
Pioneer Club News: June, 2016

It has been said that a perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken. We hope your summer is off to a great start! Please take a moment to catch up on 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 to organize activities for Pioneer Club members. If you are interested in joining the planning committee or would like more information, please email oupioneerclub@oakland.edu or call (248) 370-4325.

Newsworthy

Many of you may remember former School of Education and Human Services dean Robert Maxfield who was instrumental in launching the Galileo Institute. He and his wife, Sara, recently funded a teacher leadership initiative called Galileo 3.0. [Click here](#) to read the full story.

Campus Update

Project Upward Bound, OU's longest running continual community outreach effort, is celebrating 50 years of student success. To learn more about the program and the variety of activities planned to mark its golden anniversary, [click here](#).

Pioneer Profile: Howard Splete

By: Gerry Coon



Howard Splete was a high school counselor in Binghamton, New York, spending his summer vacation touring Europe, when he met a friend who recommended him for a teaching job in a Department of Defense (DOD) elementary school in Nuremburg. At a faculty party he met Marlene Rebits, a first grade teacher from Royal Oak, also teaching at the DOD school. For three years the two took advantage of the school holidays to ski and expand their knowledge of the countryside by traveling with their colleagues during every school holiday. They made many friends, exchanging visits and correspondence over the years. They were married in Germany in 1961, and returned to the United States in 1962, at the end of the school year.

Marlene and Howard moved to New York, working as teacher and counselor, respectively. Then in 1964, Howard received a National Defense Educational Grant to continue his education at Michigan State University. He earned his Ph.D. in counseling while acting as counselor in the Okemos School District. He joined the faculty of Wayne State University (WSU) in 1970. Upon learning that Wayne had a program for military personnel in Europe, he and Marlene and three children (Andy, age 6, Chuck, 4, and Nancy, merely 1 year old) spent the next four months in Berlin, Germany, and Aviano, Italy. "We must have been crazy," recalls Marlene. Howard taught courses in counseling to army and air force personnel while Marlene managed the household and three young children.

Howard and Marlene

Splete

They returned stateside and Howard remained at WSU as a professor and department chair until 1978. At the same time he was active in both the National Career Development Association (NCDA) and the National Center for Certification in Education (NCCE), teaching courses and presenting at conferences and serving as president for a term in each. He remains active in those organizations at present, serving as an independent consultant.

The courses and conferences Dr. Splete originated currently extend over 14 countries, ranging alphabetically from Bulgaria and China to Taiwan and the United States, and deal with language and culture as well as counseling practice. One of his favorite memories is of a three-time series in Qatar where he finally broke through the “glass ceiling” and had men and women in the course working together in groups instead of segregating themselves on opposite sides of the room.

Howard joined Oakland’s faculty in 1978 as a professor in the Department of Human Resources Development (HRD) in the School of Education and Human Services (SEHS). He and Bob Brown later separated the functions of counseling and human resources and Splete became chair of the SEHS Department of Counseling and the director of Oakland’s Adult Career Counseling Center.

When the National Occupational Informational Coordinating Committee (NOICC) granted Oakland University funds to develop the Oakland University Career Development Institute, Howard Splete and Judith Hoppin, from HRD, collaborated to create the Career Development Facilitator (CDF) certification. The CDF certification developed into the Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) certification that currently has 18,000 practitioners in 14 countries. International adoption of this certification changed the focus of the training of para-professional counselors from theory to practice, broadening the concepts of career development counseling to aid many populations in many environments.

It was this notable innovation to the counseling profession, plus his active participation in many counseling organizations, that prompted the NCDA to award Howard the Eminent Career Award in 2013. This is only one of the many awards Howard has received, but it is the one he is most proud of because it represents far-reaching consequences in the quality of counselor preparation. He was also honored by Oakland University when he was named a Distinguished Professor.

From 1968 to 1990 Dr. Splete completed visiting professorships during the summer at Michigan State University, Central Michigan University, St. Lawrence University, University of Colorado and Colorado State University. During his professorships at WSU and Oakland, Splete took three sabbatical leaves, each one including travel to foreign countries, speaking to local and national career developers, conducting courses and conferences and producing numerous articles. His trip to New Zealand and Australia in 1995 was notable in that he was able to provide suggestions on revising programs in both countries and in both English and Maori.

Among Splete’s many publications are numerous published papers, three monographs, three book chapters and five co-authored books. His most recent book, *Career Development Facilitator Curriculum*, was co-authored with Judith Hoppin and published by NOICC in 1996.

Dr. Splete has not slowed down much since his retirement in 1996. From then to 2002 he participated in NCDA and NCCE international conferences yearly, including Berlin, Warsaw, Tokyo and London. In 2004 he spent a week in China, helping counselors there to adapt the GCDF curriculum to the Chinese language and culture. “Culture was often the hardest part,” says Howard. “In Japan I learned a lesson on just how far down one should bow to thank the audience. In Qatar I accidentally touched a female student in congratulation and had to apologize profusely. Language problems were solved in several ways—sometimes simultaneous translation with ear buds, but often there was a lag while we waited for a translator to speak. Q and A became a problem then.” He found that many in his audiences spoke English as a second language, but small group work was often a problem.

Howard and Marlene still live in Rochester where they regularly entertain the families of the three children they schlepped to Germany, now including seven grandchildren. Howard is currently working on a memorial biography of his father, who was an important force in Howard’s hometown of Carthage, New York. Marlene spends much of her time at her new hobby of quilting, but keeps in touch with retired colleagues from North Hill Elementary. They continue to travel extensively, including several return trips to Nuremberg. They recently traveled with son, Chuck, and his family to Germany to visit Splete relatives and get reacquainted with the places where the whole story began.

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 if you have suggestions on fellow retirees to showcase, please share your contact information and details with us at oupioneerclub@oakland.edu.

Upcoming Events

Summer Carillon Concert Series
Fridays at 6 p.m. (July 1st - August 5th)
Elliott Tower
Complimentary
[Click here for more info!](#)

Jazz in the Garden: Dave Bennett Band
Thursday, July 7th 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Meadow Brook Estate
Tickets \$27/members \$30/non-members
[Click here for more info!](#)

Jazz in the Garden: The Lentini Duo
Thursday, July 14th 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Meadow Brook Estate
Tickets \$27/members \$30/non-members
[Click here for more info!](#)

Books, Bites and Bells
Pioneer Club Event
Tour of Kresge Library Archives followed by lunch and carillon concert
Friday, August 5th 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Complimentary
Invites are being mailed out this week!
RSVP to 248.370.4389 or oupioneerclub@oakland.edu.

Save the Date

Homecoming and Reunion Weekend
September 23rd - 25th
Faculty and Staff Retiree Brunch
Friday, September 23rd 10:00 a.m.
Oakland Center, Oakland Room
Invites to come in August
[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



Deciding What to Do in Retirement

I just turned 62 and am financially prepared for retirement, but I'm less certain about how to spend my time after leaving work. Can you recommend some resources or tools that can help me with this? [Read More](#)

Oakland University, Office of Planned Giving, Anibal House 630 Pioneer Drive, Rochester, MI 48309-4401

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