About the Pioneer Club

The purpose of the Oakland University Pioneer Club is to provide social, educational and volunteer service opportunities to our student members. Our clubs and organizations will promote the development of our students. The group will serve as a way for students to network with former colleagues as well as maintain a relationship with OU. As a result, we rely on our volunteers for our member list.

Group Listens

The group will meet the 1st Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the Madrigal Dining Room (Romanesque and Silverleaf). These luncheons are very casual, simple stop by when your schedule permits.

Newsworthy

Former Mayor and Secretary of State Keasy Robson Clinton came to OU to rally voters for Democratic candidates. To read more about her recent visit, click here.

Campus Update

Longtime Oakland Alumni Reps rebuild will act as Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and Director of Admissions. A part of the OU community for over four decades, Reynolds earned her bachelor’s degree in CEE and later completed her master’s degree, in Business Administration, from the Oakland University Director of Athletics in 1982. Effective November 1st, Reynolds will assume the role of Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of Admissions. The campus community is invited to celebrate Reynolds Retirement on Wednesday, October 29th from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Oakland Center Gold Room. Remarks will be at 2:30 p.m. Please RSVP to brigg@oakland.edu.

Pioneer Profile

By Barry Dwyer

When Sharon Pratt key took at last retirement from the Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Leadership in the School of Education at the University of Oakland, she left behind her a legacy that will go on to last. She has been a pioneer in many capacities as the president of卓林 and countless others with whom she had interacted with students under her leadership as a student leader. Now, at last, it is time to allow Sharon Pratt to return to her beloved fields each year, and also we want to return something to the community in which she lived for those years.

"When I was working," she explained, "I did do some traveling, but semester breaks did not allow for the kind of travel I would have liked, and I do not have the time or the ability for any volunteer work, as I promised myself, I would make up for that during my retirement."

And she certainly did. Shortly after her retirement she joined the Friends of the Oakland Hills Public Library. Contributing her time, energy and skill, the Friends put her to work in the storage room where donated books were kept. Her first job was not in management for the book sales that she held three times a year. She quickly found out how to organize the sales, and her hard work paid off. Within a year, she became one of the departments of the program that provides additional annual income for library purchases of educational books.

When donated books began to regularly overwhelm the limited space provided for them, Sharon invented easy ways to clear them out more often, and the Friends raised more funds. She is now an officer of a group of volunteers who agreed to staff a weekly book sale in the library for certain hours of a week to sell the surplus and then return the books at a higher price the next week. This will hold in regular sales of this type, which are now currently weekly and have been successfully conducted in this area. This is one of the ways that Sharon has found a way to continue her involvement in the community in a way that is free to the library.

Considering the depth and scope of the volunteer work described above that others might consider a full-time job, she is clearly someone whose time has been well spent. Sharon Pratt has found to do the things that are really important. She is now one of the leaders in the field.

Her book travels to over 50 countries have been carefully documented by her colleagues, and she is a Power Point presentation which she has shared with friends, retirement residence and other small groups. She’s got the travel log off to a pretty good start, and she has others in the pipeline or in the works. The log is meant to capture the real and the fictional, the man-made to affect both the film festivals in Toronto and Paris, where she seeks and it will be held in 10 days each day event. This year she was particularly intrigued with the film, "Theory of Everything," about Stephen Hawking.

Sharon frequently travels alone as well as with small groups, I find it still more to explore a close contact with the people who are involved in the destinations she visits. If I have had one or two groups in a group or another person, she way, she - she asks an incident when she visited - to follow a tourist guide and so her way to help her. "I am always telling then how nice Americans are," she said, "and that’s better than I can do."

Many years ago, Sharon was a member of a service group that left her with several helping hands while going through the snow and the ice. She is now a member of a group that is helping others in the community in a way that is very different from the one she left.

What’s next for this active volunteer? A visit to Amsterdam to see the many foreign paintings or dive in the repairs of the Packard car. It is a journey through a four-year reconstruction, a German classic from the Packard and the Packard ship from the Panama Canal and the West Indies.

Sharon is a new member of the Pioneer Club. A new Pioneer profile that will appear annually, in the Oakland University Pioneer Club. Anyone interested in writing these brief descriptions of your life or having suggestions on fellow retirees to showcase, please email Angela Schuttenhofer at angela.schuttenhofer@oakland.edu.

Upcoming Events

Oakland University Book Store

Sunday, November 24th, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Yonder Rental (rep)
All seats 50

Benefit & Wellness Fair

Wednesday, November 9th, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Cancer Research Complimentary
Click here for more info

Cedric Roman, James Lerner, guest
Sunday, November 23rd, 8:00 - 9:30 p.m.
Yonder Rental (rep)
All seats 40

Tickets $10

Chin Up: "The day after I learned the world was over"

Wednesday, November 16th, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
20 Jack rental
Complimentary
Click here for more info

Oakland Symposium Orchestra

Sunday, November 13th, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Yonder Rental (rep)
All seats 50

Tickets $10

Click here for more info

Arts of DU – A night of Oakland University Art Gallery

Tuesday, November 22nd, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Member Special Art Gallery
Tickets $10 each (members included with membership)
Click here for more info

History Collab “The Crusades and the Making of a Medieval French King”

Wednesday, November 29th, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Gold Room (1 B C, Center 1035)
Complimentary, but reservoires requested
Click here for more info

The Liar

Sunday, November 24th, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
Tickets $10
Click here for more info

Wind Symphony & Symphony Band

Thursday, November 28th, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Tickets $8
Click here for more info

Tickets for all events will be available online at oakland.edu/pioneer or via the event organizer. For more information, please contact Angela Schuttenhofer at angela.schuttenhofer@oakland.edu.