKER

# THIS WEEK

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



**BUSY BEES:** The pollinator garden on campus, planted by CASE-OU, OUSC, and the OU Pollinator Club, contains a diverse range of native wildflowers, providing many ecological benefits.  
GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**CONNECT ONLINE AT:**  
[oaklandpostonline.com](http://oaklandpostonline.com)

# THE Oakland POST

## EDITORIAL BOARD

**Gabrielle Abdelmessih** Editor-in-Chief  
[gabdelmessih@oakland.edu](mailto:gabdelmessih@oakland.edu)  
**Tori Coker** Content Editor  
[toricoker@oakland.edu](mailto:toricoker@oakland.edu)

## EDITORS

**Sophie Hume** Photo Editor  
[sophiahume@oakland.edu](mailto:sophiahume@oakland.edu)  
**Christopher Estrada** Co-Photo Editor  
[cestrada@oakland.edu](mailto:cestrada@oakland.edu)  
**Brock Heilig** Sports Editor  
[brockheilig@oakland.edu](mailto:brockheilig@oakland.edu)  
**Arianna Heyman** Features Editor  
[aheyman@oakland.edu](mailto:aheyman@oakland.edu)  
**Joe Zerilli** Campus Editor  
[jzerilli@oakland.edu](mailto:jzerilli@oakland.edu)  
**Gabby Gappy** SciTech Editor  
[gabriellegappy@oakland.edu](mailto:gabriellegappy@oakland.edu)  
**Bella Javier** Arts Editor  
[isabellajavier@oakland.edu](mailto:isabellajavier@oakland.edu)

## DISTRIBUTION

**Sam Poudal** Distribution Director  
[spoudal@oakland.edu](mailto:spoudal@oakland.edu)

## COPY&VISUAL

**Megan Parker** Graphic Designer  
**Elizabeth Foster** Graphic Designer  
**Jennifer Wood** Graphic Designer  
**Leticia Santos** Marketing Director

## REPORTERS

**Payton Bucki** Reporter  
**Sierra Okoniewski** Reporter  
**Rachel Yim** Reporter

**DJ Lester** Reporter  
**Olivia Chiappelli** Reporter  
**Joseph Popis** Reporter

## ADVISING

**Garry Gilbert** Editorial Adviser  
[gjgilber@oakland.edu](mailto:gjgilber@oakland.edu)  
248.370.2105  
**Don Ritenburgh** Business Adviser  
[ritenbur@oakland.edu](mailto:ritenbur@oakland.edu)  
248.370.2533

## CORRECTIONS CORNER:

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



## Letter from the editor: If you are “pro-life,” put up or shut up

**GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH**

*Editor-in-Chief*

As a journalist and as someone aspiring to become a physician, I’ve come to the conclusion that words really do matter.

For example, stop means “don’t go.” Tall means “not short.” Big means “not small.” Losing means “not winning.”

But does “pro-life” really mean pro-life? Or does it mean something else entirely?

If it is possible to remove oneself from this both emotional and politically charged topic, and empirically look at what “pro-life” advocates are really advocating for, one can only come to the conclusion that “pro-life,” in the way the term is used in the United States today, really just means “pro-birth.”

Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are listed in the constitution as unalienable rights.

While I may not be a constitutional scholar or anything remotely close to it, I suspect that the founding fathers, however flawed they may have personally been, chose these three attributes with intention.

They are intertwined. Life without freedom and the ability to pursue one’s contentedness is slavery. Liberty without the ability to survive interactions with government officials—traffic stops, no-knock warrants, excessive force—and/or the inability to pursue one’s own definition of happiness, isn’t liberty at all. Pursuing happiness without the freedom to do so, or possessing the foundational elements necessary for life (clean water, access to

healthcare, food security, housing, etc.) is hollow at best.

It is this same interconnectedness that I believe is lacking in “pro-life” advocacy today. How can one possibly consider themselves “pro-life” without the holistic approach outlined in the constitution?

In essence, if one is to advocate for birth, one must also advocate for quality life—not life burdened by a lack of healthcare resources (mental health, dental health, physical health, access to affordable, life saving medications, etc.), a cavernous gap in education equity, gender inequality, systemic racism—yes, it is a thing—food insecurity, poor water quality, poor air quality, the list goes on and on....

My point is this: If you are “pro-life,” put up or shut up.

Advocate for affordable healthcare. Advocate for gun safety laws. Advocate for universal access to a quality education in a safe environment. Advocate for racial and gender equity. Advocate for safe housing. Advocate for universal access to fresh, healthy, affordable foods.

Advocate for universal internet and technology access. Advocate for public transportation. Advocate for the arts. Advocate for public libraries. Advocate for policies that curb climate change.

Advocate for police reform. Advocate for criminal justice reform. Advocate for living wages. Advocate for tax reform that holds large corporations accountable. Advocate for science.

Advocate for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness (for everyone) — not just birth.

If you are truly “pro-life,” and you advocate for these things, and see them come to fruition, my suspicion is that you will reduce the number of abortions drastically without taking away personal autonomy.



PHOTO BY CHRIS ESTRADA

Gabrielle Abdelmessih is the editor-in-chief of The Oakland Post for the 2022-2023 academic year. She is a senior majoring in biomedical sciences and minoring in journalism.

# THE akland POST

# BOT unanimously approves 3.9% tuition increase, \$273.5M budget

**TORI COKER**

*Content Editor*

Oakland University's Board of Trustees (BOT) unanimously approved a tuition increase of 3.9% for Fall 2022 during a special meeting on Friday, July 1.

James Hargett, the university's interim vice president for Finance and Administration, attributed this increase to inflation, research and instructional space needs and the maintenance of OU's quality programs, competitive pricing and financial aid packages.

The BOT additionally cited the university's position as the recipient of the least state funding across Michigan's 15 public universities as rationale for the increase.

"We tried to come up with what we considered to be an increase which was both average with respect to what the other public universities were considering, and one that would not overly burden our students and our families — and yet, at the same time, would allow us to begin to address some of the university's needs to be able to offer students a high quality education," OU President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz said.

Resident, lower level undergraduate students attending classes full-time will now pay \$14,572.50 in tuition, up \$547.50 from last year. For upper level residents, full-time undergraduate tuition is up by \$630 for a total of \$16,875 per year. This brings the average cost of attendance up to \$15,723.75.

OU's 3.9% increase in tuition is similar to increases announced earlier in June by other public

universities in the state:

- University of Michigan — 3.4%
- Michigan State University — 3%
- Wayne State University — 4.5%
- Grand Valley State — 2.9%
- Ferris State — 3.2%
- Saginaw Valley State — 3.9%
- Western Michigan — 3.85%

The approved general fund budget for fiscal year 2023 (FY2023) amounts to \$273.5M in total and includes a \$10.9M increase in expenditures. This increase will be spread out between a number of investments, including incremental costs toward salary and fringe benefits, utility costs and new academic programs. In reference to the latter, Hargett specifically highlighted the university's recently approved physician's assistant masters program, social work masters program and Bachelor of Science degree in nutrition.

In assembling this budget, the BOT accounted for a projected enrollment decrease of 8.8% and a \$12.7M decline in net incremental revenue. These decreases are due in part to a shrinking pool of high school graduates — a crisis affecting universities statewide.

"The most important thing we can do is offer the highest quality education possible, and we work really hard to do that," Pescovitz said regarding OU's efforts to stimulate enrollment.

Among the main assets Pescovitz credits with making an OU degree valuable are the diverse array of internship opportunities offered to students and an average graduate salary of \$58,000 — higher than both the state and national averages for graduates.

"It isn't just that we offer an incredibly wonderful

education — we really offer a great career," Pescovitz said. "In addition, we offer excellent financial aid opportunities, and we are increasing the number of financial aid opportunities with scholarships, grants and work study opportunities — those kinds of things."

OU received a significant \$6.7M increase in state appropriations funding this year, for a total of nearly \$60M. Pescovitz credited the Strive for 45 campaign with setting this increase in motion.

First introduced in 2020, 'Strive for 45' sought to establish more equitable state funding across Michigan's 15 public universities through allocating at least \$4,500 per fiscal year equivalent student in floor funding to each. In Friday morning's approved budget, the state declared their intentions to increase floor funding at the five universities which previously received less than \$5,000 by issuing them up to \$4,500 over a three year period.

"That was due to very heavy advocacy at the legislative level," Pescovitz said. "[For students,] it shows that when you advocate for something, and you do it in an aggressive way but also in a well thought out way, that you can change legislation — that you can make a difference."

Aside from trustee Brian Calley's inquiries regarding tuition rate projections for the coming years, the Q&A segment for this item concluded swiftly. The board members in attendance voted unanimously to approve the \$273.5M budget and 3.9% tuition increase, and with no further items on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned in under 30 minutes.

## OU ranked a top LGBTQ friendly MI campus amid 'unprecedented times'

**JOE ZERILLI**

*Campus Editor*

fter being number three in the state earlier this year, Oakland University is now ranked one of the top two most LGBTQ+ friendly universities in Michigan according to Campus Pride Index (CPI).

With a five out of five star rating, OU is tied with the University of Michigan at the top despite having less resources and less staff. The CPI helps identify an institution's commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusiveness with self-reporting from those who oversee LGBTQ+ services, in OU's case that is Blake Bonkowski, coordinator of the Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC).

Bonkowski assumed the role earlier this year in May, and given OU's current ranking he is ready to approach what's left on the list and address what is most important to add while also making improvements to current policies.

"We are hoping to be working on improving the gender neutral housing process, implementing in a real way that pronouns policy that it actually shows up in the places that it needs to," Bonkowski said.

"The big one, that we are not checking is our staff and faculty do not have access to trans inclusive health insurance policies, and that is a huge deal for us because we need our faculty and staff to have access to the medical care that they need but also their dependents deserve access to that care and that's a huge group as well," he added.

GSC, alongside the LGBT+ employee resource group, is looking to get one of the most affordable

options as well. From the perspective of student involvement, GSC has LGBTQ+ grad student orgs, greek life orgs and LGBTQ+ housing and living-learning communities on its mind.

If students are interested in any of these options or want to look at what else is not publicly available to see, they are encouraged to stop by the GSC office to see how they can help.

"Most of the time when GSC has been able to do something, it has been because there has been a mass public student support," Bonkowski said. "Student voices have really been essential the entire time that GSC has existed, including it being created in the first place."

Bonkowski emphasized that GSC is committed to making LGBTQ+ students feel safe on campus, especially now.

"The only time, I think the GSC has been as critical as it is now is when it first got started," Bonkowski said. "We absolutely need a place where LGBTQ+ can organize and where they can commit to activism and action together, and we want allies to join us in that activism."

To prevent LGBTQ+ misinformation and disinformation, the GSC has a lending library where students can rent books to read and learn.

Bonkowski also shared that he considers there to be a need for a OU Women's Resource Center, amid the recent Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade.

"Our students are absolutely planning on activism as it relates to Roe [v. Wade] but we don't have the capacity to do as much as we would have done 10 years ago," he said. "This is unprecedented, the

Supreme Court has never granted a right and then taken it away before."

Activism is currently not part of the CPI, but Bonkowski considers it to be a crucial part of what the GSC and LGBTQ+ community are doing.

"I would really encourage folks who care about us being able to exist in public space and be alive and have meaningful lives and the same rights as other people to connect with us; get on our newsletter list, follow us on social media," Bonkowski said.

"So that when we do make a call for folks to rally together or to write letters or to sign a petition or whatever, that you see it when we're ready," he added.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLAKE BONKOWSKI  
The GSC has welcomed Blake Bonkowski as their new coordinator.



# Grizz Garments clothing closet offers stylish workwear

PAYTON BUCKI

*Campus Reporter*

The Grizz Garments clothing closet is tucked into the basement of the Oakland Center, neighboring the Golden Grizzlies Food Pantry. Although the closet is small in size, its impact on Oakland University's student body is significant.

Dr. Rebecca Jones, a faculty member at OU, founded Grizz Garments after recognizing a widespread need for professional clothing on campus. Jones began accepting clothing donations at her office in Wilson Hall and distributed the garments to students for free.

In December 2021, Raenece Johnson, a guest faculty member and current student at OU, took over the management of the Grizz Garments closet. The clothing service was combined with the Golden Grizzlies Food Pantry to ensure ease of access for individuals in need.

As inflation rose during the winter months of 2022, student usage of the closet increased by 15 times. Whilst Grizz Garments was serving more individuals than ever before, Johnson struggled to

meet the rising demand.

"During this past school year, many students utilized the clothing closet," Johnson said. "We did not expect such a large increase in traffic within such a short period of time."

In the past, the closet received little attention, as its main form of marketing was through word of mouth. However, due to a clear increase in the need for professional attire among students, Johnson has made efforts to better promote Grizz Garments.

This summer, Johnson has partnered with the Oakland University Alumni group in leading a kick-off campaign. In doing so, she hopes to build community awareness about the university's clothing closet resource.

Johnson's kick-off campaign also doubles as a fundraising initiative. Through university advancement, she hopes to raise \$2,000 to purchase additional supplies for Grizz Garments.

"We are in desperate need of more space and clothing racks," Johnson said. "These funds would allow us to prepare for a busy fall semester."

Another way individuals can support Grizz Garments is by making clothing donations. These

gently-used garments will allow the closet to increase its impact on the OU community.

"Students can set up an appointment to donate their items on the Grizz Garments website. We simply ask that the clothing is clean and that donors provide a hanger with each garment," Johnson said. "If I cannot accept the donation, I'll tell you where you can take it instead."

Shoppers may also refer to the Grizz Garments website to set up a shopping appointment. The shopping experience is completely private, as Johnson believes the most important factor in the process is to respect the dignity of the students who utilize the closet.

Moving forward, Johnson has simple, yet meaningful goals for the future of Grizz Garments. She plans to coordinate with on-campus career fairs to ensure the availability of clothing to students in need.

Most importantly, Johnson hopes to promote Grizz Garments as a free resource for all. By doing so, countless OU students will be benefited as they complete their academic goals and move forward to pursue professional careers.

# Students share opinions on Roe v. Wade being overturned

JOE ZERILLI

*Campus Editor*

June 24, 2022 marks the day where Roe v. Wade was overturned by the Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision, thus ending almost 50 years of the constitutional right to abortion. This now puts the decision of abortion being legal into the hands of the individual state.

Students from Oakland University shared their thoughts and concerns regarding this Supreme Court decision and how it affects the lives of themselves and others.

**Liv Kunkle, senior, Theatre Design and Technology**

"It has become exhausting being a person with a vagina in this country. I feel like every day the government has found a new way to show its disregard for its citizens, or at least the citizens that aren't straight, white cis men. I have already dealt with problems and sexism from doctors before, and now the health care industry has a whole other way it can make my life harder.

"While I am grateful we are in a blue state and in a fairly liberal county, it feels like only a matter of time before horrible rulings like this seep their way into local government. As a financially independent woman in college who lives off ramen and toast, should I really be expected to bring a baby to term when I can barely take care of myself?

"If the government is expecting women to keep these unwanted pregnancies then there should be a system in place to cover the outrageous medical costs that come along with them. That will never happen,

though, because they are more worried about making sure everyone has a gun instead of making sure parents have the resources to properly raise their kid."

**Anonymous Source**

"I feel for those girls who are victims of incest. I feel for those who were scared when Roe v. Wade was overturned. Actually, I was sexually assaulted last month, and when I heard that Roe v. Wade [was] overturned, and me being late, I took a pregnancy test. It was negative so it must be stress or something.

"Michigan isn't fully anti-abortion just yet. But the thought of a woman spending more time in jail than the actual rapist himself is truly scary. So now I just don't know what to do.

"People don't choose to get raped. And for a rapist to get slapped on the wrist while the victims choose to cope with it is just devastating."

**Ellie Ackerson, senior, Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences with a specialization in Pre-PA studies**

"Although there were rumors about Roe v. Wade being overturned, I never imagined that it would actually happen. One of the things I am probably most passionate about is women's health care. I have written numerous school papers about birth control, infertility, social determinants of health relating to women's health care and so much more. Going into health care, I feel the need to protect anyone with a uterus due to history of mistreatment.

"Now I could go on and on about the consequences of making abortions illegal. The hypocrisy of people who are pro-life and only care about if a

fetus is born, and not what happens to the baby afterward; in a nation of food insecurity, housing insecurity, unaffordable and unattainable health care, formula shortages, racism, police violence, school shootings, rape and so much more, why would we force women to have a baby when we can't even take care of the people who are here today?

"With almost half a million children in foster care today, why would we keep increasing that number if we cannot end the foster-care-to-prison pipeline? I could also go on about ectopic pregnancies, miscarriages and stillbirths or other reasons why abortions are medically necessary, but those arguments are overused with no effect. The overturning of Roe v. Wade has made me sick to my stomach and I have gone back-and-forth wondering what I can do to make a difference and protect women's rights.

"I am not sure where to begin, but I have thought about how people who are pro-life and support this overturning think. There are so many 'types' of pro-lifers, and you really have to dive into each of their mindsets.

"The typical pro-lifer is Christian, not necessarily religious in general. For example, in Judaism, life starts at birth, not conception. The United States is not a Christian nation — many of the founding fathers were Deists who believed that there is a supreme being, but [that] the supreme being does not interfere with mankind. We are in a country that 'protects' freedom of religion in theory, but not in practice.

"In my opinion, the religious viewpoint of being pro-life is total

nonsense. Overall, pro-lifers do not ACTUALLY care what happens to the fetus after it is born.

"Most of the pro-lifers think anyone who supports abortion is immoral because it is 'murdering babies.' However, as a society we don't feel that pulling the plug on someone who is on life support [is] murder. So what is considered life? A heartbeat? Brain activity?

"The whole reason for a proxy is to make a decision for another that cannot make a decision on their own, with that comes choice. Is it actually God's will for you to become pregnant? Even if God gave you the tools and technology to create safe options for terminating pregnancy? If we are created in God's image, then is God pro-life and pro-choice? If God did not want us to choose to receive an abortion or not, then why did God give us the choice?

"I know I have asked a lot of questions, but that is really the only thing you can do in an unprecedented time like this. It is hard to imagine the country known for freedom and the protection of your freedom turn[ing] into a place of hypocrisy.

"This country was built fighting for our freedoms and apparently continued to fight wars protecting our freedoms that were won. But who do we fight now for our freedom? The same people who swore an oath to protect it?

"Why should so many women have to suffer or die due to the incompetence and ignorance of men in power? This country was built on death and bloodshed, and I fear that it will happen again in order to regain the freedoms that women deserve."

# People of OU: alumna Taylor Bahoora

SIERRA OKONIEWSKI  
Contributor

Oakland University biology alumna Taylor Bahoora is hard at work pursuing a career as a physician's assistant. In her spare moments, however, she is dedicatedly connecting clients to their loved ones – one personalized rosary at a time.

Bahoora founded Create My Rosary with her sisters Danielle and Madelyn when she was 14 years old. The trio got their start after creating a customized rosary for their cousin's first Communion and discovering a demand among their family and friends for their unique pieces.

"[We] grew pretty quickly," said Bahoora. "We had decided to do a small business over Instagram and have it be a hobby between us. But then somebody ordered 100 bracelets for a nun group. It was an all-day thing – they wanted us to make [the bracelets], bring them to the event and hand them out to the nuns. That order allowed us to open a webpage and get more inventory in."

In an effort to broaden their clientele, the sisters mailed their rosaries to celebrities as a way to help them commemorate the closest people in their lives. Actor Jake T. Austin posted on social media about the rosary he received with his girlfriend's name and famed news anchor Dina Eastwood directly purchased a custom rosary from their website.

It was the sisters' gift to The Bachelor's Tyler Cameron, however, that set their business apart.

"It was really crazy," said Bahoora. "We mailed him a rosary because his mom had passed away and he posted this long, sweet message about my sisters and I. After he posted that, our site crashed because so many people were trying to get onto it."

In addition to managing Create My Rosary, each of the Bahoora sisters are

pursuing long-term careers in the medical field. Taylor is hoping to gain acceptance to OU's Master of PA Science program, which the university is projecting to launch in the fall of 2023.

"I love how OU has many different clubs that encourage diversity – they encourage students to do many different things," she said. "I feel like a lot of people are surprised when I tell them that I'm an entrepreneur. They're like, 'You want to be a PA; you're in healthcare! So what makes you want to go into business?' But I love how OU encourages that."

Once she's finished school, Bahoora plans to pitch Create My Rosary to investors on Shark Tank, with the hopes of helping countless others stay uniquely connected to the people that they love.

"You can put a picture of anyone or anything you like on a rosary," she said, "but my favorite is when I get to put a picture of somebody who has passed away. I think it allows people to carry on the memory of someone that they lost. It's a special reminder."

The sisters also offer candles, bibles, bracelets and stethoscope ID tags as customizable options through their business. Despite their busy schedules, the Bahooras encourage their clients to contact them directly to ensure that orders are customized to each individual.

"We love it when our customers message us through Instagram and want to talk to us privately through email – or sometimes they prefer phone calls," said Bahoora. "We don't have everything that we make on our webpage, but when clients message us privately, we can go through the many different options with them. We pride ourselves in customer service."

Create My Rosary can be found on Instagram under @createmyrosary and on the web at [www.createmyrosary.com](http://www.createmyrosary.com). Parties looking for individual consultations can email Taylor Bahoora at [createmyrosary@gmail.com](mailto:createmyrosary@gmail.com).



PHOTO COURTESY OF TAYLOR BAHOOORA

The Bahoora sisters pose for a photo. Taylor Bahoora (left), Danielle Bahoora (center) and Madelyn Bahoora (right)

# Take a trip with Alternative Spring Break

PAYTON BUCKI  
Campus Reporter

Alternative Spring Breaks (ASB) is a student-led organization that gives Oakland University students the opportunity to volunteer for service projects across the country. Each spring, participants travel to site locations to aid communities in need.

Volunteer opportunities through ASB are extensive. Past trips have allowed students to support other students with critical illnesses in Kissimmee, Florida with Give Kids the World and aid in hurricane relief efforts in Puerto Rico.

"I chose to volunteer with Give Kids the World because I am a nursing student at OU and I love working with children," OU senior Sophia Kalabat said.

Throughout the trip, students learn about the service efforts of their partner organizations. They are also encouraged to build connections with the individuals they meet on the trip, gaining a fresh perspective regarding the trip's focus.

When the students arrive back home, they are asked to reflect on their experiences. ASB encourages students to use this knowledge to challenge themselves to step outside of their comfort zones and participate in acts of service in their local community.

"My ASB trip to Give Kids the World allowed me to see what my future career in nursing would look like," Kalaba said. "Whilst in Kissimmee, I was able to try so many new things."

This past year, ASB participants were not able to travel to their sites due to university travel restrictions enacted because of COVID-19 precautions. Despite this setback, students still wanted to find a way to give back to the community.

ASB members created a 'Week of Service' event, in which on-campus fundraisers were completed each day of the week. All proceeds from the event were donated to each group's respective partner organization.

One group sold Shamrock Grams and baked goods

to support A Precious Child, a family empowerment center based in Broomfield, Colorado. Their contributions to the nonprofit will help ensure that children and their parents receive critical resources and support.

"My group's shamrock gram fundraiser was very fun and successful," Kalabat said.

Other groups raised money by collecting bottles and selling treats. While the ASB Week of Service was a nontraditional event, members of the organization were able to adapt to the change in planning in order to ensure the event made a positive impact on the community.

"I would definitely join ASB again this year if I was still a student at OU to make more memories and travel to different locations," Kalabat said.

This year, ASB looks forward to regaining a sense of normalcy. The group plans to resume travel in the spring of 2023.

By allowing students the opportunity to volunteer at sites across the country, ASB hopes students will bring their experiences back to campus. Their newly acquired knowledge could be extremely beneficial in aiding needy communities on and around campus.

Interested students can visit the ASB Instagram and GrizzOrgs pages to learn more about the organization. ASB encourages students to stop by their table at GrizzFest, which takes place on September 8th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Elliott Tower.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASB

ASB offers students the opportunity to volunteer for service projects across the country.



# Monkeypox outbreak: here's what we know

**GABRIELLE GAPPY**  
*SciTech Editor*

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted essentially every aspect of society over the last few years. To the dismay of many, just as the number of COVID-19 cases began to wane, news spread of a different virus appearing in countries it has never been seen in before. The name of this virus: monkeypox.

According to the Cleveland Clinic, the two known clades of monkeypox virus originated in Central and West Africa, respectively. Monkeypox cases are therefore more abundantly found in these regions. However, in 2003, 47 people were infected in the United States.

As of July 15, 2022, there have been 12,333 cases in areas where monkeypox has not been historically found in (2022 Monkeypox Outbreak Global Map). There are 13 reported cases in the state of Michigan. Symptoms may include fever, chills, headache, swollen lymph nodes, headache, and muscle aches, followed by a rash which progresses to pus-filled blisters. There have been no deaths linked to this outbreak.

Many people recall feeling confused or frightened during the constant coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic. News of this new, largely unfamiliar virus may result in similar feelings amongst the masses. Dr. Caress Dean, associate professor & master of public health program director, was able to answer a few questions surrounding monkeypox and the ongoing 2022 outbreak.

**GG: Do officials have any idea of where this outbreak is headed in terms of number of cases/severity?**

**CD:** Surveillance is occurring nationally and internationally to obtain an accurate number of cases and the severity of monkeypox. I believe these efforts will aid everyone in having a better understanding of the severity of monkeypox. Monkeypox is not a new condition. It has existed since the late 1950s, and

there is a lot of existing data, such as the signs and symptoms that can assist in controlling outbreaks.

**GG: Does the spread of this virus share similarities to that of Covid-19?**

**CD:** Both are zoonotic viruses, which are transmitted from animals to humans. Additionally, both can be transmitted through close contact. One transmission mode of monkeypox that should be noted is it can be spread through skin-to-skin contact. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has also stated that it can be spread from contact with materials such as clothing that has had direct contact with monkeypox sores or body fluids, which is important to know to reduce the spread of this condition.

**GG: Should the general public be concerned?**

**CD:** At this point, the general public should be aware that there are cases and know the signs and symptoms to prevent transmission. The CDC is an excellent source for tracking cases nationally and internationally. They are continuously updating this information.

To anyone interested in learning more about the spread of conditions such as monkeypox, and increasing awareness of how to prevent and manage them, consider pursuing a Master of Public Health degree at Oakland University.

# FDA bans sale of JUUL products, what it means for college communities

**RACHEL YIM**  
*SciTech Reporter*

Electronic cigarettes, or vaping devices, have been widely used by people, especially college students, all across the globe. Therefore, the recent ban on sales of the JUUL products by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is expected to impact a wide range of people.

The FDA further explains that there is “insufficient evidence to assess the potential toxicological risks of using the JUUL products.”

“Today’s action is further progress on the FDA’s commitment to ensuring that all e-cigarette and electronic nicotine delivery system products currently being marketed to consumers meet our public health standards,” FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf, M.D. said.

There are still ongoing studies about the health effects of the JUUL products. However, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), they contain cancer-causing chemicals and tiny particles that reach deep into the lungs, as well as highly addictive nicotine which can harm adolescent and young adult brain development.

“My concern is that these products (Juul and e-cigarettes, in general) can pose a risk to teens and young adults who use them,” Dr. Rebecca Cheezum, associate professor of Public Health and chair of the Public and Environmental Wellness Department, said. “Most of these products contain nicotine. Nicotine is addictive and can alter brain development in young adults.”

Juul, calling the FDA’s decision “exceptional and illegal,” requested an emergency petition for a

temporary halt while it challenged the sales restriction shortly after it was implemented. Following the request, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit granted Juul a reprieve, temporarily putting the FDA ban on hold.

“The FDA is tasked with making sure that products like this are safe and safety concerns should be taken seriously,” Cheezum said. “Banning products – even when there are safety concerns – is often a contentious issue, as it restricts people’s rights to make their own choices. At the same time, we see bans and restrictions over time change norms. For example, cigarette smoking used to be permitted in restaurants, bars, and workplaces. Today many people take this ban for granted and may even appreciate it. I think that the ban on Juul may not make an immediate impact on use, but bans like this over time can change norms. It also may be that this ban is not long-lasting if the manufacturer can show the FDA more evidence of safety.”

As college students are largely impacted by this recent ban, Cheezum recommended that affected students seek out available resources that could support them through their withdrawal.

“Members of our community who use this product may be struggling with withdrawal,” Cheezum said. “Others may be interested in ceasing the use of e-cigarettes or other tobacco and nicotine products. They can reach out to the Graham Health Center or their county health department (such as Oakland County Health Division) to learn about resources that are available to assist them.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FDA

The recent ban on sales of the JUUL products by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is expected to impact a wide range of people.

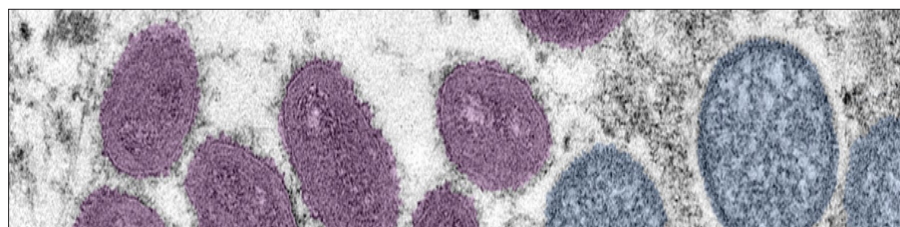


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CDC

Digitally colorized electron microscopical (EM) image depicting a monkeypox virion (virus particle).

# POSITIVE SPACE: JUSTICE JOHNSON

**BELLA JAVIER**  
*Arts Editor*

What do you want to be when you grow up? This issue's Positive Space artist, Justice Johnson, said he grew up wanting to be a cartoonist for Cartoon Network. What started out as a fascination for cartoons, later blossomed into a narrative about self-expression and personal growth.

Johnson is a self taught multi-media artist entering his final semester at Oakland studying communications and digital media production. Outside of school, he spray paints animated characters—both original and from pop culture—in Ann Arbor at Graffiti Alley. Although I originally reached out to Justice to chat about his graffiti, I had the pleasure of learning he also does photography, makes digital art and paints—with acrylic and oil paints, oil being his primary medium behind spray paint.

During the summer of 2020, Johnson began honing in on growing his painting skills. It was in the heat of Black Lives Matter rallies that Johnson said, "I just kept painting over and over again." At the end of that summer, Johnson's "Trying to Grab Water" got accepted into the "Quo Vadis, Where do we go from here?" exhibition—a curation of works that reflect artists' responses to the turbulent social and political climate of that past summer—at the Van Der Plas Gallery in New York City. For Johnson, it was "Trying to Grab Water" that kindled the fire for taking painting more seriously and the creation of more mental health pieces (that is, rather than mindless galaxy commissions). When it comes to the pieces themselves, there is no one story they follow in particular. Rather, Johnson said, "a lot of it is bringing the feelings that I have into visual concepts that other people can understand, either through the stories that are associated with the piece or just through the paintings themselves." Johnson admits that being committed

to creating art isn't easy—how finding motivation or your creative flow won't always come so easily; or how creating in the age of short form content challenges artists to choose between growing an audience and staying true to your work; or how it almost seems like the whole world thinks you have to be depressed to make good art.

Despite the hardships he must endure, Johnson said what makes it all worthwhile is being able to witness complete strangers who happen to pass by experience his work; in a personal anecdote, Johnson shared that, "to see it [reactions from by-passers] from a far without them knowing this is my work and them just get so happy about it, that's probably one of the most rewarding things."

One word of advice Johnson has for artists out there is, "If you have a medium that you like, use different mediums... You learn so much from different mediums and you can apply them to the new medium that you use." He explained that he used to strictly paint using acrylics, but spray painting taught him artistic decisiveness and oil paint taught him patience. In short, different mediums teach you different things, so learn and adapt in order to grow your skill set.

You can see Johnson's work right here on campus at the 88.3 WXOU Radio Station, where he painted a mural inside the live station, or you can follow him [@justicetries](#) on Instagram!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JUSTICE JOHNSON  
DESIGNED BY MEGAN PARKER







# BEAR lab focuses on Self + Environment + Goals = Behavior

**RACHEL YIM**

*SciTech Reporter*

Biomechanics, Ergonomics and Abilities are all associated with human movement. The Biomechanics Ergonomics and Abilities Research (BEAR) laboratory at Oakland University focuses on whole health, taking into account these three factors when evaluating what it means to succeed in movement.

“People have a breadth of physical abilities and their own beliefs about those abilities,” Dr. Joshua Haworth, another co-director of the BEAR lab and an assistant professor in Exercise Science in the Department of Human Movement Science, said. “Mix in with this the effects of the built environment and varying social support and it is readily clear why precision medicine is both complicated and desperately needed.”

Haworth’s own project within the Bear lab involves seeking to describe the mechanisms responsible for the integration of sensorimotor information and repeated experience in the production of complex behavior. By using eye-tracking combined with motion capture and posturographic measures, he aims to identify motor strategies used during daily tasks like upright standing, walking, and interpersonal communication.

Dr. Tara Diesbourg, assistant professor in the Environmental Health and Safety Program in the Public and Environmental Wellness Department of the School of Health Sciences, is one of the three co-directors of the BEAR lab. She is also a certified professional ergonomist and a registered kinesiologist.

In the BEAR lab, Diesbourg’s focuses are on Ergonomics – the science of adapting the system and/or environment to suit the humans that interact with it both to increase efficiency and productivity, and to reduce the risk for injury and discomfort. To examine the fit between a person and their environment, ergonomists consider many factors. This includes considering the specific activity

before it is done, the demands placed on the user, the size, shape, and appropriateness of the tools and equipment, and finally the information presented.

“My research focuses on different people, doing different things,” Diesbourg said. “Currently, I am interested in the risk for injury and burnout in pregnant workers, older workers, people who sit all day, non-binary or gender fluid individuals, and people working in healthcare settings.”

To highlight Diesbourg’s research:

**Pregnancy in first responders:** In collaboration with Dr. Kate Rougeau, another co-director of the BEAR lab, we are investigating the experiences of female first responders who have worked while pregnant. We aim to develop recommendations for policy changes for pregnant first responders to improve their quality of life and job satisfaction while reducing their risk for injury both before and after the baby is born.

**Office Ergonomics Training in a Work-From-Home World:** Along with my colleagues at Queen’s University, we are investigating whether prior ergonomics training has any impact on the quality of

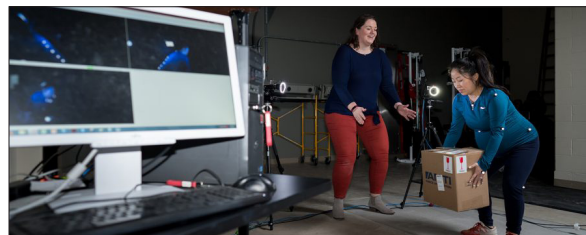


PHOTO COURTESY OF OU  
Biomechanics, Ergonomics and Abilities are all associated with human movement. The Biomechanics Ergonomics and Abilities Research (BEAR) laboratory at Oakland University focuses on whole health, taking into account these three factors when evaluating what it means to succeed in movement.

the workstation at home and on the development of discomfort and how we can provide quality ergonomics consultation services, virtually, for people working from home.

**Ergonomics and Esports:** Together with Dr. Rougeau, we are investigating discomfort, cognitive demand, burnout, and athlete identity in varsity esports players.

**Effect of Gender Fluidity on Workplace Injury Risk:** In ergonomics, there are published limits and recommendations for reaches and loads which are based on the average heights and weights for the general population. Males are generally assumed to be able to reach higher, and lift more weight than females, however to date, there has been no research regarding a person’s gender identity on the weights that they are able to lift comfortably.

The lab also supports multidisciplinary and multigenerational work. According to Haworth, it has had students coming from a variety of majors, schools and goals.

“We have had students from throughout the School of Health Science, as well as engineering, education, psychology, and film studies; across academic levels,” Haworth said. “Many of my recent mentees come from my home department, Human Movement Sciences (with Physical Therapy and Exercise Science programs), and have been interested in pursuing clinical professional graduate degrees such as MD (medicine), DPT (physical therapy), and OT (occupational therapy), though many also focus on sport performance and coaching/training.”

“If a student has a question about how something works in their day-to-day life and wants to try to answer it, I’m all for it,” Diesbourg said. “We all encounter things every day that make us wonder about how the world works. I am all about trying to answer those questions.”

## Laboratory Highlight: Dr. Raffel’s focus on Disease Ecology

**GABRIELLE GAPPY**

*SciTech Editor*

Dr. Thomas Raffel, Ph.D., runs a laboratory on campus centered on disease ecology. His largest focus involves the relationship between temperature and infectious disease in cold blooded animals. Dr. Raffel was able to provide deeper insight into his work.

“The fundamental problem that we’re trying to solve is that when you see the temperature dependence of infection in something like a frog or lizard, their body temperature is the same as the outside temperature,” Raffel said. “So, if you get more infection at a warmer temperature is that because the pathogen was more infectious at a warmer temperature, or is that because the host was less resistant to infection at the warmer temperature? In the past, we’ve never really been able to disentangle those two things.”

However, a series of papers have been published in the last 10 years that describe the temperature dependence of organism performance being driven

by the temperature dependence of metabolic rates. This is a foundational part of the metabolic theory of ecology.



PHOTO BY RICK SMITH  
Thomas Raffel, Ph.D., runs a laboratory on campus centered on disease ecology.

“You can actually derive equations and use statistical parameters to describe host-parasite interaction based on these metabolic theory equations, part of the underlying principles of

enzymatic kinetics,” Raffel said. “Part of what’s exciting about metabolic theory, which has become really big in ecology, is trying to predict what’s happening in the environment based on organisms, body sizes, and what their body temperature is. You can predict developmental rates on an individual scale, or on a whole ecosystem scale, such as how productive a forest will be. The results we are getting are implying that metabolic theory may be a more powerful framework than we thought.”

Experimental infections are performed in the lab in relation to a fungal disease that infects frogs all over the world. It is responsible for the extinction or near extinction of hundreds of species. The lab has 60 homemade incubators used to carry out these experiments.

“We have a big hoop house outside where we have multiple animals swimming around. Then we will drop in one infected animal,” Raffel described. “We did these experiments in the winter, so we were able to heat the tub up to whatever temperature we wanted. We

could have 36 different population level replicants of our different temperature treatments and can follow the infection dynamics through time. In my lab it’s a melding of empirical experiments and theoretical models.”

Members Kyle Spengler, Jay Noelker and Declan McCreary said that using mathematical models as part of conservation efforts is among their favorite aspects of their work. This is something Raffel likes to make a point of.

“I teach two courses for undergraduates, one is ecological problem solving. Another is called medical parasitology. In both of those, as well as in my lab. I show students how important math is in biological sciences. Very importantly, I try to make it accessible to people while emphasizing that this is something anybody can do,” Raffel said.

Anyone interested in Dr. Raffel’s work or enrolling in BIO 4380 – Ecological Problem Solving or BIO 4320 – Medical Parasitology may contact him at raffel@oakland.edu.



# ‘Elvis’ is Baz Luhrmann’s camp fever dream

OLIVIA CHIAPPELLI

Arts Reporter

It only feels right that I take on the task of reviewing Baz Luhrmann’s new “Elvis” movie, given the fact that I have been aggressively pushing the Austin Butler agenda since well before I even saw the film.

I have been very familiar with Butler since the criminally underrated, life changing 2013 series that was “The Carrie Diaries,” so you can imagine my excitement when it was announced that Mr. Butler would grace our screens again after what felt like too many years of just being “Vanessa Hudgens’s boyfriend.”

I joke, but I will give credit where credit is due. For people that feel like this casting came out of nowhere, I have been keeping my eye on Butler over the years.

More recently, he has been slowly racking up small roles in respected directors’ movies — like Jim Jarmusch’s “The Dead Don’t Die” and Quentin Tarantino’s “Once Upon a Time in Hollywood” — so I was excited to see him finally snag a lead role. My ten year old self was honestly

on to something there.

So yes, I had put my faith into Butler’s Elvis from the start, and boy was the “Elvis” movie something.

From the moment I sat in my seat, I couldn’t tell when the bedazzled opening studio credits ended and when the actual movie started, so you could say that I was expecting to be taken for an absolute ride from the get go.

The film’s opening was like a flashy comic book montage where we were immediately introduced to Tom Hanks’s Colonel Tom Parker, Elvis’s manager and the film’s narrator. This was something I was not expecting.

I assumed this movie would be like a more traditional biopic where you watch the star grow up and proceed to follow them in a more structured, linear way, but Hanks’s character held way more of the spotlight than I was expecting. His performance was like an SNL caricature of the Penguin from “The Batman” mixed with a random circus clown.

There were times during the “Elvis” movie where I just sat there and laughed — not because it was deliberately funny or bad, but because it felt like I was in a literal fever dream.

I was sitting up in my seat looking

around the audience in the hopes of seeing someone else having the same experience as me, but everyone was just staring intently at the screen. It honestly made me question myself for a moment, like, “am I watching this right?”

But that was the absurd joy of the “Elvis” movie: it’s camp. It is extravagance grounded by Butler’s uncannily authentic portrayal of Elvis Presley.

Butler completely embodied Elvis. From the way he talked to the way he danced, you could tell that he had completely surrendered himself to the character. I could not believe it when I found out that that was actually Butler singing in the film, because his voice was so similar to Elvis’s real-life one.

Butler’s performance was so good that it honestly makes me give him a pass for carrying on his Elvis accent for press interviews over a year after wrapping filming.

I think my biggest takeaway from the “Elvis” movie is that you have to appreciate it for the unorthodox madness that it is. You have to bop to Doja Cat on Beale Street and become a drop in Hanks’s IV drip that he rolls through a Vegas casino (an actual scene from this film.)

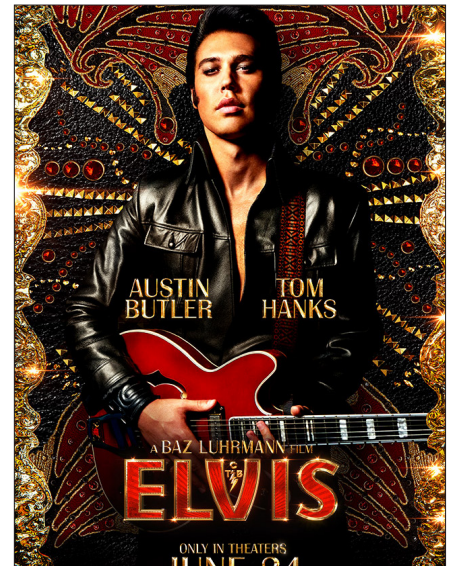


PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS  
Austin Butler gives a camp yet authentic performance in “Elvis”

You can’t try to make it something that it’s not. You just have to meet the movie where it’s at and go along for the ride.

**Rating: 4/5 stars**

## ‘Girl in the Picture’ — as if one mystery was not enough

LETICIA CEZÁRIO SANTOS

Marketing Director

*\*Content Warning: This documentary contains sensitive material and subjects.*

On July 6, Netflix launched its new true crime documentary, “The Girl in the Picture.” The project is based on the book “A Beautiful Child” by investigative journalist Matt Birkbeck.

The documentary was number one in the “Today’s Movie” category on Netflix as of June 11th — though I am afraid it was not because the story is compelling.

“A bright, beloved teenager full of promise. A dark, strange father who inspires dread. Later, the truth about their relationship emerges,” Netflix showcased as a synopsis.

“The Girl in the Picture,” showcases an extreme case of the most painful crimes you can imagine. It touches on subjects like children and women’s safety, adoption processes, kidnapping investigations, and more. Amid such a great deal of horrific news regarding the well-being of women worldwide, documentaries like this call attention to what is happening behind the scenes in many teenage girls’ lives.

This story follows the short life of Tonya Hughes — who later was found to have many different names. Her story is not like any other sad story of a teenage girl who dies too soon. As viewers watch

the truth come out, it’s possible to understand that this story goes to an extent defined as “horrific, sickening, and frightening” by Twitter users.

What started as an apparently simple hit-and-



PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX

run case in Oklahoma turned into an ongoing investigation that required many minds to gather each piece of the puzzle, with many years between each discovery.

As the story progresses to the end, it gets to an agonizing point in which the question “could

things possibly get any worse?” becomes over-used, and reality gets blurry.

Lucy Mangan from The Guardian pointed out how rarely a production “succumb[s] less to the lure of the evildoer,” than within this documentary. “Perhaps it is a sign that we need more of these documentaries to be made by women,” Mangan said, referring to director Skye Borgman.

The documentary’s title refers to a childhood photo of “Tonya” — the image which acted as a guide, pointing investigators to other atrocities her murderer carried out across various states.

As Birkbeck emphasized — this story is about more than just crime. Indeed, it is a story about how much someone’s identity matters.

For viewers wanting to learn more about this story, Netflix has a special five-part audio miniseries found on Apple Podcasts and Spotify. The extra content features complementary information and interviews not seen in the film. Four episodes are available now, with subsequent episodes set to be released weekly.

This will not be a pleasing watch but certainly will bring awareness to problems and crimes that prove that our world and society desperately need to devote much more work and attention toward preventing them. I have to wonder when girls will stop being the face of true crime.



# Harry Styles releases ‘Late Night Talking’ music video

**OLIVIA CHIAPPELLI**

*Arts Reporter*

Harry Styles has finally dropped the second music video from his new album “Harry’s House,” this time for his second single “Late Night Talking.”

I have been waiting for this moment ever since I first saw those paparazzi photos of him riding around in a giant bed in front of Buckingham Palace last February.

The music video was directed by the LA based duo Bradley & Pablo, who previously directed Styles’s music video for “Watermelon Sugar” off of his previous album “Fine Line.”

Styles wears a series of Gucci looks in the video — including pieces from the Gucci Love Parade Collection and custom designs by his frequent collaborator Alessandro Michele of Gucci — and is styled by his long term stylist Harry Lambert.

The video opens with a peek inside Harry’s House with Styles waking up in bed alone wearing custom pink and tan polka dot Gucci pajamas and blue socks, his hands feeling around in search of the person who has presumably left him alone after the night before.

He looks around in disillusioned confusion before diving head first into a hole in the center of his bed “Down the Rabbit-Hole” style — Mario sound effects included — and the journey begins.

The next scene finds him crawling on his hands and knees through a tunnel of sheets, now wearing

a set of custom brown and blue polka dot Gucci pajamas and bright red socks topped off with his now signature Éliou Mazzy Necklace in a shade of clear blue.

The video follows Styles bed hopping from one location to another, with him first singing under the covers of an extra wide bed alongside an array of beautiful people. We then cut to him waking up in a bed on display in the middle of an art exhibit, with Styles now pulling a Gucci Spring 2022 Cream



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA RECORDS VIA YOUTUBE  
Harry Styles has finally dropped the second music video from his new album “Harry’s House,” this time for his second single “Late Night Talking.”

Shawl Collar Jacket over his custom pajamas with a matching Gucci Silk Flower Boutonniere.

The scene references Tracey Emin’s art installation “My Bed,” with its gallery setting making for an interesting commentary on how a celebrity’s private life is often on public display.

Styles then pulls a red and white checkered napkin out of his jacket pocket and tucks it into the collar of his pajama shirt as he transports to a spaghetti date à la “Lady and the Tramp.”

Cut to the spotlight on Styles watching a show in a theater seated in an ornate bed fit into the box seats. With one peer through those tiny opera glasses, he is finally transported into that long awaited scene of him riding in that giant bed down London’s Mall in front of Buckingham Palace.

A pillow fight breaks loose with feathers floating as Styles makes his final appearance in a vast field of golden grasses. He is seated on a gilded four post bed where he serves as the officiant of a wedding while wearing a Gucci Spring 2022 Herringbone Coat and matching Silk Flower Boutonniere.

The sky suddenly turns dark and the in-bed nuptials are interrupted by a thunderstorm, and with one pan Styles is nowhere to be found. This is because he is now falling through the thundering sky in his giant bed, trying to stay onboard.

The sky begins to clear as the song comes to an end, with Styles left cozy in bed as he sails down through the soft sky after a long night of late night talking.

# ‘Forging Silver into Stars’ is a stellar spin-off

**D’JUANNA LESTER**

*Arts Reporter*

Oh, the magic that is Brigid Kemmerer’s writing! Complex plots, intriguing characters, diverse representation — what more can you ask from a book?

New York Times Best Selling Author Kemmerer’s breakout Young Adult (YA) Fantasy “Cursebreaker” series — debuted in 2019 — is an epic Beauty and the Beast retelling. The series followed complex characters such as Harper, Rhen, Grey and Lia Mara. Kemmerer’s spin-off ‘Forging Stars into Silver’ was released on June 7, 2022.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LITBUZZ.COM  
The Young Adult fantasy “Cursebreaker” series by Brigid Kemmerer.

As a huge “Cursebreaker” fan, I was excited to dive back into the worlds of Emberfall and Shyl Shallow. The warring kingdoms are now “united,” but tensions are still there from the union between magic and non-magic brought on by the royal marriage. Seeing how the characters aged and matured yet still kept parts of themselves from the original trilogy was beautiful.

The romantic relationships between the core four felt natural. It was like we never left their world. It felt like reuniting with old friends.

Kemmerer’s gorgeous development of these characters was the most exciting to read about. I was more invested in Lia Mara and Grey than the actual plot, and they are hardly in the book!

While I wish there were more moments with Harper, Rhen and Nolla Verin, I appreciated the small callbacks to the trilogy, such as the scene with Zo at the beginning.

The characters we know and love have grown up, and the dynamic between Rhen and Grey has turned into a similar arc for Grey and Tycho. Seeing the tensions and parallels between these pairs made the book more exciting — and heartbreaking, because it’s Kemmerer — to read about.

Let’s talk about new characters — Callyn, Jax, Nora and Alek. Callyn and Nora have to be one of my favorite sister duos in a while. Their dynamic is so beautiful. They care about each other, but never miss an opportunity to tease one another.

Jax and Callyn’s involvement with the Royal Houses and how they’re on opposite sides of a potential war? Genius! While there are moments where both Callyn and Jax do something stupid, you

can’t help but root for them.

Kemmerer’s writing makes it impossible to choose a side, as you sympathize with both characters despite their opposing sides and beliefs. You get to see why one side is anti-magic and how each character develops while the plot progresses.

While the plot starts off slow and is mostly back and forth between Callyn’s bakery and Jax’s forge, the characterization helps push the story forward. About halfway through is when the plot thickens, and the threat of war and treason really start to pick up.

The complexity of the plot and how each character’s romantic relationships tie into the story are beautifully written. You understand why the characters do what they do, even if it isn’t right.

One crucial part that needs to be discussed is Kemmerer’s diversity. Throughout the “Cursebreaker” trilogy we saw characters of different races, sexualities and abilities grace the pages.

Kemmerer continues making inclusive strides in her novels by adding another disabled character into her world: Jax, a beautifully written, disabled character who lost his foot in an accident. I think so many writers can learn from Kemmerer’s efforts in being inclusive. I would personally love to see her write a neurodivergent-coded character in a future book.

Kemmerer’s writing is what makes this novel shine. There is something for every YA fan in this book. It took a while to finish the book because I didn’t want it to be over — there were moments where I had to stop and process what just happened.

**Rating: 4/5**



# ‘The Summer I Turned Pretty’ is a show made for Swifties

**D’JUANNA LESTER**

*Arts Reporter*

Jenny Han fans, the moment is finally here! Amazon Prime has dropped “The Summer I Turned Pretty,” based on Han’s Young Adult (YA) best selling novel.

The series is seven episodes long and based on the first book. This will be a spoiler-free review for those who want to go check it out.

Where to start with this show? As a long time Han fan, I was wondering how the show would translate from book to screen, especially with the mixed reviews from Netflix’s adaptation of her other series “To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before.”

This show was refreshing, and honestly, one of the best book to screen adaptations I’ve seen to date. Even the changes added more to the show, instead of taking away from the show.

Belly, Conrad and Jeremiah hold a special place in my heart. There’s so much depth to these characters that’s highlighted in the show because of the inclusion of the perspective that is outside of just Belly’s POV.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PRIME VIDEO

Lola Tung is a perfect Belly. She embodies that transitional period between being a teenager and growing into adulthood that made the books so special.

Additionally, the scenes where we got to see Conrad’s panic attack and his mental state declining were acted perfectly by Chris Briney. Every actor — in combination with the writing — did an incredible job at bringing these characters to life. They felt real.

Even though they’re flawed and do things we wouldn’t necessarily like, they’re raw. They’re human. They make mistakes instead of having a cast of Mary Sues. That’s what fans wanted to see.

The plot in the first book is made much clearer in the series due to the changes from the show. Many fans were speculating whether Han’s addition of a debutante ball would be a good fit, seeing as it wasn’t in the books.

I think it added something to the plot, making it more coherent and focused than that of the first



PHOTO COURTESY OF PRIME VIDEO

book. This also had to be my favorite change. It gave the characters an end goal to focus on — that is, besides the complicated romances.

Speaking of complicated romances, let’s get to another change from the books: Steven. Belly’s witty older brother was absent for most of the first book, seen mostly in flashbacks. In the show, he’s present the entire time, and more fleshed out.

New characters like Shayla and Gigi also add to the show, additionally functioning to giving Nicole and Taylor more focus. All of these changes added depth and enhanced the quality of the show by increasing the range of themes that could be touched on.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PRIME VIDEO

The soundtrack. I thought that “This Love (Taylor’s Version)” would be the only Taylor Swift song we’d get. Boy, was I wrong. This show was made for Swifties.

Every Swift song in the show added to the drama and magic of the scenes they played in. Not to mention that they only played for that ship.

We also got some Olivia Rodrigo and Billie Eilish songs, making the soundtrack above and beyond what I thought it’d be.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PRIME VIDEO

Whether you’re Team Jeremiah or Team Conrad — opposing ships aside — this show is for everyone looking for a perfect summer watch. The romance, the friendships, the complexity — it’s all so well written that you want to watch it again and again. There’s something for everyone in this series to love.

**Rating: 5/5**



# Premed student and bat boy has “best seat in the ballpark”

**GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH**

*Editor-in-Chief*

Entering the home stretch of his undergraduate studies at Oakland University (OU), senior in the biomedical science degree program, bat boy for visiting teams and Comerica Park clubhouse attendant Emilio Romano knows a thing or two about hard work.

Having grown up in Macomb, Michigan, Romano, 20, decided to attend OU to be close to his family.

His passion for playing and watching baseball when he was younger has fueled his work ethic since he began working as a bat boy and clubhouse attendant in 2018.

“I chose to work at Comerica [Park] because of my deep love for the game, being able to meet some of my childhood heroes and to be able to watch games from the best seat in the ballpark,” Romano said.

For someone with a position like Romano, game day doesn’t start in the first inning and end in the ninth.

“For a game day, we get there about four hours before a game starts. Our main job before the game is setting up the bullpen and dugout, putting out their equipment and making sure everything is stocked,” Romano said. “Teams come with a lot of equipment.”

During the game, Romano’s main responsibility is to make sure the place of play of the game is up to par.

“Any time a player makes a hit, I pick up their bat as quickly as possible, meet them at whatever base they’re at and grab any equipment they may have,” Romano said.

Distributing team meals, game cleanup and wearing the visiting team’s uniform are all part of the job as well.

“When you’re there, it doesn’t feel like work,” he said. “Time flies by quickly.”

Baseball isn’t the only thing on Romano’s home plate. Since the summer of 2021, Romano has worked as an undergraduate research assistant in Associate Professor Dao Zhang’s lab located in the Eye Research Institute (ERI) on campus, where he studies retinal dopamine neurons critical for visual function and eye development.

“I feel lucky to have him in my laboratory because he is motivated in research, a quick learner and a highly responsible individual,” Zhang said. “Over the past year, I have been very impressed with his research progress.”

For his accomplishment in vision research, Romano was recently awarded the Barry S. Winkler Scholarship, established in the professor emeritus and eye researcher’s name.

“It was immediately clear to me that Emilio had a wonderful attitude towards his research, carried out his experiments with a strong passion and he was entirely cooperative and helpful to anyone who walked into the laboratory,” Winkler said.

Expected to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in biomedical science after the fall semester of 2023,

Romano’s next goal is to attend medical school.

“I love the concept of being able to provide healthcare at the most personal level,” Romano said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLISON FARRAND  
Emilio Romano during a game against the Kansas City Royals at Comerica Park in Detroit, Michigan on September 26, 2021.

# Sarah Burnham to replace Gaudio as women’s golf coach

**BROCK HEILIG**

*Sports Editor*

It was a historic season for the Oakland University women’s golf team last year. After a number of fall and spring tournaments, the Golden Grizzlies capped off the 2021-22 season with a Horizon League Championship.

The fearsome trio of Amalia Shahzan, Nateda Her and Ashley Chin led Oakland to the title. The trio helped the Golden Grizzlies to a relaxing finish as no other Horizon League team finished within nine strokes.

Not only did the players highlight the team, but head coach Alyssa Gaudio won the Horizon League Coach of the Year award based on her incredible efforts which helped the Golden Grizzlies to the conference championship.

However, the program announced back in March that Gaudio, who was the first women’s golf coach in school history, would retire at the end of the 2021-22 season.

Gaudio gave her departing remarks in a statement to the athletic department.

“For the last seven and a half years, Oakland has been my home and my players have become my family. It is with a heavy heart that I am stepping away from coaching, but continuing to build my family,” Gaudio said. “My husband, daughter and I will be moving to Illinois to be closer to family, and eagerly await the birth of our son this July.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF OUGOLF

Steve Waterfield, the Director of Athletics, gave his thoughts on Gaudio’s departure as well.

“I appreciate Alyssa’s leadership and contributions to Golden Grizzlies athletics. Over the past seven and a half years, Alyssa led teams and student-athletes to championship success while building a culture that helped foster student-athlete excellence and personal development,” Waterfield said. “Though she will be missed, I am very happy for her and her family as they move to Illinois and start another chapter in their family journey. I wish them all much happiness and success in the years to come.”

Waterfield was tasked with finding a qualified replacement for Gaudio, and on Friday, July 1, he

announced Oakland’s intentions to hire Sarah Burnham.

Burnham was an impressively accomplished golfer in her time at Michigan State University. She played four seasons with the Spartans where she racked up many accolades.

She was a three-time All-American as well as a two-time Big Ten Player of the Year.

Burnham spent time on the LPGA tour before becoming an assistant coach with the Bowling Green State men’s and women’s golf teams.

“I’m excited to welcome Sarah Burnham as the next women’s golf coach for the Golden Grizzlies. Sarah brings an impressive pedigree to our program and I have no doubt will continue to build upon the successes we’ve had,” said Oakland Director of Men’s and Women’s Golf Nick Pumford, “She will also be a great leader and will cultivate the student-athlete experience for our young women. The future of Golden Grizzlies Women’s Golf is in great hands.”

Burnham gave her thoughts on her first head coaching position as well.

“I’m honored to be a part of the Golden Grizzlies and be named the new Women’s Golf Head Coach. It means a lot to have an opportunity to work with student-athletes and help grow the program at such a great university. My goal for every athlete is to become champions on and off the golf course,” said Burnham.

Burnham is bound to bring a high level of knowledge and expertise to an Oakland women’s golf team that is coming off of a championship season.



# Men's soccer team reveals schedule for 2022 season

**BROCK HEILIG**

*Sports Editor*

As it looks to build off its 2021 Horizon League Championship season, the Oakland University men's soccer team revealed its 2022 slate.

The Golden Grizzlies, led by the most recent winner of the Horizon League Coach of the Year award, Eric Pogue, finished the 2021 season with a 12-7-2 record and advanced to the NCAA Tournament.

The Golden Grizzlies rolled through conference play with an 8-1-1 record and stormed their way past UIC and Cleveland State to win the Horizon League.

The season came to an end in the first round of the NCAA Tournament when Oakland fell to Northern Illinois, 2-1.

Pogue and the Golden Grizzlies will now head into the 2022 season with a full head of steam, looking to defend their 2021 title and get back to the NCAA Tournament.

The team will open the season with three exhibition games. It will host Saginaw Valley and Ohio State on Aug. 13 and 16 before it heads to Ohio to take on the Akron Zips on Aug. 19.

"We have put together another top class Fall 2022 schedule that will help us with achieving our ultimate goals come mid-November of winning Horizon League championships, advancing into the NCAA Tournament, and being a nationally recognized program," said Pogue.

After its three exhibition games, Oakland will

make a trip to Nebraska to take on Creighton and Omaha in late August.

September will begin with a two-game home stand as the Golden Grizzlies host DePaul and Butler. Oakland will take on Butler on Sept. 4 but won't return home again until Sept. 28.

In between home games, Pogue will take the Golden Grizzlies on a four-game road trip. They will take on Purdue Fort Wayne, Grand Canyon,



PHOTO BY SAM SUMMERS

As it looks to build off its 2021 Horizon League Championship season, the Oakland University men's soccer team revealed its 2022 slate.

Michigan and Bowling Green.

Pogue spoke on the tough nonconference schedule that awaits the Golden Grizzlies this season.

"Scheduling a non-conference slate that includes the likes of national and regional powers Creighton, Grand Canyon, Michigan, Akron, Ohio State, Butler, DePaul, WMU, BGSU, Omaha and SVSU will be a stiff test week in and week out, but this experience will ultimately help prepare us for the always difficult Horizon League championship race," said Pogue. "We want to play the very best teams possible at Oakland University Men's Soccer."

Following the nonconference slate, Oakland will settle in to a slew of Horizon League matches. The Golden Grizzlies will face a conference opponent in eight of their last nine games of the regular season.

Pogue says the tough nonconference schedule will give his team two chances to punch its ticket to the NCAA Tournament — One via an at-large bid, and another via winning the Horizon League Tournament.

"Our schedule will give us two strong opportunities to make the NCAA Tournament, one as the Horizon League Tournament champions and two by potentially receiving an NCAA At-Large which we've done twice before with strong out of conference results," said Pogue.

If Pogue and the team can build off of last year's success, they will find themselves with another chance to claim their spot in the NCAA Tournament and possibly even advance to the second round.

# Men's basketball to compete in Baha Mar Hoops Nassau Championship

**JOSEPH POPIS**

*Sports Reporter*

The Oakland University men's Basketball team is set to partake in the Baha Mar Hoops Nassau Championship in November. According to BahaMarHoops.com, "In only its second year, "Baha Mar Hoops" will play host to the largest event in the sport of college basketball when 20 men's and women's teams play this Thanksgiving at Baha Mar, the leading resort destination in The Bahamas. The 10-day slate of games includes Oklahoma State, DePaul, UCF, and Santa Clara playing in the men's Baha Mar Hoops "Bahamas Championship" and five NCAA Tournament women's teams participating in the Baha Mar Hoops "Pink Flamingo Championship." In total, 24 games will be played across three events Nov. 18-27 at the Baha Mar Convention, Arts & Entertainment Center."

The Oakland Grizzlies will be playing in the Nassau Championship with teams that include the University of Vermont, Ball State University, Missouri State University, University of North Carolina Wilmington, University of North Texas, San José State University and California State University, Long Beach.

The Grizzlies will face Long Beach State at 8 p.m.

on November 25. BahaMarHoops.com mentions, "First-round games will be played on Friday, November 25, with four games each day on Nov. 25-27. All 12 games of the Nassau Championship will be broadcast on FloHoops."

Last year in November, the Grizzlies won the Gulf Coast Showcase, defeating the University of Vermont, Rice University, and the University of Delaware in a three-day span. This time the



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

The Oakland men's basketball team in a huddle during a timeout against UM-Dearborn on Jan. 24.

Grizzlies are headed to the Bahamas to obtain the same result as the previous year.

In addition to this tournament, the Grizzlies will face some non-conference opponents such as Syracuse University, Michigan State University and Oklahoma State University. The combination of the tournament and power five opponents will prepare the Grizzlies for Horizon League matchups.

Returning players such as Jalen Moore, Trey Townsend and Blake Lampman, along with incoming transfers Lorne Bowman II, Rocket Watts, Keaton Hervey, and Choul Deng, should make for a competitive and successful roster.

With any roster, some players leave and new players come in. The fit and how well those athletes play and work together determine the outcome of the team's season. Head coach Greg Kampe will have some sorting out to do to ensure the pieces fit.

Nonetheless, between the returning production, the new talent added and veteran leadership, the Grizzlies have what they need to go up against their conference and nonconference schedule.

# Internships: Love me, love me not

**LETICIA CEZÁRIO SANTOS**  
*Marketing Director*

Dear fellow student,  
Sooner or later, this time arrives for us all — the first step of our careers. Whether you have started your first job post-graduation or just identified a senior year internship to call your own, check some tips I have for you below to help you stick it out.

**1. At the end of the day, your task will not always result in a grade or guaranteed feedback.**

I know — it's obvious. However, some expectations are simply the result of a habit that created roots within our brains.

When we notice, we are there, waiting for someone to give us any piece of reassurance that the task is properly done — and it's okay. Each job is different, and each boss works differently.

Some tasks are just the bridge to something bigger getting done, and others just fall into "no news, good news." But trust me — if you are an A-earning overachiever or a "C will get me through" type of worker, know that A's will not happen, and a C's worth of effort will not always be enough.

**2. Your boss will not give you a syllabus with every direction you need.**

I know, obvious again. But remember those invisible roots?

Asking questions is good, but a job puts you into adulthood, giving you autonomy to discover and freedom to try... I'll let you decide if this is a blessing or a curse.

Instructions will come but do not waste too much time waiting for every detail. Sometimes, we receive the opportunity to gain experience by ourselves.

**3. MacBook, PC, Microsoft — what? Prepare to be lost.**

Each and every detail counts when you want to show you are a capable employee. Technology can sometimes aid in this — other times it can delay you, prompting a couple of dozen Google searches pondering how to copy and paste on the particular laptop you've been assigned.

Truthfully, it's all about perspective. You can choose to see technology-posed challenges as delays, or as opportunities to expand your skills and ability to adapt. Do not get desperate if you do not know it all — you will learn.

**4. You have to be the first to believe in yourself.**

As an intern or recent graduate, nobody is expecting perfection from you. First experiences are when the tolerance for mistakes is at its highest. Still, you have to believe that if you got the job, you will be capable of doing the job.

It doesn't mean that you'll know

everything, but it means that you will be able to learn from everything. Once you believe you can, the cloud of insecurity and nervousness will get out of your head, and things will flow much better.

**5. You will truly learn the meaning of words like "urgent," "priority" and "important."**

In a world of remote work and technology, the concepts of these words might have lost their real meaning. But soon, you will learn that priorities shift, urgencies depend on each case and different perspectives, and what is important can change by the minute.

**6. You will create the image others have of you.**

I'm not saying this to create pressure, but rather as a reminder of the importance of details. Being on time, respecting the company policies, dressing appropriately — everything counts.

The first step to building up your credibility and making others see you as a coworker (and not as a student) is to act as such. Be open to learning, but be confident.

**7. Others' career steps and plans will not necessarily mirror yours.**

As we go through college, we meet and create friendships with different people. Most of these people we meet in classes, and most of them will end up looking for jobs in the same job market as us. As we get closer to graduation, the lack of experience and excess expectations makes us believe that there are limited ways to be successful.

Don't compare yourself to others. You can be inspired by the accomplishments of classmates, but don't spend energy comparing your steps to theirs. Your major will not define every experience and detail of your career, nor will it define theirs.

**8. Each and every experience counts. You'll find ways to enjoy it.**

Not every job or task will be something really amazing and extraordinary to be proud of. Sometimes, tasks just need to be done, and won't be the most fun or fulfilling. Even tasks you won't like to do will teach you something new.

Be curious. Be ready to try these new things. The future is unforeseen, and today's silly tasks might become your resume differential.

Sometimes we forget that all this is only the beginning. Other jobs will come. And most importantly, our careers and jobs are only one part of what makes us the person we are.

Internships and first jobs represent a moment to grow and learn. Remember — you're not the only one. Every professional started somewhere!

## WE'RE HIRING

The Oakland Post is now accepting applications for:

- » MANAGING EDITOR
- » STAFF REPORTERS
- » PHOTOGRAPHERS
- » GRAPHIC DESIGNERS
- » DISTRIBUTORS
- » ADS DIRECTOR
- » ADS ASSISTANT

The Oakland Post offers part time employment for students who are strong writers or have design skills.

We are looking for hardworking, talented individuals who can work well under tight deadlines.

Knowledge of AP style.

Open to ANY major!

**Apply on Handshake and send your resume, cover letter, and 3-5 work samples to Gabrielle Abdelmessih at [gabdelmessih@oakland.edu](mailto:gabdelmessih@oakland.edu)**

