

Pioneer Club November 2016

Students, faculty and staff are settling into a busy semester while enjoying crisp autumn temperatures amid a dazzling display of fall foliage across campus. Check out the latest [campus news](#) and [calendar of events](#)!

Group Lunches

The Pioneer Club 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.

All-University Fund Drive

With the theme "Your Gift Opens Doors," the Oakland University community kicked off this year's All-University Fund Drive (AUSD) earlier this month at the annual AUSD Launch Party.

The event drew \$90,088 in contributions from 126 donors. Both amounts were the highest-ever for an AUSD kick-off event. The drive runs through Friday, Dec. 9, aiming to raise more than \$475,000.

University employees and retirees can "open doors" at Oakland and beyond by directing gifts to the program of their choice, or making a gift to the area of greatest need, the OU Fund. Donors can also create a named scholarship with a contribution starting at just \$1,000.

OU President George W. Hynd will match every employee and retiree gift by 50%, up to a \$2,500 match.

This year's AUSD co-chairs include Robert Gaylor, retired Associate Professor, Kresge Library and Pat Nicosia, retired Director of Budget and Financial Planning.

For more information regarding the AUSD, or to make a gift, visit the AUSD website at isupportOU.com/AUSD or contact Annual Giving at (248) 370-4504 or giving@oakland.edu.

Newsworthy

The Princeton Review recently named OU's School of Business Administration among the nation's best business schools. [Click here](#) to read the full story.

Campus Update

President Hynd is now providing the campus community with electronic updates on University operations and other topics of interest. To read President's Hynd's first communication of this kind, [click here](#).

GRIZZ Facts

Are you interested in OU's first year retention rates? [Click here](#) to learn more. Do you wonder how many students are enrolled at the University? [Click here](#) to find out. To read archived GRIZZ facts from the Office of Institutional Research, [click here](#).

Pioneer Profile

By Gerry Coon

Jack Moeller

Dr. Jack Moeller is one of those fortunate retirees who has been "re-wired" as well as retired.

Jack began his higher education as a piano major at Oberlin College. When he decided that piano was not going to be his major, he switched to a major in German and reserved his musical abilities for his own enjoyment.

While still in graduate school Jack and his wife, Hilda, attended the University of Basel under a Princeton-Basel

Exchange Fellowship. Throughout his career, he spent much time in German speaking countries, attending a number of seminars and workshops, some for an extended period of six weeks. "One great experience," he says, "was teaching at a German school under a Fulbright Exchange fellowship. At that time I learned first-hand how quickly children can acquire a language. Our daughter, Susan, attended first grade in Germany and within weeks she had no problem with the language and even finished the year with top grades."

Dr. Moeller joined the Oakland University staff in 1963 and led a distinguished career as a professor of German until his retirement in 1992. During that time he realized that the standard method of teaching German was not, in his mind, the appropriate approach. During the early 1970s he teamed with Professor Helmut Liedloff of Southern Illinois University to produce several high school and college German language textbooks to fill what they considered a void. Forty years later those books are still in print and considered the gold standard of German language textbooks.

He and other Oakland University modern language teachers led the movement away from the old system of teaching grammar and vocabulary only, toward the incorporation of speaking and writing into the curriculum. "The college texts of the time," he says, "were old fashioned, and we thought they needed to be modernized as well. We tried to make them more streamlined." Current language teaching follows that lead, incorporating language proficiency along with information about German history and culture.

After his retirement, Moeller volunteered to teach German to seniors at the Older Persons' Commission in Rochester. An active German group developed under his direction, learning to speak German and gain cultural knowledge about German-speaking countries. He found working with older persons a wonderful and exciting experience and hopes that the courses have continued.



Because of Hilda's poor health she and Jack moved to an independent living apartment in Ann Arbor in 2014. She passed away early in 2016, but Jack remains in Ann Arbor because their daughter, Susan, is a professor of finance at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. Their son, Kurt, is an engineer at United Technologies in Hartford, Connecticut. Susan is called upon constantly, Jack says, to take care of such matters as driving him to doctors, buying necessities and even making some dinners. Their son and his family make occasional visits from Connecticut. Dr. Mueller has three grandchildren: Katie, Susan's daughter, and John and Chloé, children of Kurt and his wife, Judith.

Since his retirement Jack continues to revise *Deutsch heute*, now in its 10th edition, which now includes an audio-enhanced e-book and other interactive features. He has also worked with co-authors Simone Berger and Professor Anja Wieden of Oakland University to produce the ninth edition of *Kaleidoscop*, a text for intermediate German. In later years he has discontinued work on the high school editions, but continues to revise new editions of the college texts.

But back to the re-wiring: In his new life in the senior home in Ann Arbor, Jack has gone back to his first love. "Switching my major to German was the correct choice for my career, but I now have a piano in my apartment. I do accompanying for sing-alongs and even gave a recital here, although I don't play as well now as I did when I started at Oberlin," he admits.

Jack remembers Oakland fondly. Living in Rochester after his retirement allowed him to visit the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures often—keeping in touch with former and newer colleagues, keeping up-to-date on developments in the Department, attending student functions, events and presentations, even being one of the judges each year in various student contests involving speaking and writing. "I do miss my colleagues and students now," he admits. And he is mildly surprised that the Department functions so well without him, now that he is in Ann Arbor.

Gerry Palmer Coon served as administrative assistant and adjunct faculty member in the School of Education and Human Services from 1971 to 1991. She retired after eleven years as co-editor of Rochester OPC's (Older Persons' Commission) quarterly publication, Vintage Views, and is 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

World Music Concert with Paschal Yao Youngue

Friday, November 4th, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
All seats \$8
[Click here for more info!](#)

Oakland Symphony Orchestra
Sunday, November 6th, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
Tickets \$20
[Click here for more info!](#)

History Comes Alive Lecture Series

"Medieval Adventurism, Crusade and the Quest for Political Power: The Case of Bohemond of Antioch" By James Naus

Wednesday, November 9th, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Gold Rooms B & C, 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!](#)

The House of Bernarda Alba
Friday, November 11th, 8:00 - 11:00 p.m.
Varner Studio Theatre
Tickets \$15
[Click here for more info!](#)

American Songbook Series #4: The Songs of Jimmy Van Heusen
Saturday, November 12th, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Varner Lab Theatre
Complimentary
[Click here for more info!](#)

Heidi Grant Murphy, soprano and Kevin Murphy, piano
Chamber Music Society of Detroit at Oakland University
Sunday, November 13th, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
Tickets \$30
[Click here for more info!](#)

Oakland Jazz Singers and the Oakland Jazz Quartet
Wednesday, November 16th, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
All seats \$8
[Click here for more info!](#)

University Chorus and Oakland Chorale
Saturday, November 19th, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.
St. Irenaeus Catholic Church (771 Old Perch Road, Rochester Hills)
All seats \$8
[Click here for more info!](#)

Oakland University Chamber Ensembles Concert
Sunday, November 20th, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
Complimentary
[Click here for more info!](#)

Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band
Tuesday, November 22nd, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
All seats \$8
[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.

SAVVY LIVING



How to Find and Hire a Good Handyman or Contractor

What's the best way to find a good handyman or tradesman to do some work around the house? I've have had some bad luck lately with unprofessional workers who do shoddy work and charge too much. [Read More](#)