



THE PIONEER CLUB STAY INVOLVED.

CONNECT WITH FORMER COLLEAGUES.

January 2015

2015 is off to a very busy start! Students acclimated to a new semester, President Hynd delivered an informative "President's Report to Campus" and the University community came together for the 23rd Annual Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Celebration. Here is the latest [campus news](#) and [calendar of events](#).

Group Lunches

The group meets the 2nd 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. February's lunch will take place on **February 11**, so mark your calendars!

Campus Update

Earlier this week, President Hynd delivered his second "President's Report" to the campus community. [Click here](#) to view his presentation which focused on a proposed Mission Statement for the University.

Newsworthy

Oakland Post editor-in-chief and journalism major Oona Goodin-Smith was recently selected as a Collegiate Correspondent with *USA Today*. One of her stories has already been featured on the front page of the *Detroit Free Press*. To read more about this exciting opportunity for the ambitious Honors College student, [click here](#).

Telling the OU Story

University Communications and Marketing enlisted the help of a diverse group of students, faculty, donors and alumni to develop an updated brand strategy for the University. [Click here](#) to read how Matilda Dodge Wilson's philosophy became the inspiration for "Aspire to Rise," OU's new brand identity campaign.

Pioneer Profile

By Gerry Coon

The Rochester area is a great place to live (number 1 in the state and 19th in the nation), partially due to the efforts of people such as Robert Gaylor, retired faculty member from Kresge Library, who give generously of their time and energy to make it so. He may have retired from OU, but he has certainly not retired from life. He vigorously continues to contribute to the wellbeing of his community.

Bob serves on the board of the Oakland County Literacy Council and is justifiably proud of the fact that over 13,000 adults have learned to read through the efforts of the volunteers in this non-profit organization that he helped to found 30 years ago. Because the Council receives no state or federal funding, it became necessary to organize some fund-raising events to support it.

In March, 2012, Bob started the Motor City Wine and Food Festival to raise money for the Literacy Council. In May of 2013 the festival hosted two successful events. The first was a cooking class held in Birmingham where participants each paid \$200 for lessons on gourmet food preparation and choosing the wines to accompany each meal. The second event involved the Players Club on Jefferson Avenue in Detroit. Each participant paid \$125 to see a performance of a Greek tragedy. All in all, the Motor City Wine and Food Festival raised \$20,000 to support the work of the Oakland County Literacy Council.

Forty years ago Bob helped found the Metropolitan Detroit Book and Author Society, which recently held its 80th luncheon at the Burton Manor in Southfield. It is the largest book and author luncheon in the United States, with an average attendance of 900 to 1,000. Famous authors of the past included Truman Capote and Lee Iacocca. The Society is sponsored by 30 organizations, including the Detroit News. After 40 years, Bob still serves on the board.

Bored? Not this active retiree. You might run into him serving as cashier at one of the used book sales sponsored by the Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library. He no longer serves on the board, but this year stepped in to chair the Friends annual Christmas Walk. Or you might find him aproned and up to his elbows in pie dough during the preparations for the annual pie sale of the Older Persons' Commission (OPC). Perhaps you'll see him on the walking track there at OPC or on your neighborhood street as he walks daily to keep fit. And, if you decide to attend a lecture on the history of Meadow Brook Hall and the Wilson/Dodge family, you just might recognize him behind the podium.

To help keep all of these community activities from running into one another, Bob also serves on CORE, a local organization comprised of representatives from 28 non-profits. This group meets weekly to develop and maintain a yearly calendar that lists all the events planned by non-profits. It is a clearinghouse designed to prevent too many events from occurring in the same week.

Bob's latest, and at present, favorite commitment is to the Pioneer Club, a brand new organization for all Oakland University retirees, initiated by Development, Alumni and Community Engagement staff. "I complained that the only news we ever received from OU after we retired was about recent deaths of our colleagues. Now, we have a planning committee that represents faculty, administrators, clerical and public safety retirees and a newsletter that tells us about recent and coming events."

Gerry Coon retired from the Reading and Language Arts Department in the School of Education and Human Services. She is a co-editor and writer for the Rochester OPC (Older Persons' Commission) newsletter and a member of the Pioneer Club planning committee.

Pioneer Profile is a feature that appears periodically in the Pioneer Club eNewsletter. Anyone interested in being profiled or if you have suggestions on fellow retirees to showcase, please share your contact information and details with Angie Schmucker at schmucke@oakland.edu.

Upcoming Events

First and foremost, the Pioneer Club is hosting its first ever retiree outing to a Men's basketball game on February 22nd with a 3 p.m. tip-off against UIC!
Lunch: 1:00 p.m.
Oakland Center, Oakland Room

* We welcome you to bring family members, especially the little Grizzly grandkids! Please contact our office with your required number of tickets, guest names and any special needs no later than February 12th.
Email: oupioneerclub@oakland.edu or contact Laura Musachio by phone at (248)370-4403

Take Root With The Brown Dance Project
Friday, February 6th, 8:00-10:00 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
Tickets \$14
[Click here for more info!](#)

Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio (Chamber Music Society of Detroit)
Sunday, February 8th, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
Tickets \$30
[Click here for more info!](#)

Guitar Ensemble Concert
Monday, February 9th, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
Free admission
[Click here for more info!](#)

History Comes Alive: Britain, race and the war against the slave trade
Tuesday, February 10th, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Banquet Room A, Oakland Center
Admission is free, but reservations are requested
[Click here for more info!](#)

OU Jazz Band and the OU Jazz Singers
Thursday, February 12th, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
All seats \$8
[Click here for more info!](#)

Oakland Symphony Orchestra 18th Annual David Daniels Young Artists Concert
Sunday, February 15th, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
Tickets \$20
[Click here for more info!](#)

Hans de Jong, saxophone
Friday, February 20th, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
Free admission
[Click here for more info!](#)

Oakland Symphony Orchestra at the DSO!!!!
Wednesday, April 1, 2015
Detroit Symphony Hall
\$30 tickets, which includes a preshow reception. Reservations are required and is OPEN now!!
[Click here for more info!](#)

About the Pioneer Club

The purpose of the Oakland University Pioneer Club is to provide social, educational and volunteer service 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.

SAVVY LIVING



How to Take Care of Your Kidneys

What can you tell me about kidney disease? My mother died from kidney failure a few years ago at age 76, and I'm curious what my risks are and what I can do to protect myself. [Read More](#)