



We hope you and your family enjoyed a very Happy Thanksgiving! We are grateful for your continued support of and contributions to the Oakland University community. Please take a moment to catch up on 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.

All-University Fund Drive

It's not too late to contribute to the All-University Fund Drive (AUFDD). The 2015 AUFDD runs through Dec. 11th and aims to raise more than \$400,000. For more information regarding the AUFDD, or how to make a gift, visit the AUFDD website at isupportOU.com/AUFDD or contact Annual Giving at (248) 370-4504 or giving@oakland.edu.

Newsworthy

Last year, OU and the City of Pontiac entered into a "Town and Gown" partnership, providing service learning opportunities for OU students, college readiness for Pontiac residents, communications for the City, and economic development for the region. [Click here](#) to read a booklet developed by our Communications and Marketing team that provides an overview of the partnership's first year of progress.

GRIZZ Fact

Each week, the Office of Institutional Research releases interesting data regarding the OU community. Did you know that 87% of first-time, full time OU students receive some sort of financial aid that does not need to be paid back? [Click here](#) for more financial aid facts. To read archived GRIZZ facts, [click here](#).

Pioneer Profile

By Gerry Coon



What does a musician do after he retires? Why, he makes more music—and he writes about it.

David Daniels retired from Oakland in 1997, but continued to conduct the Warren Symphony Orchestra for another 13 years. He conducted in Warren for 37 years (from 1974 to 2010), and in 2012 was invited back to celebrate the Symphony's 40th anniversary by conducting Brahms' *Tragic Overture*.

In August of this year, David received a copy of the fifth edition of his life's work, now titled *Daniels' Orchestral Music*, and acclaimed as the gold standard in orchestral programming. It is a hefty tome, printed with very narrow margins in an elegant small font and contains roughly 8500 entries.

Begun in 1968 (before coming to OU) and released in 1972, Daniels' first edition was laboriously composed on Oakland's old main frame computer in all caps and without the diacritical marks that were unavailable on the system. It was called simply *Orchestral Music: A Handbook*. (See photo) It contained approximately 2400 entries. It very gradually became accepted by conductors and orchestra librarians as a useful guide to the duration, instrumentation and publisher of each orchestral piece included. He has received email commentary and questions from conductors as far away as Australia, Malaysia, Israel and Norway. Though the new edition can no longer be seriously considered a "handbook" it is an essential tool for all serious conductors and administrators.

An on-going work, the content of the books is constantly increasing, and since 2008 David has been taking advantage of the electronic world by publishing a website that is updated monthly. The work that was originally conceived as a summer project has become a life work that David is in the process of passing on to a new author—someone with the knowledge, commitment, and technical ability that is now needed to maintain the flow of continually increasing information.

David and his wife of 59 years and three months (as of this interview), Jimmie Sue, arrived at Oakland in 1969 at about the same time as Lyle Nordstrom and Ray Allvin. David was chairman of the Department of Music from 1982 to 1988 and credits his secretary, Virginia Ganesky, with helping him keep his sanity.

In an effort to collaborate with the larger community, Ray Allvin (chair in the 1970s) arranged for Oakland's music students to be included in the Pontiac-Oakland Symphony (now called the Oakland Symphony Orchestra), which David conducted for 20 years. Upon his retirement, Oakland University and the POS honored Daniels by instituting the David Daniels Young Artists' Concert, a collaborative performance between Oakland's student musicians and the Oakland Symphony Orchestra. Held each February, the concert creates a healthy competitive atmosphere among Oakland's students for a place on the stage.

In addition to his major work, David has edited five books by other authors and co-authored *Arias, Ensembles, & Choruses*, for the Music Finders series. He has also edited five books for a second series, *Dictionaries for Modern Musicians*.

Daniels received his BA from Oberlin College, an MA in musicology from Boston University, and an MFA in organ and a PhD in orchestral literature and conducting from the University of Iowa in 1963.

Jimmie Sue and David are the proud parents of Michael, an attorney in Albuquerque; Abigail, Youth and Teen Services Manager at Commerce Township Public Library; and Andrew, a Business Systems Analyst in the IT division at Eastern Michigan University. All of the six grandchildren have been exposed to music, with one earning a master's degree in Music and Science Technology and another becoming an accomplished dancer.

What's next for this active retiree? "Well," he says, rather sheepishly, "I'm learning to cook—but actually I thaw instead of cook." I found that hard to believe, because I spied a cook book nearly as large as his own recent publication handily placed near his easy chair.

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.

Upcoming Events

31st Annual Art, Book & Gift Fair
Wednesday, December 2nd, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Oakland Center
[Click here for more info!](#)

Oakland Dance Theatre and OU Repertory Dance Company
Saturday, December 5th, 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
Tickets \$14
[Click here for more info!](#)

Opera Workshop
Saturday, December 5th, 8:00-9:30 p.m.
Varner Studio Theatre
Free admission
[Click here for more info!](#)

OU at Cliff Bell's
Sunday, December 6th, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Cliff Bell's Jazz Club in Detroit
Free admission
[Click here for more info!](#)

The Theory of Relativity
Sunday, December 6th, 8:00-10:00 p.m.
Varner Studio Theatre
All seats \$8
[Click here for more info!](#)

Percussion Ensemble Concert
Monday, December 7th, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
Free admission
[Click here for more info!](#)

Lunch & Learn Seminar Series
Tuesday, December 15th, 12:00 p.m.
Featuring Speaker: Rob Ray, Senior Wealth Strategy Associate and Rochester City Council Member
Oakland Center
Complimentary, but reservations requested
Cindy Hayward at hayward@oakland.edu or (248)370-4389

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.