

THE OAKLAND POST

MAY
15

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

— 2013 —

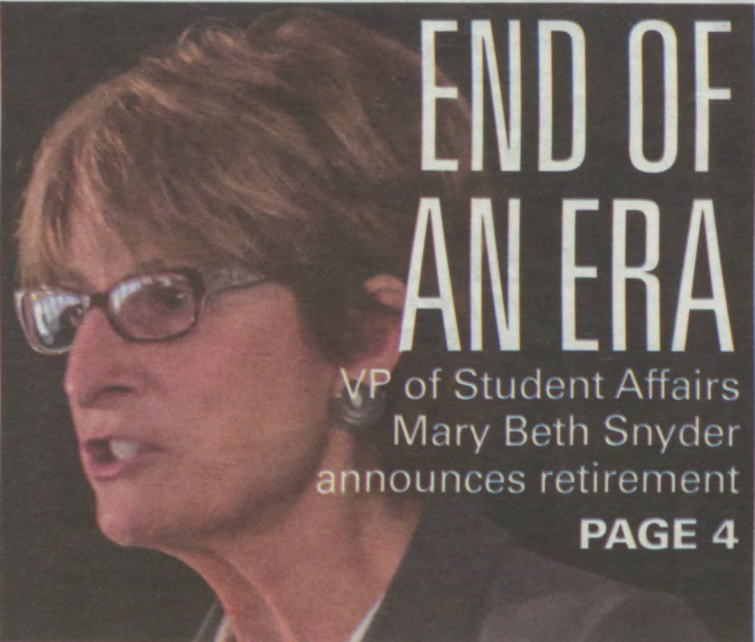


HORIZON LEAGUE

MOVIN' ON UP

Oakland University makes
the jump to the Horizon League

PAGE 8 & 9



END OF AN ERA

VP of Student Affairs
Mary Beth Snyder
announces retirement

PAGE 4



THE SEARCH IS OVER

The new provost
is Jim Lentini of
Miami of Ohio

PAGE 6



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

"THE WEIRDEST CITY I'VE EVER BEEN TO" // Comedian Bo Burnham performed on Mother's Day at the Royal Oak Music Theatre in Royal Oak, Michigan. After various random non-sequitor-shouting hecklers, Burnham paused and said, "Royal Oak, you are by far the weirdest city I've ever been to," put his fist up, and said, "more power to ya." More coverage of the event can be found on page 15. *DYLAN DULBERG // The Oakland Post*

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POLL OF THE WEEK

Which part of Oakland University's new membership in the Horizon League are you most excited for?

- A** Local rivalry with UDM
- B** ESPNu/HLN TV coverage
- C** Closer away games
- D** Wait, we're in the Horizon League now?

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST WEEK'S POLL

How long has it taken you to complete a bachelor's degree, or long do you think it will take?

A Less than four years

7 votes | 7%

B Four years

38 votes | 37%

C Five years

30 votes | 29%

D More than five years

27 votes | 26%

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

MAY 12, 1961

During a heavy rainfall, the ground breaking ceremony and subsequent construction occurs for what is now Fitzgerald Hall.

MAY 24, 1995

Indications appear that students will face a 5.9 percent boost in tuition beginning in the Fall 1995 semester.

MAY 11, 2011

A beautification project was enacted to take place outside Elliott Hall over the summer. The project was completed by the beginning of the Fall 2011 semester.



5

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

Spread all around Oakland University, a carillon tower, a new housing facility, and a new engineering facility are all in various stages of construction.



10

OU BASEBALL PLAYER ON ESPN

Sophomore Robbie Enslin of Oakland University's Men's Baseball Team appeared on the Sports Center Top 10 for a diving catch on the May 10 game against Omaha.



13

THE GREAT GATSBY

Baz Luhrmann's version of F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic tale, "The Great Gatsby," appeared in theaters last week. Read Managing Editor Dylan Dulberg's review on page 13.

BY THE NUMBERS

THE HORIZON LEAGUE

32

minutes driving time from OU to UDM

19

number of sports offered

\$7million

estimated revenue for the 2012 fiscal year

1979

year the Horizon League was established

9

number of competing schools

STAFF EDITORIAL

Moving to Horizon: What it means for OU

Oakland University will join the Horizon League on July 1. We think it's a fantastic move.

Making the switch from the Summit League to the Horizon League means that the Golden Grizzlies will be competing against more local opponents and fans will finally have a chance to experience a real rivalry.

Of course, the cost of the transition isn't cheap. It will cost \$250,000 to exit the Summit League and \$882,000 to join the Horizon League.

The Horizon League also requires that its member arenas are able to seat at least 5,000 spectators. Unfortunately, the O'rena doesn't fulfill these requirements, meaning we will either have to expand the O'rena or rent the Palace for some home games.

The Horizon League offers much tougher competition, as well. Pat Caputo, a columnist for The Oakland Press, put it best when he said "I viewed the Summit League as NCAA Division I's version of plankton. It's definitely at the bottom of the food chain."

Naturally, there will be more competitive rivalries, reduced travel time and better recruitment opportunities.

As Oakland University Athletic Director Tracy Huth said

"We really don't see a downside to this."

Gone are the days where the Golden Grizzlies didn't have a local rival. Inevitably, there will be a spirited rivalry with the University of Detroit Mercy Titans.

This is great for both schools. Let's face it, Oakland students are mostly commuters who are severely lacking in the school spirit department. Having more local games is not only great because the teams will travel less, but the students will be much more likely to follow the team on the road.

In fact, a simple Google search reveals that OU is only 32.5 miles away from UDM. That ends up being about a 35 minute drive, which is even shorter than the drive many of our commuters have.

OU basketball is scheduled to play UDM twice, which means that at least twice a year, there will be a game that the communities of Detroit and Rochester will actually want to get involved in. It's the classic battle of city vs. suburbia.

According to ESPN, "Oakland has always wanted to join the Horizon League, but UDM was against the idea. Former Detroit athletic director Brad Kinsman acknowledged last year that his school didn't want to share the Detroit market

with another school in the same conference. He's not sure if Detroit still feels the same."

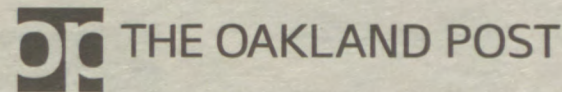
That is enough to start a rivalry for some of our hot-blooded students. UDM didn't want to share the Detroit area with another school? Perhaps they should change their name from the Titans to the Chickens.

As for the expenses to make the transition, OU is looking at spending roughly \$1 million. OU has spent much more money on much worse. Traveling less will save money as well.

OU won The Summit League men's basketball tournament three times in six years, bringing in publicity and big money from the NCAA. Imagine what it will be like when we win in the Horizon League. It seems intimidating now, but the Golden Grizzlies have already made more NCAA appearances than most of the schools in the Horizon League.

In other words, the Golden Grizzlies aren't going to be swimming with the sharks yet, but we're at least expanding our... Horizons.

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



Address 61 Oakland Center,
Rochester, Mich. 48309
Phone 248.370.2537 or 248.370.4268
Web www.oaklandpostonline.com
Email editor@oaklandpostonline.com

editorial

Scott Wolchek
Editor-in-Chief
editor@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.4268

Dylan Dulberg
Managing Visual Editor
managing@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.4266

Brian Johnston
Managing Content Editor
managing@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.2537

section editors

Allen Jordan News Editor
campus@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.4263

Lindsay Beaver Sports Editor
sports@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.2848

reporters

Colleen Bielman Staff Reporter
Jon Davis Staff Reporter
Irum Ibrahim Staff Reporter
Kevin Graham Staff Reporter
Kailee Mathias Staff Reporter

Chris Peralta Staff Intern
Jordan Reed Staff Intern

copy & design

Haley Kotwicki Chief Copy Editor
multimedia@oaklandpostonline.com

Frank Lepkowski Graphic Designer

Brian Figurski Copy Editor
Ashley Mohler Copy Editor

advertising

Kelsey Lepper Lead Ads Manager
ads@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.4269

Katrina Owens Promotions Manager

Brian Murray Distribution Manager
Ted Tansley Distributor
Andrew Greer Distributor

advisers

Holly Gilbert Editorial Adviser
248.370.4138

Don Ritenburgh Business Adviser
248.370.2533



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Mary Beth Snyder announces retirement

By Kevin Graham
Senior Reporter

Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Mary Beth Snyder announced her retirement April 29 after nearly two decades at OU.

She has been replaced on an interim basis by Dean of Students Glenn McIntosh.

During her time as vice president, several new student programs and services were created. The Oakland Center has also seen expansion, and, most recently, she was involved in the planning for both the new residence hall and Elliot Carillon Tower.

Change is good

With Snyder's departure, her position is the second highest ranking administrative job, which is now open. The other is the Dean of the School of Business Administration.

"I'm a person who is very comfortable with change. I think it's always good for some change to go on," Snyder said. "I think with the right hires in some of the vacant positions, you're going to bring fresh ideas, fresh eyes."

She feels OU is on the brink of several improvements. Parking remains an issue, however.

"You're going to see a very different campus environment two years from now," she said. "In the meantime, I and all my colleagues know that parking needs to be improved. We continue to need to make sure that the Oakland experience is convenient for the types of students that come to Oakland."

She also mentioned ongoing improvement of faculty and academic resources.

An engaged leader

McIntosh said Snyder knew how to get the most out of people.

"She is such a dynamic person and leader that inspires people to be the very best," McIntosh said. "I think as a result of that she has been able to really create a team within the division of student affairs that she has led to accomplish so many things at Oakland University from new facilities, renovation of facilities, to new programs and services, all with the goal of better serving students."

Director of Undergraduate Admissions Eleanor Reynolds said the students always came first for Snyder. "In all the things that we did, there was just a sense that we needed to be positive and always represent the most positive faith and make sure that what we were doing was going to be in the best interest of the student," she said.



DYLAN DULBERG/The Oakland Post

Mary Beth Snyder speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new housing building

Student Liaison to the Board of Trustees Robbie Williford said Snyder tried to involve students in the decision-making process.

"There are things, I guess you could say privileged information, that administrators don't have to share with students, for example, the preliminary designs for the housing building," he said. "She let (student leaders) be a part of all the design meetings. We all got to meet with the design firm. They got to pick our brains. That's something that you don't normally get to see."

Creating a community

Snyder said she's proud of the amount of pride students take in OU despite the lack of a football team.

"It's easy to create that warm, fuzzy feeling in your alma mater when every

Saturday everyone goes out to a big football game," she said. "We've been able to do that with our alums absent that kind of experience that you find at a Michigan State or a Michigan."

She said the school spirit is the result of students taking full advantage of everything OU has to offer.

"I think our student leaders over and over have demonstrated that they get it early on in their freshman years, sophomore years in some cases," Snyder said. "This is just a cornucopia of opportunities to learn something about themselves and make them stronger and better prepared for life and their careers."

You can contact Staff Reporter Kevin Graham at kpgraham@oakland.edu, or follow him @kevingraham88

SNYDER'S TIME AS A GRIZZLY

'94

Started at OU

'02

Won the Phyllis Goo-gasian award for the advancement of women in higher education

'07

Won the NASPA Distinguished Service award

'10

Won the Pillar of Profession honor

'12

Won the Burnstein Clinic Esteemed Women of Michigan Award

19

Years spent as Vice President of student affairs

May 28

Will be honored with a reception in the OC at 2 p.m.



Rising action

Construction projects underway as Oakland rolls through the summer semester

JON DAVIS / The Oakland Post

The lot of the new engineering building being constructed to the left of Elliot Hall. The site for Carillon Tower is fenced off, waiting to be razed.

By Jon Davis
Reporter

As the summer semesters move on, so does construction at Oakland University. Five major construction projects look to completely change the landscape of OU's 1,143-acre campus, including a new bell tower, athletic complex, housing facility and engineering building slated to open fall 2014.

Engineering Building

The summer budget continues to grow for the new engineering building next to Kresge Library. The original budget was projected at \$4,495,680, but has grown to \$5,546,462.

Susan Riley, the university project manager for the engineering building spoke on the expectations for the project over the next few months and gave insight on the recent budget jump.

"The goal is to be enclosed by the end of the year," Riley said. "We're moving north to south and are just getting structures and framework up. We had a little problem in the beginning with the foundation, but that was to be expected."

Riley said large construction projects like this tend to fluctuate in budget, as it's hard to predict what measures will need to be taken in the coming months.

"You have weather issues, foundation problems, but all of that was expected," Riley said. "The contractor is more concerned than I am."

John Begley, the site manager for the engineering building, spoke on his enthusiasm for the crew and his outlook on the project.

"We have 50 plus men working through the summer, we're right on track," Begley said. "Other than working in the heat, there are really no issues that could hold

us back. Right now, we're laying the frame work, and it all looks pretty good."

The total budget is now set at \$75 million, and according to Riley, the summer budget isn't likely to change anytime soon.

"Everything has been going very smoothly," Riley said. "There haven't been any major changes to the project, and I don't see any coming up anytime soon. We're on track, moving forward, and we're going to be on time."

Recreation and Athletic Complex

Construction is also underway for the new athletic complex, looking to be finished much earlier than the other construction projects on campus.

The facilities will accommodate NCAA Division I athletic events and a variety of fitness and recreational activities, as well as having an open tennis court.

Katie Howard, a junior majoring in design, expressed her excitement for OU's upcoming additions, specifically for the recreation and athletic complex.

"I think it's great that we're not only expanding our opportunities in club sports, but we're expanding students, as well," Howard said. "Me and my friends are always running out of things to do on campus, and this should fix that. It's great that I now have more of an option for exercise."

The complex is set to open later on this year and will be available to all OU students.

Parking Structure

Possibly the most anticipated project for the summer, the second parking structure to open on OU grounds is on track to be completed with all other construction projects in 2014.

"I like the thought of having a new ath-

letic center, a new housing complex, but I'd much rather have some new parking on campus," senior Eric Biessener said. "That's what most people complain about anyways — that they have nowhere to park, that it makes them late and they hate walking. I think this project is a long time coming."

The structure will include four levels for parking, providing almost 1,000 new spaces for OU students. The structure will also be located near seven academic buildings and is projected to boost available parking on campus by 10 percent.

Elliot Carillon Tower

Construction has yet to start for the 151-foot tower to be erected next to Kresge Library.

Carillon Tower is scheduled to finish alongside most of OU's other construction projects in September of 2014, and will cost \$6.5 million, donated by the Hugh and Nancy Elliot.

The perimeter of the tower is currently blocked off, obscuring several walkways previously accessible to students. Construction on the base is set to begin over the summer semester.

"I think this project will bring a lot of hope to the students," junior and vocal performance major Kimberly Marie said. "I think it'll definitely raise spirits, and it proves that someone cares about us. Someone has hope in this university."

Nick Straub, a sophomore majoring in communications, spoke on his experience coming in to OU, and how that might change for future students.

"I remember thinking that the university was big, but there wasn't any one thing that really wowed me about it. I think that everyone coming in is going to look at it and think that this is the real deal," Straub said.

Student Housing Complex

Construction on the new student complex is booming and looks to be on track for its opening in 2014.

The complex, set to house 500 residents, is in the early stages of development. Associate Vice President to Facilities Management Terry Stollsteimer recently spoke on his optimism for the complex.

"We're happy to be accommodating the students with something that was in such high demand," Stollsteimer said. "The project really speaks to the growth of the university, as well as it's hopes for the future."

The groundbreaking for the building commenced April 16 with little construction work following. According to Stollsteimer, construction right now is preliminary and major structures won't be going up until the fall.

"The construction right now looks to be running smoothly, and is just setting the ground work for the new building," Stollsteimer said. "Getting the base ready hasn't proved to be tricky so far, but with the hot months coming, the weather might turn into a problem."

The student voice on the project has been mixed with a clear concern about how the project will affect parking.

"You would think that because it's the summer, parking wouldn't be as bad," Lexy Schubert, a sophomore minoring in nursing, said. "But because of the new housing building, I have to fight for a parking spot every day."

Schubert said that on average she spends 15 minutes searching for a spot, reflective of her average time of 20 minutes in the fall and winter semesters.

The project is estimated to cost \$30 million. The summer budget is set at \$2 million.

James P. Lentini is named new Oakland University provost

By Brian Johnston
Managing Content Editor

After nearly a year of searching, Oakland University announced Dr. James P. Lentini from Miami University in Ohio as the new senior vice president of academic affairs and provost.

The decision by President Russi and the Provost Search Committee was announced in an email Monday, May 13 by Russi.

Lentini will assume the role of provost July 8 "pending approval by the Oakland University Board of Trustees," according to the email sent by Russi.

Past experience

The incoming provost, who is currently the Dean of Creative Arts for Miami University in Ohio, has taught at the College of New Jersey and Wayne State University. He has a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California.

"Professor Lentini was very favorably viewed by everybody on the committee," said Search Committee Chair and Political Science Professor David Dulio. "There was never a question that he was going to be one of those advanced to the president by the committee."

Russi's decision

The provost decision ultimately fell into President Russi's hands, according to Dulio. "Our report to the president said, 'We are going to forward these candidates. Here are strengths and weaknesses about them,'" Dulio said.

Samantha Wolf, OU Student Congress legislator and member of the Provost Search Committee, said the decision was ultimately in Russi's hands because the provost is essentially the president's second in command.

"(The president) needs to be able to work with the person. But he definitely listened to what the committee recommended, and everything we had to say about every candidate," Wolf said.

"I think he brings a number of things to OU," Dulio said. "I think his personality will be a big benefit. He has a number of experiences. I think he brings great experience as a dean."

As for his qualifications, Dulio said, "One of the bonuses to hiring him is that he is from Miami of Ohio. It's a great institution. I think they do a number of things Oakland would like to emulate. And I think he can help us advance the institution on a number of fronts."

Unique background

Of the four finalists for provost, Lentini was the only one with a background in



Courtesy of Jeff Sabo, IT Services Miami University

arts and humanities, against three with backgrounds in sciences. Wolf said that didn't matter as much as Lentini's qualifications.

"When you get to provost level, you are not the chief academic for just music,"

Wolf said. "You are the chief academic officer for every area. You need to be able to deal with every area in OU. And I think he's the best fit for OU."

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Biology prof awarded \$1.8 million grant

National Eye Institute backs Susmit Suvas to study new treatments

By Kevin Graham
Reporter

Professor Susmit Suvas was awarded a five-year \$1.8 million grant from the National Eye Institute at the Institutes of Health to study a new treatment for herpetic stromal keratitis.

Suvas, who teaches immunology in the department of biological sciences, was previously awarded a two-year grant to gather preliminary data on the effect of neuropeptide treatments which led to this grant.

Herpetic stromal keratitis is caused by herpes simplex virus type I (HSV-1) known to most people as the virus that causes cold sores. Suvas said however that since the virus stays in the ganglion, an area underneath the brain, it can affect three different branches of the body.

"When we get a cold sore, then the virus is coming out of sleep in the ganglion and travels to that branch, that's the one that comes to the face, called the maxillary branch," he said. "If the virus takes another path, the path that comes to the cornea, it will start causing inflammation."

If the virus makes its way to the eye three or four times, it can start to cause chronic inflammation and blindness. The very cells intended to fight infection turn on the body.

"What was known in the field is that the virus comes into the cornea, causes damage to the cornea and brings in the immune cells, the cells that fight off infection," Suvas said. "They come into the cornea and cause corneal tissue damage. A normal cornea is clear- light can pass through the cornea, strike the retina and we see it. After the inflammation, the cornea becomes opaque. It's cloudy."

According to the National Institutes of Health, there are approximately 1.5 million cases of HSV-induced keratitis



BRIAN JOHNSTON / The Oakland Post

Biology professor Susmit Suvas shows a diagram of a retina being affected by herpetic stromal keratitis, a disease based on cold sores.

worldwide with 40,000 new cases of visual impairment or blindness in one eye each year.

The current treatment for this disease is a cortical steroid. However, used continually, the treatment has side effects.

Suvas plans to use an antagonist of Substance P, a key controller of inflammation in the body, to bring the infection under control.

Although the treatment could eventually be delivered by eyedrops, the treatment is currently being tested in mice.

Tiny test subjects

Shravan Chintala, an associate professor of biomedical sciences at the

Eye Research Institute, said the identical eye structure makes mice ideal test subjects.

"The only difference between mice and humans is that mice are nocturnal," Chintala said.

A special microscope enables researchers to see to the back of the mouse's eye.

All animal research must be approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). There is an animal care facility on campus.

Chintala breeds mice with glaucoma for his research on potential cures. He explained glaucoma is caused by a buildup of pressure in the eye.

"The disease occurs because the

pressure in the eye actually increases because there is a fluid every day that is produced, but it doesn't leave the eye," he said. "There is a plumbing system which actually takes care of that fluid, but in some people it doesn't happen."

Chintala has identified a key protein associated with the vision impairing disease.

"There is a protein called SARM1, because of the pressure this SARM1 protein grows up in the retinas and this SARM1 protein actually kills (retinas)," Chintala said.

Contact Staff Reporter Kevin Graham at kprgraham@oakland.edu or follow him on Twitter @kevingraham88

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HORIZON LEAGUE

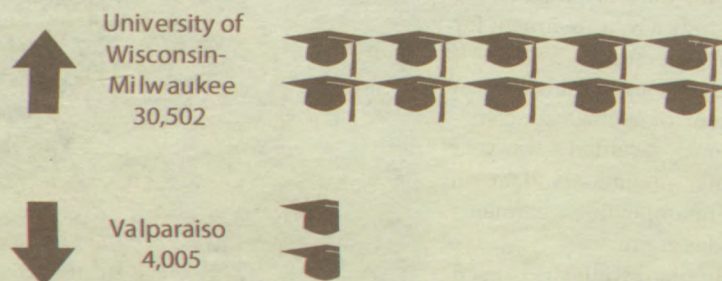
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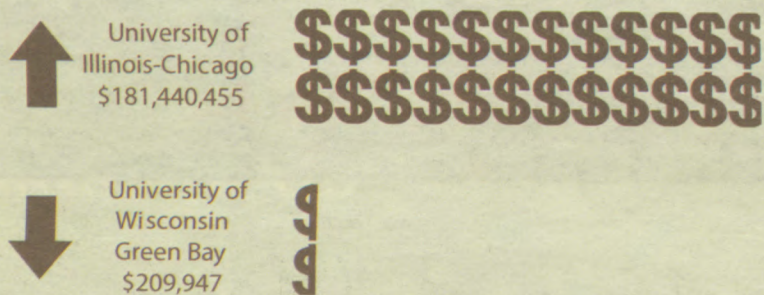
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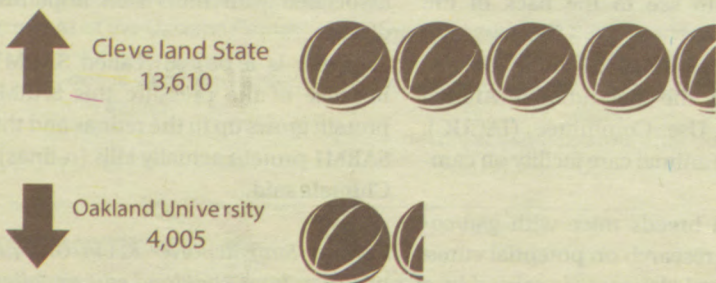
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