

While students are gearing up for the whirlwind of activity that a new academic year brings, the entire campus community is looking ahead to OU's favorite fall tradition, Homecoming and Reunion Weekend (September 23-25, 2016). Keep reading for more information! Please take a few minutes to peruse the latest [campus news](#) and [calendar of events](#)!

Membership Has Its Privileges

Did you know that when you retire from OU you automatically become a member of the Pioneer Club? There are no applications to fill out and no annual dues to pay - just fun and interesting social opportunities to keep you connected to the University.

OU is fortunate to have a supportive, engaged and generous group of retired faculty and staff. In appreciation of your dedicated service to the University, the Pioneer Club provides a variety of cultural, intellectual and recreational programs that encourage camaraderie and foster the Oakland spirit.

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.

Homecoming and Reunion Weekend

Hopefully, you already have September 23-25, 2016 marked on your calendar for OU's Homecoming and Reunion Weekend! With a wide array of exciting activities, food, music and more, there is literally something for everyone during the three-day extravaganza. For a complete listing of scheduled festivities, [click here](#). Here are a few events we know will be of great interest to our Pioneer Club members:

Retired OU Faculty and Staff Reunion Brunch

Friday, September 23rd
10:00 a.m. ~ Oakland Room, Oakland Center
Complimentary, registration required
Register by emailing oupioneerclub@oakland.edu or calling (248) 370-4389

22nd Annual Alumni Awards Banquet

Friday, September 23rd
6:00 p.m. Reception ~ Main Entrance, First Floor – Oakland Center
7:00 p.m. Dinner and Program ~ Banquet Rooms, Oakland Center
Tickets \$100/person
[Click here to register!](#)

OU's Music, Theatre and Dance Performance- "Black & Gold"

Saturday, September 24th
7:30 p.m. ~ Varner Recital Hall
Complimentary, RSVP appreciated
RSVP by emailing mtd@oakland.edu or calling (248) 370-2030

Pioneer Profile

Margie McCartney

By: Gerry Coon

A great secretary develops organizational and communication skills that will help keep his or her place of employment working at its optimal level. Margie McCartney was one of those great secretaries, and she hasn't lost any of those skills that made her such an important part of the development of Oakland University. She became a secretary at her local junior high school right after she graduated from George S. Gardiner High School in Laurel, Mississippi, in 1951. Then she moved to South Carolina with her parents where she worked with the Savannah River Atomic Energy Project before moving to the Welducton Corporation in Oak Park, Michigan. There she typed quotations describing equipment for aircraft companies as the estimator sat next to her and reeled them off. No computers then— typing had to be fast and accurate. Good practice for the job to come.

Margie came to Oakland on February 24, 1961, as secretary to George Karas, then the University Engineer and the first employee on campus. Their department was known as the Physical Plant and consisted of Grounds Maintenance, Mechanical Maintenance, Structural Maintenance, the Telephone Department, the Cleaning Department, new construction, and later the Police Department. Among other duties she was in charge of payroll for all employees and students employed there. "My main job was taking dictation and transcribing, plus keeping up with the budget for the Physical Plant Department. It was great fun," she says, "because I took the notes (shorthand was my specialty) at all of the planning meetings for the new buildings which were built while I was here. I kept up with all the contracts, change orders, contractors, bidders, final cost of the buildings, square footage, and any other details.



When I came, the campus had only North and South Foundation Halls and a small part of Oakland Center. Then came Wilson Hall, Dodge, Hannah, the Lepley Sports Center and the Kresge Library, plus all of the dorms up until my retirement. It was an exciting time."

Some of the exciting events she remembers are: swimming in the pool of the newly finished Lepley Sports & Recreation Building in January, slogging through mud with other secretaries and Chancellor Varner to view construction of the Meadow Brook Festival, ushering at the Festival, chaperoning a group of students to Nassau for a week, and attending the first play at the Meadow Brook Theatre in Wilson Hall. The play was "The Caucasian Chalk Circle."

When Mr. Karas retired from Oakland University, Mr. Alan Miller asked Margie to plan his retirement party, to be held at Meadow Brook Hall. Contractors, friends and family, and Oakland faculty,

including Chancellor Varner, (who returned for the occasion) accounted for the 92 guests for dinner and festivities.

When Margie retired on May 30, 1996, she received a special tribute from the State of Michigan for 35 years of productive service to the university. It was signed and sealed by Hubert Price, Jr. State Representative for the Forty-Third District.

Several years before she retired, Margie organized and maintained communication among a group of her friends, all CTs and APs now retired from OU. She has christened the group the "Golden Oldies," and tries to keep the group apprised of happenings in each other's lives. She especially enjoys sending her corny jokes to her friends. After all, she says "laughter is the best medicine you can get!"

Over the years the group has declined, however those remaining make every effort to come together once a year. They may come with canes, walkers, or wheelchairs, and some from as far away as Florida, Arizona, Kentucky, Virginia and California, *but they come whenever they can*. A daughter of one of the "Golden Oldies" recently contacted Margie to tell her how much those emails and meetings had meant to her mother in her declining years. The women enjoy renewing old acquaintances and reliving some of the events that happened, mainly because Oakland was a small but growing institution where everyone had a chance to meet everyone else, and inter-departmental friendships were common.

Margie's husband, Jim, was a Mason for over 60 years and was involved in many of their charitable fundraising events. That association also took the couple on travels around the country. Additionally, they traveled to Spain, Hawaii, Mexico, Brazil, many of the islands, and took several cruises. Margie enjoyed para-sailing and water skiing and even took a hot-air balloon ride over Traverse City.

The McCartneys had a dog kennel while living in Ortonville, Michigan. At one time Jim was breeding, selling and taking care of 42 *Bouvier des Flandres* dogs. Their own dog, Tokum, lived for 12 ½ years and was later replaced by a German shepherd named Bingo, who lived for 13 ½ years. October of 2001, they sold their house in Ortonville, Michigan, and moved to Interlochen, Michigan. Jim passed away in 2012, and now Margie spends most of her time tending to the maintenance of her home and mixing with the people from her church, the Grant United Methodist Church in Buckley, Michigan.

Margie spends the long winter days in Interlochen keeping up her correspondence with the "Golden Oldies," and looking forward to their annual reunion. She just can't stop being a "good secretary" and friend to those with whom she shared her working years. We could all wish for such a secretary, couldn't we?

Gerry Palmer Coon served as administrative assistant and adjunct faculty member in the School of Education and Human Services from 1971 to 1991. She is a co-editor and writer for the Rochester OPC (Older Persons' Commission) newsletter and a member of the Pioneer Club. She also writes for Vintage Views, a publication of the OPC.

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

Regina Carter and the Oakland Jazz Quartet
Saturday, September 10th, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
Tickets \$20
[Click here for more info!](#)

David Gaines: A Little Business Under the Big Top
Friday, September 16th, 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
Tickets \$14
[Click here for more info!](#)

Ben Wendel Group featuring Gerald Clayton, Joe Sanders and Henry Cole
Tuesday, September 20th, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
Tickets \$14
[Click here for more info!](#)

"History Comes Alive" Lecture Series
Don Matthews: The Origins of the War in Syria
Wednesday, September 21st, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Banquet Room B, 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!](#)

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



Donating Old Hearing Aids, Eyeglasses and Mobility Equipment

Where are some good places to donate old hearing aids, eyeglasses and mobility equipment? My uncle passed away a few months ago and left behind a bunch of useful aids that could surely help someone

else. [Read More](#)

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