



# THE PIONEER CLUB STAY INVOLVED.

CONNECT WITH FORMER COLLEAGUES.

April 2015

Final preparations are being made for next week's inauguration of George W. Hynd as Oakland University's sixth president. Rain or shine, this historic event is sure to be memorable for the entire campus community. Please take a moment to catch up on 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.

## #AskHynd

President Hynd took questions from the campus community in a Twitter chat on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Hot topics on the trendy social networking site included messages about parking, academics and President Hynd's disclosure that he played bass guitar in a garage band while in high school. To read the full story that appeared in *The Oakland Press*, [click here](#).

## Newsworthy

OU recently unveiled a new, one-of-a-kind "blacktop" court at the Athletics Center O'rena. [Click here](#) to watch an interview with Director of Athletics Jeff Konya on the innovative redesign and watch a time-lapse of the makeover.

## Grizz Fact

According to the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, OU's student headcount has increased by more than 21% in the last decade. [Click here](#) to view an interesting infographic on the university's overall growth since 2004.

## MaTiIDa Awards

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, OU's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance presented the 16th Annual MaTiIDa Awards to honor outstanding contributions from Music, Theatre and Dance students, alumni and distinguished community members. Michael Gillespie, Professor Emeritus of Theatre, was the 2015 Community Service Honoree. [Click here](#) to read Michael's inspiring remarks from that evening.

## Pioneer Profile



Sandy Fick and Sheryl Clark Klemanski

"I'm grateful to Oakland University for many things, but mostly for the opportunity to make so many lasting friendships," says retired CT Sandy Fick. Primary among those friendships is retired AP Sheryl Clark Klemanski. The three of us spent a delightful afternoon recently as these two "sisters" reunited and relished some of the joyful and not so joyful moments of their shared experiences.

"We had a lot of fun," says Sheryl, "but we got the work done. And the goal for our turn-around time was just three days. They can't say that anymore." They forged their friendship while working in a low-budget department where they had to scrounge for materials and equipment and depend on one another to help out wherever needed. Sheryl laughed as she recounted the time that she tried to add a file to Sandy's overflowing in box and Sandy looked up at her and said, "Don't you dare put that in there."

Anyone who worked with them as they moved together from the Graduate Office to the School of Business and then to Academic Affairs will remember that they made each office a place where people enjoyed coming to work. We laughed together as they recollected stories about getting the Provost to decorate Christmas cookies with them and convincing all of the deans to decorate bears for a student raffle. "We even had a bear on a treadmill made by the Dean of Health Sciences, and the President dressed a huge bear in an Oakland University cap and gown."

But it wasn't all business and fun, either. Sandy recalls the needed support she received from Sheryl when Sandy's younger son, Jeffrey, was assigned to two deployments in Iraq while they were working in the Provost's office.

It hasn't been easy to maintain this deep friendship over the years. Sheryl left the Rochester area in 2007 to live at her condo in North Carolina, where she worked for a year at Brevard College as Director of Institutional Research. She returned to OU briefly, where her husband, John Klemanski, is a professor in the political science department. But The North Carolina Arboretum offered her the position of finance director and she returned to Western North Carolina and a long-distance relationship with John for the next six years. She has recently retired from that job and plans to split her time between her homes in the Asheville area and the Rochester area, reuniting with family and friends and traveling with John.

"I missed her while she was gone," says Sandy, "but she was always there for me when I needed her." Sheryl's support was especially needed in 2011 when Sandy's husband, Tom, passed away within five months of his retirement.

When she learned that Sheryl was planning on leaving OU, Sandy applied for a position with the Department of Campus Recreation, where she worked until 2012. Mention of this brought back more laughter as the two friends remembered splashing with the swim team during their early morning practices before going to work. Sandy still works out at the pool three times a week when not needed as a baby-sitter for her new granddaughter, Anna.

They say life happens while you are making plans. Sandy and Tom had planned to travel extensively after his retirement, and did manage to travel to Hawaii together before his untimely death. Sandy has regrouped now, and has continued with some of those plans, traveling to China and to Austria, Prague and Budapest with Viking River Cruises. This year she plans to travel to Oregon and France, and is sure to visit her older son, Robert, at his home in North Denver, Colorado.

Now that Sheryl is back in town, the two friends plan to spend more time together, reminiscing and yes, supporting one another through the trying times of caring for aging parents and the joys of grand-parenting.

*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.*

Pioneer Profile is a feature that appears monthly 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 us at [oupioneerclub@oakland.edu](mailto:oupioneerclub@oakland.edu).

## Save the Date

- DIA Tour (Meet at Anibal House) - Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.
- Homecoming Retiree Reunion - Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m.

Stay tuned for more information!

## Upcoming Events

Inauguration of George W. Hynd  
Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 3 p.m.  
Athletics Center O'rena

[Click here for a complete schedule of events!](#)

Lunch & Learn Seminar Series  
Michael Jennings – "Retirement Income Strategies"  
Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 12 p.m.  
Oakland Room, Oakland Center  
[Click here to RSVP!](#)

Library Tour & Lunch/Carillon Concert  
Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.  
Kresge Library  
[Click here to RSVP!](#)

## 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



### Medication Management Tools

What products or solutions can you recommend to help seniors organize and manage their medications? My mom is supposed to take several different medications at different times of the day but frequently forgets. [Read More](#)