



**Summer has officially arrived!** We hope you are enjoying the warm temperatures. While you're sitting poolside, please take a few minutes to catch up on the latest campus news and calendar of events!

### **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:

- Books, Bites and Bells - Friday, August 4th, 10:30 a.m. 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 9th, 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 13th, 10:00 a.m. in the Oakland Center. Watch for your invitation by mail in August!

### **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](mailto:oupioneerclub@oakland.edu) or call (248) 370-4325.

### **Campus Update**

Earlier this month, OU's Board of Trustees voted unanimously to appoint Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D., as its president, beginning July 1st. Pescovitz will become Oakland University's seventh president, succeeding George W. Hynd, who is completing a three-year term. [Click here](#) to read the full story.

## **Newsworthy**

Laura Schartman, director of the Office of Institutional Research, is the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Administrative Professional Award. Recognized for her tireless dedication and commitment to the growth and success of Oakland, Schartman is a two-time OU alumna and 40-year employee of the University. To read more about Schartman's well-deserved recognition, [click here](#).

The First-Destination Survey Report, produced by OU's Office of Career Services, shows positive trends for recent OU graduates in the job market and other post-graduation endeavors. The survey revealed a 92% placement rate, which was the highest in eight years. [Click here to view highlights of the report in a detailed infographic](#).

## **Pioneer Profile Janice Schimmelman**

By Gerry Coon

It would not be fair to say that Jan Schimmelman is retired. Although she no longer teaches classes and attends meetings at Oakland University as Professor of Art History, she is fully self-employed as owner/founder, researcher, writer, typist, editor, proof-reader, layout artist and publisher of Collodion Press, which specializes in books on 19th Century photography. "A truly one-woman operation," she admits. Jan's first Collodion Press book, *Warren Avenue & West Side Industries*, was published in 2010. It reproduced a promotional photo album that was made in 1920 to encourage the growth of business along Warren Avenue from Detroit to Dearborn.



In addition to her new life as an on-demand publisher, Jan is also a scholar of 18th and 19th Century American art and has had her work on art and architectural imprints published by the American Antiquarian Society, the Winterthur Portfolio, G.K. Hall, and Oak Knoll Press. For nine years she was editor of the *Photogram*, the newsletter of the Michigan Photographic Historical Society.



*The Glass Stereoviews of Ferrier and Soulier, shown with a stereoscope and a glass stereoview.*

Jan was a student at Oakland from 1967-71, received her PhD from University of Michigan in 1980, began teaching at Oakland in 1976 and retired in 2011. During her 35-year tenure at Oakland she met and married Professor John Cameron, and together they traveled and collected. Yearly visits to Paris produced a collection of over 3,000 glass stereoviews dating from 1852 to 1908, which were the pride of John's extensive photographic collection. After John's death in 2008, Jan established the Cameron Endowment in Art History at OU and then went on to publish *The Glass Stereoviews of Ferrier and Soulier*, a

book featuring his collection from the work of the French firm, Ferrier and Soulier. This book is the seventh Collodion Press publication, with three having been offered to and accepted by the Library of Congress, and five more in the planning stage. Her books are available through Blurb.com.

In addition to glass stereoviews, Jan and John collected American tin--types and daguerreotypes, 19th Century drawings, ancient Roman glass, medieval thimbles, cast iron windmill counterweights and many other things, always keeping aesthetic and historic value in mind.



*Isabeau, Jan's parrot, perched on a windmill weight ca 1910.*



*A mahjong set manufactured by the Pung Chow Company, 1923*

One of her favorite collections consists of mahjong sets from the 1920s and 30s. She can trace the history of mahjong tiles from bone and bamboo to celluloid and then to Bakelite. Although she uses them when family and OU friends get together, she fiercely protects one rare bone and bamboo set from the 1920s that depicts Chinese soldiers engaged in war. Since she researches everything she collects, it is not unusual for her to publish her research and illustrate it with examples from her collection. Her first such combined interest resulted in her book, *The Tintype in America 1856-80*, was published in 2007 by the American Philosophical Society. She has collected tintypes since 1992, and has one of the finest individually owned collections.

Asked for advice for novice collectors, Jan replied, "Collecting is a knowledge game. You need to know what you are looking for, then do the research and determine its market value." She then cited her early mistake when buying a little orange plastic hen that laid an "egg" (actually a white marble) when pushed. It reminded her of a similar tin toy that was once owned by her great aunt. She bought it on impulse, later finding that she had greatly overpaid. She now buys them when she sees them and keeps the row of little hens on display as a reminder. What does Jan wish for the future of the items in her collections? "I hope that someday someone else will buy them. I consider myself a preserver of these memories of the past so that someone from a future generation will find them and get joy from them, just as I have." Spoken like a true art historian.

*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**

Why Do Fools Fall in Love?

Select dates and times, May 24th - June 18th

Meadow Brook Theatre

Ticket prices vary

[Click here for more info!](#)

Summer Carillon Concert Series

Fridays at 6:00 p.m., June 23rd - July 28th

Elliott Tower

Free admission

[Click here for more info!](#)

Pioneer Club: Books, Bites and Bells

Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup> 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Kresge Library, Elliott Tower (weather permitting)

Invites coming via mail early-July

Pioneer Club: OU Night at Comerica Park

Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>

Game time 7:10 p.m.

Round trip transportation

Invites coming via mail late-June

Pioneer Club: Retiree Homecoming Brunch

Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m.

Oakland Center

Invites coming via mail in August

### **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.