



"And summer's lease hath all too short a date." This famous line from Shakespeare's Sonnet 18 certainly rings true as July comes to an end in just a few days. Before we know it, students will be returning to campus for the fall semester. 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.

### **Newsworthy**

On July 1, the campus community welcomed new dean of the School of Education and Human Services, Jon Margerum-Leys. [Click here](#) to read more about Dr. Margerum-Leys and his recent appointment.

### **Campus Update**

Last month, President Hynd named interim leaders in OU's Development, Alumni and Community Engagement (DACE) division. Geoffrey Upward was appointed interim vice president of DACE and Angie Schmucker was

appointed interim campaign director. To learn more, [click here](#). While Angie is serving in this capacity, Kelly Brault has been named executive director of Planned and Annual Giving and Laura Musachio has assumed an interim assignment directing Planned Giving, including oversight of the Pioneer Club.

### **Traveling Exhibit on Colonial Medicine**

OUWB School of Medicine is hosting the National Library of Medicine's traveling exhibit, which focuses on Colonial medicine and scientific values in the context of George Washington. [Click here](#) to learn more about the exhibit on display in the lobby of Kresge Library through August 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **OU Student-Athletes**

For the fourth consecutive semester, OU student-athletes have led the Horizon League Honor Roll since joining the conference last year. To read the full story on this impressive group of students, [click here](#).

### **Pioneer Profile**

By Gerry Coon

Mel Gilroy and his wife, Jennifer, are truly an Oakland University family. The couple met as students at Oakland in the late sixties. Mel joined the Public Safety Department in 1972, rose to Lieutenant in '92, and retired in 2012. Jennifer retired from the Registrar's Office in 2013 after serving as the Senior Associate Registrar for 10 years.<sup>[G1]</sup><sup>[LCM2]</sup> Both of them were so highly regarded as Administrative Professionals that they are the only married couple at Oakland to have received the honor of being named Administrative Professional of the <sup>[G3]</sup>Year; Mel in 2006 and Jennifer in 2008.

In 1985 the Administrative Professional Development Fund provided Mel with 1/3 of the cost of travel to China as a member of the first United States Police Delegation to the People's Republic of China. That bi-lateral exchange prompted him to go back to school to finish his B.A. in history and politics. He was just finishing his senior research project on the relationship between the Communist party and education when he began raising funds for the Leonard Woodcock Legacy, a collection of ancient Chinese art donated to Oakland in 1984 by Professor Emeritus Rabindranath [G4] Tagore. Professor Tagore was studying Chinese language in Beijing in '47-'50 and purchased or received the art as gifts, often from the artists he knew personally.

Mel and Leonard Woodcock, Ambassador to China in 1979 and the primary U.S. negotiator between the U.S. and China during the political road to normalcy between the two countries, began fund-raising for enhanced China study material for the Kresge Library, and display of the art in 1990. Mel and his co-chairman, Professor Richard Stamps, worked with Professor Ron Sudol and a team at the University of Michigan on the \$50,000 project, which was installed in the Woodcock Room on the fourth floor of OU's library in 1995. Mel states, "It has been deemed by the Chinese consulate as the finest collection of its kind in the Mid-west because of its tremendous significance, based on artists represented and the high quality of the art."

Mel has made seven trips to China, including two last fall, when he gave a presentation in Wuhan, Hubei Province, at a governors' celebration of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of normalized relations between the U.S. and China. He is a primary contact with the Chinese consulate, due to his long-time association. He has many influential friends in Beijing and makes an effort to meet with all of them each time he visits there. "The Chinese value trust. They may have some different agendas," he says, "but our mutual fundamental objective is positive relations to maintain a peaceful world."

Asked about working primarily with Communists, Mel says, "We don't talk politics. We set that aside and keep the doors open. Grass roots movements make a difference. Think back to the "ping-pong diplomacy" of the Nixon era."

Liaison activities keep Mel busy in his retirement. Besides many trips to Chicago to meet with the Chinese Consulate there, he works closely with the Michigan Governor's Office, U.S. business people in China, Chinese business people in the U.S., Automation Alley, The Chamber of Commerce and the Detroit Chinese Business Association (DCBA). His current project is the 2015 Ambassador Leonard Woodcock Legacy Seminar, to be held at Meadow Brook Hall on October 21. It is an annual political and economic gathering of representatives from all of the organizations listed above and is open to the public.

His connections are continual and often daily. The day we met he sent e-mails to The U.S. Consul in Wuhan regarding a Chinese Woman who is visiting from Detroit, and a meeting next week with a representative from the DCBA. He reads the *China Daily* every day, in addition to reading the *New York Times*.

But all is not China in the Gilroy household. Both Jennifer and Mel value friends and family above all else and spend a lot of time traveling to visit both. They take many cross-country train trips, stopping frequently to visit friends from Oakland.

In his down time, Mel is an avid non-fiction reader. He reads seriously in history and science, including natural sciences such as genetic research and plate tectonics. His current historical interest is in the Civil War Era and he recently enjoyed a book on the creation of the U.S. Navy.

*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. 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).

### **Save the Date**

Homecoming Retiree Reunion Brunch - **Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Stay tuned for more information!

### **Upcoming Events**

Summer Carillon Concert Series  
Fridays at 6:00 p.m. (through August 7<sup>th</sup>)  
Elliott Tower  
Free admission  
[Click here for more info!](#)

DIA Tour  
Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.  
Meet at Anibal House  
[Click here to rsvp!](#)

### **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.