



Even though Spring Commencement brings this academic year to a close, the Pioneer Club Planning Committee continues to organize interesting and engaging activities for our retired faculty and staff. Please take a few minutes to peruse the latest [campus news](#) and [calendar of events](#)!

### **Pioneer Club Event Recap**

Winter semester proved to be a busy one for Pioneer Club members with a variety of fun events for retirees and their families.

- **Pioneer Club Day at the O'Rena** ~ Scores of guests attended Pioneer Club Day at the O'Rena to watch an exciting OU Men's Basketball game that included a pre-game luncheon at the Oakland Center.
- **Sunset Terrace Tour and Reception** ~ In spite of less than perfect weather, George and Alison Hynd hosted the Pioneer Club earlier this month for a terrific open house tour and lovely reception at Sunset Terrace. Attendees reminisced, sharing interesting stories of their experiences at Sunset Terrace over the decades.

### **Save the Date**

Planning is currently underway for upcoming events open to ALL retirees and their guests. We hope you will join us for the following:

- **Bells, Books and Bites** - July (TBD) ~ Special tour of Kresge Library, including OU Chronicles presentation, followed by lunch and concert by the Elliott Tower Carillon. Stay tuned!
- **OU Night at Comerica Park** - Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. ~ Group transportation from OU to Comerica Park to watch the Tigers take on the Pirates. More information to follow!
- **Homecoming 2017 Pioneer Club Brunch** - Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. in the Oakland Center. Watch for your invitation by mail in August!

### **Group Lunches**

The group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:oupioneerclub@oakland.edu) or call (248) 370-4325.

### **Campus Update**

The Presidential Search Committee has chosen two finalists from a pool of 61 candidates to serve as the next president of OU: Carl Camden and Ora Hirsch Pescovitz. Each finalist recently visited campus for open forums with faculty, staff, students and community members. [Click here](#) to read an article on the

two finalists that appeared earlier this week in the *Detroit Free Press*. The Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting and press conference on May 4<sup>th</sup> to announce the next president of the University.

### **Newsworthy**

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, OU celebrated the dedication of the Laidlaw Room, named in honor of longtime university supporter, Gary Laidlaw. The multipurpose seminar room is housed in Oak View Hall, home of OU's Honors College. Many of you may remember Laidlaw who passed away in 2016. He was a devoted alum and served as chair of the OU Foundation Board of Directors. [Click here](#) to read the full story.

### **Pioneer Profile**

By Gerry Coon

George and Teresa Gamboa

Professor Emeritus George J. Gamboa had been attending Oregon State University as a Marine Biology graduate student before serving four years in the Air Force during the Vietnam War. Returning to school at Arizona State University, he changed his major to Behavioral Biology and wrote his master's thesis on the behavior of leaf-cutter ants. After earning his Ph.D. studying wasp behavior from the University of Kansas in 1979, he joined Oakland University's Department of Biological Sciences in 1980.

Teresa Gamboa retired from Oakland in 2009 after 23 years, first in the Placement and Career Services Office and later in the Office of the Registrar. She remembers the long registration lines that snaked around in the Oakland

Center in the old days and experiencing the problems of computerizing registration. "We went from 36 part-time employees during enrollment to 10 to 12," she reported.

During his 31 years of teaching and research at Oakland, George Gamboa spent much of his research time at the 110-acre OU Biological Reserve on campus. Despite developing a life-threatening allergy to wasp stings, he continued his research on the behavior of the paper wasp, *Polistes fuscatus*, which colonized the 100 wasp nest boxes that he constructed and placed on the OU Reserve. Gamboa relied extensively on videography to record the behavior of the wasps. His research focus was on kin recognition in social wasps, especially the role of learning and the nature of the cues used in recognition.

Gamboa's research produced 70 peer-reviewed articles and several NSF grants. He suggests that one of his most interesting contributions, though, was a BBC production, filmed at Oakland and shown later on PBS, of the uses of forensic entomology to solve crimes. "BBC brought a very life-like cast of a human skull and asked me to transfer a wasp colony into the skull. They then filmed the activity of the wasps as they entered and left through the eye sockets of the skull. BBC was on-site for three or four days, and it was fascinating to watch them film with their great cameras and expensive lenses."

George's interest in cameras was predictable, as he is an avid photographer himself, specializing in bird photos. In fact, in 1972-73 he provided most of the photographs for an animal behavior book. When asked if he had entered any of his photos in contests, his wife, Teresa, mentioned that he had.

George's wry comment on that was, "I once entered a bird photo and took third place. It may have been because the first and second place photos were both nudes!" His most recent special photos include the Florida Scrub Jay, a threatened species.



One of George's prize photos: The endangered Florida Scrub Jay.

The Gamboas are veteran travelers, listing Australia (including Tasmania), New Zealand, the Galapagos Islands, Machu Picchu, Ireland, Costa Rica, Hawaii, Alaska, and a recent cruise up the Atlantic coast from New England to Quebec City as some of their favorite trips. George used video film he shot in the Galapagos in his animal behavior classes at Oakland. Their last trip to Australia included a stop in Darwin, Australia, where they learned of its important role during World War II.

The Gamboa house in Oakland Township is a Victorian showplace due to their extensive collection of antique furniture and display of antique photographs.



George and Teresa in front of a door they rescued from one of Detroit's Victorian Era houses. Their house contains many more such treasures.

They are involved with the Michigan Photographic Historical Society and have a nice collection of daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, and tintypes from the mid 1800's. In addition to collecting antiques, they have resurrected their interest in coin collecting because of their identical twin grandsons' interest in coin

collecting. The boys, aged twelve, are establishing a collection of Wheat Pennies while George is again collecting Indian Head Pennies.

Both Gamboas are avid cyclists and frequently ride the Paint Creek and Macomb Orchard Trails. At OU, George was often found on the racquetball court before being sidelined by bad knees. George and Teresa fill some of their retirement days by volunteering at Gleaners, St. Andrew Church, and the Older Persons Commission's Meals on Wheels Program. Since they have a minivan, they assist with the delivery of seasonal items like Easter and Christmas baskets for various organizations.

In 2003, George and Teresa established an endowed scholarship at Oakland University in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, which is geared toward supporting student summer research. "Many students don't have the time to conduct summer research because they have to work full time to support their education." George also said, "My greatest satisfaction is to see my former students achieving success in their academic area. Three of my former students are currently faculty at Cornell University. Also, three of my past students are Special Instructors in OU's Department of Biological Sciences."

The Gamboas enjoyed their careers at OU, especially their interactions with students and coworkers. They look forward to continuing their association with OU through the Pioneer Club and the activities for retirees available through the Club.

*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](mailto:oupioneerclub@oakland.edu).

### **Upcoming Events**

Senior Thesis Exhibition in Studio Art & Graphic Design

Tuesday - Sunday: Noon - 5 p.m., April 14<sup>th</sup> - May 14<sup>th</sup>

OU Art Gallery

Free admission

[Click here for more info!](#)

Irving Berlin's I Love A Piano

Select dates and times, April 19<sup>th</sup> - May 14<sup>th</sup>

Meadow Brook Theatre

Ticket prices vary

[Click here for more info!](#)

Gold Vibrations at the Rochester Hills Public Library

Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Multipurpose Room, Rochester Hills Public Library

Free admission, registration required (you will need a RHPL card to attend)

[Click here for more info!](#)

Meadow Brook Garden Club Perennial Plant Sale

Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Meadow Brook Hall

Free admission

[Click here for more info!](#)

Wiley and the Hairy Man

Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Varner Recital Hall

Tickets \$10, \$6 for children, two and under free

[Click here for more info!](#)

"Frogs of Michigan" by Gordon Lonie

Presented by the Meadow Brook Garden Club

Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:15 a.m. ~ coffee/refreshments, 10:00 a.m. ~ program

Meadow Brook Hall

\$5 donation for non-members, reservations not required

[Click here for more info!](#)

Why Do Fools Fall in Love?

Select dates and times, May 24<sup>th</sup> - June 18<sup>th</sup>

Meadow Brook Theatre

Ticket prices vary

[Click here for more info!](#)

Tiffany Glass: John Dodge as Patron

Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Meadow Brook Hall

Admission \$15 (\$13.50 for MBH members)

Reservations required ~ call (248) 364-6252 to make a reservation

[Click here for more info!](#)

Free Fridays - Meadow Brook Hall House Tour

Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (self-guided tour)

Meadow Brook Hall

Free admission, reservations not required

[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.