

This afternoon we celebrate the work of one of Oakland's own....Professor Daniel Clark, whose recent insights into American labor history is inspiring a rethinking of the cultural implications and accepted mythology of the auto industry.

The travails and successes of the auto industry have a profound impact on those of us living and working in Michigan.

Professor Clark's bold, timely assessment derived from oral histories presents a deeper, first-person understanding of the day-to-day realities of middle-class union workers.

The strength of the work lies in challenging accepted explanations and preconceptions – exactly the purpose of rigorous scholarship.

It's the work of Professor Clark along with other OU faculty members that distinguishes Oakland as a relevant and vital institution of higher learning...a university that generates knowledge that forms a critical, compelling and lucid

perspective of how the latest interpretations in science, history, politics and the humanities shape our understanding of the world.

The President's Colloquium, which began in 1995, is an Oakland tradition. Each year, we come together to recognize that outstanding academic and research work is at the heart of our endeavor to foster an engaged, thriving higher education institution.

In recent years, the colloquium featured such work as Professor Shillor's "The Mathematics of Change," and Professor Pfeiffer's "The Biographer's Dilemma."

In 2018, Professor Matthew Fails presented his provocative lecture, "The High Price of Cheap Gasoline."

And, last year, in his lecture, "The Dead Past and Living Present," Professor Jeffrey Insko offered a thoughtful examination of how history is often judged by the standards of the era in which history is chronicled.

While today's President's Colloquium features Professor's Clark work, it also presents a moment for us to pause and appreciate the great scholarship and research conducted by Oakland University faculty working in a range of academic fields.

Let's keep up the great work, and raise the bar on what we can accomplish, and let's always be mindful of Oakland's mission to create knowledge that enhances our understanding of the world.

Thank you so much for being here this afternoon, and honoring the great work of one of our own.