

COLLYER'S
AMERICAN
DREAM
P. 14

BAYMILLER
UNBOUND
P. 26

INTERSTELLAR
SCIENCE
P. 10

OBERLIN ALUMNI MAGAZINE SPRING 2015



**Charm City
Baltimore
Mayor Stephanie
Rawlings-Blake '92
and the
Art of Politics**



SAMUEL HORNE '17

As summer approaches, students consider what to do during their months away from Oberlin. For some, the prospect of an unpaid or low-paid internship is financially out of reach, but thanks to the generosity of the Class of 1965, that wasn't the case for Sam Horne '17 last summer.

Sam went to work for Boulder Food Rescue, a nonprofit helping to create a more just and less wasteful food system. In less than three years, BFR redistributed more than 576,000 pounds of food to the hungry and homeless and to low-income families. While there, Sam worked to implement a bulk buying program for the elderly living in Boulder Public Housing and helped fundraise to ensure BFR would continue its mission of helping to create a more compassionate and sustainable world.

Sam and other students are able to take advantage of life-changing internships and opportunities because of Oberlin alumni and their support.

The Class of 1965, in honor of their 50th reunion and in memory of Dr. King's speech at their commencement ceremony, established the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Internship (MLK) Fund to support high-quality internships. Each year, this gift from the Class of 1965 grants at least 10 students the opportunity to pursue professional, artistic, and socially beneficial goals that might otherwise not have been possible.

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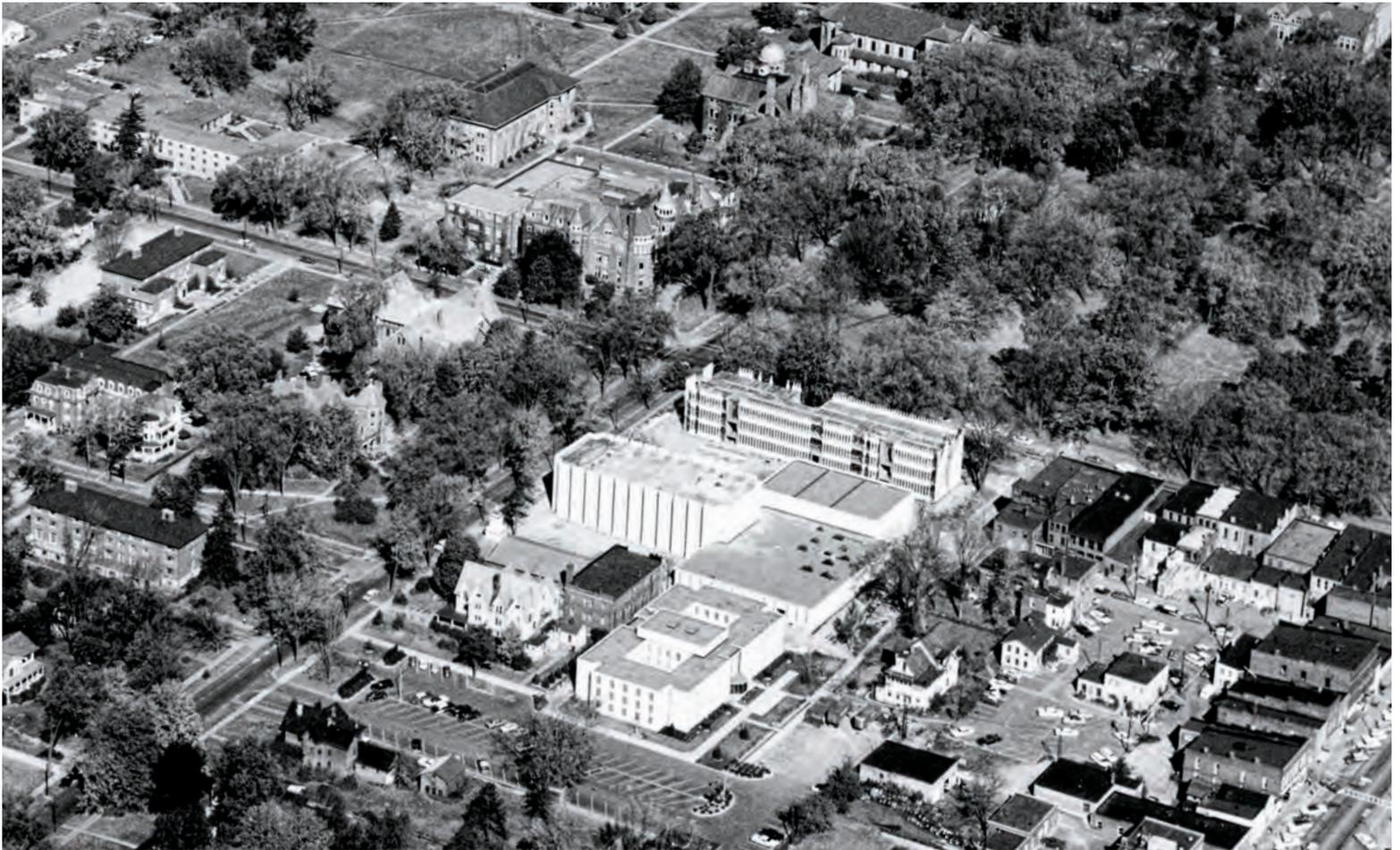
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CON-QUEST An aerial view of the campus from 1964 shows, at top, the old Warner and Rice halls, which housed much of the programs of the Oberlin Conservatory and, at bottom, the new conservatory complex, dedicated in 1964. Warner was demolished that same year to make room for the King Building.

ON THE COVER: Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake '92 followed in her father's footsteps—but clearly in very different shoes. Photograph by Tanya Rosen-Jones '97 for OAM.

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WORKING TOGETHER TO FULFILL OBERLIN'S MISSION

SINCE LATE NOVEMBER, THE OBERLIN COMMUNITY HAS BEEN reflecting on and responding in various ways to the tragic, lethal events in Ferguson, Cleveland, New York, and elsewhere, which put the spotlight on the systemic injustices African Americans and other people of color suffer daily in our country.

The pain and anger felt by many of our students, alumni, faculty, and staff because of the effects in America of discrimination and violence on black people and other people of color helped give rise to the national Black Lives Matter movement. They also sparked demonstrations, debate, and discussion here on campus. We have had and continue to have sometimes difficult but important conversations about how to respond to these tragedies and the issues they surfaced. Similar discussions are going on across the nation and at many other colleges and universities.

At Oberlin, the issues of race and racism have special resonance. We—as a community—believe in employing Oberlin's teaching, thinking, and scholarship to help end injustice, violence, and oppression in our society and the world. Those goals have been part of Oberlin's institutional DNA since the founding of our college and town.

Oberlin is, above all else, an institution of higher education where multiple viewpoints and dissent have always been present. Our faculty and staff have always insisted on academic freedom and freedom of speech. Assigning grades and evaluating student progress has always been and will remain the prerogative of each faculty member. Their teaching, research, and mentoring drive the distinctive education that Oberlin offers. That education centers on love of learning, hard work, and constant striving to learn, grow, and make positive contributions to one's field of study, community, and our society. We are proud of our great tradition of social activism. But it does not supersede our academic mission.

I believe I speak for the vast majority of the Oberlin community—students, faculty, staff, parents, and alumni—when I say we support the cause of racial justice. We do so as individuals and as stakeholders in one of the world's leading institutions of higher education, a college and conservatory with a unique, historic, and enduring commitment to diversity and inclusion.

The struggle to achieve those goals has been long and difficult. Despite significant progress, it is far from over. The persistence of grim headlines in the daily news speaks to the enormity of our task.

As Oberlinians, we embrace that work. In that spirit, we must acknowledge that we need to continue to make more progress to ensure a diverse

and inclusive student body. Diversity and inclusion are essential parts of our mission to provide a deep, rigorous liberal arts education that enables our students and faculty opportunities to achieve academic, artistic, and musical excellence. That excellence encompasses the highest standards for liberal and musical education and diversity, inclusiveness, and social engagement. Fulfilling that mission requires all of us—faculty, students, staff, alumni, and parents—to work together to find ways to ensure that Oberlin is a diverse, inclusive, academic community in which all students have the opportunity and support to succeed.

To that end, Oberlin's leadership is taking a number of steps. These new initiatives include: creating a Campus Climate Team to identify key challenges and opportunities and assess the college's progress in meeting its goals for equity, diversity, and inclusion; the Historical Legacies Project, which will bring together faculty, staff, and students to explore the history of Oberlin College's continued commitment to educational access; and the Committee on Active Engagement, which will explore Oberlin's active engagement with diverse ideas and perspectives in recognition of the importance of freedom of thought, inquiry, speech, and assembly.

Making our shared goals for diversity and inclusion a reality demands that we think, talk, and work together with open minds and hearts. While each of us has the right to protest or dissent in constructive ways, disrupting teaching and learning and employing threats, intimidation, and misinformation serve only to divide our community.

We can debate how well an Oberlin education prepares students to achieve their personal goals and to have a positive effect on our society. But we cannot make progress if we do not work together to fulfill Oberlin's academic mission.

The primacy of the academic mission, and the faculty prerogatives and the values of freedom of thought and inquiry on which it stands, must be inviolable if Oberlin is to remain one of the world's great institutions of higher education and a force for good in the world.

To change hearts and minds, to overcome entrenched prejudice, to end violence and oppression, and to foster a safe learning environment, we must work and learn together, even as each of us strives for peace and justice in our personal and public lives.

MARVIN KRISLOV
President, *Oberlin College*



HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE AND DISADVANTAGE.

Your cover article on the new athletics complex was well received (Winter 2015). Dick Bailey's gotta be smilin' up there! Dick was on the football (and track) team for four years. He never started a game, and he played in just a few. That was Oberlin athletics then. Few people realize what part his father played in cleaning up the Jack Scott/Tommy Smith fiasco and in restoring Oberlin intercollegiate sports. An article would be interesting for today's readers. In the meantime, here's to all the Dick Baileys.

TOM PALMER '51
Newtown Square, Pa.

Your latest issue focused more than ever on the importance and impact of teams and facilities around athletics, physical fitness, and health and wellness. There have been so many terrific comments and photos exchanged, triggered by the outstanding efforts around the Knowlton gathering space and the Bailey pitch. Leadership on campus has continued for years to understand and improve what "sport" is all about and why it's important. That was the word, the concept that dragged my attention to one of several in key leadership roles, particularly Jack Scott (when I was a student) and now, Natalie Winkelfoos.

When I returned to campus in 1978 as assistant vice president for alumni/development, we faced two major questions: Do we SAVE football (16 players for the 1978 season!) and how best do we improve sports options for women? We decided to save football and knew that much more energy was needed for women to gain access, have teams, and have equal facility support. Recognizing Heisman's brief relationship to Oberlin, I gained approval from the NYC Downtown Athletic Club, which awards the Heisman trophy, to use the name for Oberlin's sports support organization.

It's exciting to see another chapter in what has come out of the John Heisman Club since the late '70s. I helped coach women's basketball when I was an employee; I also was a basketball official and focused on women's high school and college games, in which having well-educated, fair officials was important.

Oberlin is in my trust whenever I make my final contribution. Having been encouraged to come to Oberlin in 1973 to play basketball, with a GPA and SAT scores nowhere near allowing acceptance, I still find myself very excited about just what Oberlin is and what contributions of time, energy, and financial support can mean for the donor and the institution.

MARTIN P. DUGAN '73
Holland, Mich.

It has long been known that football players sustain damage to their bodies, particularly to their knees. More recent evidence indicates that football damages the brains of players irreversibly. Football, while entertaining in the same way that gladiatorial contests were entertaining to the ancient Romans, is totally irrelevant to the primary mission of an institution of learning. It is incredible and appalling that Oberlin College, dedicated to the improvement of the minds of its students, should promote or even tolerate such an activity. Let Oberlin College take the lead by giving up its participation in this destructive sport.

ROGER SEARLE '58
Ithaca, N.Y.

Slightly horrified to find myself reading—with great interest—an article in my alumni magazine about the new athletics facilities constructed by my undergraduate alma mater. This is what 40 looks like, folks.

TAMARINE CORNELIUS '96
Madison, Wis. (via Facebook)

PEERS OF A CLOWN

It's a singular honor to find oneself on the cover of the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine* (Fall 2014, "Clown Royal")—and it was a great pleasure to get to talk with writer Dade Hayes '93. He deals very graciously with interview subjects, no matter how much they dither.

There were two things that got lost in our conversations, or in his space constraints, as he wrote the story. And you know old-timers, we're

always trying to set the record straight. One is that, from my point of view, Robert Fuller was a very good president for Oberlin in the turbulent 1970s. It was a difficult era for institutions, and he did well. The other is that my collaboration with two important people—colleagues who were part of some of the best work I ever got to do—didn't make it into the article.

Doug Skinner '76 and Michael O'Connor '73 and I experimented with theater pieces in and around the Warner building in that long ago time at Oberlin. Then we kept working in San Francisco after leaving Oberlin. Some of the shows that first got me on an Off-Broadway stage in the 1980s were created by the three of us. We've appeared together in this century, also.

No reason any of this should have any meaning for hard-working undergraduates today (and more power to them). But it's important history for an old fart, and so I'm trying to offer up better quotes this time.

BILL IRWIN '73
New York, N.Y.

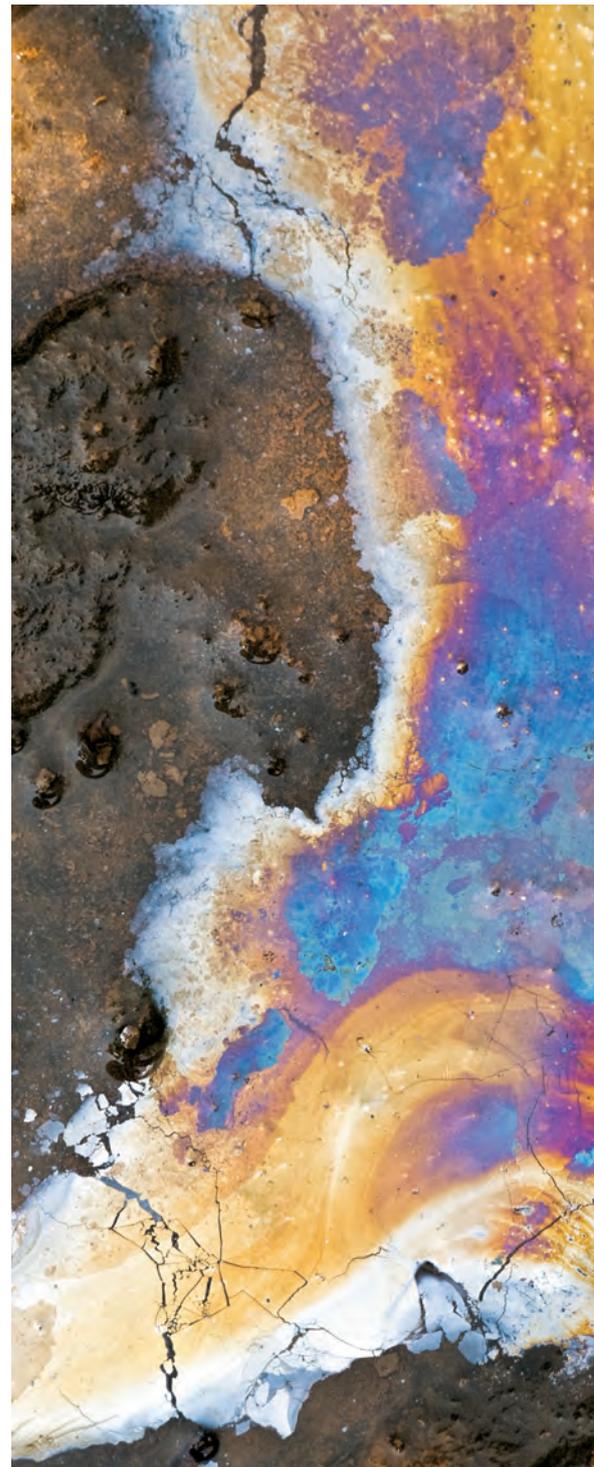
The excitement over the arrival of the latest alumni magazine was different than it'd ever been when my 2-year-old son noticed Mr. Noodle on the cover. I often begin my reminiscing the moment I find the magazine in my mailbox, but this time, I had to wrestle for it. I recall Bill Irwin offering a workshop or two during my time in the theatre and dance department, and for that reason I was looking forward to reading about a familiar face, but Mr. Noodle's image was promptly (yet delicately) torn from the rest of the pages and carried around for a week or so, being introduced to various stuffed animals, toys, and trucks. It's nice to know that Oberlin's alumni magazine can reach even the little people who have yet to travel to Ohio. And who knows, maybe my little boy has a little clown in him yet.

SARAH WOLFMAN-ROBICHAUD '01
Vancouver, B.C.

BUILDING OPPOSITION

I recently read my colleague Professor Richard Spear's timely letter concerning the way in which Oberlin chooses its architects and the rather miserable results. It continues to amaze me that colleges and universities that contain excellent museums and boast of their dedication
(continued on page 41)

Around Tappan Square



Mineral Spirits

SINCE RETIRING FROM OBERLIN College in 2001, former *Oberlin Alumni Magazine* editor **Linda Grashoff** has been obsessed by bacteria. Not in a germaphobe

way—in fact, just the opposite. She has been exploring the benign bacteria in and along Ohio’s Vermilion River that make iridescent films and colorful precipitates as the microbes interact with iron in the water. The result is *They Breathe Iron: Artistic and Scientific Encounters with an Ancient Life*

Form, a hefty coffee table book full of beautiful photographs that she describes as “part science, part field guide, part art, and part artist’s statement.” A number of Oberlin-related people have had a role in the book, including Grashoff’s husband, David H. Benzing, emeritus Robert S. Danforth professor of biology,

who consulted on the book’s science, and David Orr, counselor to the president for sustainability and emeritus professor of environmental studies, who wrote the book’s forward. For more images and information, see lindagrashoff.wordpress.com (search for *Leptothrix discophora*).



DISCOPHORA FEVER
Images from *They Breathe Iron* by Linda Grashoff

Of Note:



CHARMED BOOK

A book published by Oberlin College Press, **Angie Estes' *Enchantee***, won the \$100,000 Kingsley Tufts Award, one of the world's most generous and prestigious poetry prizes. This is the fourth book by Estes—who taught for several years in Oberlin's Creative Writing Program—that Oberlin College Press has published.



PRESIDENT IN WEILL SCENE

Oberlin College President **Marvin Krislov** and his wife, Amy Sheon, founding executive director of the Urban Health Initiative at Case Western Reserve University, performed onstage for Oberlin Opera Theater's production of Kurt Weill's 1946 opera *Street Scene* in

November 2014. The opera was presented as part of Weill Week at Oberlin, a celebration of the composer that included lectures, talks, films, and a number of performances around campus. The events were supported by a grant from the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music. For more information, visit news.oberlin.edu.



LONE STAR STUDENTS

Three science students received honors for their presentations at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) in November 2014 in San Antonio, Texas. The conference includes a program of scientific sessions, professional development workshops, student oral and poster presentations, and talks by leading scientists.

Marisa Aikins, a senior physics major, and **Anne Chege**, a junior biochemistry major, took home prizes for their poster presentations in biophysics and neuroscience, respectively; junior biochemistry major **Edmund Korely** won the oral competition for presenting the neurotoxicology research he conducted

with Assistant Professor **Gunnar Kwakye** last summer. One of the conference's featured speakers was **Sonia Shah '90** (pictured, with Marcelo Vincas, who directs the Center for Learning, Education and Research in the Sciences, and Korley), an investigative science and health journalist who spoke about how poverty, war, and environmental disruption led to the widespread Ebola outbreak in West Africa. For more information, visit news.oberlin.edu.

WELL PRESERVED

Oberlin College and Westlake Reed Leskosky are among the recipients of the 2014 State Historic Preservation Merit Awards for the preservation and rehabilitation of the Apollo Theatre. The Preservation Merit Award, presented in October 2014, is for preserving Ohio's prehistory, history, architecture, or culture.



LIFETIME ACHIEVER

Oberlin Professor of Percussion **Michael Rosen** was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award in Education for 2014 by the

Percussive Arts Society. Established in 2002, the award recognizes the contributions of preeminent leaders in percussion education. Rosen was one of two recipients of the award, which was presented at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention held in Indianapolis in November 2014.

"I am so grateful to all the students I have had for teaching me and for giving me the honor of allowing me to pass on to them my knowledge and experience," Rosen said in Indianapolis.

"I came to Oberlin with every intention of having a place where I could practice and prepare for my next audition. To my delight, I realized that I had actually found my calling and that teaching was my future."

A member of the Oberlin faculty since 1972, Rosen was principal percussionist of the Milwaukee Symphony from 1966 to 1972, and he has performed with the Cleveland Orchestra and the Concertgebouw Orchestra, among others.

Rosen serves as director of Oberlin's Division of Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion. In addition to teaching, he conducts the Oberlin Percussion Group and directs the Oberlin Percussion Institute, a summer program open to musicians of high school age and older.



This page, from left to right: Matthew Rinaldi '69, Ken Mostow '63, Joe Gross '67, Marcia Aronoff '65, Gail Baker Schmidt '55, Eric Seitz '65, David Reed '65, Sydney (Zeiler) Reed '64; opposite, left: Marcia Aronoff '65, one of more than two dozen students who helped to rebuild the Antioch Baptist Church in Ripley, Mississippi. Opposite page, bottom right: Oberlin contractor Burrell Scott, who directed the Carpenters in construction work;

They Had a Hammer Role of Oberlin students in rebuilding Mississippi church in 1964 honored with historic marker

BY AMANDA NAGY

THE WORK OF OBERLIN COLLEGE alumni who in 1964 volunteered to rebuild a Mississippi church that was destroyed by fire following a voter registration rally has been commemorated with a new historical marker. The marker is part of a cultural initiative that honors the

men and women who were a part of the civil rights movement in Mississippi in the 1950s and '60s.

The marker was dedicated on January 17, the weekend before Martin Luther King's birthday, with a ceremony at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Blue Mountain, Mississippi.

The church, founded by former slaves, was the first black church in Tippah County, Mississippi, and it was active in voter registration efforts. It was also one of nearly 40 churches that were burned or bombed in Mississippi during a six-month period in 1964.

Five Oberlin students took part in a Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party voter registration rally featuring civil rights activist Fanny Lou Hamer the night the church was burned to the ground. In response, Oberlin Professor of Philosophy Paul Schmidt and his wife, Gail Baker Schmidt '55, proposed to

Oberlin's student civil rights organization that they rebuild the church. The students raised the money and recruited students, faculty, and community members to rebuild the church during Christmas recess.

A team of nearly two dozen Oberlin students and three faculty members, along with a skilled contractor from Oberlin, traveled to the site to offer their skills, calling themselves Carpenters for Christmas. A volunteer engineer from Littleton, Massachusetts, and students from several other colleges joined in the effort. For nearly two weeks, the



Associate Professor of Christian Education David Jewell; David Reed '65; Mary Miho '68; Randy Furst '68; Stan Gunterman '67; Marcia Aronoff '65; Associate Professor of Philosophy Paul Schmidt; unidentified person (back row, left to right); Robert Moore, David Esmond '66; Jerry VonKorff '67, Joe Gross '67, Alex Jack '67, and Richard Cooper '65 (front row, left to right).

volunteers labored alongside church members to rebuild the church from the foundation up. Between December 22 and Christmas Day, the team completed the foundation and erected four walls in time for Christmas services led by the church's pastor, the Rev. John R. McDonald. They completed most of the church before leaving to return to school.

The marker takes its place on the Mississippi Freedom Trail—a virtual tour of the state that provides an in-depth look at the people and places that played a pivotal role in the fight for justice and equality.

The first Freedom Trail markers were unveiled in 2011 in conjunction with the 50th anniversary and reunion of the 1961 Freedom Riders.

The idea for including Antioch church and Carpenters for Christmas among Freedom Trail markers was initiated by Matt Rinaldi '69. Although he wasn't enrolled at Oberlin at the time, Rinaldi participated in civil rights activities in the Deep South, and he was inspired by the Carpenters' project when it made national headlines. Until now, there had been no Freedom Trail marker for any of the destroyed churches.

"The churches were the only places

where civil rights meetings could be held, and all of the ones destroyed had held meetings to talk about voter registration," says Carpenters volunteer Marcia Aronoff '65. "We undertook the project so that the churches would know there were people who would stand behind them and help them if there was retribution for their efforts. We were there to work, but we were also there to bear witness to the courage of local African Americans and the continuing need for our democracy to perfect itself."

Rinaldi enlisted the help of Aronoff and her fellow Carpenter Joe Gross '67 in raising the money

needed to fabricate the marker, about \$10,000. Support came from former Carpenters and other Oberlin alumni, as well as a contribution from the Oberlin College president's office. It is one of two privately funded markers on the Freedom Trail.

Aronoff says she is pleased that the marker sets the record straight by stating that the church was destroyed following a voting rights rally. "At the time, the official police position was that it must have been an electrical short, that it was not arson," she says.

To date, 16 markers have been installed on the Mississippi Freedom Trail. ■

Thought Process



The bartenders at Brillig make their cocktails very, very dry.



Absolutely Frabjous

BY JEFF HAGAN '86

“WE ALL HAVE OUR DEMONS, OUR JABBERWOCKY,” says Nic Sims '90, referring to the Lewis Carroll nonsense poem of the same name that appeared in *Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There*.

It's because of such demons that Sims opened Brillig, the pop-up, alcohol-free “dry” bar that first popped up a couple of nights late last year

at her husband's Mighty Good Coffee, a local roaster and café in downtown Ann Arbor, Michigan. Brillig is a word from *Jabberwocky* in which the slaying of the problematic Jabberwock is celebrated as a “frabjous day.”

Sims is not an alcoholic but knows many people who are: “I'm an ally. I love a lot of alcoholics.” Among them is her mother, now sober for more than three decades. Sims herself has attended Al-Anon meetings for 30 years and hasn't had a drink in 20.

“I come from a family of alcoholics and people with mental health issues. It's just something that most of the people I love struggle with in various ways. Brillig is a space intended to provide love and support and that feeling of celebration.” She knows of a similar place in the U.K., but Brillig is the only such entity—“a bar-like night spot, as opposed to a café opened at night”—that she knows of in the U.S.

At Brillig Dry Bar, Sims—a former chef whose day job is account director at a digital marketing agency—offers specialty drinks and a compact ▶

POMEGRANATE-ROSEMARY SODA

We asked Nic Sims, proprietor of Brillig Dry Bar, to share one of her alcohol-free cocktails.

DIRECTIONS

1. Make a simple syrup by heating up 1 cup brown sugar, 1 cup water, and about 6 fresh sprigs of rosemary. Bring just to boil and stir to ensure all sugar is dissolved. Let cool.

2. Fill a tall glass 1/3 with ice

3. Add 1 oz. (jigger) of pomegranate juice and 1 oz. of rosemary simple syrup.

4. Fill to top with club soda or plain seltzer. Stir. Garnish with rosemary sprig. Add more juice or syrup to taste. Play and enjoy!



menu of snacks such as a cheese and fruit tray, unique cookies, and a charcuterie board. The idea grew partly out of a desire to make the space work harder for the business, which is a way a bit from Ann Arbor's main commercial strip. "It's not a natural place for people to go," says Sims, "but people will come for a destination."

So, in a partying college town, who goes to a bar that doesn't serve what bars generally serve? Turns out, lots of people. On the inaugural night, instead of the 50 friends Sims was expecting, 300 people showed up for the live jazz, wassail, and Brooklyn egg cream.

"The recovery community showed up, college kids who are underage showed up, the Muslim community showed up. [Mosaic Youth Theater of Detroit founder] Rick Sperling '89 showed up with his wife, who is pregnant—so pregnant women showed up. All ages came. It was the most diverse experience I've had in Ann Arbor." Sims says every color, every type of tattoo and piercing, and every gender identification was represented. Two men traveled from Flint to scout out the bar for friends. Sims has had thousands of calls, emails, and texts, one of which was to talk about franchising ("I think tongue-in-cheek, but it's a good idea," she says). She's been interviewed by BuzzFeed, NPR, and Ann Arbor's MLIVE.COM.

Sims opened Brillig for a second night at the end of December to such great success that she now opens every other Saturday. Brillig not only has no alcohol (not even in its food or bakery), it also has no televisions nor other elements of media culture. Instead, Sims plans to schedule game nights or live music. "All Oberlin musicians are wanted," she says. "100 percent! This is almost a community center with a bar-like feeling. And that's the point. When I came back to working with food, I thought the food would be my focus. It's not—at least not yet. It's way more about the people and the feeling of being there."

Despite the demons, Sims says she's "wired for happiness" and feels that when doing what she loves, success follows. When she quit a job several years ago to follow her life dream of being a chef, she won a competition that netted her a \$50,000 kitchen makeover and founded a catering company, which she operated for five years. Brillig brings together many aspects of Sims' life, right down to a name lifted from literature that appealed to the former English major.

"When I show up as my most authentic self—who am I? I don't drink; I'm a mom—when I bring that out, the universe goes f'ing bonkers." ■

BOOKSHELF

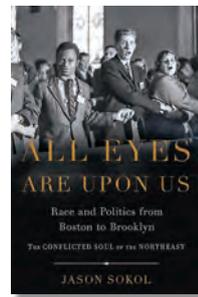
Recent Releases

BY LIV COMBE '12

Tomorrow Is My Turn Rhiannon Giddens '99

NONESUCH RECORDS

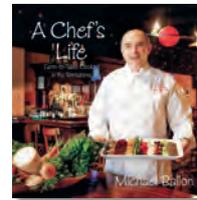
Oberlin opera major Giddens came to the forefront of the music industry at the forefront of the Carolina Chocolate Drops, but her powerful, sultry voice is breaking out on its own. After working with T-Bone Burnett on *The New Basement Tapes*, the folk artist/producer dream team is at it again with *Tomorrow Is My Turn*. With notes of gospel, jazz, blues, country, and rock n' roll, this album takes the listener through Giddens' own American history.



All Eyes Are Upon Us: Race & Politics from Boston to Brooklyn. The Conflicted Soul of the Northeast Jason Sokol '99

BASIC BOOKS

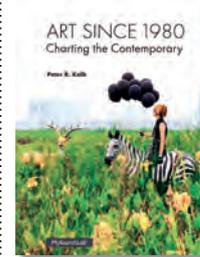
The northeast has a history of political liberalism and racial equality, but the full story is never as black and white. Sokol, assistant professor of history at the University of New Hampshire and a skilled storyteller, digs below the surface and examines the civil rights movement from a political slant, starting with the Civil War and continuing through the election of President Obama.



A Chef's Life: Farm to Table Cooking in the Berkshires Michael Ballon '78

CASTLE STREET CAFÉ

Don't expect pages and pages of bucolic recipes from *A Chef's Life*, Ballon's ode to living, working, and cooking in the Berkshires for the past 25 years. As owner and chef of the Castle Street Café in the town of Great Barrington, Mass., Ballon's "cookbook" takes form in 45 short essays—part memoir; part interviews and profiles of customers, staff, and farmers; and part inside look at what it was like to be cooking farm-to-table before it became a nationwide trend.



Art Since 1980: Charting the Contemporary Peter Kalb '91

PEARSON

An associate professor of contemporary art at Brandeis University, Kalb's latest publication surveys modern work produced from the late 20th century into the early 21st century. Taking an in-depth look at everything from painting to photography, sculpture to installation, performance to video art, Kalb introduces examples of the different forms that, he writes, "can be called upon to help us define both the contemporary and art."



Ghostbelly Elizabeth Heineman '85

THE FEMINIST PRESS

What is it like to be both mothering and grieving for a child at the same time? A professor of history and gender, women's, and sexuality studies at the University of Iowa, Heineman's *Ghostbelly* recounts her home birth gone tragically wrong, ending in her baby's stillbirth. This courageous and intimate memoir examines the home birth and maternal health care industries while also showing the reader the profound depths of what it means to be a parent grieving for an unborn child.

The Science of *Interstellar*

OBERLIN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS ROB OWEN WAS PART OF THE RESEARCH GROUP LED BY PHYSICIST KIP THORNE, THE LEAD SCIENCE CONSULTANT FOR THE FILM *INTERSTELLAR*, WHEN THE FILM WAS IN ITS FIRST STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT SEVEN YEARS AGO. INTERVIEW BY BEN JONES '96

This film aligns closely with your area of research, and you mentioned that you've been waiting eagerly for seven years to see it. Did it meet your expectations?

It absolutely did. The central vision, as Kip described it from the very beginning, was to produce a movie where issues in general relativity (the science of spacetime, black holes, and wormholes) were central to a compelling story and were communicated accurately. I think they met that goal spectacularly well. Somebody actually sat down and calculated how massive the black hole would need to be, and how rapidly it would have to spin, for the time dilation effects in the movie to come out right. The special effects team actually rewrote the software underlying the computer graphics to trace the paths of light rays in curved spacetime, to give accurate visual images of what the black hole and the wormhole would actually look like to the eye.

Would you describe the science in the film as fairly accurate, overall?

Overall, I would say it's quite accurate, at least with regard to the issues that I have the expertise to judge. It should be noted that the story moves in on realms of theoretical physics where our current

knowledge is incomplete. The physics of wormholes is at this point incomplete—most physicists would agree that they likely don't exist as natural phenomena, but the question of whether they could be "built" by a civilization with extremely advanced technology remains open. Similarly, the events at the end of the movie—involving existence in a five-dimensional "bulk" universe, and the idea that what looks like time in four dimensions might be traversable like space in five dimensions—these ideas are quite speculative, but they are rooted in serious attempts at understanding quantum gravity.

How did you feel about the portrayals of things that in real life are purely theoretical at this juncture?

It's a dangerous business, but I think there's a lot of value in it. For all we know, someone might come along in just a few days and prove mathematically that the basic laws of physics completely forbid the creation of a wormhole, for example.

But it's important in science to remember that there are always phenomena that lie outside the realm of our current understanding. Some phenomena, such as wormholes and extra dimensions, are not fully understood yet, but our incomplete knowledge is enough for us to carry out a kind of informed speculation about what kinds of effects are possible. At some level,

that is the very definition of science: We build a hypothesis about new phenomena by extrapolating from our knowledge of past phenomena. We can't say whether such a hypothesis is true until we're able to test it, but working through the implications of our hypotheses can provide us with a means of establishing those tests. As one of many apocryphal Einstein quotes reminds us: Imagination is an important element of good science.

Turning our attention to the plot of *Interstellar*, I've been struggling with a logic question: How could the wormhole near Saturn have been placed there by future humans when they would have needed it in order to survive long enough to put it there in the first place? Does the addition of the fifth dimension mean that time is no longer linear?

The short answer is "yes." The longer answer: This is actually a really interesting question, and I think it gets at some very deep issues in relativity theory. In our ordinary experience, we think that all events have some set of events that precede them ("causes") and some other set of events that follow them ("effects"). In our ordinary experience, the causes are completely distinct from the

effects, the past is completely distinct from the future.

In general relativity, causality is not so simple. A wormhole, for example, is a phenomenon where space bends back on itself. But Einstein's relativity theories tell us that time and space are not distinct entities; that our three dimensions of space and one dimension of time are just particular cuts through a four-dimensional continuum that we call "spacetime."

The idea of space looping around on itself hopefully isn't too surprising if we think about it a bit. For example, if I walked due east and never stopped (and helpful people provided me with boats whenever I needed them), then I would eventually come back to where I started, moving in from the west. I would have simply walked around the Earth (not an easy task, by any means, but certainly consistent with the laws of physics).

What Einstein's general relativity shows us is that it's possible for spacetime to fold up on itself in such a way that one can march toward the future, but then eventually end up somewhere in what we would have originally called "the past."

This possibility leads to a slew of time-travel paradoxes, and to interesting questions about how the fundamental laws of physics might intervene to enforce a self-consistent history of events. How that might happen is not fully understood at this point.

The important thing is that in general relativity, "causes" don't necessarily have to precede "effects" in the sense of our ordinary experience. All that is required, as far as we know, is for history to be self-consistent. According to the story in *Interstellar*, humans survived long enough to develop the technology to build the wormhole because the wormhole was there to save them, and the wormhole was there to save them because they survived long

enough to build it. Either event can be considered the "cause" of the other, and there isn't a contradiction.

The idea seems purposely designed to throw our usual sense of causality off kilter. And when paradoxes like this one appear in other time-travel stories, the reason is usually either lazy writing or some kind of empty mysticism. In this case, however, I would bet that the apparent paradox was quite intentional, because one of the physicists who has been preeminent in the exploration of these issues of causality is Kip Thorne.

When the lead character falls into the black hole, we enter a scene that is obviously pure fantasy. Any thoughts on what one might actually experience in that situation?

Relativity theorists have shown that no experiment can be designed that would establish whether the experimenter is inside or outside of an event horizon. We could be inside a black hole right now and not even know it!

One thing we do know about black holes is that (like all localized sources of gravitational fields), they produce a phenomenon called "tidal stretching." This is the same phenomenon by which the moon raises tides on the Earth's oceans. If you were to fall into a black hole feet-first, your feet would be closer to the black hole than your head, and would therefore experience stronger gravity. This effect—your feet constantly being tugged more strongly than your head—inevitably leads to a stretching phenomenon that relativists call "spaghettification." For extremely massive black holes, like the one in the movie, this effect doesn't become strong until one is well inside the event horizon,



but assuming that our current non-quantum picture of spacetime can be trusted, this stretching would become infinitely strong as one approaches the singularity. There are also effects where the direction of the stretching might jump around chaotically, causing a kind of violent mishmash as the singularity is approached. One of my former students, Ben Lemberger '14, researched this phenomenon in an honors project at Oberlin last year.

Is there any scientific basis to the lead character's ability to manipulate past events from within the black hole?

The idea they put forward in the movie is that information

can be carried in the gravitational field (through an effect called gravitational radiation that both I and my Oberlin colleague Dan Stinebring spend a great deal of time studying) along paths that exit the four-dimensional universe, then traverse the five-dimensional bulk universe (where our "time" dimension acts as a space dimension, and is hence traversable in all directions), and then land back in the four-dimensional universe at an earlier time. This is an extremely speculative idea, but it is rooted at least qualitatively in the

Randall/Sundrum models, where gravity is the only field that is allowed to propagate freely into the five-dimensional bulk universe.

As a theoretical physicist, what is your take on the film's question of love as a force? Does love have a role to play in the laws of the universe, as the film implies? Or is that just Hollywood being Hollywood?

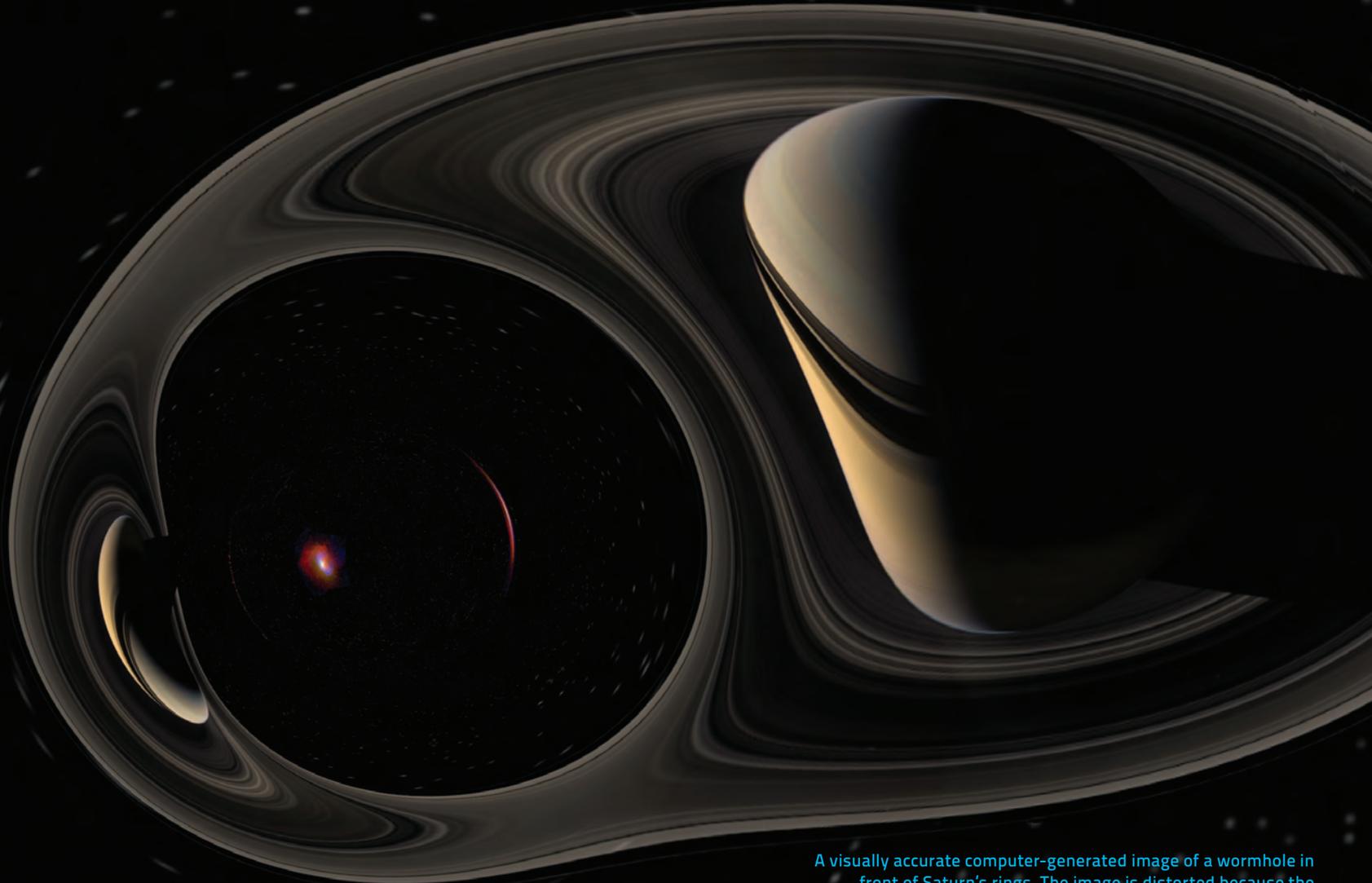
Well, it's important when communicating these subtle and sometimes arcane concepts that they be embedded in a human story. That was part of the original vision for this movie, going all the way back to 2006. A compelling human story is

important for the drama, obviously, but it's also important for fully communicating the science. So often, when we learn and lecture about these deep physics concepts, we treat it as a story of "person A" interacting with "person B," as if we're just working through a series of mathematical theorems and formulas. If we give a little more context than just the one-letter signifiers, we can emphasize that this isn't just about mathematical formulas, and it isn't just about a set of phenomena that one hears about in a

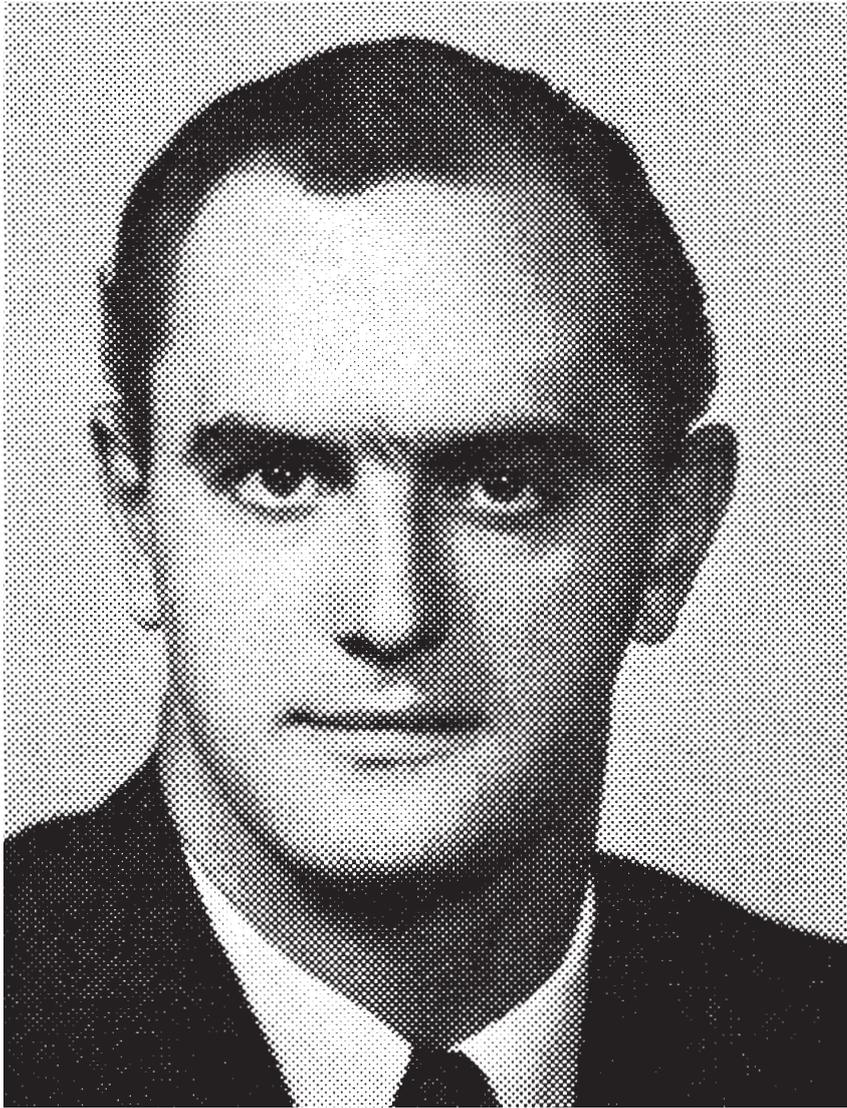
physics class and then promptly forgets. It's about our world—my home and yours. It's about how that world works, and about what we're experiencing when we experience it. Physics is about the structure of our experiences, and when we clothe our discussion in human terms, it helps us to more fully come to terms with it.

As for love being one of the fundamental forces in the universe, well yes, sometimes Hollywood just can't help itself. ■

To read the entire interview, please visit <http://news.oberlin.edu/articles/science-behind-movie-interstellar/>



A visually accurate computer-generated image of a wormhole in front of Saturn's rings. The image is distorted because the wormhole bends light rays around it. The exterior wormhole images in *Interstellar* were similarly accurate, but used wormholes that produced less visual distortion. Graphic created by Rob Owen.

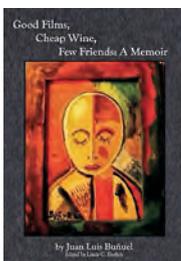


HI-O-HI WITH BUÑUEL Yearbook pictures include: (left) Buñuel in 1957, (below) on the bench, looking down, in the football team locker room in 1956, (bottom) Buñuel at a bike auction in 1957.



Good Films, Cheap Wine Luis Buñuel '57 Publishes Memoir

BY SEBASTIAAN FABER



WHEN JUAN LUIS BUÑUEL '57 first set foot in Oberlin in 1953 as a freshman from Mexico City, he thought he'd landed in a parallel universe. Campus wide, students were mesmerized by the McCarthy hearings. "It was a soap opera," Buñuel writes in his new memoir. "Very serious people were saying outrageous things." He says he couldn't help but laugh, but "quickly shut up when I saw the audience's faces. It seemed that Oberlin was next on the House Un-American Activities list. All the

professors were worried.... That the intellectuals of a huge, 'free' country like the United States should be held in terror by an alcoholic madman seemed to me unbelievable."

Half a century later, in the spring of 2004, Buñuel returned to campus to give a series of talks about his films and those of his father, the legendary surrealist Luis Buñuel. Once again, Juan Luis was in for a shock. Walking past the Chinese restaurant on College Street, he noticed wine bottles in the window and stopped in his tracks: "Wait, they sell alcohol here now? That's outrageous! What is the world coming to? In my day, if we wanted a drink, we went to the

speakeasies in Lorain. They had great jazz, too."

Juan Luis Buñuel, a sculptor and filmmaker, was born in 1934 in Paris, his hometown for decades. He's a cosmopolitan at heart who speaks three languages natively. The politics of his father—a staunch atheist, anti-fascist, and one-time card-carrying Communist—condemned the Buñuels to a life in exile. In the first 15 years of Juan Luis' life, his family lived in France, Spain, the United States, and finally Mexico City—a decidedly friendlier environment than Franco's Spain or McCarthy's America. In Mexico, Juan Luis attended the American High School while his father reestablished himself as one of the world's most creative and controversial movie directors.

At Oberlin, Juan Luis majored in English, determined to become a college professor. But the film world beckoned, and his life took a different path. The summer after graduation, Orson Welles

hired him as a bilingual assistant at the Mexican shoot of *Don Quixote*. This would become the first of a series of assistant gigs alongside directors such as Louis Malle, Luigi Comencini, and his own father. In the 1970s, Juan Luis shot some fantastic feature films of his own, including *La Femme aux bottes rouges* with Catherine Deneuve and *Leonor* with Liv Ullman. But most of his work has been in documentary.

In March 2014, Juan Luis' memoir, *Good Films, Cheap Wine, Few Friends*, was published by Shika Press. Edited by Linda Ehrlich, who teaches film at Case Western Reserve University, the book is a compendium of juicy anecdotes, cocktail recipes, household tips, and life lessons ("Never trust a politician... Or a very religious person"; "Always carry a Swiss army knife").

As his book relates, Juan Luis relished the intellectual excitement he found at Oberlin and the endless opportunities to cause trouble on what was still a conservative 1950s campus. "We used to have bull sessions to talk and exchange ideas, which would last until the early hours of the morning." Sunday mornings were dedicated to undermining organized religion. Having a late breakfast in town, Juan Luis and his friends would "hijack a couple of girls" on their way to church, "drag them into a café ..., buy them a cup of memorably bad coffee and a doughnut... and instill the seed of doubt in their minds." One wintry Sunday morning they snuck on to the lawn in front of the Methodist church and wrote a large-lettered message in the fresh snow: *There Is No God*.

"He had so many wonderful stories, I told him to write them down," says Ehrlich, who first met Buñuel during his 2004 trip to Ohio. "He replied that he already had, and sent me the manuscript." The book sat in a closet for 10 years. "To be honest, I was hesitant about trying to publish it," Ehrlich confesses. "The stories were great—but I didn't have time to check if any were exaggerated." In 2013, a friend convinced Ehrlich that in memoir, truth is always relative. She contacted Juan Luis, and together they worked for a year on the manuscript and gathered the more than 200 photographs that illustrate it. Among them is a memorable picture of Juan Luis in a mock crucifixion at Oberlin: "Charles Fitzgerald '58 was the thin Christ, and I was the fat Christ. Gwenn Judd '58 played both Mary Magdalene and the Virgin Mary. It was a success. We were even called into the dean's office." ■

SEBASTIAAN FABER IS PROFESSOR OF HISPANIC STUDIES AT OBERLIN, DIRECTOR OF THE OBERLIN CENTER FOR LANGUAGES AND CULTURES, AND CHAIR OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE ARCHIVES.



COLD-HEARTED

Woman Throwing a Snowball at a Girl Reading a Love Letter, an 18th-century color woodblock print by Japanese artist Suzuki Harunobu, on view at the Allen Memorial Art Museum through June 7, 2015. The work is part of *A Life in Prints: Mary A. Ainsworth and the Floating World*, an exhibition that features a selection of the more than 1,500 works bequeathed to the college by Ainsworth, Class of 1889, in 1950.

THREE PERSONS By Vijay Seshadri '74

**That slow person you left behind when, finally,
you mastered the world, and scaled the heights you now command,
where is he while you
walk around the shaved lawn in your plus fours,
organizing with an electric clipboard
your big push to tomorrow?
Oh, I've come across him, yes I have, more than once,
coaxing his battered grocery cart down the freeway meridian.
Others see in you sundry mythic types distinguished
not just in themselves but by the stories
we put them in, with beginnings, ends, surprises:
the baby Oedipus on the hillside with his broken feet
or the dog whose barking saves the grandmother
flailing in the millpond beyond the weir,
dragged down by her woolen skirt.
He doesn't see you as a story, though.
He feels you as his atmosphere. When your sun shines,
he chortles. When your barometric pressure drops
and the thunderheads gather,
he huddles under the overpass and writes me long letters with
the stubby little pencils he steals from the public library.
He asks me to look out for you.**

VIJAY SESHADRI, "THREE PERSONS" FROM *3 SECTIONS*, WHICH WON THE 2014 PULITZER PRIZE FOR POETRY. COPYRIGHT © 2013 BY VIJAY SESHADRI. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF THE PERMISSIONS COMPANY, INC., ON BEHALF OF GRAYWOLF PRESS, WWW.GRAYWOLFPRESS.ORG.

Stories from the Other Side of the American Dream For Laurie Collyer '89, filmmaking is an act of hope.

By Elizabeth Weinstein '02
Photographs by Christopher Wahl for OAM

IN AUGUST 2006, A VISIBLY PREGNANT MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL appeared on the *Late Show with David Letterman* to promote her latest film, *Sherrybaby*, which was about to come out in theaters.

"This movie is like a poor orphan child, you know? It needs my help. Like, I'm here, almost eight months pregnant, to say, 'Come see it,'" she told Letterman with a laugh, adding, "I really want to make it clear that it's not a downer!"

In *Sherrybaby*, Gyllenhaal plays Sherry Swanson, a 20-something heroin addict who is released from prison and attempts to reconnect with the young daughter she hasn't seen in years. The role earned Gyllenhaal a Golden Globe nomination. It also helped catapult Laurie Collyer '89, a then-unknown writer and director with a passion for telling stories about the underside of the American dream, into the spotlight as an independent filmmaker to watch.

To date, Collyer has written and directed a trifecta of films that tackle weighty social issues. She has also earned a reputation for telling unflinchingly honest stories about strong, troubled, complex women—a rarity in Hollywood. ▶

GRATE PERFORMANCE Laurie Collyer '89, right, photographed February 5, 2015, on the set of *Marilyn*, her upcoming miniseries for Lifetime.





Her first feature-length film, a documentary called *Nuyorican Dream* (2000), is about access—and the lack of it—to the American dream. The fictional *Sherrybaby* (2006) tackles privilege, drug addiction, and re-entry into society after incarceration. Her most recent film, *Sunlight, Jr.* (2013), stars Matt Dillon and Naomi Watts as a mostly homeless Florida couple struggling to stay above the poverty line.

Each earned critical acclaim—and award nominations—but, as Gyllenhaal noted on *Letterman*, films like these are not an easy sell to mainstream audiences.

Later this year, however, Collyer's name and brand will become familiar to a somewhat surprising demographic: viewers of Lifetime Television, for which she is directing a four-hour miniseries, *Marilyn*, based on the 2010 *New York Times* best-seller *The Secret Life of Marilyn Monroe* by J. Randy Taraborrelli. Actress Kelli Garner plays the lead role.

Collyer grew up in Mountainside, New Jersey, a picturesque, economically privileged suburb very much like the one where much of *Sherrybaby* is set. As she told a *New York Times* reporter in 2006, Mountainside is “very idyllic. It's a great place to raise kids.” But, she added, “I always had a love-hate relationship about growing up in such a white-bread sort of environment.”

It's that love-hate relationship with her background, and the experiences she's had throughout her career with those less fortunate, that inform her storytelling and filmmaking aesthetic. “I've always been a feminist,” Collyer says during a phone call from Toronto, where she's in the midst of filming *Marilyn*. “I went to Oberlin partly because it was the first college in the country that graduated women and blacks. I was pretty politicized in high school.”

At Oberlin, she majored in German, initially intending to pursue a career as a translator of German literature. She spent two of her college years studying abroad in Tübingen, Germany. She also volunteered at a shelter for abused women and in special education classes, which inspired her to switch directions after graduating and begin a career in social work.

After Oberlin, she lived in San Francisco for six years, holding several jobs in social services, working with kids in group homes, pregnant teenagers, and children in special education classes. She loved the work, but quickly realized she wasn't meant to make a career of it.

“A lot of the characters I've written have similar backgrounds to Marilyn, including the kids from *Nuyorican Dream*,” she says. “All Marilyn had was herself. It's a different way of moving through the world when no one takes care of you.”

“You have to have a certain personality to be a therapist, counselor, or social worker. You have to be able to separate your emotion from the situation at hand. I wasn't ultimately very good at that,” she says, adding with a laugh: “I am a very emotional person. I have more the personality of an artist, for better or worse.”

Just for fun, Collyer decided to take a filmmaking class at City College in San Francisco. She made a short documentary film, *Thanh*, about a Vietnamese girl she worked with who had cerebral palsy and was transitioning from special education into regular classrooms.

Around the same time, in the early 1990s, she attended an Oberlin alumni event in San Francisco, where she met Robert Torres '90 for the first time. “We found that we were kind of doing the same thing, working in group homes,” she says. “He was working with runaway teenagers in a shelter, and I was working with pregnant teenagers. We connected that way, but also as friends.”

Torres gave Collyer the idea for her next film, which became her master's thesis when enrolling in a graduate film program at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in 1995.

Torres told Collyer about his younger brother, Danny, who had just been released from jail. Robert Torres, who is of Puerto Rican descent, grew up in poverty in Brooklyn as one of five kids—and the only one to escape a vicious cycle of drugs, violence, underage pregnancies, and prison sentences.

“We started talking. I said, ‘I didn't realize that the work that you do is so connected to your background.’ Usually in those sorts of jobs you find a lot of people from outside the community. I found it really interesting and powerful, and I began to see Robert in this whole different light—as a very strong, powerful figure.”

Collyer began following Torres and his family with a video camera, chronicling their lives in a project that evolved into her first feature-length documentary, *Nuyorican Dream*. They began filming in 1994. The end result, a chronicle of three generations of a New York Puerto Rican family shot over five years, premiered at Sundance in 2000.

Collyer came up with the title after reflecting on “the whole notion of the American Dream and access. The *Nuyorican Dream*, in the context of the New York Puerto Rican community and poverty, was kind of the other side of the American Dream: the American Nightmare. When you are not educated and come here looking for a better life, sometimes you find something a little bit worse.”

The *New York Times*, in a June 2000 review, described *Nuyorican Dream* as an “astoundingly intimate film” and noted, “As much knowledge and wisdom as Mr. Torres has gained, he is essentially powerless against the social forces that have oppressed his family and thousands like them.”

HBO bought *Nuyorican Dream* and aired it later that year. Collyer was quickly confronted with a paradox she has worked around ever since—as important as it is for films like *Nuyorican Dream* to be made, they are the hardest films to sell. So Collyer takes her time—years, when necessary—between films to perfect her scripts and attract buyers.

“They fill a gap in a way, these movies. I tell stories you don't hear so much, or I put a spin on them,” she explains. “You have to be tenacious and not take no for an answer. Somebody early in my career told me, when I was working on the *Sherrybaby* script, ‘This script is good, but for this kind of material it needs to be better...because good isn't good enough.’ It stuck with me.”

Collyer developed the script for *Sherrybaby* in 2001 while taking part in a Sundance Institute lab program for screenwriters and filmmakers. For the script to be “good enough,” Collyer had the Herculean task of writing a title character who faces her dark demons with desperation and determination and grasps hard for success, yet is lovable at her core (if not always likeable). These types of roles, Collyer admits, can be hard on the actors who play them.

“Actors, even more so than I do, use their emotions as their instrument,” she says. “Maggie (Gyllenhaal) playing Sherry really took a lot out of her. It rattled her because she had to be this very destroyed person. Of course, Sherry has a lot of strength, but she also has to sustain a lot of damage.

“As long as you have love on your set, and you're dedicated to your actors, you can make it work,” Collyer adds. “You have to be really attentive and tuned in to the humans around you who are telling your story.”

Between making *Sherrybaby* and *Sunlight, Jr.*, Collyer and her husband, who live in New York (surrounded by other Obies in Brooklyn, she notes), had two children, now 7 and 10.

“Everybody has a different level of stamina and ambition, and I've also been very committed to having a family,” she says. “I don't have the same level of ambition as some filmmakers I know do. It took me a while to realize that I have to travel to L.A. on a regular basis. I have to go every



couple of months if I want to stay in the game. I had no idea!”

This year, she says, has been unusually productive. *Marilyn* marks the first time that Collyer is directing a film she didn't write. That it's about Marilyn Monroe, who is arguably the most recognizable actress of all time, makes it that much more of a challenge.

“I have to say, I've really fallen in love with her,” she says of Monroe. “I knew I was in love with her when I developed my own conspiracy theories about how she died. It was like, ‘Oh yeah, I'm a convert.’”

And while Monroe is remembered mostly as an international sex symbol, says Collyer, her life was far more complicated—and tragic—than most people realize. “A lot of the characters I've written have similar backgrounds to Marilyn, including the kids from *Nuyorican Dream*,” she says. “All Marilyn had was herself. It's a different way of moving through the world when no one takes care of you.”

Monroe was born in a charity ward and her mother institutionalized when she was a small child. She lived in an orphanage for two years, was boarded out to people for \$5 dollars a week, never knew who her father was, and battled addiction until her death in 1962 at age 36.

“I never knew that she'd had that kind of a childhood. That's really what

I'm interested in—how that manifests into her strengths and weaknesses,” Collyer says. “I never knew that she came from such disadvantage. It wasn't a secret, but I think that over time that part of her story went away, and now she's an icon of sexuality and glamour.”

Instead of focusing on how young Monroe was when she died, Collyer says, “we should really take note of how long she lived. Not only how long, but how she lived, and how much success she had in her career.”

When asked if she ever secretly dreams of making a lighthearted romantic comedy, Collyer chuckles. “Yes, actually! I want to tell a love story. I think a sex comedy would be really fun. It's interesting to me—how human sexuality has been put in these boxes that are often artificial enclosures for us, and what we really desire. We'll see.”

No matter the subject matter, Collyer says, the act of telling a story through filmmaking is itself “an act of hope. It's an act of faith and commitment and seeing a future.” ■

ELIZABETH WEINSTEIN '02 IS A FREELANCE WRITER LIVING IN COLUMBUS, OHIO. HER ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED IN ROLLINGSTONE.COM, BILLBOARD.BIZ, THE *COLUMBUS DISPATCH*, *COLUMBUS ALIVE*, THE *CLEVELAND JEWISH NEWS*, *OHIO MAGAZINE*, *BELT*, AND MORE.

The Con at 150

In 1865, Oberlin College instructors John Paul Morgan and George Whipple Steele opened the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Although organized to be financially separate from and independent of Oberlin College, the conservatory affiliated itself with the college within a year. At its 100th anniversary, then-college Provost John W. Kneller wrote, “The history of the conservatory must be distilled from the lives of the thousands of professors and students who climbed the stairs to the rooms over what is now the Co-op Bookstore, who went in and out of the doors of old Warner and Rice, and who now teach and learn in Bibbins and Robertson Halls.” The next issue of the *Oberlin Conservatory Magazine*, due this summer, will celebrate the conservatory’s 150th anniversary.





The Oberlin Conservatory complex, designed by Minoru Yamasaki, pictured in 1964, the year it was dedicated. Photograph courtesy of Oberlin College Archives.

Charm City Charmer

As a child of Baltimore's rough and tumble politics, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake knows how to weather the storm.

By Aaron Levin '68

Photograph by Tanya-Rosen Jones '97 for *OAM*



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE '92 TOOK OFFICE AS MAYOR OF BALTIMORE on February 4, 2010, just 36 hours before the arrival of the city's worst blizzard since 1922. A second blast a few days later left a total of 40 inches of snow on the ground and threatened to paralyze the city. Rawlings-Blake had spent a lifetime waiting for those cold February days, and the trial by blizzard eliminated any hope of gently easing into the mayor's office.

Snowstorms have a history of testing—and occasionally unseating—big city mayors, but Rawlings-Blake did not hesitate to step out onto Baltimore's streets and demonstrate her understanding of the city's workings, as well as the pragmatic demeanor that has characterized her administration since.

Her 15-year ascendancy through city hall owes something to both chance and forethought. First elected to Baltimore's City Council in 1995, she was named president in 2007 in a series of next-person-up political shifts when then-mayor Martin O'Malley was elected governor of Maryland and the council president succeeded him in city hall. In 2010, Rawlings-Blake became mayor after her predecessor left office following a conviction on corruption charges. She was elected for a full term in 2011.

Her rise to municipal power had deeper personal and political roots, and it involved more than just luck. "I'd wanted to be in public service since elementary school, and I put myself in a position to do it," she says during



Baltimore mayor
Stephanie
Rawlings-Blake '92,
photographed at
the Richard D.
Baron ('64) Art
Gallery in Oberlin.

an interview in Baltimore's 19th-century domed city hall.

Her father, Howard "Pete" Rawlings, was a powerful figure in the Maryland House of Delegates until his death from cancer in 2003.

"In a time when African Americans were just breaking into local politics, Pete Rawlings was achieving leadership roles in the Maryland General Assembly," says city council member Mary Pat Clarke, who was first elected in 1975 and served two terms as council president. "He was a unique combination of a politically savvy civil rights activist and a conservative force for fiscal accountability, which helped him rise. Once he was in a position of influence in the general assembly, he used it for the

city. He never forgot where he came from."

"I got to see my father make a difference in our community," says Rawlings-Blake. "He also spent a lot of time as I was growing up introducing me—with books or in person—to influential black leaders. I got to see what was possible for my future."

Rawlings-Blake learned well. In time, the political influence would eventually flow the other way, too, from daughter to father.

Case in point: Rawlings-Blake held the key to Martin O'Malley's rise to power in the city and ultimately to the state house in Annapolis. Baltimore is a heavily Democratic city, and winning the Democratic

primary is tantamount to election. (There are no Republican city council members, and the last Republican mayor served in the 1960s.) During a crowded primary in 1999, O'Malley (who is white) ran against three well-known African American candidates. Rawlings-Blake persuaded her father that her fellow city councilman O'Malley would make a good mayor and deserved Pete Rawlings' support. His influence in the city's black community in turn aided O'Malley's victory. O'Malley has been a political ally ever since, and allies in the state house are great assets for mayors of financially struggling big cities.

Rawlings-Blake also learned much from her mother, adds University of Baltimore president and former Baltimore mayor Kurt Schmoke, who lived a block away when young Stephanie was growing up and knew her family well. Her father may have been head of the House Appropriations Committee, recalled Schmoke, but "her mother was all big smiles and big hugs—she's a pediatrician!"

The smiles and hugs may be there, but Nina Rawlings is a doctor with a steely interior, says Rawlings-Blake. "My mother fought like hell to get into medical school when there were few women and many fewer African American women in medicine," she says. "She wanted to serve her community as a pediatrician. She certainly wasn't into it for the money."

Rawlings-Blake attended public schools in Baltimore and graduated from the city's all-girls Western High School before heading to Oberlin. "Oberlin gave me a better understanding of how different people were," she says. "Our parents were proud of our history but they wanted us to value diversity and respect different races, cultures, and ethnicities. Oberlin really reinforced for me how it's important not to judge a book by its cover. It was a very accepting place."

She may have picked up something about the practicalities of politics and government in the classroom of Paul Dawson, Oberlin professor of politics, who teaches a seminar on turning political thought into real-world action. "There's always a tension in the class between kids with ideals who disparage political trade-offs," Dawson says. "Many an ideological hunch won't survive the crucible of electoral politics."

Rawlings-Blake didn't wait long after Oberlin to enter the crucible. She returned home, attended law school at the University of Maryland in Baltimore, and became the youngest person ever elected to the city council in 1995, the year she got her law degree.

Schmoke was mayor during Rawlings-Blake's first term. She learned much from her senior colleagues there, he says. "She was a good listener, a student of city government, and good at constituent service."

In some ways, Rawlings-Blake is part of a new generation of black office holders, says John Bullock, a political science professor at Towson University, just outside Baltimore. The earlier wave of African American politicians came out of the civil rights movement, while the current crop are more likely to be technocrats. (Another mayor in that mold was Oberlin classmate Adrian Fenty, who served one term from 2007 to 2011, down the road in Washington, D.C.)

"I got to see my father make a difference in our community," says Rawlings-Blake. "He also spent a lot of time as I was growing up introducing me—with books or in person—to influential black leaders. I got to see what was possible for my future."

"They've gone to good colleges, law schools, or grad schools," Bullock says. "They don't ignore the realities of race and ethnicity, but that's not their calling card."

When "Snowmageddon" arrived on top of the oath of office, Rawlings-Blake's years of experience asserted themselves. She had as much preparation as anyone, says Clarke. "She knew the city government, had administrative experience as council president, understood how agencies operated, and knew who was who."

She went out into the city's residential neighborhoods with the snowplows. The TV cameras were there when she backed up a call for volunteers after the storms by showing up to shovel off the sidewalks around a city elementary school. "The snow was a challenge, but she handled it well," says Schmoke. "She gave people confidence in her leadership."

During the snow cleanup, she met the people at the other end of the city government pyramid—the mechanics who kept the fleet on the road, the plow drivers, all the people who worked through the crisis. "I quickly saw what parts of government were working and what parts I needed to focus on," she says.

The big part of her new job, making decisions for the city, didn't faze her at all. "I feel like it's what I was born and trained to do."

The only thing she didn't expect as she came into the top office was the spotlight's glare. As a council member, she was part of a team but didn't have to face the constant attention beamed at the mayor. "I just did not think about that part of the job at all," she says, although she has grown accustomed to it since.

Certainly by then, she knew what she was getting into and had a sense of what she wanted to accomplish. Perhaps her goals for Baltimore could be compressed down to a single number with many ramifications—the 10,000 new residents she wants to attract to the city (the census of 2013 saw a reversal of a six-decade population decline).

To that end, she lauds Baltimore's attraction for millennials; its relatively low housing costs (compared to Washington or New York); its top-quality museums, symphony, and theater scene; and its universities and renowned hospitals. Still, she knows the first thing people elsewhere in the country ask about her hometown and has an answer at the ready: "I don't know any mid-size city that doesn't have some form of *The Wire*, but that's not all that Baltimore is." (The gritty HBO show was set in Baltimore.)

Like many other cities, Baltimore is two cities in one. There are vibrant, livable, mostly safe neighborhoods and a busy downtown. New development and conversion of old factories and warehouses extend for miles down the waterfront where freighters once docked. Then there are the not-so-nice areas that need attention. Every mayor in recent memory has faced that dichotomy, and Rawlings-Blake is no exception.

"Your view of the city is out your window," she says. Improving the view from those windows is not an impossible goal, but doing so means addressing the same problems facing other big, older cities: public safety, public education, job opportunities, and the revenue to pay for city services within a balanced budget.

She keeps a sharp eye on the public purse, even when that creates some pain. Previous administrations failed to face up to the city's structural deficit, which outside consultants she commissioned said would balloon to a cumulative \$750 million in a decade. That led to a lot of what she delicately calls "difficult conversations" with a lot of people. "My commitment is not to my popularity but to the well-being of the city."

Politically, the toughest part was a massive shift in pension plans for the city's police and fire departments that increased contributions from employees while moving to a defined contribution plan for new hires, an approach that led to some departures from the ranks.

“Was it popular?” she asks. “Absolutely not, but it meant being responsible so we can take our heads out of the sand and deal with the pressing issues we face as a city.”

On other fronts, a new police commissioner has been reviewing the department and put forth a plan for reform that mixes a focus on violent repeat offenders, guns, and crime prevention with better relations between police and communities. Her administration has boosted some taxes while slightly lowering the property tax rate, long a sore point for homeowners. Her anti-blight program has financed demolition of 4,000 old buildings to make way for new development. Roads are under repair, and some recreation centers have been closed, to be replaced by new ones as finances stabilize.

She has taken some heat for providing city support for big development projects, but argues that continued investment is necessary to keep the city’s economy expanding. Big-picture thinking brought tourism and jobs to the Inner Harbor 30 years ago. “But you can’t make that investment just once,” she says. “We must continue to protect past investments as well as the jobs that were created.”

That’s the reality, says city council member Clarke. The Fortune 500 headquarters vanished long ago, as did industries like the Bethlehem Steel plant outside the city that once employed 25,000 residents.

“We can’t chase the smokestacks anymore, but we can apply incentives for job creation by the city’s big employers,” says Clarke. “It’s about supporting private initiatives.”

As an example, Clarke cites the presence of athletic clothing maker UnderArmor, headquartered in a former Proctor & Gamble detergent factory on the city’s waterfront. The city also is the center of a major health care industry anchored by the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University.

But strengthening the city also means strengthening neighborhoods, says Rawlings-Blake. Healthy neighborhoods have good schools, and it is clear that the 21st Century Schools Project is her proudest achievement. She worked with state officials (including Governor O’Malley) for the program, obtaining almost \$1 billion to renovate some schools and build new ones. This, she says, is the “most significant legislative achievement for the City of Baltimore in modern history. We will transform Baltimore’s communities for generations to come.”

Clarke agrees. “If nothing else happens while she’s mayor, that will be a legacy,” she says.

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake has already announced she will run again for mayor in 2016. (She gets an extra year in office this term because of a change in the city’s voting schedule.) Political scientist Bullock says she is likely to win. “No elected, incumbent mayor in Baltimore’s history has ever lost when seeking re-election.”

Bullock nevertheless speculates that she may have an eye on some higher office, state or federal, but Maryland’s incumbents in Congress and the Senate are well entrenched, and a new governor was elected this November. Still, she may allow herself to scan the horizon from time to time. She maintains some national visibility as vice president and board member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and as secretary of the Democratic National Committee. For the moment, though, an ambitious politician who is only in her 40s can afford to wait and concentrate on the present.

“What I’ve found in my life that works is doing a really good job at what I’m doing, staying focused on that, and not looking at what’s next,” she says. “I’m keenly aware that many people live and die and don’t get to do what they were called to do. I get to do that every day.” ■

AARON LEVIN ‘68 LIVES IN BALTIMORE AND WRITES ABOUT SCIENCE AND MEDICINE FOR PSYCHIATRIC NEWS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS.

COLE POWERED POLITICS

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake was the keynote speaker as Oberlin celebrated the 20th anniversary of its Cole Scholars politics internship program in November with a weekend of panel discussions and informal get-togethers. Since 1994, more than 200 students have been placed in eight-week campaign internships in which they study and work on political races throughout the country.

The Cole Scholars Program is offered through the Oberlin Initiative in Electoral Politics, a nonpartisan program funded by Class of 1956 alumni Richard and Dorothy Cole to encourage graduates to run for and serve in public office. Selected Cole Scholars are supported financially and professionally in field placements during the summer. Recent participants have worked on the campaigns of Bill de Blasio for Mayor of New York, Terry McAuliffe for Governor of Virginia, Michelle Nunn for U.S. Senate, and Kay Hagan for U.S. Senate, while others have held internships with major consulting firms.

The experience often helps students once they leave Oberlin, says Michael Parkin, associate professor of politics. “In fact, many of them have gone on to impressive positions in government, advertising, and campaigns.”

Among them are Poy Winichakul ‘11 and Luke Squire ‘11, who founded LaunchProgress. Winichakul says the nonprofit group “works to increase the number of young progressives in local office today in order to grow the base of national progressive leaders in the future.” Its advocacy arm encourages young progressives—particularly people from underrepresented backgrounds in politics—to run for office and pushes progressives to support

young candidates. Its political action committee endorses and supports candidates who fit their criteria. In an election year that did not see a lot of bright spots for political progressives, LaunchProgress bucked the trend: Half of the 10 candidates the organization endorsed prevailed.

Winichakul says participating in the Cole Scholars allowed her to refine her political sensibility. “Oberlin opened my eyes and gave me a chance to try a lot of different things,” she says. They included direct service, community organizing, and exploring power, privilege, and oppression. Through LaunchProgress, she says she can work with all of the approaches she “sampled.”

She also offers a simpler version of her evolution: “Luke made me go to OC Democrats meetings, then I started watching *West Wing*, I did Cole Scholars, and it was all over from there,” she says.

Squire said he was dispirited after the first candidate he worked for as a Cole Scholar in 2010 was defeated, but he is now more hopeful and more strategic. “I realize now that the vision for success has to take the long view.” He says he is “less emotional about how one year or one legislative cycle moves,” because he believes that for any change to have meaning, it will take a long, slow push to make it happen.

The long view appears to be working for LaunchProgress.

“In December, we had breakfast with one of our successful candidates about which bills she plans to introduce, about her staffing decisions for her office, about recruiting candidates in the 2016 election,” he says, “and we realized—this is real.”

THE NEXT BIG THING?

Known as the launchpad for Oberlin entrepreneurs, LaunchU provides resources, training, advisors, connections, and capital to help start, accelerate, and grow student and alumni ventures. Twenty teams took part in a three-week accelerator course in January and then pitched their ventures to a panel of judges and potential investors for \$50,000 in prize money. These are some of the participants.

Ahmed Zia Wahdat '10 won the Social Impact Prize for MyChair, a portable desk chair that doubles as a backpack. It's aimed toward school kids in African and South Asian rural communities who don't have access to proper seating. Ahmed's venture partners are Suman Giri '11 and Mazen Sakr.

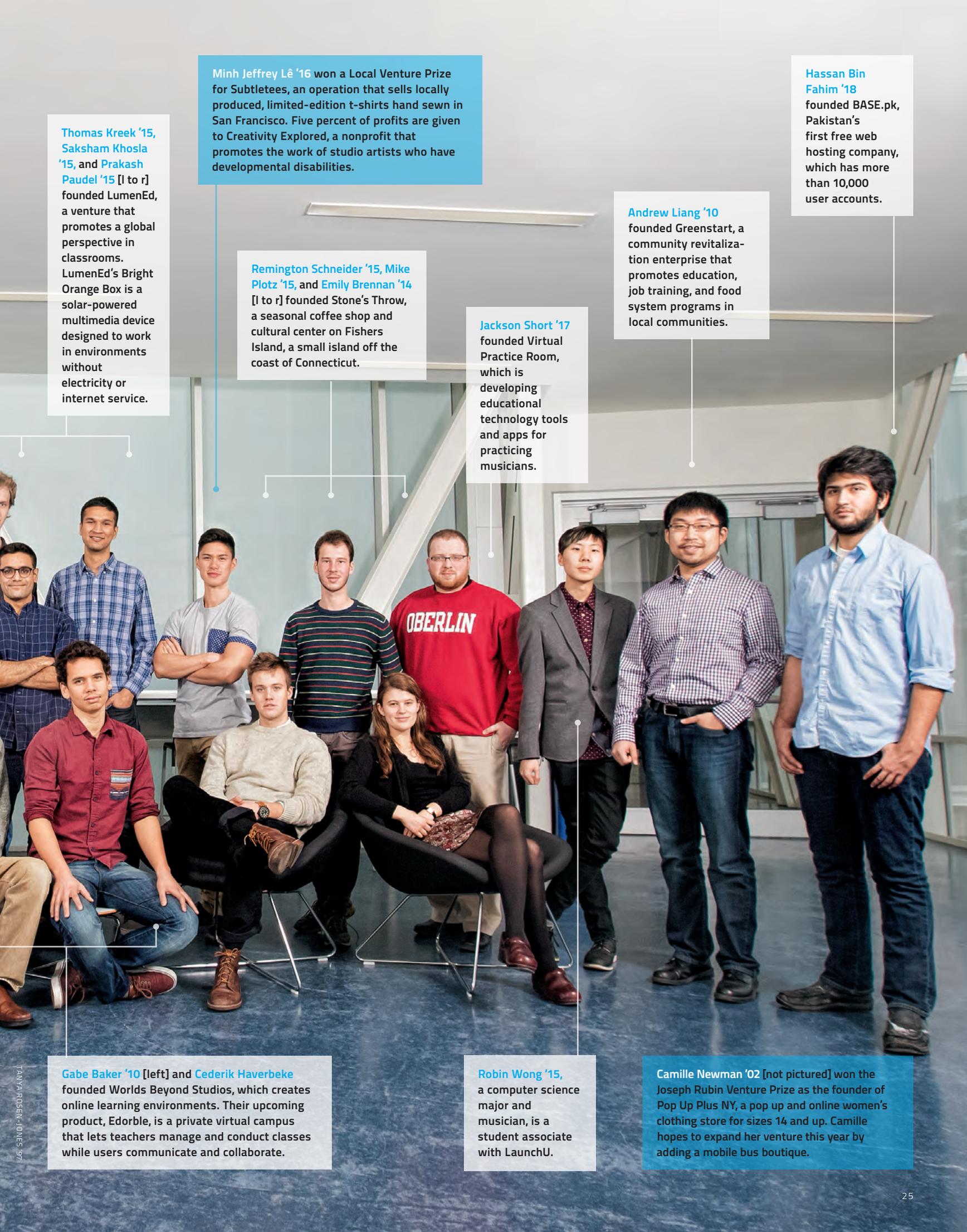
Devin Frenze '15 [left] and Myles Emmons '14 founded Real Boy Digital, a visual consulting group that creates immersive multimedia projections presented at live events.

Shea Renusch '16 [left] and Bronwen Schumacher '15 cofounded Oberlin Collective Apparel, a design collective that creates and sells student-centered, Oberlin-themed clothing.

Jason Williams '05 founded Get With the Program, which creates educational products and content that encourage interest in STEM fields.

Juan Bolanos brews beer for the Drakonus Brewing Commune, which offers facilities and support to craft brewing entrepreneurs in Mexico City. His venture partners include Francesca Lichuaco '04.

Gabriel Pollack '11 [left] and Taylor Greenthal '15 founded Call-and-Response, a Cleveland-based summer festival of food, music, and the arts created to showcase emerging local artists.



Minh Jeffrey Lê '16 won a Local Venture Prize for Subtletees, an operation that sells locally produced, limited-edition t-shirts hand sewn in San Francisco. Five percent of profits are given to Creativity Explored, a nonprofit that promotes the work of studio artists who have developmental disabilities.

Hassan Bin Fahim '18 founded BASE.pk, Pakistan's first free web hosting company, which has more than 10,000 user accounts.

Thomas Kreek '15, Saksham Khosla '15, and Prakash Paudel '15 [l to r] founded LumenEd, a venture that promotes a global perspective in classrooms. LumenEd's Bright Orange Box is a solar-powered multimedia device designed to work in environments without electricity or internet service.

Remington Schneider '15, Mike Plotz '15, and Emily Brennan '14 [l to r] founded Stone's Throw, a seasonal coffee shop and cultural center on Fishers Island, a small island off the coast of Connecticut.

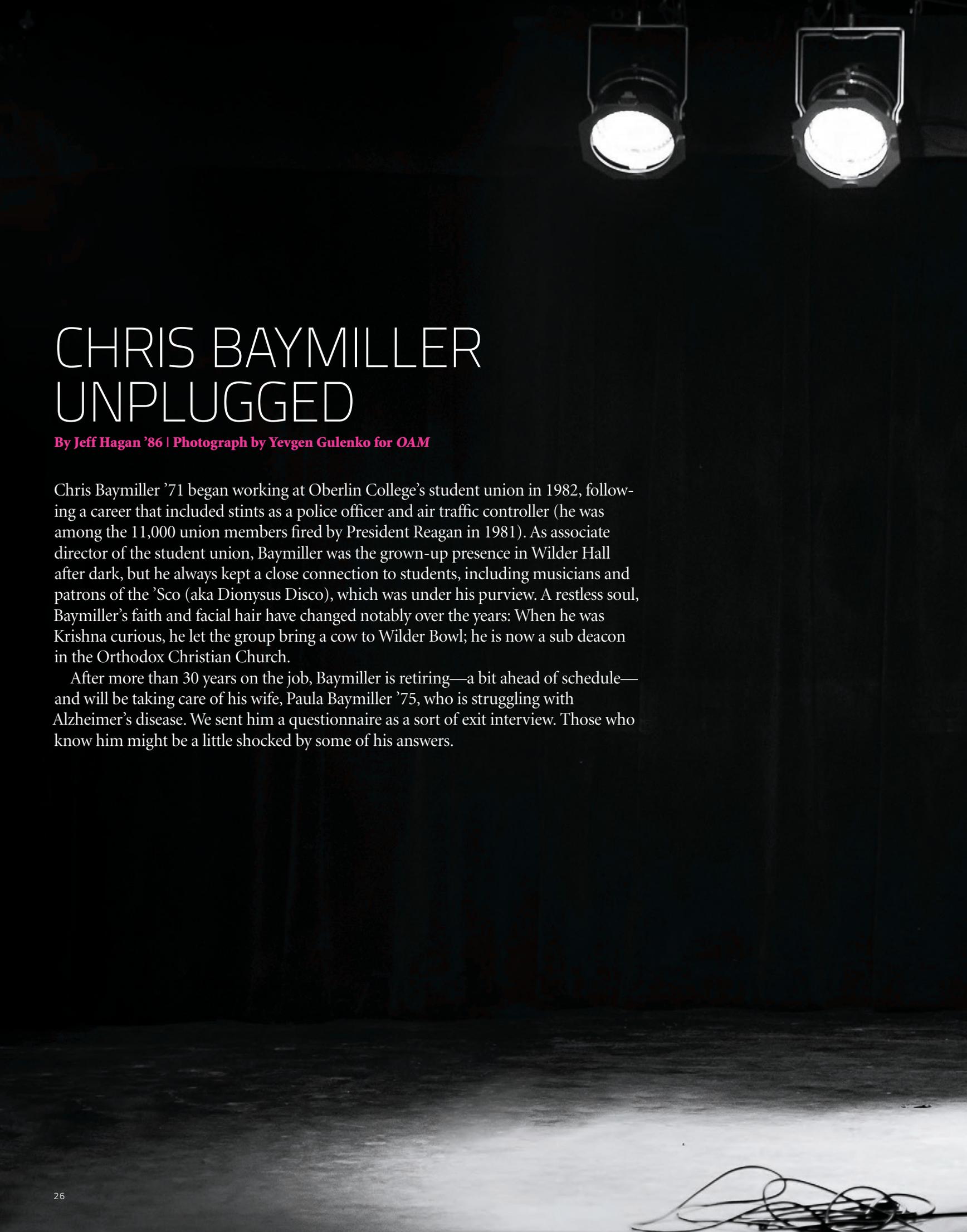
Andrew Liang '10 founded Greenstart, a community revitalization enterprise that promotes education, job training, and food system programs in local communities.

Jackson Short '17 founded Virtual Practice Room, which is developing educational technology tools and apps for practicing musicians.

Gabe Baker '10 [left] and Cederik Haverbeke founded Worlds Beyond Studios, which creates online learning environments. Their upcoming product, Edorable, is a private virtual campus that lets teachers manage and conduct classes while users communicate and collaborate.

Robin Wong '15, a computer science major and musician, is a student associate with LaunchU.

Camille Newman '02 [not pictured] won the Joseph Rubin Venture Prize as the founder of Pop Up Plus NY, a pop up and online women's clothing store for sizes 14 and up. Camille hopes to expand her venture this year by adding a mobile bus boutique.

A black and white photograph of a stage. At the top, two spotlights are illuminated, casting a bright glow. The rest of the stage is dark. In the bottom right corner, there is a pile of tangled cables on the floor.

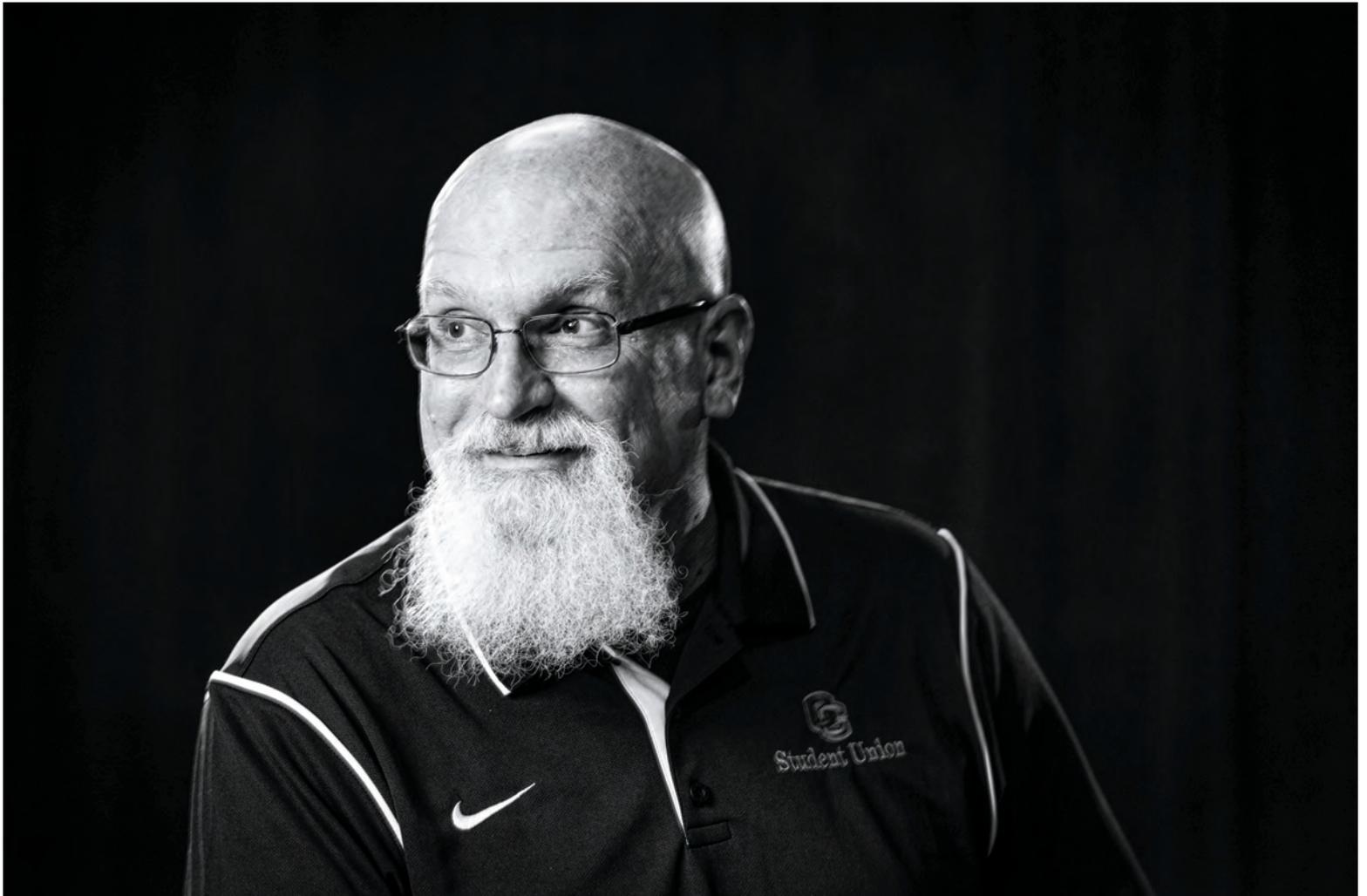
CHRIS BAYMILLER UNPLUGGED

By Jeff Hagan '86 | Photograph by Yevgen Gulenko for OAM

Chris Baymiller '71 began working at Oberlin College's student union in 1982, following a career that included stints as a police officer and air traffic controller (he was among the 11,000 union members fired by President Reagan in 1981). As associate director of the student union, Baymiller was the grown-up presence in Wilder Hall after dark, but he always kept a close connection to students, including musicians and patrons of the 'Sco (aka Dionysus Disco), which was under his purview. A restless soul, Baymiller's faith and facial hair have changed notably over the years: When he was Krishna curious, he let the group bring a cow to Wilder Bowl; he is now a sub deacon in the Orthodox Christian Church.

After more than 30 years on the job, Baymiller is retiring—a bit ahead of schedule—and will be taking care of his wife, Paula Baymiller '75, who is struggling with Alzheimer's disease. We sent him a questionnaire as a sort of exit interview. Those who know him might be a little shocked by some of his answers.





Your favorite virtue:

Honesty and work ethic.

Best band that ever played the 'Sco:

There were so many bands that played—certainly several thousand over the years—so it is really hard to find one. I had Guided by Voices play three times (once in Hales Gym), and they were always a favorite. Several others that come to mind are Gillian Welch with David Rawlings, The Toasters, Culture, Delta Blues legend R.L. Burnside, Mike Watt, Blink 182, Common, Dougie Fresh and Chuck D, the Black Keys, Stereolab (a Finney show), Josh Ritter, and on and on.

Worst night at the 'Sco:

The worst night in the Sco was actually one of the most exciting shows ever. It was the night we had the anarchist band Crash Worship perform. The show only lasted seven minutes, as the band ignited an army

smoke bomb in the club and threw M80 firecrackers into the crowd. The student promoter and I had to wrestle the final performer to the floor to get them to stop. I just remember screaming out to my student: "Whatever you do, do not pay the f----- band!" Fire alarms were blaring, and 20 firefighters invaded us. Oddly enough, for all the chaos, people said it was the most exciting seven minutes they had ever witnessed.

Your favorite qualities in a person or band:

A true original and one that puts on the best show possible. I remember booking 15 60 75 The Numbers Band out of Kent, just another great band that never broke out nationally. We had a small crowd that night, and I felt badly for the band. The band never batted an eye. Robert Kidney (the founder) said not to worry. He was here to play, and they killed it. Afterwards I exchanged some artwork with him. I love that band.

Your chief characteristic:

Intensity, and I will argue a point to death. Bring it on! I never lose an argument! Also, I love to talk with people from every persuasion. Truth be told, I had some of my most memorable friendships at the college with the trades—cooks, custodians, administrative assistants—not with faculty and staff.

What you appreciate most in your friends:

Honesty. And as an employer, I always wanted to surround myself with interesting people. Over the years I hired more from intuition and never asking questions like these. Perhaps we would spend two hours talking about guitars or politics. Several people I hired off the street after a three-minute conversation and never even got their names. It used to drive the staff crazy—no application, name, class year. I just knew I wanted that person on the team. And, by and large, it usually always worked out.

Your main fault:

NO patience and NO humility. Still working on those.

Your favorite occupation:

Police officer. It was my first job and was a “rush” (old ’60s expression). Until you have been in a high-speed chase or wrestled assailants to the ground, you have not lived.

Your idea of happiness:

I’m happiest when my wife’s Alzheimer’s seems to subside for a few hours/days. She started humming a tune the other day, and it brought tears to my eyes. It seemed like old times. For the last several years I have been an ordained sub deacon in the Orthodox Church. Serving on the altar is my peaceful refuge from the craziness of this world. Finally, I really appreciate it when all of my children and grandchildren can get together at one time. They are spread all over the country, so, regrettably, that’s a rare occurrence.

Your idea of misery:

Honestly, I can’t think of a time I have been truly miserable in my life. Made lots of mistakes that I wish I could correct. I guess the good Lord has a plan for me, and I bumble along trying to do my best.

If not yourself, who you would be:

This answer probably illustrates how complicated a person I am. First, I have always wanted to be a monk, a recluse somewhere praying to God. Then there is my fascination with the military and firearms. Raised by a hunter, my brother and I were given weapons in elemen-

tary school, and for years I pursued a hobby in Civil War history. To this day, I enjoy shooting and collecting guns. So, I guess I would have liked to try my hand with Special Forces, Seal Team 6 stuff. I am hugely patriotic, so this would be a great fit.

Where you would like to live:

In a monastery.

Your favorite authors:

Civil War historian Shelby Foote, political commentator Charles Krauthammer, novelist Umberto Eco, Saint Paul, Orthodox theologians, Saint Nikolai Velimirovich and Father Seraphim Rose, James Herriot, Ralph Nader, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, to name a few. Actually, I find fiction pretty silly and escapist. I prefer non-fiction—theology and political commentary (particularly conservative).

Your heroes/heroines in real life:

Anyone who sticks up for what they believe, who will take a stand—even if we’re on the opposite ends of the political spectrum. Too many folks are simply disengaged from it all, and I mean Obies as well. My parents and my wife also serve as my heroes.

Characters in history you most dislike:

Despots, and that includes Obama.

Your heroes/heroines in world history:

For years Ralph Nader was my champion, but that has waned due to his unbridled support of pro-choice and the Palestinians. As for heroes in world history, I certainly appreciate Martin Luther King and his enduring contributions, as well as Father Arseny, an Orthodox priest

tortured/imprisoned by the Soviets. Then there is Islamic critic Ayaan Hirsi Ali. From my reading of military history, most of my heroes were generals like Patton, MacArthur, Ulysses S. Grant, and Robert E. Lee.

Your favorite food and drink:

Indian cuisine. My wife and I enjoyed a long relationship with the Hare Krishna movement, and she developed into a spectacular cook.

Your favorite names:

Russian. When I was younger, I was fascinated with Russian weight lifters, and as I got older I took part in some serious weight training myself. For a period of time, the greatest weight lifter in history was heavyweight Vasily Alexseyev. I desperately wanted to call my oldest boy “Alexeev,” but my first wife would have nothing of it.

What you hate the most:

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS—THE DREADED MALIGNANCY OF THIS CAMPUS AND COUNTRY!

Your favorite musical artists:

Ballet performer Mikhail Baryshnikov, Baroque viol player Jordi Savall, Miles Davis, Wynton Marsalis. Basically anything Baroque, Medieval, Renaissance, or Byzantine. In the old days, I was fascinated with being a rock guitarist. So my “heroes” were luminaries like Duane Allman, Hendrix, Michael Bloomfield, Clapton, Robert Johnson, Mick Taylor, and Stevie Ray Vaughan. I also got heavily into bluegrass with Doc Watson and Ralph Stanley.

The natural talent you’d like to be gifted with:

Tolerance and public speaking.

How you wish to die:

In my liturgical vestments after I have fulfilled my caretaking duties to my wife.

Your present state of mind:

All I know is that I have been blessed with a great life. All I ask from anyone reading this who may have known me: please forgive me for anything I did that may have hurt you in any way.

Fault for which you have most toleration:

Gosh, can’t think of one. Sorry.

Your favorite motto:

Get in the game! ■

“THE SHOW ONLY LASTED SEVEN MINUTES, AS THE BAND IGNITED AN ARMY SMOKE BOMB IN THE CLUB AND THREW M80 FIRE-CRACKERS INTO THE CROWD. THE STUDENT PROMOTER AND I HAD TO WRESTLE THE FINAL PERFORMER TO THE FLOOR TO GET THEM TO STOP. I JUST REMEMBER SCREAMING OUT TO MY STUDENT: ‘WHATEVER YOU DO, DO NOT PAY THE F_____ BAND!’”

Class Notes



SAIL FAITH The Oberlin Sailing Club was formed in 1948 but it wasn't until 1953, when the club purchased its own boats, that it was able to participate in intercollegiate regattas. Though membership flagged and its fleet faltered at times, by 1959 it boasted 55 members and seven vessels plying the shores of the Vermilion Lagoons on Lake Erie and its training center at Findley Lake. Following several idle years, the club was revived in 1972 for a time but put into dry dock in 2003, when the college torpedoed the club's plan to buy a boat out of concerns over liability. The label on this image, from the Oberlin College Archives, indicates the sailor is Henry Lengnick '57. Have more information on the Sailing Club? Let us know at alum.mag@oberlin.edu.

1930s



1937

At 99 years old, **Betty Pollack** still delights in reading the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine* and in quizzing visitors on which college was the first to institute policies admitting black

students and women. She holds fast to memories of her days on campus, and her loved ones find that she more vividly remembers visitors who also attended Oberlin.

1950s

1953

Frederick Stroebel graduated from Anderson College (now Anderson University) in Indiana before earning his divinity degree at Oberlin. He claims that it was Oberlin—with its faculty representing numerous denominational backgrounds—that truly enlightened him.

“How neat and beautiful to study under a diversity of Protestant professors who were all on the same page in loyalty to their educational institution,” he says. “That experience helped shape my ministry as a pastor, and also my life!” ■ **Hannah Bonsey Suthers** has written *Tales From Makawao Volume 1*, about her adventures living on a seven-acre subsistence farm in Maui, Hawai'i, during WWII years. In addition to Hannah's stories, the book contains numerous photographs by her brother, John Bonsey, who attended Oberlin in the 1940s.

1954

William J. Schafer III, a retired judge, has written the book *In Chambers: Interesting Things about Courts, Judges, Lawyers, and Cases*. ■ **Jane Voichick** recently joined the 14-member board of directors of Independent Living, Inc., a nonprofit that offers senior services in Madison, Wis. She is a professor emerita at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she earned a master's degree and doctorate in nutritional sciences. Since retirement, Jane has served as editor of the *Journal of Nutrition Education*, president of the Society for Nutrition Education, manager of the Wisconsin Hunger Prevention



Grant Program, member of the Dane County Food Council, board member of the Roundy's Foundation, and chair of the Wisconsin Food Security Consortium.

1955

Louis Malucci and his wife, **Theresa Dorelle Malucci '56**, sang with the Rochester Oratorio Society and performed several concerts in Eastern Europe over the summer of 2014. They spent several days in Vienna—where they saw the very rooms in which Beethoven, Bach, and Brahms created their masterpieces—and also visited Auschwitz. Upon returning, Louis performed with the Irondequoit Chorale in Ottawa. They also dined with Louis' former roommate, **Humbert Fiskio**, and his wife in Vermont, en route to their annual vacation in Maine.

1959

"Inspired by the work of the West Marin Carbon Project, I have been propagating, selling, and giving away the native perennial grasses that draw down carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it as usable carbon in the soil," **Katharine Cook** reports. She has written articles for the *West Marin Citizen* and *Pt. Reyes Light*, and she enjoys taking part in a local writing group with other senior women. "Next step: beginning a book on creating ceramics with the local clays of the Franciscan range." [w] marincarbonproject.org

1960s

1960

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, **Andrew Maguire** encouraged New Jersey Governor Chris Christie to form the Commission on Extreme Weather. Andrew is a consultant to the Union of Concerned Scientists and a member of the National Academy of Sciences/Institute of Medicine Roundtable on Environmental Health Sciences, Research, and Medicine. He and his wife, speech-language pathologist Adele De Marco, live in Ridgewood, N.J.

1961

Susan Reibel Moore is working on her 14th book, the fourth revised edition of *What Should My Child Read?* The third edition was published by Five Senses Education in Sydney, Australia, in 2013. Susan has lived in Sydney

since 1966 and has written more than 150 articles for a wide variety of Australian publications.

1963

In November, **Peter Gourevitch**, professor emeritus and founding dean of the School of International Relations and Pacific Studies at the University of California, San Diego, received the 2014 Roger Revelle Medal, which recognizes current and former faculty for extraordinary service to the campus. Peter joined the faculty of UCSD in 1979 and is widely credited with elevating the institution's work in social-science research and teaching. In 1995, he was named to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

1964

Carleton College has published *Midwestern Arcadia*, an e-festschrift in honor of **Alison McNeil Kettering**, the school's William R. Kenan Professor Emerita of Art History. It



SAVE THE DATE! OCTOBER 2-4, 2015 CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF 180 YEARS OF BLACK STUDENTS AT OBERLIN

The Oberlin Alumni Association of African Ancestry (OA4) invites you to a special reunion! We are Descendants of George B. Vashon, Class of 1844, and Mary Jane Patterson, Class of 1862. This reunion will mark the 180th anniversary of Oberlin's decision to adopt a non-discriminatory admissions policy and the beginning of the education of African Americans and other persons of color at Oberlin. Come back to Oberlin to celebrate this milestone, renew your connection with old friends, make new friends, and see how campus has changed. Most importantly, see how you can continue your connection to Oberlin and its lifelong learning community. Join and share our Facebook group, "Oberlin College Alumni Association of African Ancestry." Interested in volunteering and participating in the weekend? Fill out our brief survey, found at tinyurl.com/OA4Survey. More information will be forthcoming. We look forward to welcoming you to campus in October!

includes articles written by colleagues and former students about topics that include colonialism's influence on Dutch art and essays on Rembrandt. [w] <https://apps.carleton.edu/kettering> ■ **Lawrence Hall Ravli** boasts deep family roots at Oberlin: His mother (Muriel Fairchild Hall) graduated in 1924, his grandfather (Frederick Fairchild Hall) in 1895, his great-grandmother (Julia Maria Fairchild) in 1868, and his great-great-grandfather (Edward Henry Fairchild) in 1838—the first graduating class at Oberlin. A resident of Clinton, N.Y., Lawrence was pleased to read in a September newspaper article that three others in his town also attended Oberlin.

1965

Barbara Bauer Yelverton was named a physics teacher at International Polytechnic High School in Pomona, Calif. "I found a job much closer to home, with incredibly wonderful students, because they have to apply to go to this very special school on the CalPoly U campus," Barbara writes. She also happens to love it there. "This looks like the school I'll stay at until I figure I can stand retirement," she adds, noting it won't be anytime soon. "See you at reunion!"

1968

The work of nature photographer **David Foster** illustrates the book *Breathing Light: Accompanying Loss and Grief with Love and Gratitude*, by Julie Hliboki. The book, says David, is written for anyone who has experienced loss or grief, especially of a loved one. "This book is rooted in my spiritual journey, and a long time in gestation," he says. It is available through David's website. [w] www.davidfosterimages.net

1970s

1970

Pulitzer Prize-winning writer **Michael Dirda** is among the distinguished writers contributing to *In the Company of Sherlock Holmes*, a collection of stories inspired by the Holmes canon and published in November by Pegasus Books. Michael's 2011 book, *On Conan Doyle*, from Princeton University Press, received an Edgar Award, chosen by the Mystery Writers of America as the best biographical/critical book of that year.

Class Notes

1971

“While some are thinking about retirement, I’m still going strong,” writes **David Dickinson**, who has been named Margaret Cowan Chair of Teacher Education in the Department of Teaching and Learning at Vanderbilt University’s Peabody College. “I also took on the role of associate dean for research and strategic planning, in addition to my faculty duties.” David’s research focuses on the role of language in literacy development, especially in children from low-income backgrounds. “I am also guiding an interesting Vanderbilt effort to develop a high-quality bilingual preschool and primary grade school in Abu Dhabi,” he adds.

1972



Russell Malmberg is associate dean in the University of Georgia’s Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. “My responsibilities have been research and graduate education, but they have changed to

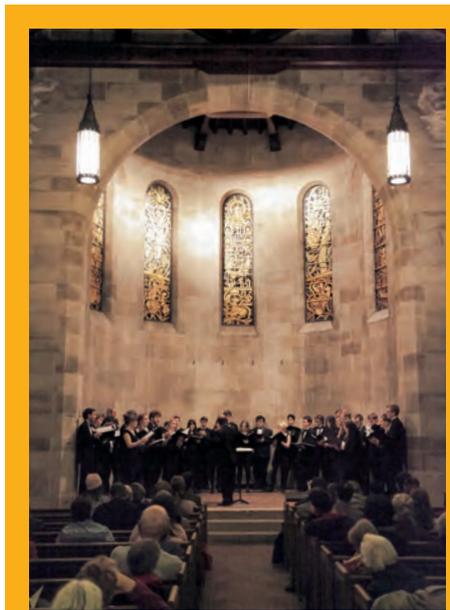
include facilities oversight,” Russell writes. He was recently named a university professor as well. He enjoys staying in touch with classmates **Doug Anderson** and **David Shipley** around the UGA campus.

1973

A professor for 30 years at the Manhattan School of Music, **Edward Green** edited the newly released *Cambridge Companion to Duke Ellington* and has given several public talks on the composer, including one in May 2014 at the Museum of the City of New York. There, he discussed how the key to appreciating Ellington’s music lies in the principle of Aesthetic Realism, stated by the philosopher Eli Siegel: “All beauty is a making one of opposites, and the making one of opposites is what we are going after in ourselves.” In November 2014,



Edward wrote an introduction for a Siegel essay, “The Star-Spangled Banner as a Poem,” in *Choral Journal*. He remains an active composer too: In April 2015, Albany Records will release a CD of the Corona



SAVE THE DATE!
NOVEMBER 6-7, 2015
DA CAPO: CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF COLLEGIUM MUSICUM AT OBERLIN

Collegium Musicum alumni are invited back to campus to celebrate a quarter century of singing together under the direction of Steven Plank and the strong bonds to one another that have followed from that experience. The weekend will include a banquet on Friday night, rehearsals of the Reunion Collegium Choir, and a Saturday night concert by the reunion ensemble, followed by a reception. More information will be shared as it becomes available. For now, please join the Facebook group “Oberlin College Collegium Musicum 25th Anniversary Reunion.” Mark your calendars and save the dates!

Guitar Quartet of Norway, which includes Edward’s “Quartet for Guitars.” His *Symphony for Band* was commissioned in 2012 by a consortium of 13 concert wind ensembles and has since been performed widely across the country. He also just completed another symphony, this one to premiere in May by the Catskill Symphony Orchestra. ■ “I had a very, very, very special time in my five years at Oberlin, working towards a double degree in theater and piano performance,” **Nicky Paraiso** writes. In the four decades that have passed since then, Nicky has been a tireless impresario and artistic mentor in New York’s Off-Off-Broadway and dance scene—especially on the “Arts Block,” a stretch of East Fourth Street in the East Village, home of the venerable

institution La MaMa. There, he has brought countless productions to life, including a beloved, 10-year-old contemporary dance festival called La MaMa Moves, a series of seasonal variety shows (eg., *Springtime in Nickyland*, *Christmas in Nickyland*, etc.), and a gay performance series called Squirts. A longtime writer and performer, Nicky was a key figure in New York’s avant-garde theater scene of the 1980s—a scene rich with artistic triumphs at a time when AIDS was ravaging its ranks. In 2013, Nicky was part of the five-member panel that decided the recipients of the Obie Awards. At the time, he was called “a godsend to the theater” by *Theatermania* columnist Michael Feingold. “He never stops caring passionately about the art,” wrote the columnist, “and he never stops seeking out new artists in every area and every aspect of the work.”

1974

Jeffrey A. Blakely spent January 2015 in Oberlin directing a winter-term project on the archaeology of biblical Judah. He also attended a few Oberlin swim team meets to watch his daughter, Alice ’17. ■ **Larry Kutner** was appointed executive director of the Stanford Pre-Collegiate Studies Program at Stanford University. “It’s an amalgam of all of the programs Stanford University offers to high school, middle school, and elementary school students, such as an online high school, summer enrichment courses, a youth orchestra, and biomedical research experience,” Larry writes. He and wife Cheryl recently moved to San Carlos, Calif. ■ **Joyce White** was named executive director of the Institute for Southeast Asian Archaeology in October 2013. In March 2014, she gave a keynote address—“Hot Pots, Museum Raids, and the Race to Uncover Asia’s Archaeological Past”—at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies. Previously, she was associate curator for Asia at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. She is also an expert witness for an ongoing federal probe of prehistoric Thai artifact smuggling.

1975

Dzvinia Orłowsky Hoffman was named co-poet of the year for 2014 by the Ohio Poetry Day Association, an honor presented annually since 1976. Dzvinia won for her poetry collection *Silverstone*; she spoke and



read from the work at Ohio Poetry Day, held in Troy, Ohio, in November. Winner of the Pushcart Prize and a founding editor of the New York City imprint Four Way Books, Dzvinia is a member of the poetry faculty at the Solstice Low-Residency MFA program in creative writing at Pine Manor College and a poetry lecturer at Providence College.

1979

Frank Bajak won the 2014 Maria Moors Cabot Award, presented by Columbia University for distinguished reporting from Latin America. Frank has been Andean news chief for the Associated Press since 2006 and was recently named to the AP's international investigative reporting team. He lives in Lima, Peru, with his wife, Cecilia Malachowski, with whom he has three grown children who live in America.



Top: Bajak '79; above left: Hoffman '75; Gardner '85

1980s

1982

Andrea Siegel has written a new book called *Splash: The Careful Parent's Guide to Teaching Swimming*, which focuses on teaching children who fear swimming or water, but is

useful for teaching swimmers of all levels. "Ten people die of drowning in the U.S. every day, in every season," Andrea writes. "It would be a wonderful thing if we could prevent some children from drowning this year."

1983

Peter Staley writes: "I was appointed to Governor Andrew Cuomo's Ending the Epidemic Task Force, which will outline a plan to dramatically lower HIV infections in New York state by 2020."

1985

Tom Gardner and his wife, Alina Vogelhut Gardner, welcomed a baby, Runia Leah Gardner, on September 10, 2014. Runia was born at home on a sunny day and, according to her father, "arrived with a beautiful soul."

1986

Michele Brogunier, a member of Physicians for Social Responsibility, spoke in support of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Carbon proposal in November 2014 at an event covered by Wisconsin Public Radio and local television. ■ **Annette Dubois** launched a freelance writing business—Luminaria Science Writing—in September 2014 and looks forward to collaborating with other Obies in medical and scientific research. "When not writing, I'm seriously pursuing photography (check out my Flickr page!), social activism, and trying to attend every cultural event in Geneva," she writes. [w] luminaria.ch



JUDGING AMY

When Minneapolis attorney **Amy Dawson '89** discovered that her 3-year-old son was autistic, she learned of a promising treatment approach called Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy. ABA is an evidence-based treatment that uses contracting and positive reinforcement to teach children new skills. It was expensive, but it was working for her son.

"It really is important to understand that he went from being nonverbal, having very few words that even I could understand, and having an IQ below 50 to being a kid who you would not observe in a classroom of kids and pick out as a kid with autism," she says. "In fact the Autism Spectrum Disorders Clinic at the University of Minnesota evaluated him a couple years ago and said he no longer meets the diagnostic criteria, except by history."

But getting there wasn't easy. One of the biggest challenges of her son's condition was figuring out how to pay for the therapy, which at times cost \$8,000 to \$10,000 per month. She

had to take Minnesota's Medical Assistance program to court to cover the cost. "It turned out that being a litigator was just what my son needed, because I basically had to get involved in a bunch of different lawsuits and threaten lawsuits," she says.

She realized she wasn't alone. Many families had no idea this largely effective treatment existed, let alone that their insurance should cover it. And so in 2009 she founded the Autism Advocacy and Law Center.

"One of the conundrums about paying for autism care is that the lifetime cost of a kid who has autism is \$3.2 million, according to a Harvard study," Dawson says. "We can reduce that tremendously. Take my son, who's

had ABA therapy for five years: For the cost of that therapy, we now have a kid who has every likelihood as any other kid, every other chance of success, growing up to be independent and successful. So instead of costing society \$3.2 million, he will grow up to be independent, to be a taxpayer. We can save a lot of money for society by paying for that treatment."

Last year, Dawson decided to run for judge in the Fourth Judicial District of Hennepin County, and in November she won. She hopes to educate other judges about the issues surrounding families with special needs children.

Before her advocacy

work, Dawson did construction law at a large firm. She thought she was good at it and liked how much she was learning, but she later realized something had been missing.

"Until I shifted the focus of my work to helping children and individuals and families affected by autism and other disabilities, I didn't find being an attorney really satisfying. I never found that passion and satisfaction at work. But now I do, and since changing my focus to helping children, individuals, and families affected by autism, I love being an attorney. And I'm pretty sure I will love being a judge, too."

—*Rosalind Black '14 and Jeff Hagan '86*



Left to right: Elshtain '89; Burde '88; Jacobs '88; Neufeld '89

1987

“For years, I’ve been focusing my practice on consumer-protection litigation,” writes **Brian Bromberg** of New York City. “In 2001, I hung out my own shingle, opening the Bromberg Law Office, PC.” In November 2014, Brian was elected to the board of directors of the National Association of Consumer Advocates.

1988

Dana Burde’s new book, *Schools for Conflict or for Peace in Afghanistan*, demonstrates the effects—often not beneficial—of foreign

funding for education. The book cites how aid in Afghanistan led to violent conflict in the 1980s and 2000s, and how commonly held notions of what is considered appropriate aid often result in insufficient attention to educational needs. The book was awarded the 2015 Jackie Kirk Outstanding Book Award conferred by the Comparative and International Education Society. ■ **Tilia Klebenov Jacobs’** new book, *Wrong Place, Wrong Time*, is a hostage drama set in the mountain wilderness of New Hampshire. *Kirkus* called it “an intelligent, thought-pro-

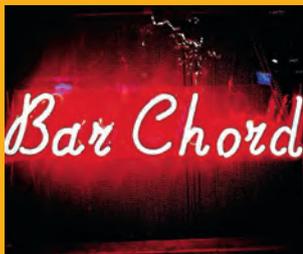


Nardo '91

voking adventure story and a fine debut.” Tilia reports that she is “enjoying the glow of artistic satisfaction that comes from great reviews and lousy sales.” ■ **Christopher Sahar** is working toward a master’s in music composition at Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College/CUNY in New York City. Christopher celebrated two milestones recently: A piece he wrote for gamelan orchestra and amplified piano in spring 2013 was performed at LeFrak Hall in Queens College, and two of his works were performed in September 2014 at the first Mental Health Awareness Concert held at the school. One of the pieces was written in response to his brother’s suicide several years ago after battling bipolar disorder for over a decade. [w]: www.soundclick.com/comporgan

1989

Eric Elshtain released his first full-length book of poetry, *This Thin Memory A-ha*. It is described as “an antic assembly of highly wrought hymns and Linnaean hexes in which memory narrows and billows ‘while we go headlong/to eat the arms of charlatans/ rescuing every rickety magician/from salvation.’” ■ **Josh Neufeld** has created a comic novella with Al Jazeera America reporter Michael Keller. *Terms of Service: Understanding Our Role in the World of Big Data* “examines the role of big data, privacy, and the implications of sharing personal



BAR STRIKES OBERLIN CHORD IN BROOKLYN

For many alumni, an Oberlin house party is hundreds of miles away and years in the past, but for New York City Obies, it’s as close as a subway ride.

Christy Epstein Sheehan '91 fashioned her music venue, Bar Chord, after the late-night get-togethers she frequented at Oberlin. “I wanted it to be like one of the Oberlin parties where I saw Aqua the Clown or Bitch Magnet,” she says. The Brooklyn bar, co-owned with

her husband, Jonny Sheehan, features musicians almost every night of the week—from jazz to zydeco to folk rock—many of them Oberlin alumni from the 1980s to 2010. Bar Chord’s furnishings, from the bar to the couches, are made from recycled and reclaimed materials. Herbs for the drinks are grown in the backyard. Paintings by local artists decorate the walls, and, when there is no music, community groups use the space for meetings.

The house-party vibe is palpable even from the front entrance, where bands play alongside the crowd under a display of for-sale vintage guitars, rather than in a separate back room. Unlike many city bars, which feature several bands to draw the maximum number of fans, at Bar Chord a single band plays for the entire night.

Sheehan says she grew up at a time when music venues

were all over the city, but she feels that time is dying out. “In a world that’s corporatized and sanitized,” she says, “I don’t want every artist to feel like they have to leave New York City to get exposure.”

“It’s nice to discover this place after being thrust into the real world. And it doesn’t get more real than New York City,” says **Jesse Sternberg '07**, guitar player, singer, and songwriter for Out of System Transfer.

Since opening in May 2013, the bar has defied city survival rates and is almost always full. Sheehan attributes that success to the music.

“At Oberlin, music is coming at you at all times. That stayed with me for so long,” she says. “Here, I’ve watched many, many people come in for a drink and just get caught up in the music.” —**Kim Brown '92**



information—all via the ‘characters’ of Josh and Michael!” he says. Among the targets of their study: Gmail, Progressive Insurance’s Snapshot program, and Fitbit. *Terms of Service* can be accessed for free through the Al Jazeera America website. [W] projects.aljazeera.com/2014/terms-of-service/index.html

1990s

1990

Meredith Cornett is science director for the Nature Conservancy of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota, where she has lived for 15 years. Her first book, a memoir called *Heart of Palms: My Peace Corps Years in Tranquilla* (University of Alabama Press), was published in 2014. [W] <http://www.uapress.ua.edu/product/Heart-of-Palms>

1991

Abby Nardo married sculptor Christian Karkow on October 11, 2014. Kristin MacDougall was in attendance. Abby is a licensed psychologist in private practice at Downtown Psychology, PC, in Raleigh, N.C.

1996

Kimberly Rose Clark’s research firm, Merchant Mechanics, served as the title sponsor of New York City’s inaugural

Nonconscious Impact Measurement Forum (NIMF) in November 2014. “The NIMF was designed to advance the conversation of standardization and implementation of ethical practices while increasing collaboration in the evolving industry of ‘neuromarketing,’” she reports. Kimberly is cofounder and chief research officer of the 15-year-old firm. She also serves as a lecturer and adjunct researcher in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at her doctoral alma mater, Dartmouth College. She adds that she is the “ecstatic mother” of two young children, Brighton Thomas and Sage Rose. ■ **Eric Hofbauer’s** recent CD releases, *Prehistoric Jazz Vol. 1 (The Rite of Spring)* and *Vol. 2 (Quatour Pour la fin du Temps)*, are what he calls “jazz recompositions” of the iconic works (by Stravinsky and Messiaen, respectively) referenced in the titles. They were featured in a piece on NPR’s *Fresh Air*. [W] erichofbauer.com ■ **Diana Robins** accepted a position as associate professor and autism research program leader at Drexel University in Philadelphia after a previous stint at Georgia State University. “The family is excited to be back in the Northeast,” writes Diana, adding that she looks forward to increasing the translation of research to practice in the field of early detection and intervention for autism spectrum disorder.

1997



Damir Spritzer

released her second world-premiere commercial organ CD featuring music by R.L. Becker, about whom she

did her doctoral dissertation at the University of North Texas. Damir was also recently appointed artist in residence for the Episcopal Cathedral of Saint Matthews, visiting professor of music at the University of Oklahoma, and adjunct professor at the University of North Texas. She lives in Dallas with her husband and their three children.

1998

Jen Liu is among a select list of American artists represented in the prestigious Shanghai Biennale. In 2013 Jen received two major



Above: Brentin '03; Left: Haas '03; Far left: Liu '98

commissions in New York: a photo project for the Manhattan Bridge and the facade of the new CitizenM Times Square hotel. She returned to Oberlin in spring 2014 to teach as a sabbatical replacement for Associate Professor of Studio Art Nanette Yannuzzi. ■ Two poems by **Wayne Miller**, “Inside the Book” and “On Language,” appear in the Winter 2014-15 issue of *Ploughshares* magazine. His 2011 collection, *The City, Our City* (Milkweed), was a finalist for the William Carlos Williams Award and the Rilke Prize; his next collection, *Post-*, is due out in 2016. Wayne teaches at the University of Colorado Denver and serves as managing editor of *Copper Nickel*.



1999

Elizabeth Barajas-Roman was named CEO of the Women’s Fund of Western Massachusetts, which supports the efforts of more than

150 nonprofit organizations that advocate for women and girls. Prior to joining the Women’s Fund, Elizabeth was a manager at the Pew Charitable Trusts and led the Washington, D.C., office of the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health. She lives in Northampton, Mass., with her wife, Magaly Barajas-Roman.



LAUNCHU LOVE

IT'S ALREADY HAPPENING. EVEN BEFORE THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ADOPTED CHANGES TO ITS leadership structure, alumni, students, and the administration and faculty had begun finding new ways to connect. I've been hearing a lot about one of them and am in awe of the program.

LaunchU is all about empowering students to develop entrepreneurial skills and ideas. It's the brainchild of Dean of the Conservatory **Andrea Kalyn** and is designed to bring together students, faculty, alumni, parents, and administrators—anyone with any idea or a willingness to support students who have an idea about a new business. I attended a kick-off event in Washington, D.C., where I saw a presentation by the developers of a project called LumenEd. **Henry Harboe '15**, **Saksham Khosla '15**, **Thomas Kreek '15**, and **Prakash Paudel '15** came up with an idea to promote interconnectivity among classrooms around the world. Here's their description of the project:

Through the LumenEd Video Pen Pal Program, we enable weekly video conversations between classrooms, while providing educational resources to students in the developing world. Our platform centers on the Bright Orange Box, a multimedia device that integrates a projector, PC, and camera. With a large battery and an optional solar panel, the Box plays educational content for an entire classroom, even those without electricity and internet access. By opening the door to global dialogue, LumenEd brings together students from around the world to learn, share and collaborate with each other.

Not just cool—wildly cool. There's so much that's wonderful about this project, and it speaks to what's amazing about LaunchU overall. It encourages students to use their enormous creative energy in a way that encapsulates something of what's amazing about the Oberlin attitude toward being a citizen of the world. LaunchU encourages all the members of our community (one of the other prime movers behind the growth of LaunchU is **Andy Klingenstein P'12**) to work together to determine which of the initiatives is most worthy of support, and then finds ways to get them the support they need (such as mentoring, funding, and networking) to help bring their ideas to reality. You can read more about LaunchU on page 24 of this issue and at www.oclaunchu.com.

I can see and hear some of you shaking your heads and muttering: "Really? Entrepreneurship at Oberlin? We're not a business school. We're a liberal arts school." Well—no. Here's why I love this so much. The Oberlin community strives to recognize and encourage all of the great thinking that comes from the students, from the faculty, and from the alumni, especially when it embodies the richness and variety of the education that Oberlin provides. Not all of the students are going to be entrepreneurs, but clearly some are. We've always had students who have come up with big ideas that have benefited the world—do I need to go further than Charles Martin Hall, Class of 1885? I'm sure you can each come up with your own examples. It gives students who may not have had an outlet for, or a way of securing guidance about, their entrepreneurial ideas a means of connecting with and learning from experts in our community about how to bring their ideas to fruition.

This program is doing exactly what the Alumni Leadership Council is hoping will happen more often—encouraging communication and support between and among the different constituencies within the Oberlin family. It's another example of the drive that **Dr. David Eisner '69** is undertaking to form a group of alumni in health-related professions to allow networking and idea-sharing among students, faculty, and alumni for the mutual benefit of all. I love it. I hope you'll read more about it, and come up with your own ideas about how to foster innovative ways of engaging the many elements of our explosively creative community.

CHUCK SPITULNIK '73

President, Oberlin Alumni Association

2000s

2001

In November 2014, trial lawyer **Jane Glynn** helped her client, Linda Bruner, obtain the first same-sex dissolution in Indiana history after a legal battle that lasted nearly two years and involved multiple key rulings in federal court. Jane writes that she is "thrilled to have been Bruner's trial attorney for the past two years and to have helped her move on with her life."

2003

Rebecca Hartsough Brentin and Steven Brentin of Denver welcomed a baby girl, Eliana Sierra Brentin, on October 16, 2014. ■ **Wendy Cyphers Haas** and Darin Haas of Akron, Ohio, celebrated the birth of their first child, Ruth Louise "Arlo" Haas, on April 2, 2014.



Top: McNaught and Kreniske '04;
above: Healy '05

2004

Sandy McNaught and Philip Kreniske were married in 2012 and welcomed their newest family member, Solomon Bear Mervyn, in the fall of 2014. Sandy is a nationally certified pediatric speech pathologist. Philip is finishing his PhD in developmental psychology and recently published an article about how indigenous people of southern Africa use digital media, a project completed with the photography of Jesse Kipp. [w] <http://jitp.commons.gc.cuny.edu/table-of-contents-issue-6/>



Join the many Oberlin alumni making a difference.

PARTICIPATE • DONATE • CONNECT

CHARLES MARTIN HALL, CLASS OF 1885

It's easy to forget that before becoming Oberlin's greatest benefactor, Charles Martin Hall was a young college student, attending classes, studying, and hanging out with friends. One hundred years ago, Hall's bequest to Oberlin as part of his estate plan forever changed the history of this institution. From Hall Auditorium and Tappan Square to the Arboretum, the Oberlin College Endowment, and more, his legacy touches every department and every student on campus to this day.



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How great of an impact has Oberlin had on your life? Did Oberlin help shape your personal values, career choices, and appreciation of the world? What portion of your life's work would you use to build a legacy that outlives you?

A bequest to Oberlin through your will or trust helps secure opportunities for future generations of students. All estate gifts, large and small, have a significant impact on students who choose Oberlin.

Careful estate planning ensures that your needs and goals are met. A will enables you to distribute your assets in accordance with your wishes, provide for loved ones, minimize estate taxes, and consider those institutions closest to your heart.

For more information on how you can help shape the future of Oberlin and generations of students, please call us at 440-775-8599 or email us at gift.planning@oberlin.edu.



From left: Goodman '06 and Noel-Nosbaum '07

2005

Kay Healy created a 1,000-square-foot installation in the Central Library of Philadelphia. Called *Lost and Found*, the work depicts iconic Philadelphia row houses and incorporates 3-dimensional screen-printed, stuffed, and sewn objects—everything from frying pans to Teletubbies, each one symbolizing something lost by a person who wants it back. Interviewee **Tim Gibbon '04**, for instance, spoke about his bike. The stories behind those objects can be heard on recordings made by NPR in conjunction with the installation. *Lost and Found* will be on display through October 2015. [w] kayhealy.com/lostandfound



Kappraff '06

2006

Jonah Kappraff married Beth Willer in Trumansburg, N.Y., on June 21, 2014. Obies in attendance were (pictured from left) **Ryan Miller** and **Cara McKibbin**, both '05, and **Ben Fox '01**. ■ **Will Jaffee**, a fourth-year medical resident at Cambridge (Mass.) Hospital, was surprised to learn in November that three of the five people on his internal medicine team are Oberlin

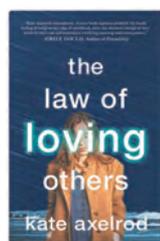


Jaffee '06

are attending physician **John Limouze '01**, **Will**, and first-year resident **Ali Alpert '98**.

■ **Powerhouse**, a new play written by **Josh Luxenberg** and directed by **Jon Levin '07**, was a November 2014 critic's pick in the *New York Times*. The show, which focuses on the life of jazz musician and inventor Raymond Scott, features **Clare McNulty** in a leading role. It played at the New Ohio Theater in New York City's West Village. ■ **Caitlin Goodman** and **Jonathan Pitts** were married September 6, 2014, in Philadelphia. Joining the celebration were numerous Obies (pictured from left): **Sam Rauch '07**, **Charlie Gill**, **Charlie Brown**, **Emily Guendelsberger**, **Scott and Gretchen Pritchard** **Max Willens**, **Alli Katz**, **Hannah Greene**, **Myra Hellerstein**, **Ricardo Lagomasino**, and **Meghan Donnelly**. **Sarah DeGiorgis** also attended, but does not appear in the photo.

2007



The first novel by **Kate Axelrod**, *The Law of Loving Others*, was published in January by RazorBill, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers Group. **Dan Chaon**, **Delaney** Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Oberlin, says the book “creates the kind of complex heroine readers will long remember.”

graduates. “We were, by chance, the ‘green’ team,” he writes, noting that two of them bike to the hospital each day, and the other walks. Pictured

■ **Carrie Noel-Nosbaum** married Gabe Pinkney on July 13, 2014, in Potomac, Md. Oberlin alumni in attendance included (pictured from left) **Ben Stanley '05**, with his wife, **Val**, **Peter Aron '67**, **Meghan Schott '06**, **Kate Oberg '06**, mother-of-the-groom **Pam Sommers '77**, **Lee Stern '77**, **Marianne Alweis '73**, **Richard Mellman '71**, **Callie Sadler '06**, and **Lynn Gerbec**, as well as **Ferd Hoefner '77** (not pictured). ■ **Rebecca Shaykin**, assistant curator at the Jewish Museum in New York, was one of two organizers of *Helena Rubinstein: Beauty is Power*, on display through March 22, 2015. The *New York Times* called it “a master class in modernism-as-marketing.”

2008

Marie Barnett and **Xander Woolverton** were married August 30, 2014, in Lenox, Mass. They were joined by many Obies and lifelong friends: **Rebecca Turnbull '06**, **Christa Wagner**, **Mathilda McGee-Tubb '07**, **David Perlman**, **Nat Gelb**, **Daniil Karp '09**, **Dieter Strause**, **Nivan Khosravi**, **Henry Schneider**, **Jacob Fiss-Hobart '05**, **Zenith Richards '09**, **Krista Lewicki**, **Steven Kleinman '05**, **Stephanie Lowenthal-Savy**, **Brendan Morris**, **Molly Wolloosky '09**, **Jesse Gerstin '07**, **Brittany Jordan '09**, **Alison Doniger**, **Caitlin Seeley George**, **Dan Lesser**, **Tom Curtin**. Loved and missed were: **Valerie Alt**, **Danielle Koplinka-Loehr**, **Gabo Golden '06**, **Ilana Garcia-Grossman**, **Olivia Sideman '09**, and **Kirsten Hansen-Day '09**. **Marie** and **Xander** live in Brooklyn, N.Y. ■ **Tiffany Chang** earned third place in the college/university orchestra division of the American Prize in Conducting. **Tiffany** is founder and music director of the New England Repertory Orchestra in Boston and associate professor at the Berklee College of Music. ■ **Ezra** and



ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM



GALAPAGOS: WITH AN EXTENSION TO PERU

January 8-17, 2016 | Escorted by Oberlin Associate Professor of Biology Roger Laushman

Back by popular demand! Located 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador and bisected by the equator lies one of nature's most enchanting destinations—the Galapagos Islands. The Galapagos originally found notoriety in the mid-1800s, when Charles Darwin formulated his theories of evolution from his observations on the unique and plentiful fauna of the region. Journey with us as we embark on an eco-adventure to explore this archipelago and discover wildlife unlike any other on earth! We will have the unique opportunity for extraordinarily close encounters with sea lions, penguins, tortoises, fur seals, and many kinds of seabirds. We will travel aboard Lindblad Expeditions' National Geographic Endeavour. Join us for this remarkable opportunity to travel with fellow alumni and mingle with the same friendly and frolicsome creatures that inspired Darwin over 150 years ago! Brochure available.



MEXICO CITY: THE ART OF MEXICO CITY AND OAXACA

February 1-8, 2016 | Escorted by Allen Memorial Art Museum Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art Denise Birkhofer

Immerse yourself in Latin American art and archeology on this custom tour to Mexico City, co-sponsored by the Allen Memorial Art Museum. Explore Zona Maco, one of the top Latin American art fairs, with a VIP pass. Journey to the Basin of Mexico to explore the awe-inspiring pyramids of Teotihuacan, an important Mesoamerican site. Explore the rarely viewed mural museum and walk the Avenue of the Dead, connecting the Pyramid of the Sun and Pyramid of the Moon. Visit galleries in the San Miguel Chapultepec and Colonia Roma districts of Mexico City. Wander the cobbled streets of the colonial-style San Angel neighborhood and enjoy the Saturday bazaar at the Jardin del Arte. Visit La Casa Azul where Frida Kahlo was born and died and see works by Diego Rivera and Kahlo in the Museo Dolores Olmedo. Brochure available.

OBIADVENTURE!: APOSTLE ISLAND KAYAKING

July 23-26, 2015 | Escorted by Oberlin Associate Professor of Psychology Cindy Frantz

Join fellow Obies for a “low cost, high value” getaway in Northern Wisconsin. Island hop on your kayak, visit sea caves, and watch the stars above Lake Superior at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Associate Professor Cindy Frantz studies humans' relationship with the natural world, among other research interests, and will share some of her insights with nature as our setting. This four-day, three-night camping adventure will be a highlight of your summer!

For more information about alumni travel opportunities, visit <http://new.oberlin.edu/office/alumni/travel-tours/>. If you would like to receive electronic news and brochures about our programs, please call 440-775-8692 or e-mail deb.stanfield@oberlin.edu. Please consider traveling with fellow Obies! Oberlin parents are always welcome!



Anne Goldman celebrated the birth of their daughter, Molly Susan Goldman, on August 5, 2014. ■ **Katherine Ogren Lott** and Stephen Lott were married October 25, 2014, in Indianapolis. They were joined by fellow Obies J. Daniel Ogren '75, Anne C. Geddes Ogren '76, Nicholas D. Ogren '05, Mark Knee '05, and Jackelyn Golden.

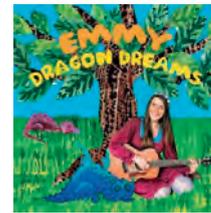
2009

Dragon Dreams, the first album by **Emmy Brockman**, has earned a Parents' Choice Award, presented to the year's best albums of children's music. The album, which consists mostly of original songs—including "The Hoity-Toity Tortoise" and "Dinosaurs are for Roaring"—was made with the help of fellow Obies Alli Cynthia Guggenheim and Rachel Colwell '10. [w] emmybrockman.com ■ **Sarah Moon** married Brent Stamey on November 29,

2014, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Toledo, Ohio. The couple met in the organ department at Indiana University while pursuing graduate degrees in music. Sarah is an administrator at Indiana University, and Brent is principal organist of St. Meinrad Archabbey. Obies in attendance included Nina Zhou '08 and Clayton Marcinak.

2010s
2010

Rebecca Witheridge was one of 11 students at Loyola University in Chicago to be awarded the President's Medallion for leadership, scholarship, and service in a ceremony at Navy Pier on November 14, 2014. The medallion recognizes the university's "most outstanding students...who excel not only in



Far left: Barnett '08;
above: Moon '09; left:
Brockman '09

the classroom, but also in the world, and are dedicated to helping those around them."

2013

Carter Sligh earned a year-long choral scholarship at York Minster in England, where he will pursue a master's degree in solo voice ensemble singing at the University of York, studying with Robert Hollingworth of I Fagiolini. Carter will be joined on the program by Lily Manshel, Matthew Benenson, and Seth Nachimson, all '14.

2014

In her senior year at Oberlin, **Elena Makansi** published her first book, *The Sowing*. In October 2014, she followed it with the second volume in her Seeds Trilogy, *The Reaping*. Elena describes the series as a "hard science fiction dystopian adventure set in the futuristic, post-apocalyptic world of Okaria." She is coauthoring the books with her mother, Kristina, and her sister, Amira. [w] theseedstrilogy.com



Lott '08 (left);
Goldman '08

CLASS NOTES are prepared from a variety of sources, including news media articles, press releases, notes sent to us, and TAPPAN, the online alumni community. We now include class notes in the online version of *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*. E-mail notes (including attachments such as photographs) to alum.mag@oberlin.edu. Send notes to Class Notes/Oberlin Alumni Magazine, 247 West Lorain Street, Suite C, Oberlin, Ohio 44074.

(continued from page 3)

to aesthetics can produce uninteresting and ugly buildings. Somehow, as Professor Spear carefully points out, the people who select the architects are, so often, visually illiterate. In my some 40 years of teaching at institutions with excellent art departments and museums, I have witnessed this very same problem that Professor Spear discusses. Why does this have to continue? I thank Professor Spear for his most appropriate and astute comments. I hope that at least Oberlin will pay some attention to his letter.

J. RICHARD JUDSON '48
Hanover, N.H.

(The writer taught art history at Smith College for nearly 20 years and is a professor emeritus at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.)

THE SEEGER EXPERIENCE

Thanks to Joe Hickerson and the article on Pete Seeger and Oberlin College (Summer 2014). It triggered my own memories of Seeger's first visit to Oberlin in 1954. That semester I was taking a course called Philosophy of Religion, led by Professor Paul Schmidt. In his class, during the week of Seeger's visit, we were discussing the nature of "religious experience." The morning after Seeger's concert in the Allen Art Museum, with about 200 in attendance, Professor Schmidt asked us, "How many of you went to the Seeger concert last night?" A few of us raised our hands. He went on: "I wouldn't have gone, but someone gave me tickets. Now that was a religious experience!" Those of us who had been there felt the truth of his excited response.

CLARK OLSEN '54
Asheville, N.C.

The magazine might be interested to know that Pete Seeger was at Oberlin well before the first concert referred to in the article. In October 1948, a group of us, more radical than most, were trying to organize support for the candidacy of Henry A. Wallace. By some means we got Pete, who was already campaigning for Wallace, to come to Oberlin to help us get started, and he spent an evening with us in the back of the Mens Building trying to help us organize. At the end, he led us in a few songs, like *The Union*

Maid. It was a pleasant evening, although the political product was ever so small.

STEPHEN WISE TULIN '49
North Ferrisburgh, Vt.

TAPPAN THE NETWORK

The Alumni Association's announcement of the "TAPPAN Network"—the new name for ObieWeb—caught me as funny today, but not "ha-ha" funny, just timely/interesting and, maybe because we are Obies, a little sadly grim.

The irony of the "TAPPAN Network" is in the name and in the network. I'm sure it's a decent system for the online Obie directory, but we should all (if we are Obies to the core) be aware that Lewis Tappan started the "database" that became Dun & Bradstreet. Dun & Bradstreet is credited as the parent of the surveillance industry (think profiling, rendition, black site, "GITMO, drone, etc.). Lewis Tappan reportedly became wealthy as a result of, essentially, surveillance reporting. You can understand why "TAPPAN Network" sounds a little sinister to my ears (much as I am fond of Tappan Square!).

So, with Tappan's belief in certain freedoms, freedom also had a price. I find this all interesting because these facts presented themselves to me while I was writing my book, *American Drone*. Perhaps we celebrate other things when we say TAPPAN Network, but I hope we acknowledge this. We allow ourselves the privilege of a fine line.

PETER MONEY '86
Brownsville, Vt.

SHEET CHEAT

I just read Leslie Lawrence's essay and am probably not the only graduate to clarify that only the men got linen service (Fall 2014, "Property"). When did the college figure out that the men were as capable as the women to operate a washing machine?

ELIZABETH 'BIZ' SCHOONMAKER AULD '65
New Haven, Conn.

Oberlin Alumni Magazine welcomes comments from readers. Please address your letters to *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, 247 W. Lorain St., Suite C, Oberlin, OH 44074-1089; or e-mail: alum.mag@oberlin.edu. Letters may be edited for clarity and space. Additional letters may appear on OAM's website at www.oberlin.edu/oam.

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Losses

1936

During World War II, **Elizabeth Morrison Hunter** moved to Washington, D.C., with her husband, Donald H. Morrison, to support the war effort. There she served as a personal secretary in the Lend Lease Administration and later the Department of State. A devoted mother, she raised eight children through two marriages, and she enjoyed traveling with her second husband, Dr. Ralph Hunter, once the children were grown. Even in her advancing years, Ms. Hunter was an avid performer who played recorder in numerous ensembles and portrayed Helen Keller in a theatrical production at Kendal at Oberlin. She died February 18, 2014, leaving eight children, 17 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

1937

A lifelong activist, **June Wing** purchased properties in Baltimore in the 1960s as part of an effort to block highway construction that would have destroyed that city's now-prosperous inner harbor. She earned a master's degree in science, technology, and public policy at George Washington University and taught at Loyola College, Goucher College, and the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene, specializing in issues of nuclear testing and environmental ethics. She served as president of the Baltimore chapter of the League of Women Voters and the Maryland chapter of the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, in addition to leadership roles with many other organizations, including the Oberlin Alumni Association. Ms. Wing died October 14, 2014, and is survived by three children. She was preceded in death by her husband, Wilson.

1939

Walter J. Behr spent his career as the Washington, D.C.-area sales manager for Family Record Plan, a photo services company, but he is more widely known for his nearly three decades serving as mayor of Somerset, a town of narrow, tree-lined streets within the borders of Chevy Chase, Md., that he helped shield from development. He began his career as a labor economist and became a division director with the Wage Stabilization Board. He served in the Army during WWII, editing a daily mimeographed newspaper in Assam, India, and later serving as an information and education officer in the U.S. after attending officer training school. In Somerset, he helped start an after-school program that brought together

mostly black children from Washington with the mostly white student body of Somerset. He was a past president of Temple Sinai in Washington and an active member of the Oberlin alumni club of Washington. Mr. Behr died Jan. 2, 2015. He was predeceased by his first wife, Louise Frieder, and a son. He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Barbara Bradshaw; four children; a stepson; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

1942

Frances Neill was a teacher with a great zeal for activism, taking part in women's rights and peace causes for years. After college, she held jobs as an English teacher in Mexico and as a film and television editor in New York City. While teaching grade school in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., in the 1970s, she earned a master's degree in education from Fairfield University. Known to loved ones as "Tahnee," Ms. Neill was a founding trustee and past president of the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society. She died December 14, 2013, and was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Neill. She leaves two children and one grandchild.

1943

Dr. Lowell Moyer Bollinger was a groundbreaking scientist at the Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago, where he developed an instrument to study the properties of atomic nuclei—a so-called "fast chopper"—that earned him international recognition. He served for 10 years as director of Argonne's physics division, later moving on to the development of nuclear accelerators, for which he earned the Bonner Prize, the highest award given by the American Physical Society for achievement in nuclear physics. In addition, he was the youngest American physicist appointed to the First International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, held in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1955. During WWII, Dr. Bollinger worked at the Aircraft Engine Research Laboratory in Berea, Ohio, and later earned a PhD in physics from Cornell University. He died September 25, 2014, leaving his wife, Joanne Shea Low Bollinger; two daughters; and two grandchildren. He was predeceased by his first wife, Margaret, and a son.

1949

Dr. Homer C. Cooper was a longtime educator, serving on the sociology faculty at the University of Georgia for 24 years. A surgical

technician during WWII, he later earned a PhD from the University of Michigan and taught at the University of Montana, Dartmouth College, and the University of Pittsburgh before joining Georgia. He married Patricia Montgomery Irvin '49 and was active in his local Democratic Party. Dr. Cooper died November 4, 2014, leaving his wife, three children, and many grandchildren. ■ A piano student at Oberlin, **Marjory Hanson** served for 27 years in the music division at the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C., before retiring in 1995 as the music program administrator. In that role, she took part in many meetings with well-known artists. She never owned a car and instead enjoyed rides with friends, walking, and using the D.C. Metro system. Before her career with the arts endowment, Ms. Hanson taught music classes at the National Cathedral Elementary School in Washington and held a number of arts-related positions in New York City. She died September 13, 2013. Survivors include her brother, James Hanson '49, and sister, Barbara Albert '49.

1951

Dr. Dorothee Leppmann Barbour Perloff conducted key research in blood-pressure monitoring and "white coat" phenomenon during a 38-year career as clinical professor of medicine and director of the hypertension clinic at the University of California, San Francisco. She was a guest lecturer at cardiology conferences worldwide and an active member of many professional groups, including a stint as president of the San Francisco chapter of the American Heart Association. She earned her medical degree at Harvard Medical School and began her career at Philadelphia General Hospital. Dr. Perloff died November 2, 2014. ■ **Barbara H. Swanson** was a music teacher in the Johnstown School District for 25 years, and for over 60 years, taught private piano and instrumental lessons. In addition, she played second flute in the Johnstown Symphony and was a former member of the Erie Philharmonic. She was a member of American Association of University Women. Ms. Swanson was also a member of Westmont Presbyterian Church, where she was an elder and sang in the choir, and was formerly a deacon and played in the bell choir. She died December 13, 2014, at Windber Hospice. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, two daughters, and four grandchildren.

1952

John B. Hagner enjoyed a 41-year career as an accountant with Ratke, Miller, Hagner & Co., a Philadelphia firm founded by his father and grandfather in the 1930s. He earned an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and was drafted into the U.S. Army the following year. After completing his service, he worked for PriceWaterhouse in Puerto Rico, where he met his future wife, Graciela Nogueras. An avid mountain climber, Mr. Hagner had scaled 27 of the Rocky Mountains' 14,000-foot peaks by age 70. He died October 20, 2014, and was preceded in death by his first wife. He is survived by Mary Ellen Yugas Hagner, his wife of 27 years; six children; and 13 grandchildren. ■ An advocate for innovative approaches to health care, **Dr. Paul W. Scharff** established, with his wife, Ann Moyer Scharff '53, a senior living community in Chestnut Ridge, N.Y., that was considered an early experiment in long-term care. The intergenerational work-based long-term care community came to be known as the Fellowship Community, and it hosted numerous Oberlin students over the years. Dr. Scharff died April 29, 2014, and is survived by his wife.

1953

Dr. Leonore Davidoff enjoyed a long career teaching gender and women's studies at the University of Essex. Originally a music student at Oberlin, she earned a master's degree from the London School of Economics, with studies on the employment of married women that laid the groundwork for the research field of women's history. Over the years, her extensive studies focused on women's roles in society throughout English history—work that resulted in numerous publications. She devoted great energy to founding the international journal *Gender and History*, and she served as its first editor from 1987 until 1994. In retirement, she continued to research and write. Her final book, *Thicker than Water: Siblings and their Relations, 1780-1920*, was published in 2012, just before her 80th birthday. Dr. Davidoff died October 19, 2014. She was preceded in death by her husband, David Lockwood, with whom she had three sons.

1957

Conrad Malicoat was an artist who earned acclaim for gravity-defying fireplaces he sculpted for homes and businesses around his hometown of Provincetown, Mass., where as a

boy he led his high school basketball team to a state championship. After living in Paris for a year as a young man, he was invited to attend the Skowhegan School of Art and Design in Maine, where he met his future wife, artist Anne Lord. As they began to have children, they built a tiny house on the back of a truck—their “gypsy wagon”—and traveled the country in it, working odd jobs to pay their way as they went. At this time, Mr. Malicoat began to study sculpture, a skill that led to the creation of his artful and efficient chimneys. Mr. Malicoat served as a fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center, where his creations in stone, wood, metal, and brick were highly regarded. Today, four of his works reside in the permanent collection of the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C. Mr. Malicoat died October 16, 2014. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, three daughters, including Galen '86, and seven grandchildren.

1958

Stanley I. Richards was president and chairman of the Richards Corp., a Virginia-based photography-equipment company founded by his father in 1945. He served on the board of trustees of the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond, was former president and board member of the McLean Orchestra, and was a member of the McLean Rotary Club. He also maintained close relations with Oberlin, assuming various roles in support of admissions and development and serving on numerous reunion committees. Mr. Richards died July 29, 2014, leaving his wife, Jacqueline Richards.

1960

Dr. Richard Charles Boelkins II enjoyed a wide-ranging career that included stints in academia as assistant professor of psychology at Georgia State University and at the Harvard School of Public Health, where he was a consultant to the World Health Organization and a reviewer of submissions to scientific journals. By 1978, he turned to his love of the arts and woodworking, beginning a career as a designer and builder of residential furniture. A decade later, he became a leader in recycling efforts, and he devoted the last 11 years of his career to working for the State of Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Dr. Boelkins earned a master's degree in experimental psychology from the University of Wisconsin and a PhD in the same discipline from Stanford University. He died October 26, 2014,

and is survived by Sue Chappell, his wife of 38 years; a daughter and son; and two grandsons.

1963

Burr Angle built chicken coops in a leprosyarium as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ethiopia before returning to school to earn his master's degree at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. His varied career included stints as a jackaroo on a sheep station in Australia, professor at the University of Maryland, book editor and writer for a national hobby publisher, and manager of a hobby store. He edited and wrote numerous articles and books in the hobby field and on Madison history, and was a guest speaker at the East Side History Club. He served on the board of Historic Madison, Inc. Mr. Angle enjoyed bicycling, hiking, gardening, crafting model airplanes and boats, and doing historical research. He died September 8, 2013, leaving his wife, Dolores.

1970

A native of Portugal, **Thomas Chase** enjoyed a career as a skilled roofer, having shingled countless homes and businesses around his hometown of Woods Hole, Mass. An avid sailor and windsurfer, he competed in numerous competitions and was a member of the boat crew that won a 2014 summer racing series. Mr. Chase died December 8, 2014, leaving his daughter as well as his longtime companion, Lisa Murray.

1985

Constance Ann Wynne studied film at NYU and the American Film Institute and earned a master's degree in education and museum science from Bank Street College of Education. She studied art at Oberlin, where professor Athena Tacha '61 became one of her strongest influences. Ms. Wynne worked in the special education department of the Chappaqua School District. She enjoyed traveling, the arts, and the water, especially at Leetes Island, Conn., where her family spent time. Ms. Wynne died December 29, 2014, and is survived by her mother, a brother, and a daughter; a son predeceased her.

1987

Susanna Goldman formed lifelong friendships during her time at Oberlin. She died January 15, 2015. Survivors include her husband; her mother; her father, William Goldman '52; and her sister, Jenny Goldman '84.

“I think, with never-ending gratitude, that the young women of today do not and can never know at what price their right to free speech and to speak at all in public has been earned.”

Lucy Stone, Class of 1847, in a lecture to the New England Women's Club in 1887

“Another interesting thing about Ben and me is that we have very similar values in how we see the world. We both believe that business should be using its power to help address social and environmental issues, and not just making money. So that's helped define the mission of the company. At the same time, Ben and I have very different skills. Ben is very creative, spontaneous, risk-taking, bounding...adorable... whereas I am more adorable in my own way.”

Jerry Greenfield '73, of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream, answering the question “What's the secret to remaining friends after working together all these years?” in an AMA (Ask Me Anything) session on Reddit, on January 8, 2015

“If you don't happen to have a nice, gay, Jewish nephew who is a musical genius and hilariously funny with ties to musical comedy stars and an obsessive need to pick apart every single note of their careers, and who also comes home and tells you all about it while dish-ing them and ordering Chinese take-out, not to mention counting calories all at the same time, then Seth Rudetsky is your man. Please buy this amaaaaahzing book so he'll stop e-mailing me.”

Actor Nathan Lane, about *Seth's Broadway Diary* by Seth Rudetsky '88, published in October 2014 by Dress Circle Publishing

“Our students deserve to be supported when they respond passionately to the injustices they see. But we are not doing our jobs if we don't challenge them when they abuse the values that sustain us.”

Steven S. Volk, professor of history at Oberlin and director of its Center for Teaching Innovation and Excellence, in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* blog *The Conversation*, on January 8, 2015

“I'm just so tired of basic feminism and the people who defend it. This isn't the 19th century. Y'all need to read Sojourner Truth.”

Imani Gandy '96, on Twitter, under the handle Imani ABL (Angry Black Lady), February 23, 2015

Favorite places in Oberlin...

What were your favorite places to visit in Oberlin when you were a student? The museum, art galleries, shops and the Apollo movie theater all come to mind. They're still here and just a short walk away from Kendal at Oberlin. With an emphasis on music, art and lifelong learning, Kendal offers retirement living that nurtures body, mind and spirit. As Baby Boomers consider "what's next?," why not consider returning to Oberlin?

Learn more at KaO.Kendal.org/Oberlin-connection.



Photo by Dale Preston

Bob and Carla Van Dale moved to Kendal at Oberlin in 2013, and the Allen Memorial Art Museum is one of their favorite places to visit. They also enjoy many lectures, concerts and programs on campus – just walking distance from their Kendal at Oberlin cottage.

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“Oberlin gave me a better understanding of how different people were. My parents were proud of our history, but they wanted us to value diversity and respect different races, cultures, and ethnicities. Oberlin really reinforced for me how it’s important not to judge a book by its cover. It was a very accepting place.”

—STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE '92