



THE PIONEER CLUB
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2016 is off to a very busy start! Faculty, staff and students acclimated to a new semester and marked the beginning of African American Celebration Month (AACM) on campus with the 24th Annual Keeper of the Dream Awards Celebration held on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. AACM runs through February 18th. For a complete listing of events, [click here](#). Please take a few minutes 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.

Newsworthy

In recognition of the tremendous contributions former assistant vice president of Student Affairs Ron Kevern made during his 40-plus years working for OU and the surrounding community, his colleagues are now raising funds for the Ron B. Kevern Scholarship Endowment. To read the full story, [click here](#).

MTD Update

As a leading center of performing arts education in Southeast Michigan, OU's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance publishes *Prism*, an informative bi-monthly newsletter. [Click here](#) to read the latest edition.

GRIZZ Fact

Did you know about half of all undergraduate courses are taught by a full-time faculty member? [Click here](#) for a closer look at OU's classroom instructors. Can you guess which program issued more undergraduate degrees than any other in 2014-2015? For the full breakdown, [click here](#). To read archived GRIZZ facts from the Office of Institutional Research, [click here](#).



Pioneer Profile: Glenn and May Jackson

“Retirement means spending time with friends and family—a time to relax and enjoy life. I thought I might teach a few classes, but within a month I knew better,” says Glenn Jackson. His wife, May, adds: “Travel is important and we enjoyed it a lot, especially walking trails in

Austria and the Southern Alps.” In fact, the year Glenn retired the Jacksons took a raft trip halfway through the Grand Canyon and then walked out from the bottom to the south rim. It was a walk that was 8.5 miles long and a change of one mile in altitude.

Five months later they took a six-week trip to New Zealand, Australia and Hawaii. Traveling with another couple, they made all of their own travel and housing arrangements, driving all over the North and South islands in New Zealand.

Their travel has included many trips to Europe, including Denmark, Ireland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Finland and Norway. May’s parents were born in Denmark, where she still has many relatives in cities, small towns and farms. They have visited them three times.

During Glenn’s career at Oakland an Opel Executive from Nauheim, Germany, brought his family to Rochester for a two-year assignment. Because they had children the same ages as the Jackson children the families became very close, spending a lot of time on the Adams High School tennis courts with the young people. The couples’ families have remained close and have visited back and forth many times. The wife of the family has served as their guide on trips to Germany, Austria and Italy, allowing them to spend time in locations where the average tourist doesn’t get to visit. One of their favorite

places is a farm-stay near Maria Alm, Austria. Glenn says, "Every time we looked out the window we expected Julie Andrews to come singing over the hill."

The School of Engineering (now called the School of Engineering and Computer Science) was started in the mid-1960s. In August of 1967, Glenn was the seventh faculty member hired in the school and was the first to retire in August of 1996. He still meets weekly with other retired engineers for breakfast.

Spending just a little time with May and Glenn confirms that their retirement years have been fun, rewarding, and satisfying in many ways.

The Jacksons were always active and interested in sports and physical education. Glenn was the NCAA Faculty Representative for 22 years and was given a lifetime pass to all OU games. They are avid supporters of Oakland's Grizzlies. May helped develop the sports component at the Woodward School site of the Older Persons' Commission (OPC) even before retirement, and when Glenn retired she got him involved in Senior Volleyball. Over the course of 15 years he played in the National Senior Olympics in Tucson, Baton Rouge, Palo Alto and Orlando; in the US Open Volleyball National Championships in Austin, Atlanta and Denver; and several times in the Huntsman Senior Games in St. George, Utah. He played on several teams that won national championships, but stopped playing volleyball about six years ago, when he discovered that when he jumped he never left the floor! However, he still plays golf and has finally reached his goal of being able to shoot his age.

In the early years of their retirement the Jacksons did their share of volunteering at OPC, including serving on the committee that developed the general concept of the sports areas for the new building. They also

volunteered at the Baldwin Center in Pontiac and at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Until recently May sang in the Epworth Choir there.

No longer comfortable with extended traveling, the Jacksons currently spend their time reading, attending athletic and cultural events at OU, playing bridge with friends, enjoying neighborhood activities and visiting with children and grandchildren. Their oldest son, Alan, lives in Ann Arbor with his wife and two children. Mark lives in the Historic Village in Pontiac.

Looking back on their retirement years the Jacksons agree that they have enjoyed the life and leisure and time with family and friends. Even though they are no longer able to do the things they did when they first retired, they find that retirement life is good.

Written by Gerry Coon

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

1960s Civil Rights Movement: Past, Present and Future

Diane Nash, speaker

Monday, February 1st, 12:00 p.m.

Gold Rooms B & C, Oakland Center

Free admission

[Click here for more info!](#)

History Comes Alive: Lecture by Jeff Powell

Laborers, Unions and the Public Welfare:

The Taftville Strike of 1875 and Gilded Age America

Tuesday, February 9th, 7:00 p.m.

Banquet Room A, Oakland Center

Admission is free, but reservations are requested
To reserve your space, call (248) 370-3511 or email jkessler@oakland.edu
[Click here for more info!](#)

Oakland University Chamber Orchestra
Wednesday, February 10th, 7:30 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
All seats \$8
[Click here for more info!](#)

Oakland Symphony Orchestra 19th Annual David Daniels Young Artists Concert
Sunday, February 14th, 3:00 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
Tickets \$20
[Click here for more info!](#)

Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band
Tuesday, February 16th, 7:30 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
All seats \$8
[Click here for more info!](#)

The Second Annual Murphy Creative Intersections
Jon Thompson, poet
Thursday, February 18th, 6:00 p.m.
Room 208, Oak View Hall
Buffet dinner at 6:00 p.m., followed by a reading at 7:00 p.m.
Complimentary
RSVP (if attending dinner) by Feb. 10th to Deb Weeks-Souza at weeksds@oakland.edu
[Click here for more info!](#)

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.