



IT ALL STARTS WITH A SEED.

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BRAIN FRAME

Psychology and neuroscience major Corinne Marble '21, wearing the cap, works on her face perception research with McLean Sammon '20 in Oberlin's psychology department. Electroencephalogram is used in a variety of ways in the cognitive sciences to examine the structures and processes that underlie a creature's ability to think and reason.

PHOTO BY JENNIFER MANNA

ON THE COVER

An illustration of an apple seed by Dubai-based artist Ayang Cempaka. See page 24.






Marigals
2016 2017



Dreams Really Can Come True

ON A CLASSICALLY BEAUTIFUL LOS ANGELES MARCH MORNING, A GROUP OF OBERLIN alumni, parents, staff, and faculty gathered for an early breakfast meeting in the conference room of the Irving Thalberg building at Sony Pictures Studios, formerly the site of MGM Studios. The location alone anticipates something auspicious. Built into the exterior hallway wall of the conference room is a display of many Oscars awarded over the years—a reminder as one enters that within the conference room, creativity has translated into artistic and commercial success.

The group gathered in support of the “ObieWood—Oberlin Entertainment Network,” part of Oberlin’s new Arts & Creative Professions career community that is designed to help Oberlin students secure internships in the arts and entertainment fields for summer 2019. Present at the meeting were several generations of Obies, motivated by their personal experience of the importance of mentoring and mentorship. Alumni from the 1990s and 2000s expressed their gratitude for the support of 1970s alumni in helping them launch into the entertainment business. All present were eager to build the ObieWood network to, as one of the participants put it, “help remove the initial fear of reaching out” among current Oberlin students.

The generous support of ObieWood alumni and parents has been replicated by three other career communities that were launched this year by the Career Development Center: Finance, Business, and Consulting; Nonprofit and the Public Sector; and Entrepreneurship and Innovation. In response to President Ambar’s call to action to alumni and parents to sponsor internships, alumni and parents have made it possible for Oberlin students to have amazing internship opportunities this summer at sites such as the Ohio Environmental Council, National Labor Relations Board, the International Center of Photography, BBDO Worldwide, and Columbia Pictures Industries. With financial support from the college and alumni, every student will be financially supported during their internship so they can participate in this program no matter their financial situation. This spring, Oberlin is preparing students in the career communities to make the most of this opportunity through required workshops in which they work with expert faculty, professional staff, and alumni guides to help them discern their career path, understand how liberal arts skills translate into professional skills, and develop their professional communication and networking abilities. The Career Development Center is looking forward to launching additional career communities in 2019-20.

Exiting the Thalberg building of Sony Pictures Studios, one beholds the 188-foot rainbow, the public art installation by multimedia artist Tony Tasset. The rainbow honors MGM’s iconic film, *The Wizard of Oz*, and serves as a reminder that “the dreams that you dream of” really can come true with the support of the community of Oz—or in our case, with the support of Oberlin’s extended family.

DANA HAMDAN
Associate Dean of Students
Interim Director, Career Development Center

Oberlin

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NEXT CENTURY THINKING

SINCE MANY OBERLIN ALUMNI work in higher education, we are aware that “the world of higher education is changing rapidly” (“Looking to Oberlin’s Third Century,” Winter 2018-19). I am glad to see that Acting Dean Kamitsuka and the Academic and Administrative Program Review (AAPR) steering committee are addressing Oberlin’s future. I am also appreciative of any efforts to engage alumni in these conversations.

DAVID CRAMPTON ’86
Shaker Heights, Ohio

Editor’s note: See up-to-date AAPR details at www.oberlin.edu/AAPR.

TWO SCOOPS

YOUR WELL-ILLUSTRATED ARTICLE was very interesting (“Chocolate’s Bitter Aftertaste,” Winter). My thanks to Tom Neuhaus ’74 and his Project Hope and Fairness for working diligently toward making this world a better place for human habitation.

ANNE P. REINHART ’57
Missoula, Mont.

AS A DEDICATED THEOBROMINE ADDICT, I read this article with relish, thinking I would learn something about the chemical makeup of chocolate that makes it taste bitter (or sour) to me, only to learn instead about its troubled manufacture and processing. Thank you for publishing this info and making me more aware of the issues involved.

AA LLOYD ’57
Asheville, N.C.

FOLLOW THE FUNNY

ROB REINER’S QUOTE [about visiting the ailing William Goldman ’52] was vintage Goldman (Endquotes, Winter). I recall one of those

excruciating freshman mixers in 1948 when the dean of men was introducing people. “And here,” he said, “is Sam Goldman from New York”—thus transforming the identity and origin of William Goldman of Highland Park, Illinois. You don’t need an Oberlin degree to figure that one out. Bill took a wry pleasure from time to time in identifying himself as Sam Goldman. Also vintage Goldman. We are poorer for his departure.

ROBERT DREEBEN ’52
Evanston, Ill.

INSPIRED SISTER

I ALWAYS WELCOME and read the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, starting with the class notes, and I am always inspired by the wonderful idealism and productivity of the Oberlin community. The winter issue is especially inspiring. President Ambar’s inaugural address goes far beyond comforting generalities. Her rootedness in her family is mirrored in her consideration of Oberlin’s history and in the way we should look at history in general.

In addition, I’m thrilled to make the acquaintance of Mary Church Terrell. Her latest years coincided with my own years at Oberlin. Her “complicated relationships” with Oberlin did not deter her from remaining faithful to the college despite the bitter disappointments she suffered—an amazing and admirable, and I would add, Christian, attitude. From this article I discovered that not only was she the fifth black woman in this country to earn a bachelor’s degree, but those first four women ahead of her were all from Oberlin. I will boast about this fact at every opportunity.

MOTHER FELICITAS CURTI
(FORMERLY MARTHA CURTI WOHLFORTH ’54)
Shaw Island, Wash.

OBERLIN TRADITIONS

MY GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER Grandison Fairchild helped found Oberlin College. My great-grandfather James Harris Fairchild was president for years. More than 70 Fairchilds then graduated from the college, went on to academic careers of distinction, and made really important contributions to improving people’s lives.

Through my childhood I vowed that I would go to college elsewhere and forge a new life for myself. But in the end, I chose Oberlin and its academic excellence. At almost 90, I am still

glad that I did so. Why? Because Oberlinians care so much for others and try to help people all over the world. Because Oberlinians work hard to understand different peoples, their different points of view, and to work out any problems that they have. And because for the most part, Oberlinians call on themselves to establish basic values and then hold to them.

From its beginnings, Oberlin fostered equal rights and relationships for African Americans and women. I grew up a part of this. My parents, Dorothy Fairchild and James Larmour Graham, met at Fisk University, where my retired Latin scholar grandfather, James Thome Fairchild, was treasurer (Oberlin and Fisk were linked in various ways in earlier times). My mother worked for my father, who was then dean, while completing his PhD in psychology at Vanderbilt University. My grandfather urged his daughters to take on professional careers. For example, his daughter Mildred Fairchild (later Woodbury) helped establish the School of Social Work at Bryn Mawr College and headed the International Labour Office’s Women’s and Children’s Division. Oberlin and my family have unending examples of illustrious alumni who have done all kinds of things to improve individual lives and life across the world in all fields of work.

I have been most fortunate to travel the world, to marry someone from another religion and culture, and thus to learn more about people and different world perspectives. I believe that Oberlin helped me become passionate about wanting to understand the world at large.

MILDRED FAIRCHILD GRAHAM VASAN ’51
Cupertino, Calif.

CORRECTIONS

Due to errors in transcribing a recording of the inauguration speech of President Ambar, we allowed two mistakes to appear in our print edition of the Winter 2018-19 issue. The correct version appears in the online version.

In the Fall 2018 class notes, we inadvertently used an incorrect pronoun for Ni’Ja Whitson ’02. Ni’Ja uses they/them.

Send letters to *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, 247 W. Lorain St., Suite C, Oberlin, OH 44074-1089; or email: alum.mag@oberlin.edu. The magazine reserves the right to determine the suitability of letters for publication and to edit them for accuracy and length.

Around Tappan Square



REAL PLAYER The music of New York composer and guitarist Rafiq Bhatia '10 is described by the *New York Times* as "transcending real sound in real time with the unexpected." Bhatia, who has recorded with the likes of Lorde and Sufjan Stevens, brought his globe-spanning mix of twisted rock, warped jazz, and electronics to campus for a performance at the 'Sco in March. Bhatia's ANTI- Records debut, *Breaking English*, was released last year.



ENVIRONMENT

Oberlin Joins Higher Ed Carbon Pricing Initiative

OBERLIN PRESIDENT CARMEN TWILLIE AMBAR signed a letter in December 2018 calling on national and local elected officials to enact a carbon pricing policy. Ambar joins more than 20 college and university presidents who have signed the Higher Education Carbon Pricing Initiative. Carbon pricing is widely regarded as a low-cost, efficient way to create jobs in clean energy and other sectors and generate economic benefits. The open letter urges state and federal lawmakers to proactively work to enact legislation that would put a price on carbon emissions and transition to a clean-energy economy.

“Carbon pricing creates an economy-wide incentive to reduce greenhouse gases in economically efficient ways that can, if revenues are used wisely, benefit low-income households while stimulating job growth,” the letter states. “The World Bank has endorsed carbon pricing as a way to accurately account for the external costs of emissions, like crop loss, flood damage, and medical treatments that result from heat waves and other climate change disasters. Thousands of businesses support carbon pricing for its transparent and predictable approach.”

Oberlin has long been a leader in supporting initiatives that place colleges and universities at the forefront of the movement toward environmental sustainability. “It is important that we support efforts to fight climate change on our campus,” Ambar says, “but we must also encourage policymakers to adopt legislation that will foster growth in clean energy and enable future generations to thrive.”

The Higher Education Carbon Pricing Endorsement Initiative is led by Our Climate in partnership with the National Geographic documentary series *Years of Living Dangerously*. Our Climate mobilizes and empowers young people to educate the public and elected officials about science-based, equitable climate policy solutions that build a livable world. It leads the #PutAPriceOnIt campaign, which recruits, trains, and supports student leaders across the country to advocate for carbon pricing.

STUDENT LIFE

Oberlin's Consent Campaign: It's Not Always About Sex

BY AMANDA NAGY

SOMETIMES IT SEEMS LIKE THE WORK THAT comes out of Oberlin's Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion is only about sex.

Rebecca Mosely, director of the office and Oberlin's Title IX coordinator, is the first to say that it's hard to talk about sex, but the matter of consent isn't just sexual.

A year ago, Mosely's office launched Oberlin's first consent awareness campaign. The slogan, "Let's Make Consent a Conversation," has a multitude of meanings: make consent a conversation with yourself; a conversation with a partner; or even a conversation at home with your parents.

Although a majority of students were aware of the college's sexual misconduct policy, just as many still had questions about how to practice clear consent. "At home before college, if you wanted to avoid a person or not hang out with them, you just went home. Here, you're living, dining, and going to classes with them," Mosely says. "Really understanding how to ask for and gain consent in a relationship is more important than it has ever been in students' lives."

In spring 2017, Mosely and Suzanne Denneen, program coordinator in the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, attended a training workshop offered by the Ohio Alliance to End Sexualized Violence, a statewide anti-sexual violence coalition. With the training came an opportunity to receive grant funding for a consent awareness campaign.

"Oberlin had spent years working on other best practices, such as creating solid education for our students, editing our sexual misconduct policy, and conducting climate surveys to gauge student experiences, behaviors, and perceptions. To me, consent awareness was the natural next step," Mosely says. She and Denneen were awarded a \$10,000 grant to make it happen.

Oberlin's peer education program, Preventing and Responding to Sexual Misconduct (PRSM), trains students on the essentials of both consent and Oberlin's sexual misconduct policy. All first-year and transfer students are required to attend two PRSM-led training sessions their first year, which cover



the basics of consent as well as bystander intervention—educating people on how to intervene when there is potential harm. Student PRSM trainers were using the slogan "Make Consent a Conversation," but it hadn't gained much traction.

Mosely's office conducted a focus group in summer 2017 to gauge students' interest in a campaign and collect more information about issues surrounding consent on campus. "We were hearing that some students didn't really know how to talk to each other about sex," Denneen says.

Armed with that information, they worked with Oberlin's Office of Communications to create a brochure that was mailed to all students, as well as posters, stickers, pins, and a series of animated videos that model real-life conversations about sexual consent. They also sent a letter to parents of first-year students asking them to talk with their students about the brochure.

Denneen says feedback was positive. The brochure even made headlines: a comic illustration about the brochure by Oberlin parent Beth Wolfensberger Singer in the *Boston Globe* was a point of pride for everyone who worked on the campaign.

"One of the things we've come to appreciate about the campaign is being able to show how this kind of communication and consent practice isn't just related to sexual interactions.

It's relevant to all of our interactions with one another," Mosely says.

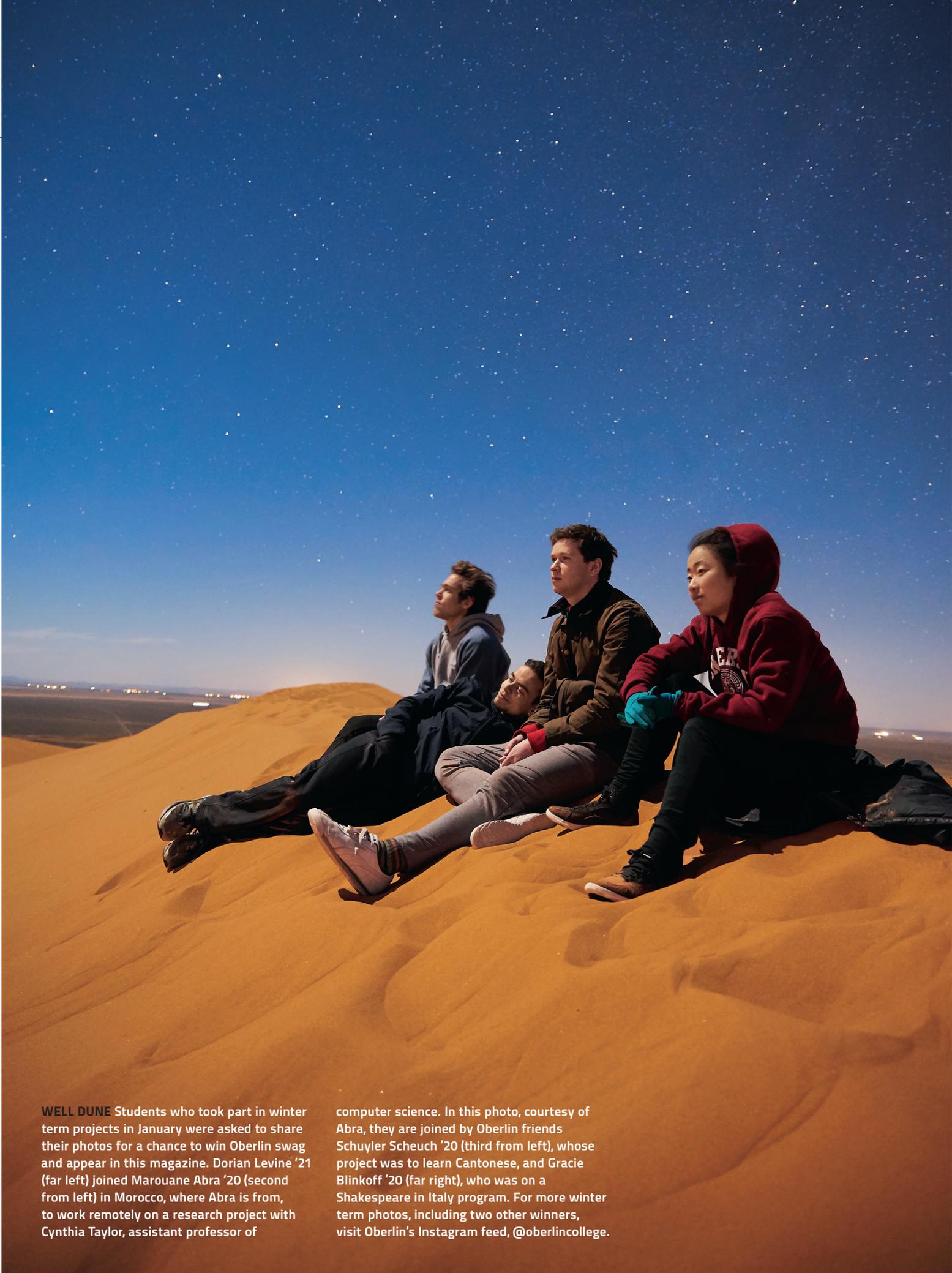
Student reactions have been overwhelmingly positive. Said an anonymous student, "I was really glad this was something [Oberlin] was talking about even before students arrived. It was affirming in regards to me picking Oberlin." Another student remarked, "I was relieved that it would be a mandatory conversation."

PRSM trainer and senior Kira Findling believes the campaign plays a large part in promoting healthy relationships on campus. "What I love about this campaign is rather than focusing on what we shouldn't do, it talks about what we can do to be kind and caring to one another on campus and beyond," says Findling, a cinema studies and comparative American studies major.

PRSM continues to create and present workshops about different aspects of consent, including Consent Month in April, observed nationally as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

"I feel really proud to be a PRSM trainer and to be involved in this work," Findling says. "The 'Let's Make Consent a Conversation' posters are all around campus, so people are constantly seeing them and thinking about how to bring consent into their everyday lives. I think the next step is not letting these conversations end."

Watch the consent videos and read the brochure at go.oberlin.edu/consent.



WELL DUNE Students who took part in winter term projects in January were asked to share their photos for a chance to win Oberlin swag and appear in this magazine. Dorian Levine '21 (far left) joined Marouane Abra '20 (second from left) in Morocco, where Abra is from, to work remotely on a research project with Cynthia Taylor, assistant professor of

computer science. In this photo, courtesy of Abra, they are joined by Oberlin friends Schuyler Scheuch '20 (third from left), whose project was to learn Cantonese, and Gracie Blinkoff '20 (far right), who was on a Shakespeare in Italy program. For more winter term photos, including two other winners, visit Oberlin's Instagram feed, @oberlincollege.

COURTESY OF MAROUANE ABRA '20

Faculty Notes

Visiting Assistant Professor of Studio Art and Drawing **Beverly Acha** was highlighted in the quarterly web journal *Lookie-Lookie* on the subject of her forthcoming book, *Artists in the Studio: On Doubt*. Acha also exhibited paintings in *THREE*, a group show at DC Moore Gallery in New York City. ■ **Emily Barton**, assistant professor of creative writing, reviewed Kenji Miyazawa's collection of dark fairy tales, *Once and Forever*, in the *New York Times*. ■ Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology **Les Beldo** published an article in *American Ethnologist* about whalers, activists, and the power of the state in the Makah whaling conflict. ■ Visiting Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and Religion **Sam Berrin Shonkoff** published "Metanomianism and Religious Praxis in Martin Buber's Hasidic Tales" in a special issue of *Religions* and presented a paper at the Association for Jewish Studies conference in Boston on the topic of interpretations of communal silence in Hasidic mysticism. ■ Associate Professor of Anthropology **Cal Biruk** gave invited book talks at the University of Toronto's Infrastructures of Development seminar series, Michigan State's African Studies Center, and at Yale. Biruk published the article "The Politics of Global Health" in *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, presented work in progress and acted as a discussant on two panels sponsored by the Queer African Studies Association at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, and was a featured panelist on New Books in Medical Anthropology at the American Anthropological Association (AAA) meetings. ■ Associate Professor of Cinema Studies **Rian Brown-Orso** and Professor of Cinema Studies and

English **Geoff Pingree** were invited guests to Columbia University's Institute for Research on African-American Studies in March to speak about their documentary film *The Foreigner's Home*. The film screened in January in conjunction with the Brooklyn Museum's exhibition *Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power* and in Los Angeles at the Hammer Museum's Billy Wilder Theater. Brown-Orso was also featured in a solo exhibition of animations and video at the Sculpture Center in Cleveland. ■ **Deborah Campana**, head of the conservatory library, gave a lecture at Kendal at Oberlin related to her photography exhibit, *Sighting & Resighting*. ■ Professor of Economics **Ron Cheung** presented on the topics of homeowners associations and city cohesion at the National Tax Association Conference in New Orleans. ■ *Alien Virus Love Disaster*, written by Visiting Assistant Professor of Creative Writing **Abbey Chung '11**, was named one of the five best science fiction and fantasy novels of 2018 by the *Washington Post*. ■ Professor of English **Yago Colás** gave the lecture "Technologies of the Basketball Body: Adventures between the Science of Moving Dots and Somaesthetics" at the conference Bodies of Design: Somaesthetic Perspectives on Technology, hosted by the Center for Body, Mind, and Culture at Florida Atlantic University. ■ Visiting Assistant Professor of Theater **Jason Dorwart**'s column about disability representation and actor training was published in the *Denver Post*. ■ **John Duca**, Danforth-Lewis Professor of Economics, gave a talk hosted by the New York City Club of Oberlin College and spoke at the MIT Enterprise Forum in January and to the National Association of Credit Managers in Phoenix. Duca published "Real

Estate and the Great Crisis: Lessons for Macroprudential Policy" in *Contemporary Economic Policy* and "Venture capital restrained after Sarbanes-Oxley" in *Economics Letters*. ■ Visiting Assistant Professor of Studio Art **Grayson Earle** is exhibiting alongside Ai Weiwei in an art exhibition about blockchain technology at the Kate Vass Galerie in Zürich, Switzerland. ■ Professor and Chair of Hispanic Studies **Sebastiaan Faber** wrote two articles for the *Nation*: one about Spain's left-wing party, Podemos, and another about Spain's radical right. ■ Professor of Physics **Stephen FitzGerald** served on an international panel in Leipzig, Germany, to review hydrogen isotope initiative and coauthored a paper in *Chemistry of Materials*. ■ Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology and Anthropology **Jennifer Fraser** presented the paper "Dangers of Fieldwork & Dangers of Sex Work: Erotics in/of/and Ethnomusicology" as part of a panel at the 63rd annual Society for Ethnomusicology conference in Albuquerque, N.M. ■ **Ken Grossi**, college archivist, coauthored with L'ael Hughes-Watkins "Project STAND: Documenting Student Activism" in the September/October issue of *Archival Outlook*, the magazine of the Society of American Archivists. ■ Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies **Sergio Gutiérrez Negrón** published the short story collection *Preciosos Perdedores* in Puerto Rico (Ediciones Alayubia). ■ Visiting Assistant Professor of Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies **Evangeline Heiliger** presented "Worlds of Ethical Consumerism: Imagining Justice Economies" at the National Women's Studies Association in Atlanta. Heiliger was also elected incoming cochair of the transnational Feminists in

Science and Technology Studies (FiSTS) working group and the NWSA Science and Technology Taskforce. ■ Associate Professor of Anthropology **Erika Hoffmann-Dilloway** gave an invited lecture titled "Figure (of Personhood) Drawing: Pictorial Representations of Signing and Signers in Nepal" in February at the University of Michigan. ■ Professor of Physics **Yumi Ijiri** coauthored the paper "Spin waves across three-dimensional, close-packed nanoparticles" in the *New Journal of Physics*. ■ **Erik Inglis '89**, professor of medieval art history, published "Media lost and found: the medieval understanding of the history of artistic techniques" in the journal *Quintana Revista do Departamento de Historia de Art Universidade de Santiago de Compostela 16*. Inglis also received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities supporting his current book project "Objects of Memory: The Medieval Art Historical Imagination." ■ Professor of Comparative American Studies **Wendy Kozol** published the paper "Radical Plurality and Visual Witnessing." ■ Assistant Professor of Economics **Evan Kresch** presented a paper at the ninth annual Bolivian Conference on Development Economics and the paper "Greener on the Other Side? Spatial Discontinuities in Property Tax Rates and their Effects on Tax Morale" at the University of Pittsburgh. ■ Assistant Professor of Music Theory **Megan Long** gave an invited talk called "What Do Signatures Signify? The Curious Case of 17th-Century English Key" at the University of Toronto. ■ Assistant Professor of Russian and East European Studies **Ian MacMillen** presented "Remembering (and Forgetting) Out Loud: Sonic Engagement of Holocaust and WWII Memorials in



EMERITA NOTE

ODAG Founder Snags OAC Award

Emerita Professor of English Phyllis Gorfain, founder and artistic director of Oberlin Drama at Grafton (featured in the fall 2016 issue of *OAM*), received the 2019 Governor's Award for Arts Administration from the Ohio Arts Council. The award recognizes "an individual who has

shown sustained, impactful, and visionary leadership of an arts organization."

"I know, and actually everyone who works with me knows, that ODAG depends on a whole community—above all, the commitment, courage, and ability and talent of the actors," Gorfain

says. "That's what people come for, to see the actors perform and to meet them." Gorfain praised the prison administration for their support of the program, along with "the students, faculty, mentors, and other professionals who make ODAG."

Berlin" at the 63rd annual Society for Ethnomusicology conference in Albuquerque, N.M. ■ Associate Professor of Politics **Kristina Mani** was an invited panelist in Bogotá, Colombia, at a conference on security sector reform for Colombia sponsored by the Universidad del Rosario and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. ■ Professor of Psychology **Stephan Mayer**'s book *Transforming Psychological Worldviews to Confront Climate Change* was published by University of California Press. ■ Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology **Kathryn Metz** presented on a panel discussion titled "Reflections on the Past, Present, and Future of Popular Music Scholarship" at the 63rd annual Society for Ethnomusicology conference in Albuquerque, N.M. ■ Professor of East Asian Studies **Sheila Miyoshi Jager** published "What Trump Needs to Know About the North Koreans and Hanoi" in *Politico*. Miyoshi Jager received an International Security & Foreign Policy grant from the Smith Richardson Foundation to complete her book *The Other Great Game: The "Opening" of Korea and the Birth of Modern East Asia*, which is under contract with Harvard University Press. ■ Professor of Classics **Kirk Ormand**

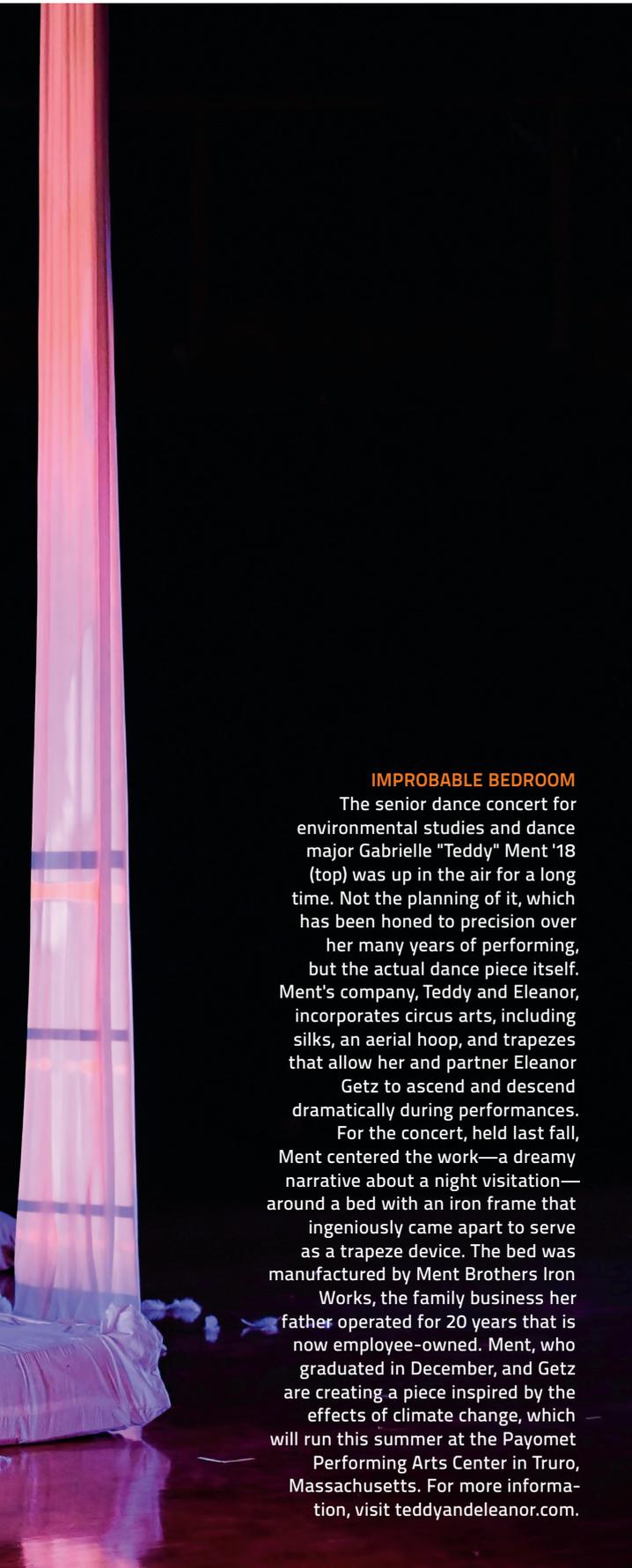
delivered the talk "Did Imaginary Cinaedi Have Sex with Women?" at the annual meeting of the Society for Classical Studies in San Diego. He delivered the John P. Sullivan Lecture at the University of California, Santa Barbara—a paper titled "Mollis or Intersexed? Ovid's Hermaphroditus and the Figural Tradition." ■ Associate Professor of Music Theory **Andrew Pau**'s article "Common-Tone Tonality in Bizet's Carmen" was published in the journal *Music Theory Spectrum*. ■ Assistant Professor of Art History **Matthew Rarey**'s article "Assemblage, Occlusion, and the Art of Survival in the Black Atlantic" was published in the winter 2018 issue of *African Arts*. ■ Robert S. Danforth Professor of History **Renee Romano** participated in a panel on "The Legacy of *Hamilton*" sponsored by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and spoke on "The *Hamilton* Phenomenon: How a Blockbuster Musical is Reenergizing American History" at the Dunham Tavern Museum in Cleveland. ■ Associate Archivist **Anne Salsich**'s article "Sanctuary at Oberlin: The Archives Bear Witness" was published in the November/December issue of *Archival Outlook*, the news magazine of the Society of American Archivists. ■ Assistant Professor of Physics **Jillian Scudder**

presented research in January at the American Astronomical Society's annual meeting in Seattle. ■ Conservatory faculty violists **Peter Slowik** and **Kirsten Docter** represented Oberlin's Division of Strings and led master classes at the 2019 American String Teachers Association Conference in Albuquerque, N.M. ■ Visiting Assistant Professor of Cinema Studies **Joshua Sperling** wrote *A Writer of Our Time: The Life and Work of John Berger*. ■ Assistant Professor of Computer Science **Cynthia Taylor** won a best paper award at the 50th Annual ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education for her paper "DROPTABLE: Textbooks, An Argument for SQL Injection Coverage in Database Textbooks." Taylor published the paper "Propagating the Adoption of CS Educational Innovations" in the Companion of the 23rd Annual ACM Conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education. ■ **Chris Trinacty**, associate professor of classics, published two articles: "Lares and Laocöon: A Note on Aen. 2.199-227" in *Vergilius* and "The Surface and the Depths: Quotation and Intertextuality in Seneca's *Naturales Quaestiones*" in *TAPA*. ■ Professor of Mathematics **Jim Walsh**'s invited paper appeared in

a special issue of the *CODEE Journal* (Consortium for Ordinary Differential Equations Educators), titled "Linking Differential Equations to Social Justice and Environmental Concerns." ■ Associate Professor of Classics **Drew Wilburn** was awarded a Franklin Research Grant from the American Philosophical Society to support research in the United Kingdom on his project "Architectural Magic and Social Space in the Roman Mediterranean." ■ Professor of Mathematics **Jeffrey Witmer** was named editor in chief of the *Journal of Statistics Education*. Witmer was part of the group that launched the journal in 1992 and was an associate editor during its first years. ■ Professor of Theater **Matthew Wright** performed in the Susan Smith Blackburn Prizewinning play *The Nether* by Jennifer Haley at Cleveland's DOBAMA Theatre. ■ **Sandy Zagarell**, Donald R. Longman Professor of English, was elected to a three-year term as president of the 400-member Society for the Study of American Women Writers. Zagarell presented two papers: "Literature, Citizenship, Alice Dunbar-Nelson" and "Learning from Alice Dunbar-Nelson" and led a workshop at the society's triennial conference.

Thought Process





IMPROBABLE BEDROOM

The senior dance concert for environmental studies and dance major Gabrielle "Teddy" Ment '18 (top) was up in the air for a long time. Not the planning of it, which has been honed to precision over her many years of performing, but the actual dance piece itself. Ment's company, Teddy and Eleanor, incorporates circus arts, including silks, an aerial hoop, and trapezes that allow her and partner Eleanor Getz to ascend and descend dramatically during performances. For the concert, held last fall, Ment centered the work—a dreamy narrative about a night visitation—around a bed with an iron frame that ingeniously came apart to serve as a trapeze device. The bed was manufactured by Ment Brothers Iron Works, the family business her father operated for 20 years that is now employee-owned. Ment, who graduated in December, and Getz are creating a piece inspired by the effects of climate change, which will run this summer at the Payomet Performing Arts Center in Truro, Massachusetts. For more information, visit teddyandeleonor.com.

PUBLISHING

True Midwest

BY KARA CREMONESE

For years, the term "rust belt" conjured up images of derelict factories, empty steel mills, and the devastation of working-class poverty stretching across the flat expanse of the Midwest. Then came a shift. Anne Trubek '88, a Cleveland transplant who taught English and rhetoric and composition at Oberlin from 1997 to 2015, was among those who noticed that the ruins and decay were becoming an object of hipster fascination in cities that once represented economic might. But neither view represented what Trubek saw in post-industrial cities like Cleveland: a hotbed of creative work and a regional voice often ignored or mischaracterized by those on the coasts. In 2012, she published *Rust Belt Chic: The Cleveland Anthology*, a collection of essays attempting to create a subtler and more realistic image of her new hometown.

Rust Belt Chic sold through four printings and spawned a second edition, renamed *The Cleveland Anthology*, in 2014. Trubek also launched a magazine, *Belt*, and a publishing house specializing in new non-fiction and in carefully curated reissues in which rust belt residents could see themselves reflected. In 2017, she spun off the magazine side into the nonprofit Belt Media Collaborative and serves as board chair. She is also the publisher and owner of Belt Publishing.

Belt's books, longform essays, poetry, photography, and commentary now extend beyond the original geographic concentration that stretched from Buffalo through Chicago, Detroit, and Milwaukee. In fact, Tennessee native Elizabeth Catta's *What You are Getting Wrong about Appalachia* is Belt Publishing's bestselling book to date. The press, while young, is quickly establishing a recognizable

identity. "I think most people don't know who publishes their books," Trubek says. "Even if you ask somebody, 'What's your favorite book of all time or your favorite author?' and then you ask, 'Who published that?' they'll draw a blank. So one of the things that we really worked on is establishing a brand. There are a lot of people who recognize it—'Oh, that's a Belt title,'—and that's a very satisfying accomplishment for me."

In its short history, Belt has done much to give a voice to an overlooked and underestimated population. "Simply the fact of our existence is important," Trubek says. "That we do this complex, nuanced writing about the region is extremely important."

"There are now people who are able to conceive of projects and books because they know about Belt and our books, and they say, 'Oh, this could be a great book for Belt to publish.' People are creating new ideas because we have offered them a space to think about how certain projects would come to fruition."

Trubek says she is excited about Belt's 2019 and 2020 titles, which include *Radical Suburbs: Experimental Living on the Fringes of the American City*, Amanda Kolson Hurley's exploration of the progressive potential of suburbia that goes "beyond the cliché of white picket fences," and an anthology that looks at the architecture of the region's lesser-known and vernacular structures. Also upcoming are five titles in Belt Revivals, the reissues series.

Trubek hopes to expand the base of support for the magazine. In addition to grants from foundation and individual donations, the magazine relies on a tiered membership program, with support ranging from \$5 a month to \$25. "With the magazine, the more people that support us, the more individuals that support us, the more we will be able to do."

Q&A

Elusive Equality

Carol Lasser and Gary Kornblith, professors emeriti of history at Oberlin, released in December their book *Elusive Utopia: The Struggle for Racial Equality in Oberlin, Ohio*, an account of Oberlin—town and gown—and the rise and fall of an idealistic vision. Public historian Rebekkah Rubin '13 talked to them about their findings. Below is a condensed version of their conversation, which can be found at go.oberlin.edu/elusive.

Rebekkah Rubin: Did Oberlin's commitment to racial equality change over time, and if so, how? And did Oberlin differ from the rest of the country in that regard?

Carol Lasser: Well, that's the heart of the book, isn't it? Oberlin changes. The people who make up Oberlin change, and their understanding of their relationship to racial equality changes. The interesting thing for us has been that in the beginning, Oberlin is quite different from the rest of the country and utterly willing to stand up for the ways in which it is committed to radical racial egalitarianism. Part of that is the strength of the Christian belief. And part of that is the strength of the abolitionist movement, which is gaining in intensity in the 1850s.

After the Civil War, Oberlin needs to reevaluate its *raison d'être*, and it pulls back from that commitment to radical racial egalitarianism. Part of that may be a sense that emancipation has been achieved, so if the fight is against slavery, slavery has been eliminated. Over time, the people who have come to inhabit the town no longer see the job of eliminating prejudice falling to them. In that sense, they fall very much in line with other parts of the country. By the turn of the century, you see segregationist practices, discriminatory practices, a color line having an impact—even in Oberlin. They do not resist the outside world as they had once resisted it.

Gary Kornblith: The objects of the Oberlin Anti-Slavery Society are “the immediate emancipation of the whole colored race within the United States, the emancipation of the slave from the oppression of the master, the emancipation of the free colored man from the oppression of public sentiment, and the



elevation of both to an intellectual moral and political equality with the white.” I would add that there are really two foundings of Oberlin and its communal or utopian vision. The first is when the colony is created in 1833 and the settlers arrive and they sign the covenant. The second is the re-founding, if you will, in 1835, after the so-called Lane Rebels—abolitionists who had been studying at Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati, but who have left that institution because it objects to their abolitionist activities—come to Oberlin at [John] Shipherd's urging and as part of a larger agreement. Initially, many of the settlers and students are against the idea of admitting blacks, which is one of the conditions that the Lane Rebels establish. Shipherd is very much in favor of this, and it carries narrowly in the board of trustees meeting in February 1835.

After the Civil War, particularly after the achievement of supposedly race-blind suffrage, many Oberlinians believed that the goals that were originally set had been achieved. But it's also true that by 1870, only a small minority of residents of the town can actually remember the original events or even the famous Oberlin-Wellington Rescue.

CL: That is that third plank: it's a community committed to the elevation of black people to a white standard. That is not exactly how we

would understand cultural diversity today. There are presumptions of the superiority of whiteness that carry on and undermine racial equality in the later parts of the 19th century and into the 20th.

GK: One of the key things to realize is there is no notion of culture in the 1830s. There is a notion of character, but not one of culture. What sets Oberlin apart from the rest of American society—north and south—is a firm belief in the natural equality of blacks and whites. Beyond that, the white notion of equality is finding your way into the Kingdom of Christ. They expect that everyone, once they've been able to shed the manacles of oppression, will, as free agents, be able to do this.

RR: You assert in the book that Oberlinians originally believed the goal of abolishing slavery and eliminating prejudice could only happen through “peaceful and lawful means,” but then, in a space of a generation, you write they “forsook their faith in the efficacy of peaceful methods and embraced the use of coercive force to end human bondage.” What would you attribute this change to?

CL: What's particular to Oberlin is a mobilized black leadership group, many of whom have

come recently from the American South, who have seen the violence of slavery perpetrated on slaves and who themselves are respected pillars of the community able to push their white neighbors to recognize the ongoing violence of slavery. There is a radicalization in the larger abolitionist movement between 1850—with passage of the Fugitive Slave Act—and 1861—when war breaks out, but what again is unique to Oberlin is the leadership of this group of mobilized black men—and it is men—who are able to reach their white neighbors about the need for action.

RR: You write that Oberlin's temperance crusade promoted the "stigmatization of race." Can you tell me more about that?

CL: More than three decades ago, Bill Bigglestone [then college archivist] recognized that after black emancipation, temperance was the movement that sucked up all the oxygen in Oberlin—it replaced black equality as the cause. In the book, we go further than that in trying to talk about how this changed an understanding of race. The basic formula we suggest is that antislavery never blames the slave; it blames the trafficker in slavery and it blames the enslaver. Temperance sees the sin of intemperance as one that good characters will rise above. Drinking, it turns out, becomes a way in which people become less able to save themselves, and it becomes a character flaw. Poor black people bear the brunt of the temperance movement. It is an intolerant movement; it is an absolutist movement that in some ways plays into the worst stigmatization of race that we could imagine.

GK: One has to recognize that much of the impulse that drove abolitionism is the same absolutist, moralist, self-righteous impulse that drives temperance.

RR: Let's talk about the creation of the color line in Oberlin, which I think most people would find a surprising reversal of Oberlinians' earlier commitment to racial equality. How would you say that color line came about, and how did it manifest itself?

GK: There were already [color lines], say, in housing and in church membership—you didn't have a black church but you had much lower participation of blacks in the

Congregational church, which for 30 years was the only church in Oberlin among blacks and among whites—so there were already differences. There was some overconcentration of African Americans in the southeast quadrant of town, but we established through statistical analysis that the extent of residential segregation—de facto now, not de jure—in Oberlin was rather low in 1860, certainly by comparison to other communities in the United States, and it rises over the next half century rather significantly. The place is never perfect, but after the Civil War, the difference in experience and behavior grows.

Especially whereas the black poor had never been fully included in certain kinds of community activities, they were not seen as the black community. Increasingly, whites see them as the black community by the late 19th century and want less to do with them. There were fewer bridge figures in the community—there were still a couple, but no one of the kind of John Mercer Langston. Even in the public schools, which had been integrated from the start and are still integrated in the early 20th century, you see increasingly an assumption that only whites will go on to professional careers, only whites will go on to college; blacks should move into vocational training. Then you have, in 1912 or 1913, the Hollywood addition, in which it's made explicit that people moving to this new area of town will be whites only.

The college, likewise, wants to segregate its housing and basically says it's not our problem when black athletes traveling to other colleges are told that they can't stay in the same hotels as the white players. The college says, "We didn't do it."

The college starts accepting fewer black students, starts making sure that they're in separate dorms. The public schools, the elementary schools, are neighborhood-based, but as the neighborhoods are now increasingly racially separate, so is the school experience. We don't have a full-scale Jim Crow regime, the town doesn't have white versus colored drinking fountains, we don't have lynching in Oberlin. Compared to some of what's going on the United States, Oberlin is still a relatively safe space, but it definitely is no longer committed to racial egalitarianism in a dramatic way. There's no celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue, but by the time you have the 150th, there's a town celebration.

CL: None of this would be surprising in another town in Ohio; it's only surprising because it's Oberlin.

GK: It's become Americanized.

CL: And [it's surprising] because we are used to hearing the celebratory narrative. By the time you get to 1930, casual segregation is the rule and not the exception in Oberlin. By 1932-34, Oberlin is a segregated town. No one thinks about it. So, the rediscovery of civil rights activism, the rediscovery of inequality, the rediscovery of a commitment to radical racial egalitarianism in the '50s and '60s, or the '40s—that's the surprise, not that Oberlin succumbed, right? And we need to remember it's a discontinuous history. We can't just say, "Oh we have always stood for..." It's a struggle, it's always a struggle, it's a continuous struggle.

GK: It's a reiterative struggle.

RR: Has researching and writing this book changed your perceptions of the town and the college?

CL: Wow, of course. Beyond that, of course.

GK: I have become more deeply knowledgeable about, and as a result, respectful of, how difficult it has been throughout the town's history to be an Oberlinian of color. That Oberlin whites profess a kind of ethos of colorblindness actually makes it harder when racist behavior arises, because whites basically say, "No that's not really racist but..." At the same time, Oberlin was founded as a perfectionist experiment, and I, like many Oberlin students, can be especially critical of its failure to achieve perfection. But we've discovered that we're human.

It is important that we still worry about this at Oberlin. Lots of towns that were founded to be better than your ordinary communities don't worry about it at all. We still hold ourselves, at least some of the time, to this higher law, for better and occasionally for worse. It's still part of the local culture—town and college. We can be cynical about the failures of this place, but it has bequeathed to later generations a certain idealism, notwithstanding that these remain ideals and not practices in many respects. That is rather remarkable, and that gives me genuine hope.

WORKLIFE

The Not so Fabulous 50s

BY MICHON BOSTON '84

Elizabeth White '75 never thought she'd land where she did. With a BA from Oberlin, a master's from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and an MBA from Harvard, "I felt every kind of possibility," she says. That included internships in Paris and the Gambia, flying on the Concorde, a job at the World Bank, and purchasing her first home at age 29. White also joined the entrepreneurial ranks by opening a chain of Afrocentric lifestyle stores. Although she closed the retail enterprise after eight years, she rebounded thanks to her network and landed six-figure consulting contracts lasting for several years.

"There's an assumption that if you've always done well, you're going to continue to do well," she says. "You don't expect the end game to change in the last quarter."

White's end game came with the financial crisis and recession that began in 2008. Companies were retracting and consultants set loose. White, by this time in her mid 50s, was not getting her calls returned. "Crickets," she describes it.

White "faked normal"—hiding her financial situation from all but her closest family and friends. But eventually she learned that others were in the same boat, even close friends. Their candid conversations formed into what she calls her "Resilience Circle," a group of peers who share resources and life hacks. The Resilience Circle gave White the courage to take off the mask of normal and write an essay that was published on PBS's Next Avenue, a website aimed toward the boomer generation.

"You know her," the essay read. "She is in your friendship circle,



hidden in plain sight. Her clothes are still impeccable, bought in the good years when she was still making money."

Next Avenue reposted White's essay on Facebook. Within three days, more than 11,000 readers clicked "Like," and 1,000 posted comments with personal stories or concerns about family and friends in financial distress and faking normal. These stories inspired White to write and self-publish the book *55, Unemployed, and Faking Normal*. A new version of the book, with a slight title change to *Underemployed*, was published in January 2019 by Simon & Schuster. Even before the second version was released, White's TED Talk on YouTube was viewed more than a million times (it's now at more

than 1.4 million views).

White's book addresses the emotional aspects of "landing here" for the growing number of Americans in their 50s and 60s who are experiencing financial insecurity for the first time.

"There is always going to be a personal responsibility part of it: What you could've done better. But I want you to also understand that you don't have this many people landing here without some big systemic thing." The structural problems have nothing to do with buying too many lattes, White says in her book. It's the rising costs of housing, education, and healthcare, coupled with disappearing pensions and wages that haven't increased in real terms for the last four decades.

The impact of the 2008 Great Recession is also compounded by actuarial tables: the average American life expectancy, which has shrunk to 78.6 in the past two years, still far exceeds the 61 years when Social Security was introduced in 1935. For some relatively healthy Americans 50 and older today, their three-legged stool of Social Security, company pension, and personal savings has become wobbly. For aging women and people of color, whose lifetime earnings and savings have historically been lower, the outlook is even more challenging.

The Retirement Equity Lab at the New School's Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis reported that the median retirement savings in the top 10 percent of earners is \$200,000. For all near-retirees ages 55 to 64, the median savings is \$15,000. The good news of longevity becomes sobering. "A long life—broke, with no resources to cover even basic expenses—is nothing to be thrilled about," White writes.

But White emphasizes that this isn't a "pesky little Boomer problem," affecting only older Americans. Her unintended and surprising new audience is millennials facing down student debt, housing costs of 50 percent and more of their salaries (up from the recommended 30 percent), and having no pensions alongside their struggling parents. "It's not like millennials don't see up front, up-close what is happening to their parents," White says. "They've seen marriages collapse under the pressure of this. I think they have a really sober view of what the future looks like."

The new landscape is forcing many to re-think the social construct we've planned and lived by for the last 40-plus years and its measures for success, especially for young adults.

"Maybe if we're going to be living until we're in our 80s and 90s,

young adulthood is actually longer," White observes. "Right now, we're adding all these bonus years at the end [of life]." She suggests adding the bonus years to the "middle" and extend "middle age" to 65.

White thinks the media and marketing attention about this population has missed the mark. "We have to move from what I call "positive aging happy talk," where the older adults we're interested in are affluent Baby Boomers and their needs for leisure time, high end housing, and vacations," White says. "If it's not that, it's all pill dispensers and walkers. There's something in the middle here, where the majority of Americans are going to be."

Although White hasn't seen any comprehensive public policy proposed to address the issues, she says there are "little pockets" of activity. "They're not scaled yet. But there are a lot of people now thinking about this. So that's what makes me optimistic." Solutions may include sustainable housing arrangements that can accommodate two or three generations. In 2016, one in five Americans was living in a multigenerational household. White also recommends taking a good look at personal assets on hand that could generate income from shared economies like Airbnb, Lyft, and Uber, and other home-based services.

In this new normal of financial uncertainty, she urges "a mindset of curiosity. To know when to pivot. Be flexible and open to change and diverse views. That will sustain you through this period." She also advises investing in friendships throughout a lifetime. "I don't mean your Instagram friends, your Facebook friends. You do need a few people who if you don't show up for a few days will be knocking on your door," she says. "Your network is your net worth."

BOOKSHELF

Recent Releases

Godsend

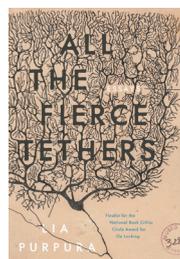
John Wray '93

FARRAR, STRAUS AND GIROUX

Aden Sawyer, a California teenager, seems typical at first—an unhappy, rebellious misfit daughter of divorce. But her father, a scholar of Islam, is unfaithful in a couple of definitions of the term, and her mother has retreated into alcoholism. Inspired by "American Taliban" fighter John Walker Lindh, this novel follows the journey of Sawyer—now Suleyman and passing as a young man—to a madrassa in Pakistan on the border of Afghanistan. "Godsend, which begins like a recognizable combination of bildungsroman and adventure tale, becomes much stranger and more original after it arrives in Pakistan, discovering within itself a profound understanding of the demands of religious practice—of religious submission, especially—which has eluded almost every serious contemporary American novelist since 9/11," wrote the *New Yorker*.



GODSEND A NOVEL BY JOHN WRAY



All the Fierce Tethers: Essays

Lia Purpura '86

SARABANDE BOOKS

Purpura, a multiple Pushcart Prizewinner and writer in residence at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, whose poetry can be found in the *New Yorker*, brings the poet's power of observation and economy of language to this volume of essays. Devoted to topics as diverse as slugs and bloodstains, beauty and irony, the works are also insights into the process of writing—revelations about how Purpura receives the world, and how she forms it into language.

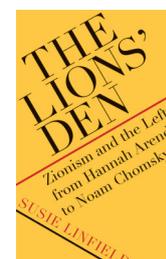


Head Full of Hair, Heart Full of Song

Pyeng Threadgill '99

NEW PORCH MUSIC

Threadgill calls this album (and the multimedia project that goes with it) "a collection of songs, stories, and videos exploring the notion of natural hair, ancestry, and adornment." She also explores her own family's roots and the jazz music with which she grew up, with songs like "Missing Mississippi," about the many Threadgills from that state, and "Black Magic," which evokes John Coltrane with its repeated line, "These are a few of my favorite things." Oberlin bonus: drummer Kassa Overall '06 plays on the album and contributed to some of the arrangements.



The Lions' Den: Zionism and the Left from Hannah Arendt to Noam Chomsky

Susie Linfield '76

YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS

"When it comes to Israeli fantasies, the Western Left has been an acute and invaluable critic—though these very criticisms have sometimes led it to scorched-earth politics and false solutions," writes Linfield in her conclusion. "Simultaneously, the Left has been the worst enabler of Palestinian delusions—and offered a poisonous array of its own." This exploration of the way the Israeli-Palestinian conflict divides the political Left remains as timely as ever.



RECIPE

How to Cook Every Day

BY MARK BITTMAN

Food writer David Tamarkin '00 wants us to cook on the daily.

"I was looking online at my credit card statements," said David Tamarkin '00, editor of *Epicurious*, "and there were two charges a day from the Conde Nast cafeteria—and that food is horrible!" It was then that he challenged himself to cook three times a day for a month.

"My primary motivation was to save money, but also I felt a little lame that I wasn't cooking for myself."

This turned into a plan that David called "Cook90." His simple, compelling, and obviously challenging idea was to cook every meal he would eat for a month—with three passes. After three years, during which tens if not hundreds of thousands of people joined him (Cook90 became an Instagram phenomenon), the idea is now a book, subtitled *The 30-Day Plan for Faster, Healthier, Happier Meals*—but that's obviously a

marketing line, and the book is smarter than that.

Tamarkin is adamant that his is a plan, not a diet: "It's so not Whole 30," he says, referring to a popular but restrictive whole foods-based diet. "It's all just about cooking." (One of Cook90's conceits is the use of "nextovers"—ok, I wish I'd thought of that word—in which you make a dish with the intention of using some of it the next day.) During his month, Tamarkin cooked more or less everything (note: the cookbook is a not especially well-defined hodgepodge, which is not a bad thing), because

he believes (as I do) that "cooking is healthy pretty much no matter what you cook. Of course you can't eat cake all the time, but when you're intentional about your cooking, it's pretty easy to plan balanced meals for yourself. And you have to plan for each week for Cook90, so it's easy to see where you might be going wrong."

We all know the financial, environmental, culinary, social, and mental health benefits of cooking; generally speaking, it's a healthy behavior. For many, if not most people, however, it's a tiresome chore, or a challenge, or a new behavior that just seems too difficult. Tamarkin's original goal—to force himself to cook—has become a plan to show people simply that it can be done. Clearly it's not for everyone, but cooking is something that deserves converts.

"One of the problems is all the opportunities not to cook," says Tamarkin. "Entire industries want us to believe that cooking is so much harder and more time consuming than it really is."

The fundamental principle, obviously not proven, but sensible, is that once someone demonstrates to themselves that they can do it—actually cook—there's not only a kind of muscle memory but a love of the process. At the very least, says Tamarkin, "you'll be cooking more than you did before." (I suppose there are some people who will try it and say "cooking sucks," but I've never met one.)

At the end of the day, Cook90 is both a plan—one that can be summarized in a half-sentence—and a cookbook: one with really nice recipes. Here is one of Tamarkin's favorites. Happy cooking.

MARK BITTMAN IS THE AUTHOR OF MORE THAN 25 ACCLAIMED BOOKS, INCLUDING THE *HOW TO COOK EVERYTHING* SERIES, THE AWARD-WINNING *FOOD MATTERS*, AND THE *NEW YORK TIMES* NUMBER-ONE BEST-SELLER, *VB6: EAT VEGAN BEFORE 6:00*. THIS ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN HIS EMAIL NEWSLETTER. READERS MAY SUBSCRIBE AT WWW.MARKBITTMAN.COM.

Baked Feta with Chickpeas and Greens

SERVES 4

- 2 tablespoons olive oil, plus more for drizzling
- 1 teaspoon cumin seeds (optional)
- 1 large or 2 small bunches kale (about 8 ounces total), stems removed and leaves torn into bite-size pieces, washed, and shaken dry (there should be a little water clinging to the leaves)
- 3 cups simple tomato sauce
- 1 (15-ounce) can chickpeas, rinsed and drained
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice, plus additional wedges for serving
- Kosher salt
- 1 (12-ounce) block feta, cut into ½-inch-thick slices

Freshly ground black pepper

Warm pitas or crusty baguette slices, for serving

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat the oven to 350°F.

Heat a 14-inch oven-safe skillet over medium heat and add the oil. When the oil's hot, add the cumin seeds (if you're using them) and let them sizzle gently for a minute or two. Add the kale in batches, letting each handful shrink and wilt before adding the next.

When the last of the kale has wilted, add the tomato sauce, chickpeas, lemon juice, and ½ cup water. Give everything a stir and let it come to a simmer. Taste the sauce for salt and add a little if needed. (Whether it needs it will depend on how salty your tomato sauce is, but keep in mind that the feta is salty, too.)

Nestle the feta slices into the sauce and give them a few good grinds of black pepper. Slide the skillet into the oven and bake until the feta has softened, about 15 minutes. Drizzle a little olive oil over the whole thing and serve with warm bread and lemon wedges.

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POEM

Knowledge (East Wing)

BY GRETCHEN PRIMACK '92

I honor life by not taking it anymore. Not a fish's life

Not a calf's. No one's brother or child.

I did violence. I put it between my teeth

and it formed my blood, and I took blood.

Now I eat what they ate in Eden before violence.

Now I ask forgiveness for the life I've taken

that wasn't mine to take—the man, and the calves

and fishes, the chicks and their mothers.

The cops laugh. Their work is domination.

They lord over, and some men on the block

call themselves kings. But I am done with that

in every soul of me, every body.

From *Visiting Days* (Willow Books), a collection of persona poems set in the kind of maximum-security prison at which Primack has taught. Primack, a poet and educator living in New York's Hudson Valley, has been involved with prison education programs for a decade.

QUOTE

“Some of my favorite moments are when we invite other people to class and there are 80-something people in Warner in a round-robin circle, entering the dance. When we open up the dance community to a larger community, you feel how powerful it is to have so many people in that space.”

Professor of Dance Ann Cooper Albright, from a Q&A conducted by student Phoebe Pan, available at oberlin.edu/news/qa-ann-cooper-albright. Oxford University Press has just published Albright's new book, *How to Land: Finding Ground in an Unstable World*.



BOOKS

Who's a Good Boy?

BY JUSTINE GOODE '16

Shelby Lorman '16 brings her viral Instagram account to the printed page.

SHELBY LORMAN '16, IN THE PARLANCE OF recent college graduates who have just run into a high school classmate in their hometown grocery store, is “doing really well right now.”

But really. She is.

To wit: In 2017, Lorman launched Awards for Good Boys, an Instagram account featuring illustrations that facetiously congratulate men for completing basic tasks or displaying common human decency. Her following grew from hundreds to hundreds of thousands in a few short months. In 2018, she was offered a book deal by Penguin Random House to adapt it into an illustrated book, *Awards For Good Boys: Tales of Dating, Double Standards, and Doom*, which will hit bookstores in June.

Lorman is still catching up with her own runaway success. After all, *Awards For Good Boys* started as a secret side project when she was working as a reporter for Thrive Global, a lifestyle company founded by Arianna Huffington that promotes well-being. With the air of minimalist, offbeat *New Yorker* cartoons, *Awards for Good Boys* highlights the low standards to which society holds cisgender men by sarcastically “awarding” them with hand drawn ribbons, laurel wreaths, and trophies.

“Doesn’t ‘mansplain,’ just aggressively clarifies,” reads one ribbon.

“Is completely open and honest about cheating on you,” boasts another.

“Hasn’t misgendered anyone in public in a few days.” Mazel!

Lorman’s biting satire is both broadly comedic and culled from real-life experience, resulting in content that feels subversive but at the same time all-too-familiar. She encourages her followers to share their own bizarre dating experiences, which she then posts on her Instagram stories. A highlight among the anecdotes: a woman whose date was cancelled when the man texted to say he couldn’t make it, as he was “too high” and “felt like a worm.”

The growth of her Instagram and global recognition of her comedy chops has been thrilling—she quit her day job! Her comedic and literary heroes know who she is, and they chat!—but the reality of inadvertently becoming



an “internet celebrity” is a bit more complicated.

“It’s weird to be recognized on the internet for something I was not trying to be successful at,” says Lorman, who identifies as a writer first and an illustrator second. “I think about the duality of willingly offering myself up to the internet and kind of having my livelihood depend on that.” Her upcoming book provides an appealing chance to have her work live offline.

Lorman was only given two and half months to write and illustrate the book version of *Awards for Good Boys*. The ability to meet such a tight deadline, she says, “really speaks more to how close to the surface of my brain all of this stuff was, and less how speedy and efficient I am.”

Navigating the world of publishing, however, proved a bit more confounding, which she likens to her experience as a transfer student at Oberlin: “I wound my way into [publishing] really haphazardly, and I felt the same way coming to Oberlin,” she laughs. “I had no idea what was happening at all, ever. Everyone had been friends forever, and I was like, ‘I live on transfer hall, someone tell me what is happening!’”

Lorman majored in English after being denied a spot in the creative writing program (take note, first-year students agonizing over your CRWR 201 portfolios) and served as coeditor-in-chief of *The Grape* for a semester, where she began regularly publishing her illustrations.

So, exactly how many “good boys” did she meet at Oberlin?

She lets out a shriek of laughter. “All of them!”

GOOD MORNING, OBERLIN.

MANDI VANALLEN '09



ANGELO MERENDINO

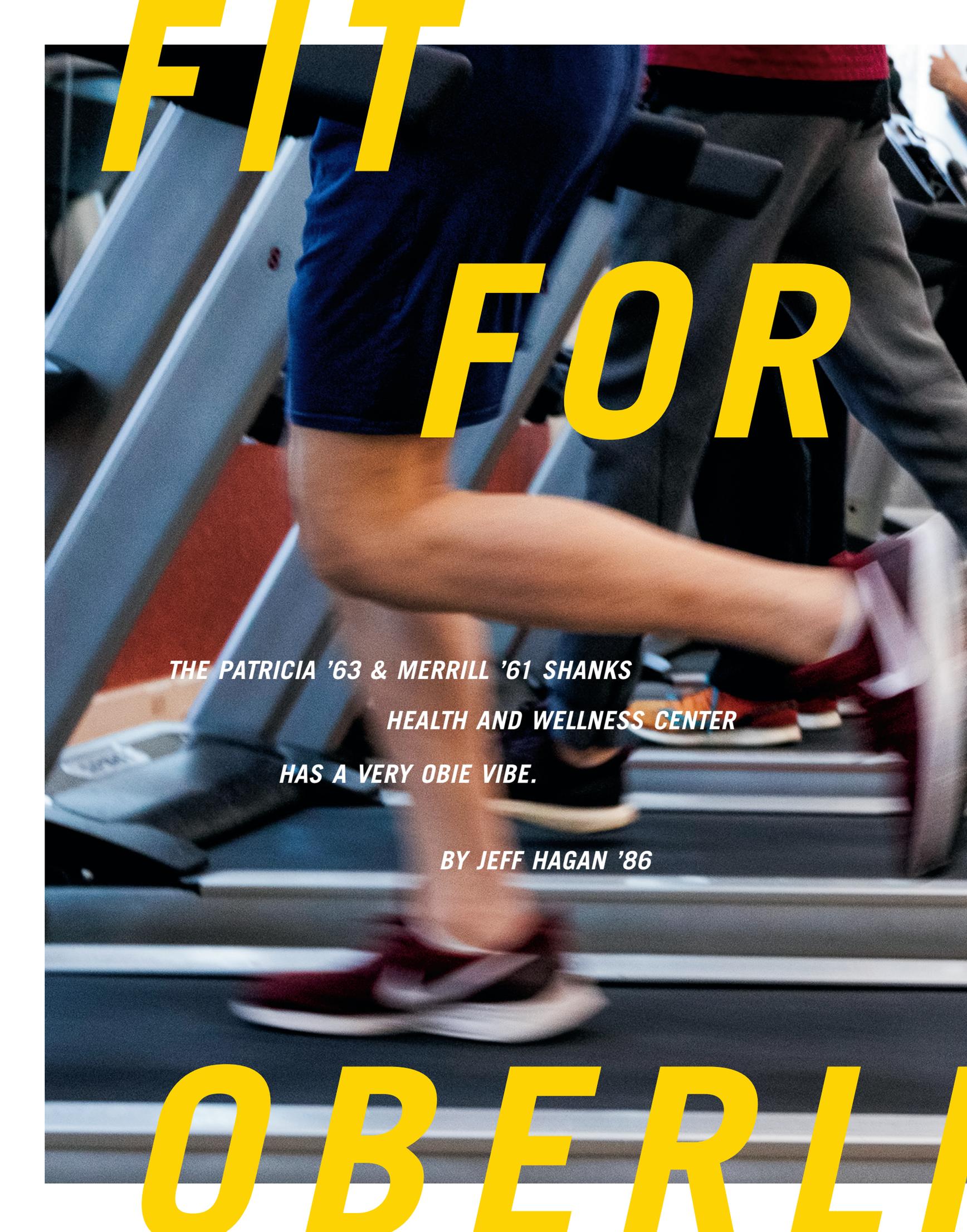
Choosing Oberlin was a no-brainer for Mandi VanAllen '09. Mandi knew Oberlin was a perfect fit from the moment she visited—and her first semester on campus did not disappoint. She discovered a love of African American studies, made lasting friendships with her basketball and volleyball teammates, and became engaged with the larger Oberlin community through her service work as a Bonner Scholar. All of these

experiences culminated in a successful post-graduation career in broadcast journalism.

Mandi's unique Oberlin experience enabled her to stand out from the crowd, blaze her own trail, and cultivate positive change in the world—just like the change she is making for Oberlin students today. Please join Mandi in changing the lives of even more Obies by making a gift to the Oberlin Annual Fund.

TO MAKE YOUR GIFT TO THE ANNUAL FUND, VISIT GO.OBERLIN.EDU/MANDI OR CALL (800) 693-3167 TO SPEAK WITH A MEMBER OF THE ANNUAL FUND STAFF.

OBERLIN
COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY

A person is running on a treadmill in a gym. The person is wearing blue shorts and red sneakers. The treadmill is silver and black. The background is slightly blurred, showing other gym equipment and people.

FIT

FOR

THE PATRICIA '63 & MERRILL '61 SHANKS

HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

HAS A VERY OBIE VIBE.

BY JEFF HAGAN '86

OBERLIN



It's Monday, just a little past noon. About a dozen people, most of them Oberlin students and staff, enter a dim classroom. The overhead lights are low, and the sole window, slim and vertical, looks not to the outdoors, but into another interior space. Everyone mills about until commanded by their instructor to begin a journey together, a sometimes painful ordeal to which they all willingly consent, even though they know it will go literally nowhere. For 45 minutes—an eternity for some—a small, yet powerful woman barks commands of an ever-increasing intensity through a disconcertingly cheerful smile. As the pain she inflicts ratchets up, a sparkle can be seen in her eye. What is going on here?

Spin class.

Lisa Thuer's day job is associate director of leadership annual giving in Oberlin's Office of Development. But twice a week, as instructor of one of seven weekly spin classes offered to students, faculty, staff, and others in the Oberlin community, she leads a midday class with unbridled energy and a propulsive playlist—Prince, Lady Gaga, Demi Lovato. (She also teaches a presumably less-hyper 7 a.m. yoga class on Wednesdays.) The class includes student athletes squeezing in a workout, students and staff members seeking to boost their health and reduce stress, the more serious and sculpted fitness-focused, and a misshapen editor of an alumni magazine. They ride stationary bikes to the beat with varying degrees of resistance—from their bikes and their bodies.

Spin classes are held in the Clayton R. Koppes-David L. Kelly Studio and are among the 22 walk-up classes offered during the spring semester in this gleaming new facility that abuts the Jesse Philips Physical Education Center. There is also the Jerry '56, Betty & Joey Abeles Wellness Room for resistance training; the Chris Canavan '84 Multipurpose Room for yoga and group fitness classes (the space has also hosted boxing and salsa dancing—not at the same time); the rebuilt Robert Carr Pool—with the Thomas F. Cooper '78 Recreational Lane and Riverside Diving Well; and the Marvin Krislov Fitness Studio, which houses more than 50 stationary bikes, treadmills, elliptical machines, rowing machines, and cable weight machines, plus free weights. The well-lit, well-ventilated studio replaces a hallway (neither



well lit nor well ventilated) that was home to a couple of rows of exercise equipment frequented by Oberlin's former president. There's also a lounge named for the Abeles, just for hanging out.

While these many named rooms indicate broad fundraising support for this new \$15 million facility and rebuilt pool (and a wall crowded with additional donor names underscores that), the lead gift that made it all possible came from two graduates from the early 1960s. The Patricia '63 & Merrill '61 Shanks Health and Wellness Center—16,000 square feet of new space, plus a 25-by-25-yard pool affixed to the south end of Philips—opened last fall.

Accompanying the center was the launch of a vigorous fitness and wellness program called YeoFit, which offers campuswide fitness challenges and classes at a wide variety of times to meet students and staff where they are.

PAINTED ON THE clean white walls throughout the complex are words of encouragement for those exercising: “Good things come to those who hustle,” “You Got This!” and “Don’t Quit.” The wall in the spin room reads, “You’ll never know your limits until you push yourself to them.”

That pretty well describes how the Shanks came to be lead donors for the wellness center,

although the couple jokes they were also gently pushed by Bill Barlow, vice president for development and alumni affairs. Their donation was made over many years and includes a bequest. “We did it in stages,” Merrill says. “We would have been surprised if somebody had told us at the beginning what it would all add up to.”

Adds Pat: “It’s much more fun doing this while you’re still alive.”

The Shanks have supported Oberlin in a number of ways over the years, including Pat’s current service on the Board of Trustees. Their two children, Carol Shanks Hart ’88 and David, attended Oberlin. Up until now, the Shanks’ generosity centered on core, low-profile, high-need functions of the college, such as student scholarships and a renovation to the Allen Memorial Art Museum for unseen infrastructure needs. Similarly, the Shanks’ involvement in the wellness center included a long period of behind-the-scenes effort. They worked with a team that included Krislov, Barlow, Delta Lodge Director of Athletics and Physical Education Natalie Winkelfoos, and then-college architect Steve Varelmann to dream up several iterations of what the complex would include. Varelmann, Pat says, had “a very carefully laid out process” that involved estimating costs. “Basically, our tastes

were too rich,” she says of the group’s wish list. They worked closely with Winkelfoos and her team to ensure the project stayed within budget. Amenities like a café were deemed financially unsustainable and scrapped. “We knew we couldn’t afford to take money out of the endowment or the operating budget,” Pat says.

They also understood that if the project required the college to borrow money, it would never be approved by the Board of Trustees. “That was an incentive for us,” says Merrill. “There was no touching of money that could be used for other things.”

OBERLIN HAS PUSHED boundaries before with its approach to personal health and wellness, from founder John Jay Shipherd’s call for blending scholarly study with physical labor, to its short-lived experiment with the abstemious (and kind of gross) Graham diet, to Delphine Hanna, the first professor of physical education in the United States (and teacher to future physical education pioneers Thomas D. Wood, Class of 1888, Luther Halsey Gulick, Class of 1886, and Fred E. Leonard, Class of 1889), to the controversial era of athletics director Jack Scott’s “Oberlin Experiment.” The boundary the current phase pushes is between Oberlin



Pat and Merrill Shanks (below) were on hand for a Homecoming Weekend dedication last fall of the facility that bears their names. The wellness center includes a spin studio, a multipurpose room for classes, and a fitness studio.



athletics and the rest of the college. Although the sense of a divide between the two varies by whom is asked—even Merrill, a varsity athlete, and Pat Shanks differ on this—Winkelfoos hopes the Shanks wellness center will serve as a bridge between communities on campus.

“We need to recognize that people have had varying experiences with athletics growing up—some positive, some not. Understanding this is critical to our ability to connect with the users of our facility,” Winkelfoos says.

Everything, starting with the location of the center, was carefully considered. “It was intentional to build it on the south side of the building,” she says, noting it’s not only the first thing people see as they approach the entire athletics complex, it now serves as the main entrance to the physical education and athletics complex. The aforementioned spin room window actually looks out to Carr Pool, helping to spur connections within the building. To make the space less intimidating for the uninitiated, Winkelfoos hired many non-athletes to staff the center.

“We felt we had a responsibility to create space that is really inclusive of all levels of fitness,” Winkelfoos says. “We want to create a culture of self-care.”

All of this contributes to what Winkelfoos has envisioned as the space’s non-judgmental credo, which is emblazoned on T-shirts worn by building staff: “Kind vibes only.” Last fall, Winkelfoos distributed shirts for athletes and coaching staff bearing the words “Game Changer” printed beneath a silhouetted array of campus buildings. “The message is that your experience is bigger than athletics—be self-aware and understand your ability to know, grow, and express who you are for the good of others, for the good of Oberlin,” she says.

A framed statement of inclusivity that governs Winkelfoos’ approach sits on the desk of the workout room and is repeated on a large banner in the area devoted to competitive athletics. It begins: “This is a safe place for all...”

By softening the divide, Winkelfoos hopes the rest of campus can begin to appreciate athletics better. “Maybe they will start to understand us more—why we value fitness and why we value competition.

“Athletics,” she adds, “wants to be a bigger part of the community than ‘the people who do sports.’ Our sports performance is bigger than the games we play.”

If that happens, it will be in part because of people like Julie Schreiber ’19, who has helped

familiarize her friends with equipment and exercises. “I’ve been playing competitive sports at Oberlin for the past four years, so to finally have the opportunity to exercise with friends who aren’t teammates in a low-pressure setting is really new and positive for me,” she says. Before the construction of the Shanks wellness center, she seldom saw students who were not athletes using the cardio and weight rooms in Philips.

Natalia Viveros ’19 swam competitively and ran track and cross country before Oberlin, but after one semester of college track decided to focus on her academics. Although she considers herself an athlete, she shied away from the exercise room in Philips because she didn’t feel confident around the unfamiliar equipment that the athletes seemed to know well. She aims for four visits a week to the Shanks wellness center. Viveros says a workout feels “more energizing than a cup of coffee,” but there’s more to it for her. The exercise helps her prepare for a school that “requires a lot of mental stamina.

“The physical and mental aspect of working out has always made me feel capable and unshakeable,” she says. “And that’s definitely the biggest reason why I go to Shanks.” ■



SAVING SEEDS

FROM ALASKA TO MAINE,

OBERLIN ALUMNI ARE

FIGHTING FOR FOOD

SECURITY, BIODIVERSITY,

AND SUSTAINABILITY.

BY PETER D'AURIA '14 | ILLUSTRATIONS BY AYANG CEMPAKA

W

WHEN SHE FIRST MOVED TO HAINES, Alaska, Leah Wagner '07 learned how to incorporate bears into her morning routine.

Haines, a town of about 1,800 people located 75 miles north of Juneau, was the site chosen by Wagner and her then-partner, Nick Schlosstein, as the headquarters of their company, Foundroot, a small seed business specializing in seeds tailored to Alaskan growing conditions. In the early days, the couple lived in a tent, using their truck as storage. Their land, roughly half an acre on two parcels, was nothing more than a wild hillside—and a bear highway.

“There were brown bears coming past the tent every morning at 5 a.m.,” Wagner says.

“We got pretty used to it,” Schlosstein adds. “We’d wake up and start shouting and banging pots and pans to chase the bears off.”

Now, seven years in, things are easier. The hillside now hosts a yurt, a subsistence garden, and a seed farm. Foundroot sells more than 70 varieties of seed—all of them painstakingly tested over multiple generations for resilience. The couple hopes one day to grow all of their own seeds, but for now they source part of their catalog from other sustainable farms.

Foundroot sells to customers across the state of Alaska. Some live above the Arctic Circle; some in towns disconnected from roads. For many customers, gardening is more than a hobby. In communities reliant on food deliveries by bush plane, it can be a lifeline.

At Oberlin, Wagner had no idea she would become a farmer. As a politics major, she took classes she describes as “esoteric,” with topics ranging from the Chilean coup to Soviet politics. She also spent two semesters abroad, in London and in Madagascar.

She joined a dining co-op—“I was definitely the freshman who burned the rice every time”—where she was introduced not only to cooking, but to other ideas that would later inform her decision to start Foundroot.

“I remember being on a picket line for a school bus driver’s strike in Lorain County,” she says. “We went in the co-op and were cooking food for everyone and just thinking that if our work was growing food, and if our work was making food, then we would have bridged that gap.”

Wagner graduated in the midst of the Great Recession. After a summer working on a farm in Maine, she moved back to her hometown of Phoenix, where she tried to find work in communications and marketing for small businesses. There, she came face-to-face with the issues of food security she’d been grappling with at Oberlin.

“People were not able to pay me for the small amount of work that I was doing,” she says. “Literally 50 dollars was not available.”

Determined to learn more about agriculture, Wagner landed an organic farming apprenticeship on Salt Spring Island in British Columbia, where she was exposed to the process of growing seeds.

“When I found seeds, it solved all these issues that I’d been mulling over in my head for five, six years,” she says.

On the island she met Schlosstein, who was doing a natural building apprenticeship. Within a year, the pair had moved to his home state of Alaska. Wagner, intent on exploring seed farming, traveled to Tucson for a short program called Seed School, run by an heirloom crop conservation nonprofit called Native Seeds.

“I came back from Seed School and started a seed company at 26 years old,” Wagner says. “I had no idea what I was doing.”

FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, Wagner and Schlosstein’s practice of saving seeds was the norm. These seeds, or “open-pollinated” seeds, pollinated naturally in the fields. A farmer’s field would adapt to its growing conditions, and over centuries, farmers’ preferences for size, taste, and ease of harvest transformed wild plants into crops we recognize today.

In the early 20th century, plant breeders began to sell a new kind of seed: hybrid seeds. Hybrid seeds were produced by crossing two inbred varieties of plant together, which allowed breeders to engineer plants for specific traits such as size, pest-resistance, and hardiness.

The downside was that hybrid seeds were good for just one generation, and subsequent hybrid generations performed poorly. To consistently grow these high-yield crops, farmers had to return every year to the companies that bred them.

For farmers, the dramatic increase in crop yield far outweighed concerns about the

dependence on seed companies. Hybrid seeds took the agriculture world by storm. The first hybrid seed was sold commercially in 1924; by 1960, 95 percent of cornfields and 70 percent of sorghum fields in the United States by acre were planted with hybrids.

In the middle of the 20th century, the Green Revolution saw the introduction of hybrid seeds globally. Motivated by fear of massive famine in the developing world (and, critics say, geopolitical aims), aid agencies and charitable foundations banded together to find solutions.

They found it in seeds. Hybrid varieties of rice, wheat, and corn—bred in research institutes for higher yields, faster maturation, and resistance to pests—were sent around the world.

The Green Revolution’s legacy is a mixed one. While the initiative fed an estimated one billion people in developing countries, it also led to massive losses in crop biodiversity. Instead of saving and planting open-pollinated seeds, as farmers had done for centuries, they switched to the new hybrid seeds. Within the span of a few decades, thousands of traditional crops were replaced by only a handful of high-yield varieties.

The United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that three-quarters of the world’s agricultural biodiversity disappeared in the 20th century. In India, a Green Revolution rice hybrid, known as IR8, or “miracle rice,” displaced half of the country’s previously harvested indigenous varieties of rice. In the Philippines, IR8 replaced more than 300 rice varieties.

The agricultural practices that the Green Revolution brought to the developing world had been threatening biodiversity for centuries. In the 18th century, more than 7,000 varieties of apples were grown in the United States; now, 86 percent of those varieties are no longer available. In 1903, the U.S. Department of Agriculture listed 46 varieties of asparagus under cultivation; 80 years later, it listed only one. Over the same time period, recorded bean varieties decreased from 578 to 32, onions from 357 to 21, and spinach from 109 to only seven. This loss in diversity extends beyond plants, too; the Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that a traditional breed of livestock dies out every week.

This depletion of biodiversity poses a dire threat not only to plant and animal varieties, but to humanity, says Cary Fowler, a professor, writer, former UN official, and recipient of a 2018 Oberlin honorary doctorate.

Fowler has spent years as an activist in issues of food justice and food security, but he is probably best known as the driving force

behind the creation of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, the world's largest seed bank. On the freezing Norwegian island of Spitsbergen, far from the threat of natural or manmade cataclysm, the vault lists 983,524 stored varieties of seeds from almost every country on the planet.

The repository, dubbed the "Doomsday Vault," is seen by many as a sort of insurance policy for Armageddon. But in Fowler's words, the vault is "a library of life." The Svalbard seeds, and the genes encoded within them, could be needed sooner than we think, Fowler says. Because hybrid plants often lack their open-pollinated cousins' naturally evolved defense mechanisms, plant breeders are locked in a constant arms race against disease and pests. When a certain crop falls prey to a pesticide-resistant aphid, or a mutated form of blight, breeders must scramble to create its replacement. A diverse set of genes are the tools in their toolbox.

"At any given time, there are usually multiple food crops facing some serious challenge from a pest or disease," says Fowler.

The vault has already played a crucial role in saving and preserving the stores from the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, a research institution and seed bank in Aleppo, Syria, that was evacuated in the civil war. In addition to housing thousands of rare seed varieties, the center conducted key research on seeds resistant to high levels of heat and aridity—conditions that more and more regions of the world are facing.

"To see, in this work that I've done, the social and political and humanitarian implications, is not automatic," Fowler says. "Some people come to this and say, 'Ah, seed vault, genetic diversity, very technical, very scientific—what does that have to do with hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and the big social issues of the day?'"

Fowler's years working as an advocate for food justice and biodiversity have taught him the interconnected nature of these social issues.

"There's no problem of a global scale that deserves the word 'problem' attached to it, or 'global,' that can be understood and addressed within the confines of one academic discipline," Fowler, a college sociology major, says.

"A good liberal arts college like Oberlin will expose you to different ways of thinking and different topics and different concerns," he says. "You may spend the rest of your life putting those things together and reorganizing them in different combinations."

The process, he says, is not unlike plant breeding. "You're going to combine a lot of different genes in unique ways, and the product will be a new apple variety."

IN 1980, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the legality of patenting genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Seed companies, which had grown wealthy selling proprietary hybrids, saw the potential for genetically modified seeds. The 1990s and 2000s saw a wave of mergers between seed, chemical, and pharmaceutical companies, all racing to take advantage of the possibilities GMOs offered. The result was the "Big Six" seed companies: BASF, Bayer, Dow Chemical, DuPont, Monsanto, and Syngenta.

Patented GMOs proved to be wildly profitable. In 2015, GMO crops made up more than 93 percent of corn and soybeans planted in the U.S., and 60 to 70 percent of products in grocery stores are estimated to contain genetically modified ingredients. But GMOs have attracted controversy from the beginning. A growing chorus of voices has expressed concern about the health and environmental effects of GMOs, but even more worry about the conduct of companies that make them. Monsanto in particular has become especially infamous, using surveillance, intimidation, and lawsuits to pursue farmers who plant their patented seeds without permission.

One of the early voices of caution came from CR Lawn '68. In the mid-1990s, Lawn was watching the changing seed industry with concern.

Lawn was the founder and de facto president and chief financial officer of Fedco Seeds ("Fedco didn't go in for titles," he says), a seed cooperative in Clinton, Maine. With the seed industry undergoing a dramatic transformation, the cooperative's members had a lot of decisions to make. Would Fedco buy GMO seeds? Would they buy from multinational megacorporations?

So Lawn set out to educate his customers.

At Oberlin, Lawn was elected student body president and served as sports editor of the *Review*. In that era, Lawn remembers, Oberlin had little in the way of agriculture-related activism. "There was a band that called themselves the Department of Agriculture," he recalls. "That was supposed to be sort of a campy joke."

After Oberlin, Lawn attended Yale Law School, but decided against making a career out of law, instead moving to Maine, where he lived in a small cabin on 60 acres of land. After the powerful blizzard of 1978 wrecked his stovepipe and woodstove, Lawn decided he needed more stability. He found work and lodging with the Maine Federation of Co-ops, a group that bought food in bulk and distributed it at reduced prices to its members. The Federation of Co-ops, or Fedco (a name



that Lawn's cooperative later inherited), paid him a small salary and allowed him to explore self-driven projects. Later that year, Fedco Seeds was born.

In 1995, the same year that Monsanto's first GMO crop became commercially available, Fedco's seed catalog broke from a tradition of trivia, jokes, and hand-drawn illustrations of produce to publish the first section of Lawn's "Do You Know Where Your Seeds Come From?" a two-part, meticulously researched essay focusing on the perils of hyper-consolidated seed companies and the rapid advances in genetic engineering.

The cooperative's members took note. In 1996 Fedco voted not to buy or sell genetically modified seeds. Ten years later, when Fedco's largest supplier was bought out by Monsanto, members voted to drop their seeds from the catalog. When Bayer bought Monsanto, the cooperative dropped Bayer's seeds, too. In 2016 Fedco stopped selling all seeds whose patents prohibit farmers from saving them. The cooperative has partnered with the Open Source Seed Initiative, a nonprofit that advocates for completely unrestricted, "open source" seeds. Fedco sells 44 open source varieties. (Lawn also sits on the board of the Initiative.)

Since Lawn's essay, the consolidation of the seed industry has continued unabated. In 1985, the four largest seed companies were responsible for approximately 8 percent of the total commercial seed market; by 2016, that figure had grown to 51 percent. In the past two years, with the creation of Dow-Dupont and Bayer's acquisition of Monsanto, the Big Six have become the Big Four.

Fedco is thriving, too. Today, the cooperative sells to thousands of customers across the country, with yearly orders in the millions of dollars. Last year, Lawn retired after four decades at the cooperative. "I felt over my 40 years that we worked hard, did good work, [and] made ethical decisions," he says.

But there is at least one decision in his life he would change. At Oberlin, Lawn had studied history. "If I had to do it all over again," he says, "I'd probably want to do creative writing."

IN OBERLIN, Hannah Rosenberg '16 sees the interdisciplinary nature of food security firsthand. As the food services coordinator at Oberlin Community Services, Rosenberg is responsible for the organization's emergency food program, food pantry, and food distribution services. But there's much more to the job.

"This place asks you to use so many different parts of your brain," they say. "Like,

for an hour you're in a collared shirt, writing a grant or something, and then something in the warehouse falls over and there's sticky stuff all over the floor, and then everyone immediately is on their hands and knees scrubbing the floor. And then you're unloading trucks, and then you're also kind of a social worker, because someone's crying in your arms, or somebody's son OD'd.

"You're just interacting with people in these really three-dimensional ways," Rosenberg adds.

During winter term in 2014, Rosenberg interned with Oberlin Community Services (OCS). "I fell in love with the work," they say. After that winter term, Rosenberg decided to stay on, and in the summer of 2014, while working again as a full-time intern, they founded the Oberlin Seed Bank.

Four years after its inception, the Oberlin Seed Bank has expanded to two locations and holds about 20 varieties of seed, with thousands of individual seeds. The bank attracts 40 to 50 people per season, about a third of whom qualify for OCS food assistance.

IN THE 18TH CENTURY,

MORE THAN 7,000

VARIETIES OF APPLES WERE

GROWN IN THE UNITED

STATES; NOW, 86%

OF THOSE VARIETIES ARE

NO LONGER AVAILABLE.

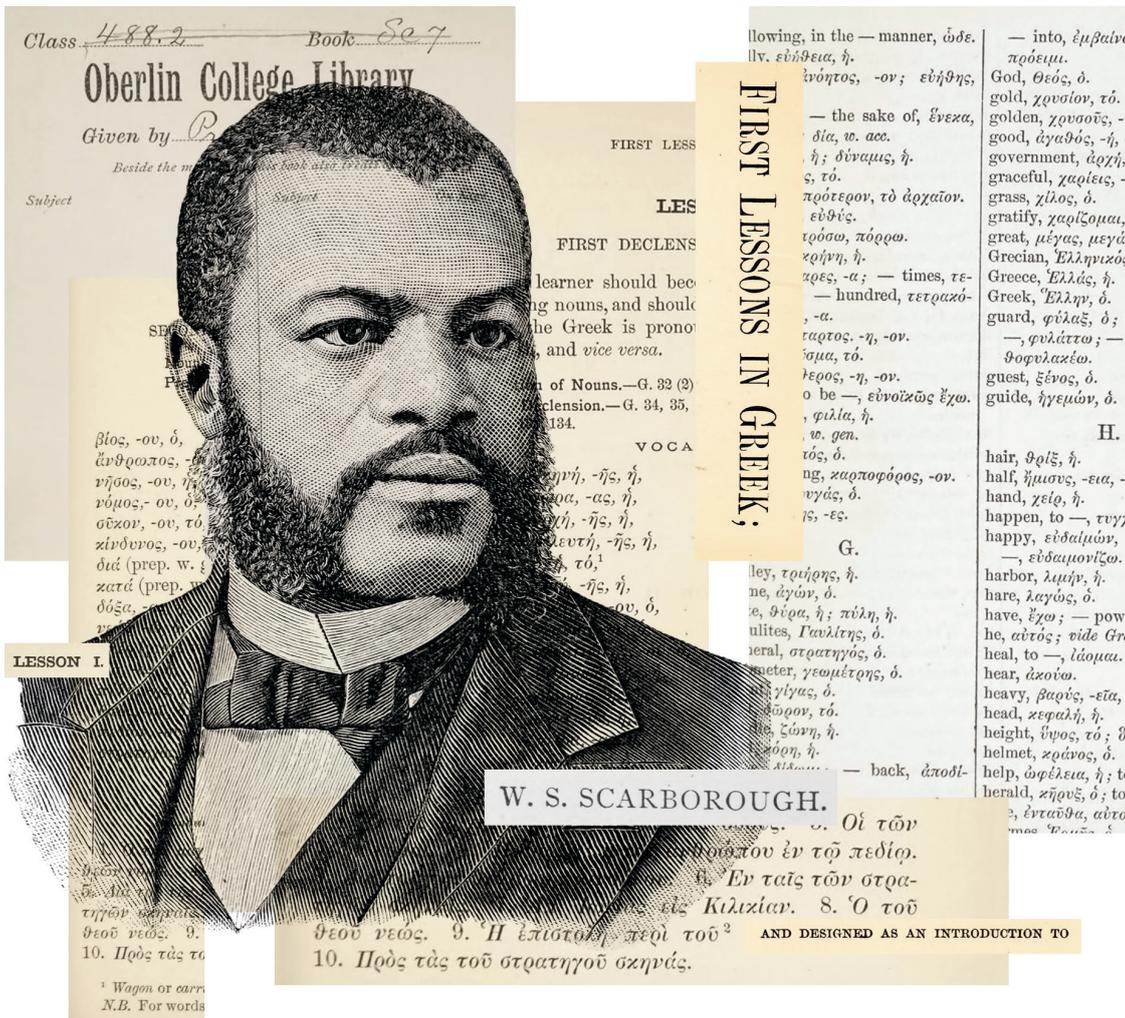
For Rosenberg, who majored in environmental studies, the work with OCS has opened their eyes to issues that are often left out of conversations about environmentalism.

"Somehow it feels oversimplified," they say. "Like, all you have to do is grow everything sustainably, and hold our corporations accountable, and not buy any seeds from Monsanto, and deindustrialize agriculture, and stop using pesticides, and, like, great."

Seeds, Rosenberg says, serve a much simpler purpose. Whether you're a farmer chasing bears away in Alaska, or a homesteader wintering in a Maine cabin, or a gardener struggling to get by, planting a seed represents the same thing.

"This is about hunger," Rosenberg says. "This is about taking agency over feeding ourselves." ■

PETER D'AURIA IS AN OBERLIN SHANSI FELLOW IN BANDA ACEH, INDONESIA. HIS WRITING HAS APPEARED IN YES! MAGAZINE, WILLAMETTE WEEK, THE CHILKAT VALLEY NEWS, AND QUARTZ.



A Classical Educator

Born into slavery, William Scarborough became a pioneering scholar.

William Sanders Scarborough, an 1875 graduate of Oberlin, was a pioneering African American scholar who wrote a university-level Greek textbook. Kirk Ormand, Oberlin classics professor, interviewed leading Scarborough expert Michele Ronnick, a professor at Wayne State University whose exploration of Scarborough’s biography and scholarship included trips to the Oberlin College Archives, where there are records and correspondence from Scarborough’s time at Oberlin and as president of Wilberforce University. This spring, Ronnick published a facsimile edition of Scarborough’s Greek textbook with Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers.

Kirk Ormand: You are publishing a facsimile edition of Scarborough’s *Introduction to Ancient Greek*. Tell us why that’s astonishing coming from a black scholar in the late 19th century.

Michele Ronnick: He was a former slave, and his life could have been limited to manual labor—fixing shoes or doing some sort of menial job. So, the very fact that he

overleaped this destiny and made himself into a learned man draws our admiration. Americans of that era believed, as philosopher David Hume did, that African American people weren’t intelligent enough to grasp Greek and Latin, which is summed up in a quote attributed to John C. Calhoun and overheard by black clergyman Alexander Crummell, who had studied Greek

at Cambridge: “If you can show me a Negro who understands the Greek syntax, I will believe that the Negro has a soul.”

This embodied the sentiment of the time. Scholar and activist Anna Julia Cooper (Oberlin Class of 1884, MA 1887) knew it, and professor and attorney Richard Greener, the first black member of the American Philological Association (APA) and

the first black graduate of Harvard who studied at Oberlin for two years in the early 1860s, knew it. He reminded Scarborough of it when he exhorted him to write his Greek textbook to “Keep at your work.” Thus, the book is material proof of Scarborough’s abilities and ambitions. He stands up and vindicates his learning as a man, his ability and his intellect, and then throws down the gauntlet to say, “this is a pathway for us, too.”

The other important reason for the facsimile edition of his textbook is its rarity. There are less than 10 copies left in the world owned by certain institutional libraries. The Oberlin College Archives has one. The Library of Congress has one. Wilberforce has one. Howard University has one, and Frederick Douglass’s personal library at his home in [Washington, DC neighborhood] Anacostia has a signed copy because they were friends. The textbook is also part of the African American drive to engage in pedagogy and write their own textbooks. Scarborough is actually the first person of African American descent to write a language textbook. It was a typical book for its time, but written by a very atypical author. Wouldn’t it be fun to walk into class with such an artifact of American intellectual history?

KO: Oh, absolutely. I’m sure we will from now on at Oberlin. I mean, how can we not?

MR: The book made him famous. It’s one of the things mentioned in his obituary in the *New York Times* on September 12, 1926, and that he was the first member of his race to create a Greek textbook suitable for university and college use.

KO: How did you first get interested in Scarborough?

MR: I read a brief biographical sketch of Scarborough’s life in *The Dictionary of American Negro Biography*. My training at Boston University with Professor [Meyer] Reinhold revealed the deep roots of the classical tradition among white people, but it quickly became clear to me that classicists had not thought to examine the

place of classical studies in the history of African American education. So, I read that whole dictionary, and anywhere it mentioned Latin or Greek or classics, I made note. This became my starting point. But the short biography of Scarborough was extremely intriguing because it said he had written an autobiography and had published a Greek textbook in 1881. I was determined to find those books. As I was looking, I found an article by Dr. Arthur Stokes, "Historical Justification for Scarborough," in the *A.M.E. Church Review* that argued that the three leading African American intellectual forces coming out of the 19th century were [Frederick] Douglass, [Booker T.] Washington, and Scarborough. That caught my attention—I began to realize that Scarborough was a giant whom we had forgotten.

KO: When did your edition of the autobiography come out?

MR: *The Autobiography of William Sanders Scarborough: An American Journey from Slavery to Scholarship*, with a forward by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., came out in 2005 with Wayne State University Press. The APA (now the Society for Classical Studies) gave it and my photo installation, *12 Black Classicists*, funded by the James Loeb Classical Library Foundation, its Outreach Award in 2007.

The autobiography was a thrilling discovery. A copy of it was supposed to be at Wilberforce, but it wasn't. I was told that the F-5 tornado that tore through Wilberforce in 1974, ripping the university's library roof off, had probably destroyed it. But luckily there was a typed copy, and after a long period of sleuthing I found it—not the original, of course, but a 368-page cradle-to-grave account of Scarborough's life and a primary witness to American history. It was a self-portrait of his emergence from slavery and his wish to be a learned person, a scholar. But Scarborough became more than a scholar. He was a leader of the Republican party for decades and president of Wilberforce University

for 12 years and through the tumult of WWI. I doubt he thought he'd be visiting troops or comforting broken soldiers (and his former students) coming back to Jim Crow America, those who were thrown off buses and trains when they returned, but that was part of his story too. When I got through reading the autobiography, I was astonished by the range and extent of his work.

KO: What should every Oberlin student know about Scarborough?

MR: They should know that it is with Scarborough that professional work on languages, modern or ancient, by a person of African descent in this country began. He's the star, and it's not just in classics. He was the first black member of the Modern Language Association (MLA) He was also a lifetime member of the APA for 44 years. His wife, Sarah Cordelia Bierce Scarborough (1851-1933), a college-educated white woman who taught at Wilberforce longer than he did, joined the MLA too. So, they're actually the first interracial couple in the MLA, although I don't think the MLA knows that. That's really important to know—that whatever language you might be studying, Scarborough is the first African American to do that kind of work. He performed all the tasks that we recognize as professional, attending conference after conference with over 20 papers at the APA alone and service of all sort to the American Negro Academy and the NAACP. Oberlin students should know about his leadership. He rose to the occasion, not only in his career, but as an educator and a black college president. It is no exaggeration to say that he was an icon, a role model before we had the term. And I think that Oberlin students should also know that he loved Oberlin College and the opportunities it gave him.

KO: How important was Oberlin to Scarborough?

MR: He delighted in having the chance to study there. He had learned to read and write in Macon, Georgia, in secret with black and white helpers. And when he went

outside ostensibly to play, he had a book hidden under his arm. So I tell my students, "Imagine going home and risking your life or your teacher's life if you took your schoolbooks out." Black education was illegal. There's that courage at the beginning, and his joy at Oberlin to find that no one could stop him from learning everything he could. As a youth, he was one of the people in the city who could read newspapers, knew what was going on, and I think he became deeply fascinated by the power of the printed word, whether it was English, or later Greek and Latin. He studied Spanish for a time at Oberlin and read German; his wife was fluent in French. At Atlanta University, opened under the aegis of the American Missionary Association after the Civil War, he was the only member of the senior class of 1869 and spent some time tearing down Civil War ramparts. He took all the college courses offered at the time. But he could not wait for Atlanta University, which would not graduate a college class (limited to the men) until 1876. So, he cast about for ideas. He thought he might be a lawyer. The Catholic church tried to persuade him to join them. I'm not sure who said to him, "Go to Oberlin." But in Atlanta he was among pioneering abolitionists who heartily supported black education, and someone must have suggested Oberlin.

KO: We have some of his correspondence from the time he was president of Wilberforce. He was in pretty much constant contact with Oberlin during that period.

MR: He was devoted to Oberlin, and it undoubtedly changed the course of his entire life. After graduation, he thought he'd be able to go home and teach at Lewis High School, the school he attended after the war. But a few months after his arrival as a new teacher there, the school was burned down, in December 1876. He did, however, meet Sarah, who had come with the American Missionary Association to teach in Macon after marriage at age 14 to a Union soldier, divorce at age 19,

and a return home with her son to Danby, New York, to her parents to attend college. Where is the movie script, people? You can't make this up. What amazing lives they had.

In his autobiography, William describes how in 1877 both he and Sarah were individually asked to come teach at Wilberforce. They married four years later, in August 1881 in New York City. I think that going to Oberlin made the Ohio connection easier for him. And no matter how skilled he was, he couldn't get a job to teach at a white school. Choices were limited to schools like Howard, Clark, or Fisk. In that period, Wilberforce University was the star in the A.M.E. Church school system. The A.M.E. Church, in fact, supported education across the globe, and Wilberforce was a bustling community.

KO: In pictures of Will Scarborough, he looks to me like a very stern man. I'm wondering if you have any sense of what kind of a teacher he was?

MR: Yes, that's hard to know. I do know he had a very subtle sense of humor. You can see it playing out in different places in the autobiography. At Oberlin, for example, he and his fellow students held a special funeral ceremony after finishing Thucydides, an author Scarborough would later present papers about at the APA. His wife was trained in the Pestalozzian method at the Oswego Teaching Institute, a child-centered program using head, heart, and hands based on love, not fear, which was developed in Switzerland. I think they must have had pedagogical conversations. But he makes it clear in his autobiography that he took joy in seeing his students make progress, and that he and Sarah had opened their home to entertain them many times. He probably was stern in a certain way because he was an exemplar, standing up as a black man classically educated in the liberal arts, who wanted to say "this too is your potential." He carried the enormous weight of that responsibility throughout his life, and we are all the better for his success. ■

**“An Oberlin
education is
a wonderful
foundation.”**

ORA FANT '68



As a high school student in the 1960s, Ora Fant was drawn to Oberlin's core values: a sense of inclusiveness and social activism.

Raised in Dayton, Ohio, and now living in suburban Phoenix, Ora credits her liberal arts education for teaching her “how to have a spirited debate without maligning another person's character.” This lesson and others, she says, helped her become a successful consultant in organizational design. “An Oberlin education is a wonderful foundation for a career, whatever that may be.” In addition, she holds an MA and PhD from Boston College.

Now retired, Ora can be seen cycling around town—and the world, in locations such as New Zealand and France. She is a docent with the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix and a trustee of Esperanca, a nonprofit

that provides life-changing surgeries for patients in developing countries.

Oberlin has remained a priority for Ora. She served on the Board of Trustees for seven years, and when relocating for work, she would find connections in various cities through Oberlin alumni clubs.

“I went back last fall for President Ambar's inauguration and the dedication of the Mary Church Terrell Library—it was a moving experience,” she says. “And I had the chance to explore the campus again.”

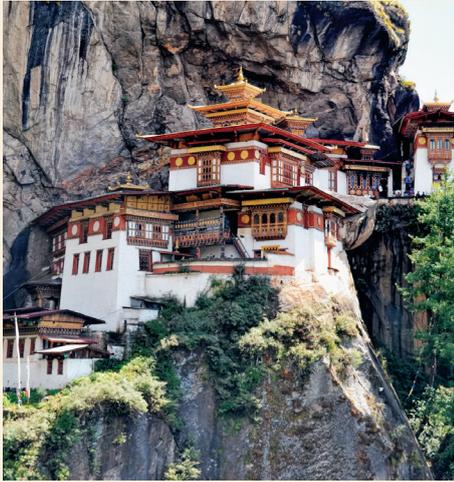
Ora chose Oberlin as the beneficiary of a significant gift from her estate, believing that the college continues to reflect the values that motivated her to enroll and to prepare students for careers in any field. “This is the best way to give back for the blessings I've received,” she says.

Estate gifts like Ora Fant's are a beautiful reflection of Oberlin values. All estate donors are recognized as members of Oberlin's Charles Martin Hall Society and receive invitations to special events as well as a small welcome gift. To learn more about making an estate or other planned gift, or to let us know about one you have already made, contact gift.planning@oberlin.edu or call 440-775-8599. We look forward to working with you.

OBERLIN
COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY



ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM



BHUTAN: AN INTIMATE JOURNEY THROUGH THE LAST REMAINING HIMALAYAN KINGDOM

October 18-27, 2019

Escorted by Associate Professor of Anthropology Erika Hoffmann-Dilloway

High in the majestic eastern Himalaya is the small Kingdom of Bhutan, increasingly renowned as one of the Earth's last unspoiled destinations. The breathtaking landscape is dotted with fluttering prayer flags and colorful farmhouses set into terraced fields. On this 10-day trip you'll interact with the architects of Bhutan's national policy of "Gross National Happiness"; participate in Buddhist rituals explained by learned lamas; try your hand at indigenous crafts; and enjoy a meal with a farming family. You'll visit magnificent *dzongs* (fortress monasteries) and travel east to Bumthang Valley, the cultural heartland of the Dragon Kingdom. Your Bhutanese guides will introduce you to a way of life that values traditions and respect for the environment while embracing a better way of life for all of its citizens. A five-day, pre-tour extension to Nepal is also available.



GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS, WITH AN OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO PERU

January 4-13, 2020

Escorted by Associate Professor of Environmental Studies Roger Laushman

Located 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador and bisected by the equator lies one of nature's most enchanting destinations—the Galápagos Islands. The Galápagos 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' 24-cabin *National Geographic Islander*. Add an extension to Machu Picchu and Peru's Land of the Inca for an exploration of the Sacred Valley, Cusco, and the majesty of Machu Picchu. Brochure soon available.



ENGLAND'S MAGNIFICENT CATHEDRAL CITIES

June 5-19, 2020

Escorted by Professor of Musicology Charles McGuire '92

Enjoy this 15-day tour of England's magnificent cathedral cities, with a focus on their music. The tour begins in London, where we will explore Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral. Other must-see sites include Canterbury, Bath, Winchester, Salisbury, Peterborough, Ripon, and York. Experience music firsthand by attending choral evensong at each cathedral. This tour also features highlights such as Stonehenge, Jane Austen's House Museum, and Rievaulx Abbey. This tour is also open to current Oberlin students, who will participate for credit, as well as alumni, parents, and friends. For more information and to enroll, please visit www.explorica.com/OberlinCathedralCitiesTour-2020. Payment plans and an early enrollment discount are available. We look forward to seeing you in England!

Losses

1941

Dr. George Theophilus Walker, whose prodigious achievements in youth led him to the Oberlin Conservatory when he was barely a teenager, crafted a remarkable career as a pianist, composer, and teacher, winning the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 1996—the first African American to do so. Dr. Walker was also an outspoken critic of discrimination in the music world—discrimination he had routinely experienced firsthand. In 1945, he became the first black graduate of the Curtis Institute and in short order, made his New York debut at Town Hall, performing his own composition, *Three Pieces for Piano*. He became the first black musician to present a recital at Carnegie Hall. In 1956, he became the first African American to earn a doctorate from the Eastman School of Music. Dr. Walker's 32-year teaching career included extended stints at the New School for Social Research, Smith College, and Rutgers University. He won the Pulitzer Prize for his song cycle *Lilacs*; he also received two Guggenheim fellowships, a Fulbright Fellowship, a John Hay Whitney Fellowship, an American Academy of Arts and Letters Award, and honorary doctorates from six institutions, including Oberlin in 1983. Dr. Walker died August 23, 2018, near his home in Montclair, N.J. He is survived by two sons, violinist Gregory Walker and playwright Ian Walker, and three grandsons. He was married to Helen Siemens.

1942

Elizabeth Jean Vingoe was a dedicated mother and member of Memorial Drive United Methodist Church, where she served as a Stephen Minister. Her husband of 54 years, Ronald, was a personal photographer for General Douglas MacArthur, and she accompanied him in the closing days of WWII. Ms. Vingoe died December 19, 2018, leaving a daughter, a son, and four grandchildren.

1943

Priscilla Thomson Jackson won key grants for the Continuum Center at Oakland University, designed the Women in Management course at the University of Michigan School of Business Administration, and spoke nationally on "The Eight Stages of a Woman's Life." Born in China, where her father operated the first Western hospital, she came to America to attend Oberlin while her dad served as the

campus physician. Ms. Jackson died September 6, 2018, following the death of her husband, Walter Jackson. She leaves her three children, including Jennifer Jackson Runquist '66 and Nathan Jackson '69, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

1945

June Gravitt was a professor of music at Otterbein College, where she met her eventual husband. She was the organist at the Congregational Church in Coloma, Mich., for 28 years and taught lessons privately, totaling 73 years as a piano teacher. She died May 11, 2018, leaving two daughters, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Her husband, Samuel, preceded her in death.

1947

Mary-Addison Herrick Blanchard volunteered at the Pilgrim Hall Museum in Plymouth, Mass., for more than 25 years. A beloved mother whose interests included golf, painting, and gardening, she died October 24, 2018. She was preceded in death by her first and second husbands, Robert Lambert and James Hanabury, as well as a son and two stepchildren. She leaves a son and daughter, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. ■ **Dr. Gordon Liddle** was Oberlin's assistant dean of men in 1951-52 before embarking on research that informed the creation of the Head Start program. He completed doctoral studies at the University of Chicago and later served as a counseling psychology professor at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Liddle died December 23, 2018, leaving wife Jutta Kausch Liddle; first wife Ginny Hallock Liddle '47; six children, including Roger Liddle '77 and Becky Liddle '79; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

1948

Dr. George Franklin Bing devoted more than three decades to the University of California Radiation Laboratory (now the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory), a span that included detecting secret nuclear tests for the Pentagon's Advanced Research Projects Agency, serving as scientific advisor to General William Westmoreland in Vietnam, and advising the strategic military arm of NATO. Dr. Bing trained as a meteorologist and navigator in the U.S. Army and served in the Pacific during WWII. He earned a doctorate in physics from the Case Institute

of Technology, where he met his wife, Virginia Mae Bing. Dr. Bing died November 18, 2018, leaving his wife of 67 years, four sons, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Aurelia Clepea Bing, who died at age 25, and a son.

1950

Marjorie Bakkila was a devoted mother and volunteer whose love of international travel was sparked by the family's six-year relocation to a mining town in Venezuela for her geologist husband's work. A graduate of the University of Minnesota, she translated books into braille for 25 years, in addition to numerous other volunteer efforts. Ms. Bakkila died January 14, 2018, leaving Henry, her husband of 68 years, two sons, a daughter, and five grandchildren. ■ After serving in the U.S. Air Force, **Barton Greenberg** enjoyed a long career as an insurance agent and helped his wife, Caryl, launch a successful hair salon. Mr. Greenberg was a competitive swimmer until age 90, holding three world breast stroke records and teaching children how to swim. He died October 24, 2017, following the death of his wife. He leaves a daughter, son, and two grandchildren. ■ **Ruth Ireland** immigrated to Washington, D.C. from her native Germany in 1937 and later relocated to Southern California, where she worked for the U.S. Navy. She was an avid swimmer and an active volunteer for Planned Parenthood and the Arthritis Foundation. Ms. Ireland died December 6, 2018, leaving three children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. ■ **John Charles Miethke** was a resident of Vista, Calif. He died May 8, 2018.

1951

Jeanne Blumenfeld Aaronson was an oboist who taught and performed for more than 50 years, enjoying positions in the Flint Symphony Orchestra, the Saginaw Symphony, the Delta Summer Chamber Orchestra, and the St. Cecilia Society. She met her future husband, Myron Aaronson, at Oberlin, and together they had three children. Ms. Aaronson died December 17, 2018, leaving her children, eight grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. ■ **Bruce Burley** worked for IBM as a computer programmer for many years. He attended graduate school at the University of Connecticut and Yale University

MEMORIAL MINUTE

Joe Palmieri, 1932-2018



In 1932, James Chadwick discovered the neutron and Carl Anderson discovered the positron. Also, on August 24 of that year, Joseph Nicholas Palmieri was discovered. That is, he was born on that date in Providence, Rhode Island, to a mother who was the daughter of Swedish immigrants and a father who had come to America from Italy and became a cabinetmaker.

Always a sports fan, especially of the Boston Red Sox, Joe harbored a boyhood dream of being a sportscaster but grew up to be a physicist instead. He attended Brown University as a commuting student, graduating in 1954 summa cum laude, with highest honors in physics. He received his PhD from Harvard University where he became an instructor and research associate, doing nuclear physics research at the Harvard cyclotron.

It was at the cyclotron that Joe met a young physics research assistant named Susan McKee, leading to an unusual wedding announcement distributed at Harvard in January of 1961. A professor, Nobel Prize physicist Norman Ramsey, said he had received from the registrar the following change notices for his class list. The notices were "Drop Susan McKee," and then "Add Susan Palmieri."

Joe and Sue, the parents of two sons, were married for 57 years. They enjoyed playing bridge and rooting for Boston sports teams. To visit national parks, Joe and Sue also liked to take cross-country train trips which typically started at about 3:00 in the morning from Elyria. Active and well-loved members of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in

Oberlin, Joe and Sue together led over 20 weekend retreats for married couples in a program sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.

Joe said that he had decided to take the position at Oberlin "because he loves to teach." But, arriving in the fall of 1961, he found the physics department at a rather low ebb. The authorized size of the department at that time was four faculty members, and they were doing relatively little research. Joe analyzed the college catalog, finding that the teaching load in the physics department at that time was, in fact, heavier than in any other department in the college. In his first year, while working under those conditions, he and Bob Weinstock wrote and submitted to the National Science Foundation and the Atomic Energy Commission major grant applications to fund the purchase of new instructional laboratory equipment. Both applications were successful, and Joe redesigned many of the department's lab courses.

Finally, during these early years Joe wrote the petitions to the College Faculty Council that eventually resulted in permission to increase the department faculty from four to six. The physics department became much stronger as a result. Joe's research in nuclear physics led to multiple publications in nine different physics journals, some with a student coauthor.

Joe was a careful and rigorous teacher of many generations of students, having taught most of the courses in the physics major at Oberlin. In addition, he enabled many students to use computers in their courses and research by devising a course on FORTRAN that regularly enrolled more than 100 students. He also served on outside review committees for physics departments at Swarthmore College, Davidson College, and Colby College, and participated in the Visiting Scientist program of the American Association of Physics Teachers.

Joe was a superb and visionary administrator. He chaired the physics

department for a number of terms which add up to 18 years. In 1968 he was appointed to a pioneering three-year term as associate provost of the college, a new part-time position he then implemented, primarily to be a resource for faculty applying for outside grants. That post has grown into today's Office of Sponsored Programs. Joe chaired important faculty committees and served on the Science Facilities Planning Committee, the work of which culminated in the construction of today's Science Center.

It is hard to overstate the impact Joe had on the computing environment at Oberlin. When he arrived, there were no computers at the college. As the newly-appointed director of computing (with no released time), he oversaw the acquisition, installation, and operation of Oberlin's first mainframe computer, an IBM 1620, in 1964-65. Twenty years later he took a leave from teaching to be full-time director of computing for nine years. During his pivotal tenure, he convinced the college to fund the first hard-wired network connecting academic and administrative buildings, the first campus-wide email system was introduced, the first smart classrooms were created, and a computer store initiated.

If I were writing a recommendation letter I would say he was organized and efficient, diplomatic and compassionate, responsible and reliable, fair and objective, perceptive and witty, sage and unflappable. In many ways he contributed to the operation of the college with great skill and little fanfare.

Joe retired from Oberlin College in 2001 after a distinguished 40-year career. In retirement, he trained and led volunteers in the AARP Tax Aide program, for which he became district director for Lorain County in 2011.

Joe and Sue moved to Kendal in the summer of 2009, where, at the age of 85, Joe died unexpectedly of sudden cardiac arrest in mid-day of June 21, 2018.

*Bruce Richards
Emeritus Professor, Physics and Astronomy*

and was active throughout his life, enjoying rowing, tennis, and square dancing with his wife of more than 60 years, Elaine. Mr. Burley died August 14, 2018, leaving his wife, three children, including Ruth '81, and 10 grandchildren. ■ **Dr. Harold Clark Fritts** earned a PhD in botany at Ohio State and served as a professor at the University of Arizona's Laboratory of Tree Ring Research from 1960 to 1992. He authored the book *Tree Rings and Climate* and enjoyed visiting many countries through the course of his work. Dr. Fritts died January 10, 2019, leaving a daughter and son, four grandchildren, and a great-grandson. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Barbara June Smith, and his second wife, Miriam Colson.

1953

A longtime advocate for special education, **Prudence Collier** was a founding member of the Paideia School in Atlanta and devoted many hours to volunteering at the South Carolina Aquarium. She earned a master's degree in special education at George Washington University. Ms. Collier died December 1, 2018. She was predeceased by a son and daughter, and is survived by two daughters, a granddaughter and grandson, and four great-grandchildren. ■ **Jan Richelson Callison** was a longtime librarian in the Anne Arundel County library system in Maryland. She earned an MSLS from the University of Maryland while raising her three children, including son Bill '77. She met her eventual husband, James Crofts Callison, at Oberlin. Ms. Callison died October 30, 2018, leaving her children and five grandchildren. ■ **Dr. Ronald DiLorenzo** was a professor of English at Saint Louis University and a coordinator of the 1818 Advanced College Credit Program for high school students. He attended Oberlin with his brother Louis '51 and cousin Marie '53 and earned master's and doctoral degrees in English at the University of Iowa with a specialty in 18th century literature. Dr. DiLorenzo died October 5, 2018, leaving his wife of 65 years, Bernadette, who attended Oberlin from 1951-53; nine children, including Carrie '79; and 13 grandchildren. ■ Originally from Jamestown, N.Y., **Jean Gurney Rigler** relocated to Hawaii with her husband, Robert, in 1955 and became active with the Junior League of Honolulu and local chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Mayflower Society, and the Colonial

Dames. She studied to be a physical therapist and enjoyed genealogy, gardening, and line dancing. Ms. Rigler died October 11, 2018, leaving three children and seven grandchildren.

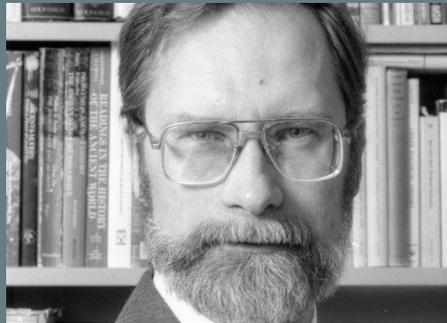
1955

Peg Yocom Atwater was a longtime elementary schoolteacher for the Oakwood School District in her native Ohio. She met her husband of 63 years, David, at her family's summer cottage in Silver Bay, N.Y. She followed her parents, Frank Yocom '26 and Eloise Marsh Yocom '28, to Oberlin and was joined on campus by her brother Bob Yocom '53. Ms. Atwater died January 12, 2019, leaving her husband, three children, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. ■ **Mary Martha**

Christianson led a life of adventure and service, traveling across six continents and living across the U.S. in homes from Alaska to the East Coast. After Oberlin she pursued graduate studies at Virginia Commonwealth University and worked as a therapist specializing in family trauma. She was a Girl Scout leader, social worker, and guardian ad litem, and she volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and numerous arts and church groups. An avid lover of music, she helped found radio station KCAW in Alaska. Ms. Christianson died October 18, 2018, leaving her husband, Jim Williams, a son and daughter, and three grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a son. ■ **Dr. Michael M. Horowitz** founded the Department of Anthropology at Binghamton

MEMORIAL MINUTE

James Helm, 1937-2018



James Helm, beloved colleague and friend, died unexpectedly on October 29, 2018, at the age of 80. Jim earned a BA in philosophy from Elmhurst College (1959), a masters in divinity from Union Theological Seminary (1963), and a masters (1965) and doctorate (1968) in classical studies from the University of Michigan. Except for one year as visiting associate professor of classics at Scripps College in 1978-79, he spent his entire career, from 1967 to 2003, at Oberlin, reaching the rank of professor in 1982. His service to the college was extraordinary by any measure. He was associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1986-89, acting dean of the college in 1991-92, and interim dean in the spring of 1996. His work on committees was exemplary for its frequency and its

efficacy. He quickly earned the respect and trust of his colleagues and served on every elected committee multiple times, including chairing both EPPC (Educational Plans and Policies Committee) during his time as associate dean and CFC (College Faculty Council) when serving as acting dean. His service on the Shansi Committee led to a decades-long association with Lady Doak College in Madurai, India, where he and Anne visited many times, teaching and raising funds for the college and its library. His service to the classics department was equally valuable. He was chair from 1976-82 and 1992-96, and acting chair in 1999-2000. His administrative and organizational skills were superb, providing the department with meticulous records on which his colleagues depended when serving as chair, either of the department or the Martin Lectures Committee, where he himself served with distinction for many years. Always looking for ways to reach out to students, Jim was responsible for starting and maintaining many of the classics department's enduring institutions: the annual Bardic Reading, student dinners at the Mandarin Restaurant, and of course, the incomparable Classics Picnic, held for decades at Jim and Anne's lovely home on Lincoln Street. A patient and caring mentor to dozens of young professors who came to teach at Oberlin, including this reporter, Jim was the consummate colleague, tireless in

University, where he taught for decades. A passionate teacher and researcher, he cofounded the Institute for Development Anthropology in Binghamton in 1976. He held a PhD in anthropology from Columbia University and authored 18 books and monographs and was honored with a Kimball Award, Binghamton's Distinguished Professorship, and the Malinowski Award. Dr. Horowitz died November 20, 2018, leaving his wife of 63 years, Sylvia; three children; and three grandchildren. ■ **Helen Thompson Taylor** taught in the Newton (Mass.) Public Schools for 35 years and was responsible for tremendous growth of musical studies as chair of the department. She also devoted a quarter-century to service as music director

his devotion to the department, his fellow teachers, and his students.

Jim loved teaching and was very good at it. His lectures on classical literature, history, and myth were meticulously researched, carefully structured, and crystal clear. In classroom discussion, he was a patient listener, deftly leading students toward a larger and more informed knowledge of the text. In language courses, his deep knowledge of Greek and Latin, rigorous and thorough preparation, and obvious love of the languages made him an enormously effective teacher. The course he himself loved most was the two-semester elementary Greek sequence, which he taught continuously from the beginning of his career to the end. Never satisfied with the available textbooks for beginning Greek, he amassed over the years reams of supplementary material to guide his charges through the bewildering thickets of the aorist passive and "mi" verbs. He would end the sequence by having the students read Plato's *Apology* in the original language, giving them a chance to encounter one of the masterpieces of western intellectual history in their first year of studying Greek. Classics programs invariably put beginning language courses in the hands of their very best teachers. During his time at Oberlin, Jim was that person.

and organist at Plymouth Church Belmont. A resident of Kendal at Oberlin since 2009, she was an active volunteer and was celebrated with a community service award at Oberlin's 2015 commencement ceremony, where she shared the stage with Michelle Obama. Ms. Taylor died September 14, 2018, leaving three children and 11 grandchildren.

1957

Dr. Charles A. Herron was a physician who specialized in epidemics for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He graduated from Western Reserve University School of Medicine and began his career as a doctor with the Peace Corps in Bangladesh, followed by stints in Ghana with the Epidemic

Jim's scholarship was characterized by the same intelligence, thorough research, and rigorous standards he brought to bear on all of his professional work. He published articles on Aeschylus, Catullus, on the concept of *Koros*—satisfaction—in Greek literature and philosophy, and several articles on computer applications to classics, a field just emerging during his early years at Oberlin, in which he became a pioneer in the profession. Perhaps his most important publication was a commentary on Plato's *Apology* for beginning students, developed over years of teaching the dialogue in the second semester of elementary Greek. This book has remained in print for decades and is considered one of the best works of its kind in the field.

Jim's wonderfully generous nature informed everything he did, as a teacher, a scholar, and a member of the college community. A brief summary cannot do justice to the enormous impact he had on all who were lucky enough to know and work with him. A loving husband, father, and grandfather, Jim was a model citizen in every community of which he was a part. His unshakable integrity made him someone you could always depend on. His wry and self-effacing wit made him someone you could love.

Thomas Van Nortwick
Emeritus Professor, Classics

Intelligence Service, and the Iowa Department of Health. After retiring from federal work, he returned to his native Cleveland, where he worked for the city and later in urgent care for the MetroHealth hospital system. He enjoyed woodworking and traveling, including summers spent in Sweden. Dr. Herron died September 28, 2018. He is survived by his wife Birgitta, three sons, and six grandchildren.

1958

Dr. Curtis A. Coutts was a 35-year professor of physical education at Binghamton University, where he also coached the women's tennis team. A tennis player himself at Oberlin, he was a charter member of the Heisman Club and was inducted into the Binghamton Athletic Hall of Fame. He earned MS and PhD degrees from the University of Maryland. Dr. Coutts died December 20, 2018, leaving his wife of 61 years, Jane '57, whom he married in Fairchild Chapel; together they attended every Oberlin reunion of the classes of '57 and '58 since their graduation. He also leaves three children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

1959

Dr. Lucretia Hoover Giese was a professor of art history and visual culture at the Rhode Island School of Design. Early in her career, she worked as a curator at the Seattle Art Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston before earning a PhD in fine arts at Harvard in 1985. She helped found Friends of Modern Architecture/Lincoln, which advocates for mid-century modern architecture in New England. In retirement she volunteered in leadership positions with local historical groups. Dr. Giese died October 16, 2018, following the death of her husband, Paul.

1961

Thomas Klutznick was born into a family of developers and was responsible for numerous signature structures in his hometown of Chicago. Mr. Klutznick began his career working with his father, Philip, at Urban Investment & Development, which created Chicago's Water Tower Place and some of its first suburban malls. In 1991 Mr. Klutznick founded his own firm, which took on the development of suburban malls in Chicago and across the U.S. He also cofounded the national firm Miller-Klutznick-Davis-Gray, which owned Pebble Beach in California and

MEMORIAL MINUTE

Daniel J. Goulding, 1935-2018



For 40 years, Dan Goulding was an electrifying and beloved teacher, a strategic administrator, a visionary institutionalist, and a colleague who combined humor and dedication in his support of others. Dan defined the expression “hail fellow well met,” which connotes “heartily friendly and congenial, comradely; a hail-fellow—characteristic of or befitting a friend; one who offers friendly advice;” one who creates “a friendly neighborhood” and who might be “the only friendly person here,” as well as “a friendly host and hostess.”

When Dan, a native of Indiana, came to Oberlin, it was as a professor of communications, a department he later chaired and his first of several chairing assignments. As Oberlin evolved, it became clear that the discipline of communications was no longer a good fit for the curriculum, and Dan strategized a way to place those professors in other departments that would be best able to utilize their skills. This process brought Dan into the theater and dance program (later department and currently two separate departments), of which he was chair for 10 years. He oversaw the expansion of the faculty and brought in several of us who are still here: Paul Moser, Ann Cooper Albright, and me, as well as recent retirees Carter McAdams and Nusha Martynuk. All of us have been chairs of theater and/or dance, demonstrating Dan’s commitment to building leadership. With Michael Grube, retired managing director of theater, dance, and opera, Dan oversaw the growth of our

productions and our partnership with the Conservatory of Music.

As the only cinema studies specialist on the faculty at the time, Dan brought his knowledge of film, performance, and communications to building the theater and dance program. This was not the last time Dan would use his vision to make curricular innovations; upon his impending retirement, his vision helped create the current cinema studies program. Revising his own position, he was able to work with the college to ensure that Geoff Pingree was hired to create an autonomous department and then helped to see that Rian Brown-Orso became the second dedicated faculty member. While chair of the art department, he worked on a plan to create new building space to be utilized by several arts departments—unfortunately not realized, but again evidence of his notion of a bigger vision for Oberlin.

Dan’s career as a scholar of Eastern European cinema took him on frequent trips abroad and demonstrated a level of creativity in crafting a career to which many of us aspire. He was a powerful example of how our questions and passions can open up new fields for ourselves and others. His first book, *Liberated Cinema*, was the first of its kind to bring focus to Yugoslavian film, addressing the period 1945-1985, pivotal years following the end of World War II and into years of conflict in the region. The book was revised in 2002 to bring the study up to 2001. “Covering the historical background and the films of several regions (eventually separate nations), Goulding’s book is an ambitious undertaking,” a reviewer of the revised text wrote in the *Journal of Film and Video*. The writer praised Dan’s ability to decode the complex post-1985 political events while “remaining cognizant of the fact that textual analyses of Yugoslav films, as for many national cinemas, are necessarily contextual.”

He also edited a collection of essays, *Post New Wave Cinema in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe* (1989). A review in *Film Quarterly* noted that, “This important work

fills a gap in English-language scholarship on the modern cinema, i.e., recent developments in the film industries of the USSR and the countries of Eastern Europe.” Dan became close to many of the filmmakers he studied, and he facilitated their visits to the U.S. and to Oberlin.

As an innovative scholar, Dan initiated a course in Black Film and Hollywood Stereotyping, which was wildly popular, attracting up to 80 students in its initial offering. Because Dan had such facility for seeding and nurturing curricular areas that others further developed, he bequeathed this class to me, which is now a two-course sequence titled Framing Blackness: African American Film and the Search for an Independent Voice. In fact, had Dan not retired when he did, we envisioned other courses we could create together. Dan was an advocate for black theater performance and studies from the inception of its singular presence at Oberlin, having supported Avery Brooks ’70 in his move from student to artist-in-residence, beginning the process that eventually led to the work that Justin Emeka ’95 and I do.

Dan continued teaching in an emeritus capacity for many years after his retirement, and his classes on Ingmar Bergman were particular favorites. Dan was devoted to his wife, Elizabeth, and his two sons. Together, Dan and Elizabeth were two of the most memorable hosts in Oberlin. To attend a gathering at their home meant engaging people from across the college and beyond, having some of the most fun we all ever had. He believed that the social fabric of our college was just as important as our dealings as scholars, artists, teachers, mentors, and stewards of the institution. Dan left an imprint that will be forever felt by generations of students, professors, filmmakers, and members of our local and global communities. He was truly, in every sense of the word, “a hail fellow well met.”

Caroline Jackson Smith
Professor, Theater and Africana Studies

Aspen Skiing in Colorado, and co-developed the 29-story River North building in Chicago, which became home to the American Medical Association. Devoted to Oberlin throughout his life, he was a former member of the Board of Trustees, and Klutznick Commons, the regal gathering space in Peters Hall that is home to numerous campus celebrations, was named in his honor. Mr. Klutznick died January 4, 2019, after years of suffering from dementia. He leaves two sons, to whom he turned over the family business, as well as many other loved ones. ■ **Jane Briggs Rankin** was a music teacher at Spelman College in Atlanta and later in the public schools of North Kingstown, R.I., New England Music Camp, and the University of Rhode Island. She earned a master of music from Converse College and pursued doctoral studies at Boston University. She played a leading role with the Rhode Island Music Teachers Association and enjoyed serving as organist and choir director at numerous New England churches. Among her passions was playing piano duets with her husband, Donald. Ms. Rankin died September 4, 2018, leaving her husband, three sons, and five grandchildren.

1962

Harold Iver Sondrol forged wide-ranging careers as a teacher, retailer, and laborer. He earned a master's degree from Washington University and was a lifelong resident of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Mr. Sondrol died July 24, 2018, leaving numerous loved ones.

1963

Susan Orr earned a master's degree in art therapy at the University of Montpelier and enjoyed a career practicing art therapy and teaching at Sacramento State University. She was involved in numerous causes throughout her life, from Civil Rights, to environmentalism, to a fund she created in honor of her late son, David, which has raised more than \$400,000 to support causes dear to him. Ms. Orr met her husband, Sam, at Oberlin. She later took up studies in Buddhism and became a teacher in the Sacramento Buddhist community. She died September 9, 2018, leaving a daughter, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

1964

Dr. Dennis Kam taught at the University of Miami's Frost School of Music for 39 years, including a stint as chair of music theory and

composition. He earned degrees at the University of Hawaii, East-West Center, and the University of Illinois, and he also studied at the Mozarteum in Austria and the Toho Gakuen School of Music in Japan. In retirement, he was composer in residence and associate conductor of the South Florida Youth Symphony. A CD of his string quartets and piano works was released in April 2018. Dr. Kam died December 25, 2018, leaving his wife, Cynthia, and a daughter. ■ **Charles Thompson** taught at the Oxford Centre for Management Studies and later operated his own business in England, where he lived for 40 years. He died October 4, 2018, leaving his wife, two children, and two grandchildren.

1966

Mary Lou McCann was a hornist who was active in her church and with the Tri-State Community Band and the Gem City Brass Ensemble. She was a member of the American Federation of Musicians Local 142 of Wheeling, W.V., near her home in Steubenville, Ohio. She earned a graduate degree from the University of Kansas and also attended the University of Minnesota. Ms. McCann died January 3, 2019, leaving her husband of more than 45 years, Charles; two sons; three daughters; 15 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

1972

Tom Gary was an attorney who lived and practiced in South Florida for three decades. He died October 5, 2017, leaving his wife, Olga, and a son.

1974

Bruce Daniel was a graphic designer who served as a senior cartographer for Amazon in Seattle. After college he co-directed an Off-Broadway theater for six years and later moved to New Mexico, where he met his wife of more than 25 years, Nora Reynolds Daniel. Mr. Daniel died December 5, 2018. ■ **Dr. Joseph Gordon Hylton** was a law professor at the University of Virginia focusing on legal history, sports law, and the Civil Rights era. He earned a joint JD-MA degree at Virginia and a PhD in the history of American civilization at Harvard. Known for his knowledge of trivia, he served as the "Phone a Friend" on the show *Who Wants to be a Millionaire* four times. Dr. Hylton died May 2, 2018, leaving a son and three daughters.

1982

Lynn Huff was a scientist who specialized in optics for Lockheed Martin Space Systems in Sunnyvale, Calif. His hobbies included baseball, music, poker, food, and drink. Mr. Huff died November 26, 2018, leaving three children and three grandchildren.

1983

Dr. Amy Lorraine Wordelman devoted 22 years to the administrative staff of the Five College Center for World Languages in Massachusetts. She earned a master of divinity degree from Candler School of Theology and a PhD from Princeton and taught for several years in the religion departments at Oberlin and Emory University. Dr. Wordelman died October 24, 2018, leaving her husband, Eric Loehr, and many other loved ones.

1989

Nancy Ellen Weber earned an MA in rhetoric at New York University and was a devoted advocate of the arts. Her passions included singing, swimming, and spending time with children. Ms. Weber died February 3, 2016, following the death of her husband, Marek Rachowiecki.

2006

Laura Jean Pearson was a gifted violist who was a session musician on hundreds of movie scores, TV shows, video games, and other media. She performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, the Pacific Symphony, and numerous other prestigious orchestras, and was the principal viola of the Chamber Orchestra of the South Bay. She earned a master's degree from the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music. Ms. Pearson died October 2, 2018. She leaves her daughter and husband, Mark Larwill.

2014

Emma Katharine Salter was a writer whose background in the arts also led her to be gifted as an illustrator, linguist, pianist, and costumer. Modest and kind, she greatly valued her deep friendships and the love of her family. Ms. Salter died January 4, 2019. She is survived by her parents, Mark and Sally Salter, two brothers, a sister, and countless other loved ones.

“This flair for thinking analytically, even in areas that are outside one’s comfort zone, is a distinctly Oberlin quality.”

Associate Professor of Economics **Viplav Saini**, after Oberlin economics majors won first place in an undergraduate business case competition sponsored by Peoples Bank

“I’m not like some high-power-wielding globalist. I’m this kid who’s been on the internet my whole life and knows how to get around it.”

Media Matters staff member **Madeline Peltz ‘16**, quoted in a *Washington Post* story titled “Tucker Carlson says he’s the victim of a powerful bully. Meet the 24-year-old who found the tapes.”

“This is a v. earnest tweet so I apologize in advance, but the whole college admissions scandal makes me feel lucky to have graduated from a place like @oberlin. Everyone I went to school with was smart and passionate and engaged, and most importantly had a great deal of integrity.”

Journalist **EJ Dickson ‘11**, on Twitter

“My team is my whole life at Oberlin. It has very much shaped my entire college experience and who I am as a person. I’ve seen my team grow into a thoughtful, loving, and supportive community, and I’m so incredibly lucky to have been a part of the success of such a beautiful group of people.”

Abby Cheng ‘19, a mathematics and vocal performance double-degree student who will compete at the weeklong World Flying Disc Federation 2019 Under-24 Ultimate Championships in Heidelberg, Germany, this summer

“Fantastic afternoon taking my intro geology class to the @AllenArtMuseum! We thought about parallels between observing art and rocks, practiced translating the visual to words, and researched the use of rocks and minerals in art. Liberal arts at its finest! @oberlincollege”

Assistant Professor of Geology **Rachel Eveleth (@revelethBGC)**, on Twitter

“When I talk about Oberlin, it’s really about the people—the people are so special here. I don’t know what it is. They’re just curious and passionate and hilarious and annoying and wonderful and all of it mashed up. It’s a place with a point of view. It has a strong energy. People are passionate about different things.”

Ed Helms ‘96, in an *Oberlin Review* Q&A

“In 2014 I dedicated my book *Poisoned Apples* to my daughter Claudia, and five years later she has composed a piece using text from one of the poems as lyrics. Last Saturday I got to hear it performed at @oberlincollege by four stunningly gifted vocalists.”

Christine Heppermann (@cmheppermann), parent of **Claudia Hinsdale ‘21**, on Twitter (Search Christine Heppermann and “Rapunzel” on YouTube to view the performance)

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COMPANIES WERE RESPONSIBLE
FOR APPROXIMATELY 8% OF THE TOTAL
COMMERCIAL SEED MARKET; BY 2016,
THAT FIGURE HAD GROWN TO 51%.”