

OU rival Oral Roberts leaves
The Summit League pg. 11



THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

OCTOBER
26
— 2011 —

pgs. 6, 7
and 20



The lives of 2 best friends

Family, friends remember Jenna Balabuch and Rachel Ring



Perspectives

Oakland University professor comments on the 50-foot smoking ban

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Sports

Liz Ecker will graduate as one of Oakland's best female golfers

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Features

Oakland implements new green initiatives to make campus more eco-friendly.

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Visit www.oaklandpostonline.com for more exclusive content and stories throughout the week.

this week

October 26 — November 1, 2011



Photo
...of the
Week

Flash mob // Oct. 24, Outside of the Oakland Center

CHELSEA BISTUE/The Oakland Post

Members of the Oakland University Dance Theatre and the Repertory Dance Company perform on the grass outside of the Oakland Center. Comprised of students in various levels of classes, the entire routine was improvisation, meaning nothing was planned in advance. Their annual fall dance concert will take place on Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. in the Varner Recital Hall.



SIERRA SOLEMANI/The Oakland Post

10 **CAMPUS** // The lost and found, a resource for students who have misplaced their items, is often forgotten by students.



NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

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KAITLYN CHORNOBY/The Oakland Post

14 **FEATURES** // Botzilla, a robot created by the Robotics Association, took third place at a competition in June.



KEVIN ROMANCHIK/The Oakland Post

17 **SCENE** // The Bar Hop series debuts with Sherwood Brewing Company, a microbrewery located in Shelby Township.

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Tweet @theoaklandpost
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we're missing.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Custodians being cheated

When the Oakland chapter of the American Association of University Professors reached a collective bargaining agreement with Oakland University in 2009, after a work stoppage that delayed classes for about a week, news of professors' pay freezes for the year were met with disbelief.

Yet during that same time period, union negotiations between the Campus Maintenance and Trades union and the university dragged on for 15 months.

The Professional Support Association, which represents all hourly employees who perform clerical services, was also affected by the day-to-day contract extensions that spanned from 2008-09.

Both unions are once again in the midst of negotiating new contracts and CMT, which represents all university-employed grounds and maintenance workers, has reached a tentative agreement with OU.

A quick turnaround on an agreement represents a positive step in the relationship between the union and Oakland, since the union's contract expired at the end of June. But the proposed contract changes are a disturbing development.

According to a summary of the contract agreement obtained by The Oakland Post,

current custodians will have their hourly pay rate slashed by \$3 per hour by next November, an almost 12 percent decrease in pay.

The agreement has already been signed by union leadership and was up for a vote this morning.

Employees should never feel like they're forced into an unfavorable agreement in order to save their careers

If union members ratify the agreement, it will go up for approval from the Board of Trustees at their next meeting on October 31. OU administrators cannot talk about negotiations that are not yet finalized, however.

"At this point, I can't really discuss because they (union members) are the ones who need to decide if they support (the agreement)," said OU President Gary Russi on Friday.

It is estimated that custodians make up more than half of the union's membership. If the vote to ratify the agreement fails, custodians speaking on conditions of ano-

nymity with The Oakland Post said union officials have threatened to outsource all campus custodial services.

Services are currently being outsourced at four campus buildings.

At the same time, custodian pay is being slashed. Non-custodians, such as groundskeepers, mail clerks and skilled tradespeople, will receive a 2 percent pay increase during its 2012-13 contract year and a 1 percent increase during the 2013-14 contract year.

Though they are members of the same union, custodians are being shafted by this tentative agreement. Even the fact that they'll end up receiving a lump sum payout of 2 percent in 2012 and a 1 percent payout in 2012 doesn't make up for the fact that they'll be absorbing pay cuts while fellow union members are receiving raises.

The scenario that these workers are being forced into is unfair and uncalled for. Twelve percent is a staggering decrease in pay when there is no room for agreement negotiation, especially when threats of outsourced services are reportedly involved.

Employees should never feel like they're forced into an unfavorable agreement in order to save their careers. We hope the PSA fares better during their negotiations.

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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 clarity, length and grammar.

GOT SOMETHING TO MOUTH OFF ABOUT?

The Oakland Post is looking for satirical scribes, witty writers and comical columnists.

Submit your best efforts to editor@oaklandpostonline.com and you could get published.

Smoking 'ban' is too lenient

COLUMN

Oakland University should ban smoking throughout its entire campus.

Policy 475 bans smoking within 50 feet of university buildings. No one at OU seems to take this seriously.

I teach two courses in South Foundation Hall. Twice a day, I walk past a crowd of smokers directly in front of the building. Nobody stops them. I like to inform the students of the policy.

These fine young people like to yell things back at me that cannot be printed in a newspaper like the Oakland Post.

It is no surprise that smokers do not comply. The policy is silly. Why only ban smoking within 50 feet of buildings? Who came up with the magic number 50? Isn't the area 50 feet from the buildings part of the campus? Don't people work and study 50 feet away from the buildings?

If second-hand smoke is a problem in front of the building, isn't it also a problem 50 feet away from the building?

Not only is Policy 475 poorly formulated, OU does not enforce the policy. A policy without enforcement is a fake policy.

I called the OUPD to report students smoking.

I was told that because Policy 475 is not a law, but only a policy, OUPD couldn't enforce it. I emailed the Dean of Students, Glenn McIntosh, to inform him of the crowd of smokers.

I received no reply.

Policy 475 should be enforced with strict punishments, including expulsion of students and firing of staff, and it should be



Fritz J. McDonald
Assistant Professor of Philosophy,
College of Arts and Science

converted into a total ban. There are at least three good reasons to do so.

First, smokers not only harm themselves, they harm others. It is a well-established scientific fact that second-hand smoke causes or worsens serious diseases such as cancer, heart disease and asthma.

According to the American Cancer Society, it causes low birth weight in children whose mothers are exposed to smoke.

Imagine if a deranged student poisoned the water in the drinking fountains with a serum that caused everyone at OU to be at higher risk of cancer and heart disease. Imagine the serum also harmed unborn children carried by pregnant students.

Wouldn't OU stop this deranged student? Wouldn't the OUPD enforce a policy banning poisoned drinking water? How is second-hand smoke any different from poisoned drinking water?

Second-hand smoke poisons the environment on campus, putting the health of the OU community at risk.

The second good reason to ban smoking

is to prevent smokers from harming themselves.

Such policies are often called "paternalistic." The worry is that by preventing a person from harming his or herself, the policy acts too much like an overbearing parent.

This should not lead OU to refuse to pass such a sound policy.

After all, OU currently bans drinking, illegal drug use and speeding in cars on campus roads based on the endeavor of keeping students from harming themselves.

How would a total smoking ban be any different?

The third good reason to ban smoking is cost. Health care is a major cost for OU, Michigan and the United States. The increasing cost of faculty and staff health care is one of the major reasons OU has increased tuition in recent years.

Given that second-hand smoke harms the health of innocent bystanders and smokers, smoking makes the already high cost of health care even higher.

The noble aim of OU to be a first-rate biomedical university is not helped by OU adopting a third-rate Detroit-casino-style smoking policy.

Banning smoking would help save everyone their hard-earned money that could otherwise be spent on tax and tuition dollars to ideally subsidize health costs for the diseases smokers inflict upon themselves and others.

OU needs to consider its image and brand. The opening of the new Medical School, the

construction of the Human Health Building, and the continuing excellent biomedical research of OU faculty and students make clear that the aim of OU is to be a first-rate biomedical research university like the University of Michigan.

The University of Michigan recently banned smoking throughout its entire campus in Ann Arbor.

On the other hand, the only businesses in Michigan allowing people to smoke on site are Detroit casinos.

Why is OU imitating the Greektown Casino and Motor City Casino by allowing smoking on campus? Why not follow the University of Michigan instead and ban smoking entirely?

The noble aim of OU to be a first-rate biomedical university is not helped by OU adopting a third-rate Detroit-casino-style smoking policy.

Cancer is a serious matter that has affected many of our families and us. I lost my own father to cancer when I was 17 years old. I have also lost grandparents, aunts and uncles to cancer.

It is a horrible disease that leads too often to a prolonged and painful death, most often to people who did nothing personally to bring such an awful condition upon themselves.

I expect many of you have had similar losses due to cancer. Allowing the presence of second-hand smoke to cause cancer in innocent bystanders on campus is morally abhorrent.

OU should recognize the seriousness of cancer and the other diseases caused by smoking and ban smoking throughout the entire Oakland University campus, not just a distance away from buildings.

This Week's Poll

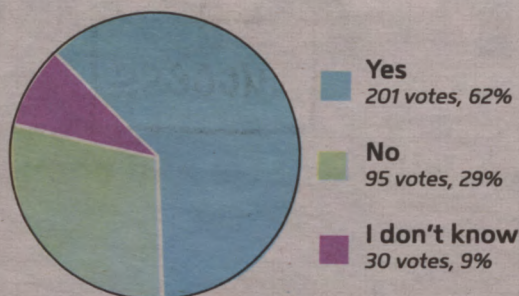
Will you be watching the GOP Debate being held on OU's campus?

- Yes, I follow politics closely
- Yes, but I know little about the candidates
- Maybe, I haven't decided
- No, I'm not interested

[Poll of the Week]

10.26.11

Do you think there should be a campus-wide smoking ban?



Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

CORRECTIONS CORNER

— In last week's center feature "Discovering Faith," Amaal Haimout was incorrectly quoted for the Agape group. April Moses, a senior elementary education major, commented for the section.

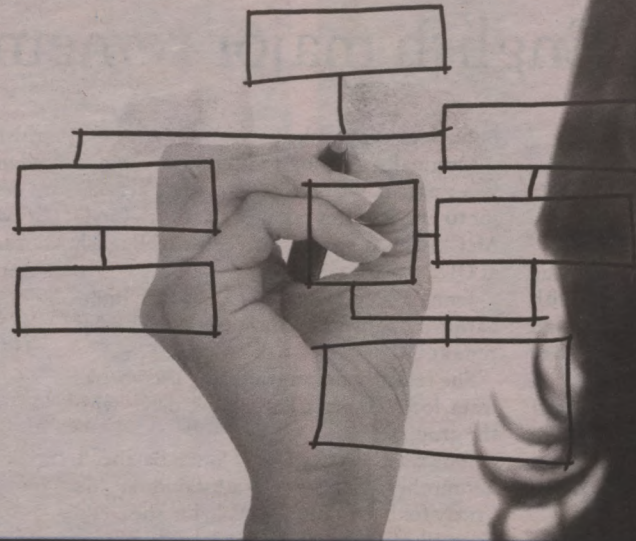
— Richard Stamps is the associate professor for sociology, not psychology, as it was stated in the College of Arts and Sciences 'State of the College' address story.

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

If you are interested in writing a guest column for the Perspectives section, e-mail editor@oaklandpostonline.com or call 248.370.4263.

Build and grow your new business idea

OU's Ideas 2 Business Lab



OPEN HOUSE

3 p.m. Thursday, November 3, 2011,
at the OU INC in the Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion

OU's new Ideas 2 Business (I2B) Lab offers all the resources that students, faculty and staff members at Oakland University and Cooley Law School need to help them explore and launch a new business venture.

*All Oakland University
and Cooley Law School
entrepreneurs are welcome.*

Open for YOUR new business idea

At the open house, you'll:

- Learn about the I2B resources available.
- Tour exhibits and meet with successful entrepreneurs and others just starting a new business.
- Network with others interested in start-up ventures.
- Find out about paid positions for students.
- Partake in refreshments.

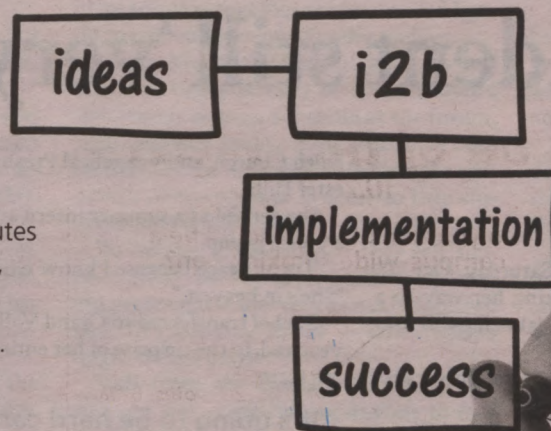
Don't Miss Out

Shuttle bus service between the OC and OU INC runs every 10 minutes beginning at 2:30 p.m. Look for the sign near Meadow Brook Road, just outside the OC.

Or find ample, available parking at OU INC in lots P53, P55 and P61.

Let us know you're coming; just email us at aaevent2@oakland.edu.

Explore your new venture at oakland.edu/i2b.



School of Business Administration
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Reader, rider and writer

Sophomore English major remembered for her strong passions

**KAITLYN CHORNOBY
and NICHOLE SEGUIN**
Managing Visual Editor and
Managing Content Editor

Jenna Balabuch's motto was "read, ride and write," and she filled her days with books of all genres, horseback riding and writing essays which she hoped to one day publish.

The sophomore majoring in English at Oakland University died as a result from injuries sustained in a four-car accident on southbound I-75 this weekend when traveling to a bookstore in Detroit.

The 19-year-old, who was born on November 11, was described by her family as constantly happy, always bubbly and a big talker.

"She's the type of person you could write a book about," said Andy Balabuch, one of her four brothers.

The only girl in a family of five males, Jenna's family considered her "happy go lucky from day one."

"She was as good of a sister and daughter you could ask for," said Andy.

An avid English fanatic, Jenna was always interested in working towards getting one

of her works published.

Originally aspiring to become an equine veterinarian, she decided to change her major to English after taking a class with Linda McCloskey, a special instructor of English at OU.

Jenna joined Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honors Society during her time at OU.

She recently began collecting used books from local libraries for a book drive with the group.

"She was so excited," said Susan Balabuch, her mother. "She went to a local library on Friday for books and they told her she could have all of them. She came home and was excited about boxes and boxes of books ... she was proactive in getting that done."

Outside of her studies, her strongest passion was arguably equestrianism and caring for her Tennessee walking horse named Bo Jangles.

"All her life she loved horses and wanted to be a vet," Susan said. "We finally got her one four years ago and my sister just gave us a horse trailer. She was obsessed with horses."

Jenna was part of Romeo High School's class of 2010, where she was a member of

the National Honors Society and participated in 4-H and the Equestrian Team.

Jenna's family commented that she rarely walked away from a show without an award.

"She was always smiling and happy; I don't think I ever saw her without a smile."

— Shannon Reid, friend and co-captain of the 2010 Romeo High School Equestrian Team

"Her goal was to make it to the state horse show," Susan said. "She placed in every class there and submitted an essay about 4-H that won second place."

The Romeo Equestrian Team finished as Reserved Champion with 412 points in the "A" Circuit Division while she was one of two captains her senior year.

"She was always smiling and happy; I don't think I ever saw her without a smile," said Shannon Reid, Jenna's high school friend and co-captain of the Equestrian

team. "We loved big Ford trucks and would send pictures to each other. When we were together we would take pictures with a nice one in the parking lot."

Jenna worked as a babysitter, a barn manager and also at the boarding kennel at Goodison Veterinary.

She enjoyed reading novels, country music and watching movies and television shows.

Her most recent favorite television show was "How I Met Your Mother."

Jenna is survived by her parents, Susan and Mark Balabuch, and brothers, Brandon, Eric, Andy and Josh.

"She would want to be remembered as brilliant," Josh said, noting a paper she received from McCloskey with the word written on it. "Ever since then, that's what we always called her."

Visitation for Jenna will be from 2 until 9 p.m. on Wednesday at Roth-Muir funeral home in Romeo.

The funeral will be held Thursday, Oct. 27 at 11 a.m. at the Romeo United Methodist Church.

Her horse, Bo Jangles, will be present at her funeral in her memory, courtesy of Jenna's 4-H family.

GVSU student still 'very much a part of OU'

By **KAY NGUYEN**
Editor-in-Chief

Rachel Ring loved to read.

Ring, 19, of Addison Township, died Saturday, Oct. 22 in a four-car collision on I-75 while making her way to a bookstore with her best friend Jenna Balabuch, who also perished in the accident.

Rachel, a sophomore at Grand Valley State University, previously attended Oakland University.

"She loved OU and met a lot of friends there," said Ginny Ring, Rachel's mother. "A lot of people from Romeo were there. It's a close community."

Rachel and Jenna were both 2010 graduates of Romeo High School and had been best friends since preschool.

"It's going to be hard carrying on without them: I always think of them with both of their noses in books," Ginny said Tuesday afternoon.

Ginny described her as a religious person who had a "huge amount of faith in God." Ring was very involved at

Faith Church, an Evangelical Presbyterian church in Rochester Hills.

She served as a summer intern at the church and also led a youth group.

"I'm at peace because I know where she's at," Ginny said. "She's in heaven."

Rachel transferred to Grand Valley State University this year and, to the surprise of her entire family, joined the rowing team.

"It's going to be hard carrying on without them: I always think of them with both of their noses in books."

— Ginny Ring, Rachel's mother

"It was a tough decision for her to transfer to GVSU because my husband has cancer and he didn't want her to stay at home just because of that," Ginny said. "He wanted her to get on with her own life."

She was studying international relations and French. Rachel was a huge Francophile who aspired to one day become a French teacher.

Rachel and Jenna were inseparable, Ginny said. They rode horses together for fun.

Rachel made a point of spending time with Jenna and other Oakland friends during her first weekend home in months since transferring to Grand Valley.

Ginny said she had hoped to take her daughter shopping, but on Saturday, Rachel wanted to hang out with Jenna.

"She was still very much a part of OU," Ginny said.

Rachel is survived by her mother Ginny, father Jeff and sisters Stephanie Barnes and Allison Hutt.

Visitation hours are being held Wednesday and Thursday at Potere-Modetz Funeral Home in Rochester from 3 to 9 p.m.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday in the Faith Church, 160 W. Hamlin Rd. in Rochester Hills. The family is in the process of establishing the Rachel Ring Memorial Fund, where donations can be made in lieu of flowers.