
April News at OU: Pioneer Club Edition

April 2016

Despite the cooler temperatures, campus is greening up, trees are budding and flowers are blooming. Consequently, faculty, staff and students have come down with a bad case of Spring Fever! Over the past three days, OU recognized its 2016 spring graduates at five separate commencement ceremonies, all held at the Athletics O'rena. Be sure to 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.

Golden Opportunity

Do you have a great idea for a future Pioneer Club event? The planning committee needs your help! The group meets on a monthly basis to discuss campus happenings as well as organize activities for Pioneer Club members. If you are interested in joining the planning committee or would like more information, email oupioneerclub@oakland.edu or call (248) 370-4325.

Campus Update

OU's Board of Trustees approved schematic designs of the University's new Southern Student Housing Complex project. [Click here](#) for more information on the 750-bed facility, which includes dining options and academic spaces.

Newsworthy

U.S. News & World Report recently ranked OU's nurse anesthesia program, the only accredited one of its kind in Oakland County, among the best in the nation. [Click here](#) to read the full story.

GRIZZ Fact

Do you ever wonder who takes summer courses at OU? [Click here](#) to find out. To read archived GRIZZ facts from the Office of Institutional Research, [click here](#).

Pioneer Profile

By Gerry Coon



Judy Brown

If anyone deserves a quiet and stress-free retirement, it's Judy Brown, Distinguished Professor Emerita of Anthropology, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice.

Pioneer in the field of psychological anthropology, co-editor of five books and over fifty scholarly articles, feminist

authority interviewed by Diane Sawyer on ABC News and by Newsweek Magazine and Professor of Anthropology at Oakland University for 47 years, she well deserves the honor of Distinguished Professor awarded by the university.

After a year's study under a Fulbright Grant at the University of London, Judy earned her Ph.D. at Harvard University. However, when it came time to graduate she was informed that the Harvard of that time would not grant a Ph.D. to a woman. They told her that she would have to accept her degree from Radcliffe College. Judy was adamant. She wanted her Vita to show that she had graduated from Harvard, so she compromised and accepted Harvard's degree as an Ed.D. in Human Development. She then did a post-doctoral study at the newly endowed Bunting/Radcliffe Institute, the only institution of its kind at that time. She also was the recipient of a grant from The National Institutes of Health.

Coming to Oakland in the fall of 1969, Judy was a real Pioneer. She was appointed full professor in 1983 and continued to teach until her retirement in 2011. She continued her research on cross-cultural analyses of women's economic roles in non-Western societies, gender roles, female age hierarchies and female rites of passage into adulthood while mentoring and motivating hundreds of students in her classes and even after graduation.

Judy's husband, Maurice F. Brown, professor in the Department of English, passed away at an early age, interrupting their plans for simultaneous sabbaticals and post-doctoral studies. True to her Pioneer spirit, Judy persevered. She was invited to fulfill visiting post-doctoral positions at Harvard, Stanford and Bryn Mawr. She appreciated the prodigious libraries that Harvard and Stanford made available to her, and truly enjoyed the intimacy of the smaller institution at Bryn Mawr as she completed those opportunities to continue her scholarship.

In addition to her professorial and research achievements, Judy has left a legacy to Oakland University in the form of an annual poetry reading dedicated to the memory of Maurice. Since 1988 the Maurice F. Brown Poetry Reading has been a favorite with students, bringing to the university an impressive list of poets and authors, including two poet laureates. She and her children, Mathilde C.K. Brown Swanson and Frederick W.K. Brown, have fully endowed the program so that it will continue in perpetuity.

Judy and her cat, Augusta, spend most of their days quietly at home, though Judy does go to Oakland to swim 500 to 1000 yards almost every weekday. Hating swimming as a child, she began to "paddle about" in Oakland's pool when it was first built. Eventually, she became so proficient that she won the Senior Olympics silver medal twice in the breast stroke.

Asked for a prediction for the future, Judy answered quickly, "Oh, I anticipate that major changes are about to transform Oakland University. I wish I had a crystal ball." As a woman who has participated in major changes in the field of education, she is well-qualified to make that statement.

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

Die Fledermaus (operetta)
Saturday, May 7th, 7:30 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
Tickets \$20
[Click here for more info!](#)

The Adventures of Pinocchio (children's musical)
Sunday, May 22nd, 2:00 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
Tickets \$10, students & children \$6, two and under free
Pajamas acceptable!
[Click here for more info!](#)

Save the Date

Homecoming and Reunion Weekend
September 23rd - 25th

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.

SAVVY LIVING



How to Downsize Your Stuff for a Move

Can you offer any helpful tips for downsizing? My husband and I are interested in moving to a condo downtown when we retire, but we need to get rid of a lot of our personal possessions before we can move. We've lived in the same house for almost 35 years and... [Read](#)

[More](#)

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