Final preparations are being made for next week’s inauguration of George W. Wynd as Oakland University’s sixth president. Rain or shine, this historic event is sure to be a big draw for the entire campus community. Please be sure to take a moment to catch up on the latest campus news and calendar of events!

Sunny Lorwine

The group meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m. at Nick’s Country Oven in Rochester (Jutterm and Silverbell). These lunches are very casual, so please stop by when your schedule permits.

Aftershok

President Wynd took questions from the campus community in a Twitter chat on April 19. Hot topics on the handy social networking site included the new student headcount and President Wynd’s dedication to the arts. He pledged to help students be active and engaged. The president also said he played guitar live in a garage band while in high school. To read the full story that appeared in The Oakland Press, click here.

Newsroom

Dr. Cleckley surveyed a new, one-of-a-kind “handbag” court at the Athletics Center. Click here to watch an interview with Director of Athletics Jeff Koni on the innovative redesign and watch a time-lapse of the makeover.

Gazette Post

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.

Mattie Awards

On April 20, OU’s Department of Music, Theatre and Dance presented the 19th Annual Mattie Awards to honor outstanding individuals from Music, Theatre and Dance and distinguished community members. Michael Gillespie, Professor Emeritus of Theatre, won the 2015 Community Services Humanitarian. Click here to read Mattie Awards’ inspiring moment that evening.

Sandy Ford and Stacey Clark Kramerski

“I’m grateful to Oakland University for many things, but mostly for the opportunity to make so many lasting friendships,” says retired OU Sandy Ford. Primarily among those friendships was one with Stacey Clark Kramerski. The three of us spent a delightful afternoon recently as those two “sisters” reunited and relived some of the parts and joy not so youthful moments of their shared life at OU.

“We had a lot of fun,” says Stacey. “But we got the work done. And the goal for our turn-around time was just three days. They can’t say that anyone.” They forged their friendship while working in a biology department where they had to scrounge for materials and equipment and were on another to help the other when needed. Stacey laughed as she recounted the time that she was working in one lab when something broke and she turned to the lab next door to ask if she could borrow a beaker to mix it. Baffled, the fellow scientist asked her to add the beaker to Sandy’s overflowing lab and Sandy thought up a good idea. “Sure, you can fill that up 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 work a place where people enjoyed coming to work. We laughed together as they recounted stories about getting the Provost to decorate Christmas cookies with them and convincing all of the deans to decorate theirs for a student write. “We even had a bear on a trampoline 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 Stacey when Sandy’s younger son, Jeffrey, was assigned to his deputies in Iraq where they were working in the Provost’s office.

It wasn’t easy to maintain this deep friendship over the years. Stacey left the Rochester area in 2007 to live at her condo in North Carolina where she worked for a year at Davidson College as Director of Institutional Research. She returned to OU briefly, where her husband, John Kramerski, is a professor in the political science department. But the North Carolina assignment offered her the position of Director of Institutional Research at North Carolina and a long-distance relationship with John for the next six years. She has recently retired from that role and plans to split her time between her home in the Asheville area and the Rochester area, reconnecting with family and friends and traveling with John.

“I missed her while she was gone,” says Sandy. “But she was always there for when I needed her.” Sandy’s support was especially needed in 2011 when Sandy’s husband, Tom, passed away within five months of his retirement.

When she learned that Sandy 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 snow on their first morning practice before going to work. Sandy still works out at the pool three times a week when not needed by a baby-sitter for her granddaughter, Anna.

They say life happens while you are making plans. Sandy and Tom had planned to travel extensively after his retirement, and did travel to Israel to travel before his untimely death. Sandy replaced ignored, and has continued with some of their planned trips. They visited the Caribbean in December 2013, and Hawaiian Islands during the summer of 2014 after Sandy planned to travel to Greece and France. It’s sure to last far son older, Robert, his home in Denver, Colorado.

Now that Sandy is back in town, the two friends plan to spend more time together, reminiscing and yes, supporting one another through the process of aging parents and the pain of a dying grandparent.

Sandy retired from the Reading and Language Arts Department in the School of Education and Human Services. She is a co-editor and editor for the Rochester OPC (Old Persons’ Commission) newsletter and a member of the Pioneer Club.

Pioneer Profiles: Mattie Awards is a feature that appears monthly in the Pioneer Club newsletter. Anyone interested in being profiled or if you have suggestions on future retirees to interview, please share your contact information and details with us at mwpيلة@ou.edu.

Sandy Ford and Stacey Clark Kramerski

“I’m grateful to Oakland University for many things, but mostly for the opportunity to make so many lasting friendships,” says retired OU Sandy Ford. Primarily among those friendships was one with Stacey Clark Kramerski. The three of us spent a delightful afternoon recently as those two “sisters” reunited and relived some of the parts and joy not so youthful moments of their shared life at OU.

“We had a lot of fun,” says Stacey. “But we got the work done. And the goal for our turn-around time was just three days. They can’t say that anyone.” They forged their friendship while working in a biology department where they had to scrounge for materials and equipment and were on another to help the other when needed. Stacey laughed as she recounted the time that she was working in one lab when something broke and she turned to the lab next door to ask if she could borrow a beaker to mix it. Baffled, the fellow scientist asked her to add the beaker to Sandy’s overflowing lab and Sandy thought up a good idea. “Sure, you can fill that up 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 work a place where people enjoyed coming to work. We laughed together as they recounted stories about getting the Provost to decorate Christmas cookies with them and convincing all of the deans to decorate theirs for a student write. “We even had a bear on a trampoline 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 Stacey when Sandy’s younger son, Jeffrey, was assigned to his deputies in Iraq where they were working in the Provost’s office.

It wasn’t easy to maintain this deep friendship over the years. Stacey left the Rochester area in 2007 to live at her condo in North Carolina where she worked for a year at Davidson College as Director of Institutional Research. She returned to OU briefly, where her husband, John Kramerski, is a professor in the political science department. But the North Carolina assignment offered her the position of Director of Institutional Research at North Carolina and a long-distance relationship with John for the next six years. She has recently retired from that role and plans to split her time between her home in the Asheville area and the Rochester area, reconnecting with family and friends and traveling with John.

“I missed her while she was gone,” says Sandy. “But she was always there for when I needed her.” Sandy’s support was especially needed in 2011 when Sandy’s husband, Tom, passed away within five months of his retirement.

When she learned that Sandy 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 snow on their first morning practice before going to work. Sandy still works out at the pool three times a week when not needed by a baby-sitter for her granddaughter, Anna.

They say life happens while you are making plans. Sandy and Tom had planned to travel extensively after his retirement, and did travel to Israel to travel before his untimely death. Sandy replaced ignored, and has continued with some of their planned trips. They visited the Caribbean in December 2013, and Hawaiian Islands during the summer of 2014 after Sandy planned to travel to Greece and France. It’s sure to last far son older, Robert, his home in Denver, Colorado.

Now that Sandy is back in town, the two friends plan to spend more time together, reminiscing and yes, supporting one another through the process of aging parents and the pain of a dying grandparent.

Sandy retired from the Reading and Language Arts Department in the School of Education and Human Services. She is a co-editor and editor for the Rochester OPC (Old Persons’ Commission) newsletter and a member of the Pioneer Club.

Pioneer Profiles: Mattie Awards is a feature that appears monthly in the Pioneer Club newsletter. Anyone interested in being profiled or if you have suggestions on future retirees to interview, please share your contact information and details with us at mwpيلة@ou.edu.

Save the Date

• DIA Tour (Meet at Avila House) - Thursday, July 30th at 10 a.m.

• Homecoming Reunion Dinner - Friday, September 19th at 12 p.m.

Stay tuned for more information!

Upcoming Events

Imagination of George W. Wynd

Wednesdays, April 22-29, 3 p.m.
Athletic Director Office

Click here for a complete schedule of events!

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 newsletter will help you to reconnect with former colleagues as well as maintain a relationship with OU. As a reminder, you remain a valued member of the University community.