



# THE PIONEER CLUB STAY INVOLVED.

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February 2015

February's bone-chilling temperatures have made the shortest month of the year feel exceptionally long. Undaunted by winter's icy grip, faculty, staff and students remain focused on the unique teaching and learning opportunities available at OU. Please take a minute to catch up on the latest [campus news](#) and [calendar of events](#).

### 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.

### Campus Update

Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine has been granted a full, five-year accreditation by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges and the American Medical Association. The newest medical school in the state, OUWB will graduate its inaugural class of 47 students this May. [Click here](#) to read the full story.

### Proposed Mission Statement

Last month, President Hynd shared a new Mission Statement for the University during his second "President's Report" to the campus community. The yet-to-be finalized statement, drafted by the University's Strategic Planning Committee, follows:

"Oakland University is a preeminent metropolitan university that is recognized as a student-centered, doctoral research institution with a global perspective. We engage students in distinctive educational experiences that connect to the unique and diverse opportunities within our region and beyond.

Through faculty-driven and student-engaged research, scholarship, and creative activity, Oakland University advances knowledge and art in a diverse and inclusive environment.

Oakland University is an active community partner providing thriving civic, cultural, and recreational opportunities and valuable public service."

For more details on what this means for the University, [click here](#) to view President Hynd's January 20<sup>th</sup> presentation.

### Pioneer Club Athletics Outing

In our first ever athletics outing to a Men's Basketball game, twelve retirees and their multi-generational family members gathered last Sunday for an afternoon of fun. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to see old friends and meet new people over a hearty lunch in the Oakland Center. A drawing was held for two courtside seats and Marguerite and Allan Jacob were the lucky winners. Following lunch, the group headed over to the O'rena to cheer the Golden Grizzlies on to a decisive victory over University of Illinois-Chicago. Although OU students were on Spring Break, the O'rena was packed with fans which made for an exciting atmosphere. Photos will be posted [here](#) under the Pioneer Club tab soon! We hope to schedule more sporting events, such as a Men's Baseball and Women's Soccer game in the warmer months.

### By the Book

Anyone interested in a book discussion group? Please let us know if a book club appeals to you by emailing [pioneerclub@oakland.edu](mailto:pioneerclub@oakland.edu). We will keep you posted on the feedback!

### Pioneer Profile

By Gerry Coon



Geoff Brieger

As with all retirees who are enjoying their additional leisure time, Gottfried (Geoff) Brieger continues to pursue the same extra-curricular interests as he did when he was working as a Professor of Chemistry at Oakland University. "I always felt that I owed my employer a 40 hour week," he says, "and that the things I did with the rest of the time ought to follow my own interests. But I was always extremely thankful for the opportunity to teach, paid 'on the public dole' as it were. I therefore felt that I had an obligation to return something to those who were paying my salary."

Geoff and his wife, Inge, lived in Pontiac during the first 15 years after they moved to Michigan from California. Though they now live in Huntington Woods, they have fond memories of those years spent in Seminole Hills. "It was the greatest neighborhood I have ever lived in," he commented. His commitment to community, therefore, focuses on the socio/economic conditions of Pontiac.

His participation in that community ranged from racial relations, mayoral campaigns and hospital trusteeship to sesquicentennial preparations where he organized symposia sponsored by Oakland University, Oakland Community College and Baker College with the theme of building Pontiac through public, private and citizen partnership. Largely because of this past experience he is currently acting as intermediary for President Hynd's new initiative for collaboration between Oakland University and the city. [Read more about the "Town-and-Gown" partnership here](#). As chair of the Economic Development Transition Task Force in Pontiac, he is working with the mayor and was a member of the steering committee for the city's 2014 Masterplan.

The redevelopment of failing metropolises is only one of Brieger's major interests. The second issue that concerns him greatly is the relationship between man and war. He teaches one class in the Honors College per semester, with the subject being entirely at his own discretion. This semester his topic is War and Peace (not the novel, but the concepts and implications). His previous experiences with this topic include serving on the board of the Cranbrook Peace Foundation, a Conflict Resolution Center, and the American Friends' Service Committee. He reasons that college students need to be encouraged to examine this subject because they are often so immersed in study that they fail to keep abreast of current world affairs and issues.

There is also a lighter side to Geoff's interests. He has self-published a book of "occasional" poems called *Well-Versed Friends*. Many of the friends are, of course, Oakland colleagues, past and present. He has also volunteered with the Oakland County Pioneer Historical Society in Pontiac and has published a book, *Pontiac, Michigan: A Postcard Album*, based on over 1,000 postcards of Pontiac collected since the 1970s.

Geoff and Inge continue to travel widely. Their next trips include one to Durango, Colorado, to visit his grandson and family.

Gottfried Brieger sums up his current activities as "...a continuation and expansion of the things I have always done in the areas of peace, public service, and history since 1963." Not a bad way to spend those retirement years.

*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 planning committee.*

Pioneer Profile is a feature that appears periodically in the Pioneer Club eNewsletter. Anyone interested in being profiled or if you have suggestions on fellow retirees to showcase, please share your contact information and details with us at [pioneerclub@oakland.edu](mailto:pioneerclub@oakland.edu).

### Richard J. Burke Lecture

The Richard J. Burke Lecture in Philosophy, Religion and Society  
"Moral Objectivity and Social Justice" presented by Amartya Sen

Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Banquet Rooms, Oakland Center

Admission is free, but reservations are required

RSVP by April 10 to reserve your special Pioneer Club seats to [pioneerclub@oakland.edu](mailto:pioneerclub@oakland.edu)

[Click here for more info!](#)

### Upcoming Events

An American Revolutionary – 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Women & Gender Studies Film Festival

Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-3:30 p.m.

1050 Human Health Building

Free admission

[Click here for more info!](#)

History Comes Alive: Blueprint For Hate: The enduring legacy of The Turner Diaries

Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Gold Rooms B & C, Oakland Center

Admission is free, but reservations are requested

[Click here for more info!](#)

Meadow Brook Lecture on International Affairs

"The Geopolitics of Cheap Oil" presented by Michael L. Ross

Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Meadow Brook Hall Ballroom

Admission is free, but registration is recommended

[Click here for more info!](#)

Oakland Symphony Orchestra in Detroit Residency

Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit

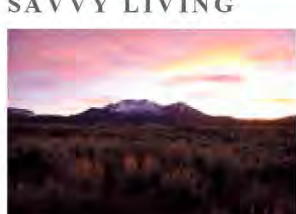
Tickets \$20

[Click here for more info!](#)

### About the Pioneer Club

The purpose of the Oakland University Pioneer Club is to provide social, educational and volunteer service 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



#### **Do You Need To File A Tax Return in 2015?**

What are the IRS income tax filing requirements for retirees this tax season? I didn't have to file last year, but I picked up a little income from a part-time job in 2014 and I'm wondering whether I need to file this year. [Read More](#)