



Well, it's that time again! Faculty, staff and students are gearing up for the beginning of another academic year as well as OU's favorite new fall tradition, Homecoming and Reunion Weekend. Here is the latest [campus news](#) and [calendar of events](#)!

Group Lunches

The retiree group 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.

Homecoming and Reunion Weekend

Hopefully, you already have September 18-20, 2015 marked on your calendar for OU's Homecoming and Reunion Weekend! [Click here](#) for a complete listing of scheduled festivities. Here are two events we know will be of great interest to Pioneer Club members:

Retired OU Faculty and Staff Reunion Brunch

Friday, September 18, 2015

10:00 a.m. ~ Oakland Room, Oakland Center

Complimentary, **registration required**

Register by emailing oupioneerclub@oakland.edu or calling 248-370-4389

Join fellow Pioneer Club members for a reunion brunch, reminisce about the good old days and get an update on all of the exciting things happening at OU.

Alumni Awards Banquet

Friday, September 18, 2015

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

[Register](#)

The OU Alumni Association is hosting the 21st Annual Alumni Awards Banquet, honoring those who have achieved success in business, community service, volunteerism and more.

Don and Jan O'Dowd, president emeritus and former first lady of OU, and Mary Beth Snyder, former vice president of student affairs and enrollment management, will be presented with Honorary Alumni Awards for their outstanding service to the University. [Click here](#) for a list of all 2015 Alumni Award recipients.

This event is filling up very quickly. Be sure to reserve your place today.

Newsworthy

Earlier this month, President Hynd reflected upon his "freshman" year at Oakland University while addressing incoming freshmen during their orientation. [Click here](#) to read the full recap.

Campus Update

Paul R. Schroeder was recently named associate vice president for enrollment management. To learn more, [click here](#). OU appointed Stephen P. Weiter dean of University Libraries. [Click here](#) to read the full story.

Pioneer Profile

By Gerry Coon



Michael Riley, Professor of Biomedical Sciences in the Eye Research Institute for 31 years, and his wife, Stephanie (Stevie) Riley, Director of the Lowry Early Childhood Center for 15 years, have officially retired. However, you'll have to move quickly, or make an appointment, if you want to catch them. Retired is a relative word for these two active people. Their days are filled with activities that benefit the community around them.

Even before retirement, the Rileys were active in the Habitat for Humanity movement. In fact, they have been involved with Habitat for over 20 years! Among their favorite memories is the "blitz build," where as many as 300 people joined together to build houses in Detroit. One such blitz constructed 17 new homes. For those occasions, Stevie was the "caterer," making sure that all of the participants were fed and kept hydrated. Asked what his responsibility was, Michael answered with his typical grin, "Whatever they told

me to do." He admitted that often required a lot of on-the-job-training. They are now active in a smaller group sponsored by 7 or 8 churches and the Rotary of Rochester, a subset of Habitat for Humanity in Oakland County. This coalition is currently rehabbing existing houses in the Pontiac area rather than building new ones.

But the Rileys don't limit their participation to the local arena. They have been active in mission trips (rebuilding and rehabbing) to Costa Rica, West Virginia, and New Orleans for Habitat and for their church, University Presbyterian. For example, after Hurricane Katrina, Stevie (and others) organized the congregation to donate specific books which they delivered and catalogued to establish a new library in a school. Through their church they also support student missions to Haiti and other needy communities.

As part of her church commitment, Stevie plans one portion and teaches in five-week thematic units at Sunday school for grades 1-5, and serves on the mission committee. Their church is also grateful for a beautiful Meditation Garden which the Rileys designed and maintain all summer long. "We don't do much gardening at home," says Stevie, "because the Meditation Garden is a lot of work."

Despite these commitments, the Rileys are frequent travelers. In addition to the mission trips mentioned above, they travel to England every three or four years. Michael grew up there, and they lived in London the first six years of their marriage. Their four children were born there, so they have many fond memories and friends and family members to visit.

Recently they have traveled to Cincinnati to attend a tennis tournament and to Traverse City for the film festival. They speak highly of the trips sponsored by the Older Persons' Commission in Rochester, having travelled with the group to South Africa, Eastern Europe, and The Jewels of France.

As do many retirees these days, Michael and Stevie spend some time traveling to visit their children. Kirsten and one grandchild live in Arizona, Rob and wife, Kelly, live in Grand Rapids with their two children, Chris lives in Berkley, and Stuart has two boys and lives in Brighton. Raised by community-minded parents, the four represent one doctor, two educators, and one who oversees sports and recreation for the city of Southfield. A team anyone could be proud of.

When not traveling, their days are full. Stevie works at Will Rogers Elementary School library on Tuesdays. Wednesdays she is at the Clothes Closet, Fridays she participates in Case Study for Neighborhood House and every other Monday is at the Rochester Hills Public Library. She is also on the Board of the Neighborhood House and helped fill 35 food baskets for the food pantry at Christmas time. Michael also keeps active and busy. He plays racquetball three times a week and is a National Champion Pickleball player with the Senior Olympics. Somehow or other they also manage to fit in tutoring once a week at elementary schools in Detroit, Hampton in Rochester, and Will Rogers in Pontiac. At one time they were both members of the Detroit Reading Corps.

When first built, their beautiful home in Rochester Hills overlooked the entire University Campus. Twenty-plus years of growth has camouflaged that view, but in the winter time they can see the new Carillon Tower from their deck. They are proud and grateful for their years at Oakland University, but they have taken their skills and interests and tireless dedication along with them to help make the wider world a better place for everyone.

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 sharing suggestions on fellow retirees to showcase, please provide your contact information and details to us at oupioneerclub@oakland.edu.

Upcoming Events

OU Jazz Band at the Detroit Jazz Festival
Saturday, September 5th, 12:45 – 1:30 p.m.
Hart Plaza (Detroit)
Free admission

[Click here for more info!](#)

Alta Dantzler, faculty voice recital
Saturday, September 12th, 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall
Free admission

[Click here for more info!](#)

Iphigenia based on Euripides' Iphigenia at Aulis
Sunday, September 13th, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Varner Studio Theatre
Pay what you wish

[Click here for more info!](#)

Jeffrey Heisler, faculty saxophone recital
Wednesday, September 23rd, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall

Free admission

[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.