

# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER



## PIONEERS OF OAKLAND

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CAMPUS PAGES 10-11



## MAKE WAY FOR LANEWAY

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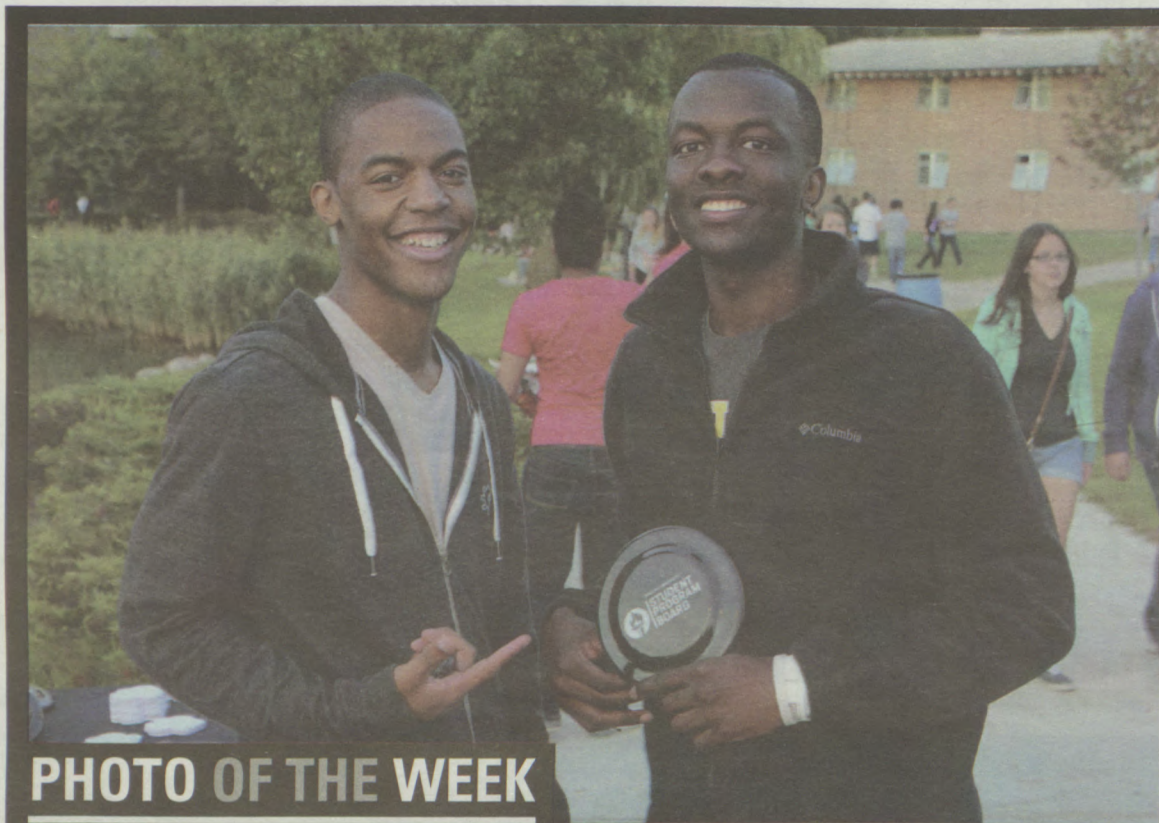
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## ontheweb

Man on the Street: Find out what Oakland University students think about Greek Life, and let us know your opinion.  
[www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

**HEADLINE GOES HERE** // Students Tay Anderson and Jonathan Ngoyi hold up a free flying disc from the Student Program Board, given out at the Board's annual carnival. The Carnival was part of Oakland University's many Welcome Week events, including games and food, plus a screening of the movie "(500) Days of Summer." The event culminated with the annual Pig Roast. *Photo courtesy of KYLER JOHNSON, OUSC Legislator*

Submit a photo to [editor@oaklandpostonline.com](mailto:editor@oaklandpostonline.com) for a chance to be featured. View all submissions at [oaklandpostonline.com](http://oaklandpostonline.com)

## POLL OF THE WEEK

What do you think of Greek Life at Oakland University?

- A** I'm in a Greek Org and I love it.
- B** I'm not in a Greek Org, but I like it.
- C** It's a stupid tradition.
- D** I'm just not interested.

Vote at [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)

## LAST WEEK'S POLL

What do you think of OU's temporary parking situation?

- A**) It's actually better than last year  
10.5%
- B**) I don't really notice a difference  
10.5%
- C**) It's worse than last year  
75.4%
- D**) I don't park on campus  
3.5%

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### SEPTEMBER 18, 1980

Officials said OU students defaulting on loans had increased to 18 percent. Business Affairs Accountant Supervisor Ronald Maierle said part of the problem was not being able to refuse loans.

### SEPTEMBER 21, 1972

Oakland security attempted to derail potential criminals by closing all entrances at night, excluding a main entrance off of University Drive.

### SEPTEMBER 16, 1966

Director Joy Korinek announced a need for funds for a prospective Oakland FM station. Expenses were estimated at \$8,000 for studio equipment, an antenna tower and establishing a studio area.



9

### KICKING IT OLD SCHOOL

Oakland University Women's Soccer won 2-1 against Northern Kentucky University last Friday, Sept. 13. The team will play Indiana-Purdue University Fort Wayne Sept. 21.



12

### ONE TRUE RING

Two graduates from the first charter class are about to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Find out how the sweethearts met, and how they spent their time together at OU.



16

### GILDED BY VOICES

Oakland's acapella group Gold Vibrations held auditions to find new members Sept. 11 and 12. Potential members had to sing a verse and chorus of a song.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**414**  
OU students are in Greek Orgs

**3%**  
of OU students in Greek Orgs

**18**  
Greek Orgs are on campus

**4**  
number of Greek Councils that different orgs belong to

**25**  
minimum GPA to be in a Greek Org



## STAFF EDITORIAL

# The cost of online education

Georgia Tech is now offering a Master of Computer Science degree, available as a series of "Massive Open Online Classes," for a total of \$6,600, according to an article on Slate.com.

A traditional master's program costs \$45,000 from Georgia Tech, according to the article.

At 36 credit hours and \$617.50 per credit hour, a master's program at Oakland University costs \$22,230 not including books or transportation.

At the same ratio, Oakland University could compete with Georgia Tech, offering its own program at roughly \$3,260.

But whether online or in-person, credits still cost the same amount at Oakland University.

The benefits of having online students are patently obvious. Online students don't require housing, parking, restrooms, classroom space or other amenities. They use little-to-no on-campus resources.

If Oakland University truly is a nonprofit public university, wouldn't its administration have a vested interest in providing the lowest possible tuition for the highest level of students? A "MOOC" would allow this to happen.

Of course, there would be drawbacks to Oakland University offering massive online classes as well. A student paying only 14.5 percent tuition wouldn't

"For students whose only connection to OU is the occasional login to Moodle or an email, perhaps Oakland University should consider lowering the cost a little."

really be able to provide the school with the necessary revenue to construct additional buildings, advertise in professional sports games or pay large severance packages to outgoing administrators.

Tuition at public four-year universities has grown an average of 3.9 percent annually, according to collegeboard.org, and doesn't show signs of stopping.

And as much as undergraduates struggle with rising tuition rates, graduate students often see higher prices per credit hour.

At Oakland University, in-state graduate-level tuition is \$617.50 per credit hour, compared to \$386.75 for undergraduates – over one and a half times the cost.

Other Michigan states have similar tuition structures. Michigan State University costs \$428.75 per credit hour for undergraduates, but \$621.25 for graduate-level students.

In other words, sity, that pretty much disappears at the graduate level.

The price differential between getting a master's degree at OU and one at

MSU is the cost of a few trips to a fast food restaurant.

Lowering the cost for online students would not only raise Oakland University's profile, but also give it a competitive edge against other colleges.

Online classrooms have changed the face of education, but tuition rates remain unchanged in most colleges whether students are online or not.

In addition, out-of-state students pay higher tuition rates at OU, even if they never set foot on campus.

It's understandable that non-Michigan students don't receive the same state tax abatement that residents do if they're taking up classroom space.

For students whose only connection to OU is the occasional login to Moodle or an email, perhaps Oakland University should consider lowering the cost a little.

Change doesn't happen overnight. But whenever Oakland University spends money on a new building or structure, the first thing we hear is how OU needs to be competitive with other schools.

Shouldn't they try to compete with online tuition as well?

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

### Corrections Corner

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

### Letters to the Editor

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



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EDITORIAL

# Student speaks suicide prevention

Suicide. It tends to be a topic that a lot of people avoid. I am not one of those people. It's not like I'm studying clinical psychology either. I am simply a normal student, whose life just happens to be impacted significantly by suicide.

My story begins at age 12. It was a dark time with what seemed like no light anywhere in sight. Bullied by my peers and rejected by my family, suicide to me was an escape from all of the pain; I thought that literally dying would be better than the hell I was stuck in. I was so close to committing the act, that it is a miracle I am still alive. My miracle was a fellow classmate who decided to simply say "hi" to me on the day I was going to go home and end it all. This simple gesture gave me a small light in all the darkness: hope. So I was alive, but barely. I was psychologically a train wreck. Still suicidal, depressed, irrational and so afraid of people because of the power they had over me. That all changed when I was 16.

It was when I was 16 that I met the most important person in my life. His name was Jake. We immediately connected over our love for music, Batman, Gene Kelly and our pasts. He was the only other person I had ever met that had to grow up at such a young age because of some sort of darkness that inhabited life.

I wasn't alone anymore.

Jake quickly became my everything. He was my hero, best friend and my boyfriend. He had a knack for changing the lives of everyone he came in contact with, including mine. He had taken all of the years of abuse that he had suffered through and built up an amazing life for himself: 4.0 student, captain of the swim team, drum major in marching band, third ranked flute player in the state of Michigan for his solo ensemble, the list goes on and on.

He inspired me, completed me and filled me with hope.

Over the next two years, Jake and I ended our relationship. We grew apart after that, but that didn't last long. He soon again became my best friend, and he never stopped being my hero. I even wrote an oral history on him my very first semester of college.

Then that day happened. March 22, 2012. I had just finished up my classes for the day and headed to one of the computers in the Oakland Center. I promptly logged on to Facebook and

scrolled through my news feed.

Then I saw it, a status from Jake's Facebook page. That is how I had found out that my best friend was dead. A few more minutes on the Internet revealed that he had committed suicide. Words cannot even begin suffice the effects this had on me. I broke. The person who meant the absolute most to me was gone.

He died March 19th, 2012, after his school expelled him for "stealing" a laptop, and no one bothered to tell me for three days.

Everything seemed so surreal. I had a text conversation with him the night before his death. Surely he couldn't be gone. I tried to convince myself this wasn't reality.

I lost all stability and rationality in life: I wanted to die, my relationships with those around me suffered and I couldn't go five minutes without breaking down in tears.

Everything reminded me of him even the sight of the bat symbol would send me on extreme downward spirals. All of my thoughts revolved around the fact that I would never see Jake again, and that I lost the best person I ever knew.

I went back to that dark place I was in when I was 12. My hero was gone, by his own accord, and I could not handle that.

I honestly don't even know how I got through the ordeal. I suppose this is where the "time heals all" phrase comes into play. After a year and a half, some stability has come back into my life.

I still think of Jake every day, actively advocate against child abuse and try to tell his story to everyone I can, in hopes of preventing something like this from happening to others. He is still my hero, and he still inspires me to help people and get my own life on track, maybe even more so now that he's gone.

Coming to terms with losing someone to suicide will never be easy. The ramifications it has on the loved ones of the victims cannot be expressed. Nor can the pain of acceptance, and growth, be extinguished because of time.

I am still recovering from Jake's death, and although everything about the situation causes me pain, I am trying to use it in the most posi-



tive way I can. A year and a half later, and I still can't visit his Facebook, or his grave, and even writing this has brought me to tears. I am still so broken.

Except now I can help people that are going through the same thing, and can maybe even prevent this from

happening in the first place.

Please, if you know people who are considering suicide, help them, or maybe it's you reading this. There is always someone that cares and is willing to help. Choose life for yourself and for those who care about you.

In memory of Steven Jacob Jahn.

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# Campus

## Orangutans tested for abstract thinking ability

Associate Professor Jennifer Vonk tests orangutans' ability to think in the abstract by identifying species

**Kailee Mathias**  
Staff reporter

Jennifer Vonk, associate professor of psychology at Oakland University, discovered that apes are able to recognize similarities in species.

Her discoveries were published in the Sept. 10 edition "PeerJ," a peer-reviewed academic journal.

Her studies began when she worked with Suzanne MacDonald, a behaviorist at Toronto Zoo.

Vonk focused her study on orangutans.

"I've collected photos of them [orangutans] since I was six years old, so it was really exciting to get to work with them," Vonk said.

Vonk ran several tests

on orangutans and gorillas.

She intended to see if the apes were capable of abstract thought.

"An animal, lives, breathes and reproduces," Vonk said.

"We wanted to see if they could realize it's more than physical appearance."

### The procedures

It took Vonk two years to complete her first study with six orangutans.

The test, she gave the orangutans, was a two-choice procedure.

The screen was filled with two pictures, one side would be a human and the other an orangutan. They were asked to pick which was an orangutan.



They were also given a sample and chose which of the two on the screen matched the relationship of the shape and color of their sample.

The orangutans had 70 percent accuracy.

"Having worked with

gorillas, orangs, chimps and some other apes to me the orangutans were the most thoughtful and calm of the apes," Vonk said.

### Age of the apes

Vonk noticed a generational difference in

the eagerness of the orangutans to perform. The two older orangutans in their 40s took longer to train, but for different reasons.

Vonk recalled that Abby, the oldest female, scraped the same side of the screen for 18 months and suddenly began identifying species with 90 percent accuracy.

"It's almost like she knew all along what she was supposed to do but she didn't cooperate until she was ready," Vonk said.

The younger orangutans would get very anxious and excited when waiting for their turn.

"They'd get so excited they'd projectile

vomit or poke me with sticks while waiting their turn," Vonk said. "Molek, the other male, would do summersaults and then sit right in front of it with his finger out and ready to go."

Vonk said their reactions to testing really helped them to understand the individual orangutans' personalities.

"Orangutans normally won't look you in the eye. Abby had no problem looking you in the eye and sizing you up," Vonk said.

Vonk is currently working with the Detroit Zoo and teaching research methods at Oakland University.

Contact Staff Reporter Kailee Mathias via email at [kmmathia@oakland.edu](mailto:kmmathia@oakland.edu)

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# The rush is on for greek life

Campus fraternities and sororities to hold formal recruitment sessions during the upcoming week

Victoria Crow  
News Manager

Greek life is growing at Oakland University. With 18 sororities and fraternities, more students than ever are joining.

From 2008 through Winter 2013, the number of students in Greek life increased from 230 to 414.

That's roughly 3 percent of undergraduate students.

## Councils

The 18 Greek organizations are divided into four councils: College Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council and Multicultural Greeks.

## Grades

Oakland requires each sorority and fraternity to maintain a semester cumulative GPA of 2.5. The Center for Student Activities released a Winter 2013 grade report for all of Greek life. Their overall GPA for that semester was 2.91. The overall GPA for all undergraduate students was 2.92.

## Philanthropy

All sororities and fraternities must choose a local philanthropy, in addition to their organization's national philanthropy.

Multicultural sorority Zeta Sigma Chi's national philanthropies are the Ronald McDonald House and National Association for Multicultural Education, according to chapter President Samantha Sokoll. Their local philanthropy is Gleaners Food Bank.

Gamma Phi Beta supports Girls on the Run and hosted a 5k this summer at Oakland. They also run the Crescent Classic each year, raising thousands of dollars for local charities. For 2013, they chose to donate their funds to Camp Ohiyesa and HAVEN, a domestic violence victims shelter with locations in Oakland County.

## Housing

Greek Row is home to three sororities and one fraternity: Phi Sigma Sigma, Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Sigma Tau and Sigma Alpha Epsilon. It is located across from the Oakland on Adams Road.

## Recruitment

Formal sorority recruitment for the College Panhellenic Council runs Sept. 19-22.

An orientation took place Sept. 15 at the Oakland Center. All nine sororities from the College Panhellenic Council, NPHC and Multicultural Greeks introduced themselves to potential new members.

Formal recruitment later this week includes the four sororities from the College Panhellenic Council: Alpha Delta Pi, Phi Sigma Sigma, Gamma Phi Beta and Alpha Sigma Tau. Those interested in NPHC or Multicultural Greeks were encouraged to email each sorority following the orientation.

Potential new members are broken up into groups led by Rho Gammas, the council's recruitment team. Each Rho Gamma is a member of Panhellenic sorority, but gives up her affiliation so that she can objectively lead



Jon Davis/The Oakland Post  
Greek Row is located off Adams Road across from Oakland's campus.

her potential new members into a sorority that matches them.

"We try to encourage them to make their own selections," said vice president of recruitment for the Panhellenic Council, Erin Chatten.

Information night will be Sept. 19. Potential new members will meet with their Rho Gammas and go to a 30-minute information session with each sorority. Sororities will discuss their letters, their colors and their dues, which range from \$250-500 per semester. At the end of the night, potential members rank their three favorites and a fourth they don't like. Dress is snappy casual.

Philanthropy Night is Sept. 20. Potential members will learn about the charities of their top three sororities. This group will list their top two at the end of the night. Dress is business casual.

Preference Night is Sept. 21. PNMs are invited to hour-long parties hosted by each sorority that is interested in them. At the end of the night, PNMs list one or two sororities that they'd be willing to accept a bid from. PNMs should wear "dressy" attire.

"If they're willing to invite you to their Preference Night party, it means that they can see you in their sorority," Chatten said.

Bid Day will be Sept. 22. PNMs will receive a bid invitation, if a sorority has chosen to extend them one.

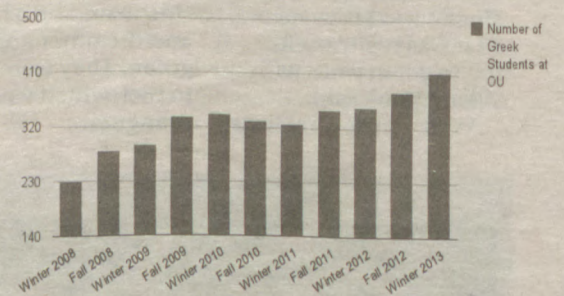
"It's like watching kids open Christmas gifts," Chatten said of the girls finding out which sorority they've been invited to join.

The bid class then introduces themselves one-by-one in the Gold Rooms in front of all the chapter members. The Rho Gammas will then reveal which sorority they belong to.

Not everyone receives a bid, however.

"Some people do get cut from all the chapters," Chatten said. "It honestly doesn't happen that often. I mainly try to tell people to keep an open mind and be themselves."

Fourth-year student Shana Frontiera is rushing for the first time at Oakland. She has two more years to complete her Health Sciences degree.



"I figured it's about time to get more involved on campus," Frontiera said. "The past few years I really have just been commuting to go to class."

Frontiera went to the Orientation Sept. 15 and came out excited.

"I can't wait (for formal recruitment)," Frontiera said. "I'm excited to look at each chapter and get a better feel for the ones of my interest."

For those interested in joining fraternities, the process is a bit different and less formal.

"You contact those fraternities individually," Chatten said. "They rush on an individual basis."

That includes all five fraternities from the IFC and four from NPHC.

Theta Chi's President Jordan Hrynik describes his fraternity's recruitment:

"Our rush process begins with a bid process where the chapter decides on prospective members to extend bids to. Men who receive bids can choose to accept or deny their bid. Those who accept go through our new member ceremony which is open to anyone and at this point these men are part of our chapter as new members. They then go through their new member period which can last up to 8 weeks. During this time they learn about our history, values, and what it means to be a Theta Chi. At the end of our new member period the chapter votes on their membership. Men receiving a favourable vote are then initiated in the following week."

Students interested in joining Greek Like should go to [www.oakland.edu/gogreek](http://www.oakland.edu/gogreek)