



**THE PIONEER CLUB**  
**STAY**  
**INVOLVED.**  
**CONNECT WITH FORMER COLLEAGUES.**

Ever since Leap Years were first introduced by Julius Caesar over 2,000 years ago, Leap Day, on February 29, has been steeped in tradition, folklore and superstition. To celebrate the extra calendar day, we invite you to view the thought-provoking film "What is Philanthropy?" followed by a Q&A session with executive producer Dr. Salvatore Alaimo of Grand Valley State University. [Click here to watch a short trailer.](#) The film, free and open to the public, will be shown at 6:00 p.m. in the Oakland Center. Check out 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.

#### Campus Update

In an effort to raise the University's visibility as a research institution and increase the potential to generate revenue through licensing and spinoff corporations, Michael W. Long, Ph.D., has joined OU as technology transfer mentor-in-residence. [Click here to learn more about Long's new role on campus.](#)

#### Newsworthy

Keeping pace with the growing demand for student housing on campus,

earlier this month OU officials approved nearly \$80 million for a new 750-bed student housing complex to open in August 2018. To read the full story in an article that appeared in The Oakland Press, [click here](#).

#### GRIZZ Fact

Did you know that in Fall 2015, 2,692 students lived in on-campus housing? To read archived GRIZZ facts from the Office of Institutional Research, [click here](#).

#### Pioneer Profile

By Amanda Iodice

Don Iodice was not a member of the Charter Faculty, but he arrived at Oakland University shortly afterward to teach French and Linguistics and to direct the Language Laboratory. His love of France and its culture and civilization, combined with his first career in radio broadcasting, is what fostered his enthusiasm in teaching his students actual communication skills. For many years, Don invited his advanced classes to his home for a multi-course French dinner.

There were always native speakers to circulate and make the students talk. English was not allowed until eleven o'clock. Each course was preceded by a brief lecture on how to use escargot "pincers," why "salade" came after the main course, the importance of cleaning the palate with a bit of bread before the next course, and other French customs.

The highlight of his teaching career was being named as a "Chevalier des Palmes Academiques" by the French Government. This is an award given to those who have promoted French learning and culture above and beyond the daily classes. The French Consul came from Detroit and there was a grand reception at Meadow Brook Hall with special refreshments provided by "Le Petit Prince" in Birmingham.

It was Don Iodice and Jack Moeller (German Department), together with Provost Virinder Moudgil, who made the Oakland University-Older Persons' Commission liaison happen. This most successful partnership provides interesting lectures and programs given by members of the Oakland University faculty and staff. After retirement, Don became active at the Older Persons' Commission (OPC) in Rochester. He taught French there and did some writing for the Vintage Views, the OPC quarterly publication. An observer in his OPC French language course was blown away by his creative and theatrical treatment of the material in a lesson on ordering in a French restaurant. When he turned to call over his shoulder to an imaginary Fifi in the "kitchen" the whole class broke into laughter and the lesson was embedded forever in their minds.

As a long-time member of the Rochester Elks Lodge (including serving with distinction in all the chairs), retirement allowed Don to become more involved with many of the Elks' charitable and community based activities. He was often called upon to give the Annual Mother's Day address and to preside at the Elks Memorial Day celebration honoring deceased members. The Teen of the Month Program was his favorite, however. Each month a senior from a different surrounding high school was chosen and written up in the Elks Newsletter (that he also edited for a time). In May these outstanding students, together with their parents and counselors, were honored at a dinner at the Elks Lodge where they were awarded certificates for their accomplishments.

Don continues to closely follow the adventures of the Iodice Grant for Foreign Study recipients as well as other activities in the Modern Language Department. Most enjoyable are the letters that come from the recipients. This Grant, established by a former student several years ago, helps students spend time living and learning in the country of the language and culture they are studying.

The Iodices have two local grandchildren, now in high school, and Don enjoys frequent visits, regaling them with some of the stories about the interesting people he has known throughout his life. He was once called to Washington, D.C., by Leon Dostert, Director of Machine Translation Research at Georgetown University. Dostert was the man who developed simultaneous interpretation first at the Neuremburg Trials, and later for the United Nations. Don worked for Dostert at Electronic Teaching Laboratories, designing programs used throughout the country because of nationwide installation of Language Laboratories.

Don Iodice with his grandson, Landon

During this heightened interest in language training, Don was granted two National Defense Education Act (NDEA) Institutes in French and Spanish at Oakland. They were summer programs for high school teachers. Students were to speak the target language as much as possible and the professors took breakfast, lunch and dinner with them to encourage conversation.

Motels were scarce in this area in those days, so when Pierre Viala, a famous French poet, came to lecture, he stayed at the Iodice home. The president of the University of Pau and a colleague visited because they wanted to see what might be needed for a level two institute in France. A new baby's bath toys allowed them to shower with rubber duckies each morning. A well-known mime artist from Canada came to perform, bringing his wife and baby.

In the 1970s Don's work with the Chrysler Corporation's French counterparts resulted in two texts, *Getting it Done in French* and *Getting More Done in French*, with accompanying cassettes. This program was later adopted by American Motors and continued for several years. Iodice met a member of the Air Force Escape and Evasion Society who had been rescued during World War II by a group of "Resistance Fighters." These people took in the downed

American airmen, hid them in their homes, gave them their own rations, (they could not buy extra food at the store for fear of being discovered) and when the time came, transported them, clandestinely, to catch a boat to England. There were two groups with surviving members who were touring Canada, but were reluctant to come to the United States because of the language problem. Don assured them that he could find enough homes where someone knew enough French to ensure a comfortable visit. He found host families for everyone.

Don Iodice's communication skills are still honed and ready. Always happy to help folks plan their travels to France, he keeps maps and lists of "must see" sites to share when asked for advice. He took his son's in-laws on a month-long tour of France and the families are still close friends. He continues to read French publications online to keep up with present day politics and culture and was among those glued to the television during the recent terrorist attacks in Paris.

Amanda Iodice is the wife of Don Iodice, Professor Emeritus of French and Linguistics. She is a writer for the Rochester OPC 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).

#### Upcoming Events

"What is Philanthropy?" Film

Followed by Q&A with executive producer Salvatore Alaimo, Ph.D., GVSU

Monday, February 29th, 6:00 p.m.

Gold Rooms B & C, Oakland Center

Free and open to the public

[Click here for more info!](#)

Timothy McAllister, saxophone

Tuesday, March 1st, 7:30 p.m.

Varner Recital Hall

Tickets \$14

[Click here for more info!](#)

Nicholas Phillips, piano

Monday, March 7th, 7:30 p.m.

Varner Recital Hall

Free admission

[Click here for more info!](#)

History Comes Alive: Lecture by Elizabeth Shesko

In The Green Hell: Bolivia's Chaco War, 1932-1935

Tuesday, March 8th, 7:00 p.m.

Gold Rooms, Oakland Center

Admission is free, but reservations are requested

To reserve your space, call (248) 370-3511 or email [jkessler@oakland.edu](mailto:jkessler@oakland.edu)

[Click here for more info!](#)

The Gryphon Trio Chamber Society of Detroit at OU

Sunday, March 13th, 3:00 p.m.

Varner Recital Hall

Tickets \$30

[Click here for more info!](#)

Oakland University Jazz Band  
Thursday, March 17th, 7:30 p.m.  
Varner Recital Hall  
All seats \$8  
[Click here for more info!](#)

University Chorus and Oakland Chorale  
Saturday, March 19th, 8:00 p.m.  
University Presbyterian Church, Rochester Hills  
All seats \$8  
[Click here for more info!](#)

Sharron Matthews Superstar: Gold (International Cabaret Artist)  
Sunday, March 20th, 7:00 p.m.  
Varner Recital Hall  
Tickets \$14  
[Click here for more info!](#)

Oakland University Brass Band and Capital City Brass Band  
Monday, March 21st, 7:30 p.m.  
Varner Recital Hall  
All seats \$8  
[Click here for more info!](#)

Guitar Ensemble Concert  
Tuesday, March 22nd, 7:30 p.m.  
Varner Recital Hall  
Free admission  
[Click here for more info!](#)

String Studio Recital

Wednesday, March 23rd, 7:30 p.m.

Varner Recital Hall

Free admission

[Click here for more info!](#)

Graduate Students Research Conference

Friday, May 27, 2016

7:30 am breakfast and registration

Oakland Center and South Foundation Hall

This Conference is an opportunity for all graduate students to present their research in a positive, collaborative and supporting environment. We invite students from all academic programs on campus to present their work to the community, connect with each other, and showcase the high level of academic work our graduate students are producing.

We are in need of a volunteer to assist the committee with reviewing abstracts. For more information on volunteering, attending, or supporting the conference please contact Tina Tucker at 248-370-4189 or by email at [tinatucker@oakland.edu](mailto:tinatucker@oakland.edu).

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.