



We hope 2017 is off to a great start! A new semester is underway and the campus community kicked off the beginning of African American Celebration Month (AACM) with the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Celebration held on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. AACM runs through February 15<sup>th</sup>. For a complete listing of events, [click here](#). Check out the latest [campus news](#) and [calendar of events](#)!

### **Group Lunches**

The group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. at Nick's Country Oven in Rochester (Adams and Silverbell). These lunches are very casual, so please stop by when your schedule permits.

### **Golden Opportunity**

Do you have a great idea for a future Pioneer Club event? The planning committee needs your help! The group meets on a monthly basis to discuss campus happenings as well as organize activities for Pioneer Club members. If you are interested in joining the planning committee or would like more information, email [oupioneerclub@oakland.edu](mailto:oupioneerclub@oakland.edu) or call (248) 370-4325.

### **Newsworthy**

The campus community paused to remember OU's founding chancellor Durward "Woody" Varner, who would have celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 1<sup>st</sup>. To read more about Varner's incredible legacy, [click here](#).

[Click here](#) to read the latest newsletter by Provost James Lentini.

### **Campus Update**

Earlier this month, members of the Presidential Search Committee and the search firm Academic Search, Inc. held open forums and stakeholder meetings to identify the attributes of candidates who will make up the pool of applicants from whom the Board may select the University's seventh president. [Click here](#) to read the full story.

### **MTD News**

For current news on students and faculty in MTD, [click here](#). To read an interesting article about how some MTD professors spend their time when they are not teaching, [click here](#).

### **GRIZZ Facts**

Did you know that even though student enrollment is 2.5 times larger today, OU receives less state aid now than it did in 1972? [Click here](#) for a closer look at state appropriations. To read archived GRIZZ facts from the Office of Institutional Research, [click here](#).

### **Pioneer Profile**

By Gerry Coon

## David Bricker

When asked to provide information for a profile, Professor Emeritus David Bricker politely declined, saying, "That would be terribly boring." But when pressured to talk about his extra-curricular activities before and after retirement, he lit up with pleasure. "Now that," he said, "might be a bit more interesting."

David and his wife, Carol, began planning and building a second home on the Lake Huron Shore in preparation for his retirement from OU's Department of Philosophy. It was finished in 2000, complete with an office where David could continue the research on political philosophy and the law that he had started late in his career. That was the plan. But after his retirement in 2001, following two hip replacements and some serious consideration, he asked himself, "Who wants to read more papers on political philosophy? And do I want to spend the time I have left writing them?" The answer, it seems, was, "No."

Fortunately, about the time of that epiphany, someone offered him *Sophie*, an uncompleted model of a radio-controlled tugboat, in hopes that he would

finish it. By the time it was done, he was hooked.



"I began crafting the ships in 2003," says David, "and so far I have completed 12 or 13 models altogether, ranging from three-masted sailing ships to single-masted ships to Chris Craft runabouts to tugs. They remain on display at the house on Lake Huron, where we spend about half our time." All work on the

models is done at the lake, since there is no room for a workshop in

The office meant for  
be too small for the  
so it became Carol's  
d installed his  
quilting room.

**A sample kit.** David's models are all wood, not snap-together, but built from kits like this, ordered from Italy or Spain. Each vessel requires about 8 months' work, spread over two years.



**David's model of the 17<sup>th</sup> century *Mayflower*.** He chooses well-known ships from each century. From the 18<sup>th</sup> century he chose the *Bounty*; from the 19<sup>th</sup>, the Confederate Civil War vessel, *CSS Alabama*; and from the 20<sup>th</sup> the famous *Blue Nose*, built in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia.

**Close-up of the rigging.** Note the intricate knotting of the rat lines, all made to scale. It takes a week to fully rig one mast—the most difficult task for David to master. Carol, the seamstress, makes all the sails—14 on one ship, to her dismay.





**A work in progress.** David's current project is a French boat used for lobstering off the Brittany coast.

It would take a much longer article to discuss all the ships the Bricker's have on display on the walls of their home. There is a story behind each one, including the model of the Lightning sail boat that they used to sail with their boys, Jeff and John, on Lake Huron. And therein lays the dilemma behind this profile, and the reason David agreed to this interview.

"We are seriously considering the need to downsize and sell one of the houses," says Dave. "And to tell the truth, I am perplexed about the disposal of these models, which mean far more to me than any of my publications. I welcome suggestions as to any persons or institutions that would be willing to display them in the proper way. If interested, please contact me at [brickerscd@yahoo.com](mailto:brickerscd@yahoo.com)."

*Gerry Palmer Coon served as administrative assistant and adjunct faculty member in the School of Education and Human Services from 1971 to 1991. She retired after eleven years as co-editor of Rochester OPC's (Older Persons' Commission) quarterly publication, Vintage Views, and is a member of the Pioneer Club.*

Pioneer Profile is a feature that appears monthly in the Pioneer Club eNewsletter. If you are interested in being profiled or sharing suggestions on fellow retirees to showcase, please provide your contact information and details to us at [oupioneerclub@oakland.edu](mailto:oupioneerclub@oakland.edu).

### **Upcoming Events**

HIBERNA FLORES, Laurie Tennent & Lisa Waud

January 7 - February 19, 2017, Tuesday - Sunday: Noon - 5 p.m.

Meadow Brook Art Gallery

Free admission

[Click here for more info!](#)

Oakland University Jazz Band with Michael Dease, trombone

Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Varner Recital Hall

All seats \$8

[Click here for more info!](#)

OU Contemporary Music Concert

Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Varner Recital Hall

Tickets \$14

[Click here for more info!](#)

Rumors

Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Varner Studio Theatre

Tickets \$15

[Click here for more info!](#)

Lo-An Lin, piano

Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Varner Recital Hall

Free admission

[Click here for more info!](#)

Altar Boyz

Select dates & times, February 8<sup>th</sup> - March 5<sup>th</sup>

Meadow Brook Theatre

Ticket prices vary

[Click here for more info!](#)

Oakland University Chamber Orchestra

Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Varner Recital Hall

All seats \$8

[Click here for more info!](#)

"Downton Days": A Servant's Life at the Great Estate

Select dates & times in February, beginning 2/11/17

Meadow Brook Hall

Ticket prices vary, reservations required

[Click here for more info!](#)

American Songbook Series #5: The Songs of Irving Berlin

Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Varner Lab Theatre

Free admission

[Click here for more info!](#)

Oakland Symphony Orchestra 20<sup>th</sup> Annual David Daniels Young Artists

### Concert

Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Varner Recital Hall

Tickets \$20

[Click here for more info!](#)

### Wind Symphony & Symphonic Band Concert

Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Varner Recital Hall

All seats \$8

[Click here for more info!](#)

### History Comes Alive Lecture Series

"African Americans in Michigan: Patterns, Problems & Progress"

By De Witt Dykes

Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Gold Rooms B & C, Oakland Center

Admission is free, but reservations are requested

To reserve your space, call (248) 370-3511 or email [jkessler@oakland.edu](mailto:jkessler@oakland.edu)

[Click here for more info!](#)

### BFA Musical Theatre Senior Showcase

Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Varner Recital Hall

Pay what you wish

[Click here for more info!](#)

### **About the Pioneer Club**

The purpose of the Oakland University Pioneer Club is to provide social and educational opportunities to OU retirees and their spouses. It is our hope that



this group will serve as a way for you to reconnect with former colleagues as well as maintain a relationship with OU. As a retiree, you remain a valued member of the University community.