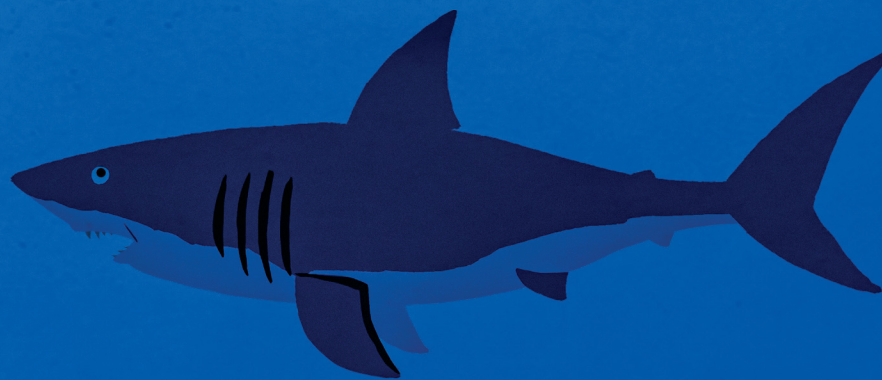


Oberlin

OBERLIN ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2022



DANGER, SHARKS!



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OUT WITH A BANG

Talko drummers, including Harper Ross '22, left, performed during Illumination and Social on the Square, longtime commencement eve celebrations.

PHOTO BY MIKE CRUPI

ON THE COVER

Illustration by U.K.-based artist Paul Thurlby.



On the State of Oberlin

FROM THE OUTSET OF THE PANDEMIC, OUR GOAL WAS TO provide our students with a safe yet rigorous on-campus experience. We knew that if our strategy was successful, we could emerge from the pandemic stronger than when we entered.

How should one measure that strength? By admissions numbers? Academic excellence? Financial stability, resilience, and fundraising? At Oberlin, isn't it also important to consider strength of mission, relevance, and progressive positioning in the world?

I am proud to share that in each of these areas, Oberlin is

meeting or surpassing expectations.

When I arrived at Oberlin, the institution—like most of higher education—faced significant challenges. Enrollment was threatened by a “demographic cliff,” when the number of high school graduates is projected to decline dramatically. Oberlin faced a reoccurring structural deficit. To meet those challenges, with more than 80 percent of the General Faculty support, we approved the One Oberlin plan, and in fall 2019 we began to implement it.

We have begun to contain our structural deficit, which could have become an existential threat to Oberlin. I appreciate the concerns some have expressed about the impact of these changes, including on issues such as union membership. But we continue to host the same unions on campus as before, UAW membership in dining is higher than before, and our students are receiving better service. We also restructured the lease with the Oberlin Student Cooperative Association (OSCA) and helped the co-ops resume their activities as the pandemic eased.

We launched six interdivisional minors and nine integrated concentrations in fields that include business, global health, and journalism. We accelerated our work to expand collaboration between the conservatory and the college.

We concluded a very successful faculty recruiting season, attracting 11 out of 13 of our top college faculty choices, with seven of them people of color. In the conservatory, we welcome four new faculty, with two being people of color.

Our Internship Plus program, launching this fall, guarantees each student up to \$5,000 to support an internship (or, for conservatory students, a summer festival season) during their time at Oberlin.

Applications are at an all-time high, and we enrolled our largest class ever last fall. This year, the numbers are on pace to equal or even exceed that total, with an entering class that includes the largest number of people of color in our history.

Oberlin is halfway through our Sustainability Infrastructure Project, which will utilize geothermal wells to transform our heating and cooling system and help Oberlin become one of the first carbon-neutral campuses in the country by 2025.

In May, we released the results of our first campus climate survey, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are creating a Center for Race, Equity, and Inclusion, as well as a diversity office position in human resources. We are initiating a series of DEI-related curricular enhancements and faculty hires in the conservatory.

Thanks to the support of our Obie community and the hard work of our advancement staff, our fundraising totals are surpassing the pace set last year. I cannot thank you enough for your ongoing support of Oberlin and its mission to educate students to meet the world as it is and then to work to do good in it.

I am writing this column a few weeks after the Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2022. What a pleasure it was to see their expressions of joy and their sense that they had gotten all they needed from their Oberlin experience. That, as much as anything, is the benchmark that tells me that the state of Oberlin is strong.

CARMEN TWILLIE AMBAR
President, Oberlin College and Conservatory

Oberlin

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ECONOMIC GROWTH

I loved Alex Blumberg’s article about Josh Angrist (“A Really Good Day for an Economist,” Spring 2022). As a psychologist who specializes in ADHD and executive skill challenges, I find myself assuring parents all the time that the child they see in front of them at age 15 is not the same person they will see at age 25 (the earliest age at which the frontal lobes are fully mature). Now I can just show them the first two paragraphs of Blumberg’s article as evidence.

PEG DAWSON ’72
Brentwood, N.H.

I discovered econ in the introductory course with Jim Zinser and immediately wanted more. I was particularly attracted by how economists used math to understand the operation of a social system. I majored in econ but graduated with more credit hours in math. I was excited to go to grad school at MIT and get into mathematical econ.

In my first year at MIT, I did not do very well at all. Mathematical econ did not come naturally to me the way I thought it would, and I found that I was much more interested in the peculiarities of people using markets than I was in mathematical modeling. I thought they were going to kick me out for bad grades, but that department is committed to its students’ success. I got more into economic history and institutional economics and away from abstract theorizing. I wrote a dissertation about the use of markets as vehicles for protest. My advisor was the legendary Charlie Kindleberger, the well-known economic historian.

I was hired to teach at Calvin College (now University) in 1975 and was there for 37 years. I published a lot in the social

economics literature and was the Association for Social Economics president in 2007. In 2009, ASE gave me their lifetime achievement award. Social economics is about as far from mathematical economics as you can get and still be respectable, but it is important for understanding economic behavior and outcomes.

There is a published collection of my research articles titled “Stories Economists Tell.” I gave a copy to the Oberlin library.

JOHN P. TIEMSTRA ’71
Grand Rapids, Mich.

FITS TO A T

Thank you for printing Sue Dorfman’s photograph (“The Poll Watcher,” Spring 2022) of the man with Jesus’ name on his T-shirt, Trump with a machine gun on a flag, and lots of red, white, and blue, and reminding us of a quote often attributed to Sinclair Lewis: “When fascism comes to America, it will be wrapped in the flag and carrying a cross.”

DAVID PELL ’75
Rochester, N.Y.

DUE YOU, MR. JONES

First of all, I read the Oberlin Alumni Magazine cover to cover. It’s an excellent magazine with thoughtful articles.

Being an avocational ornithologist, I first turned to the piece by Tara Santora ’18 (“Pioneers of the Bird World,” Fall 2021). She made a sad omission by not mentioning Lynds Jones’ beloved son, Professor George T. Jones, botanist and ornithologist, in whose memory the George Jones Farm was created. George T. also taught ornithology and led field trips close to the end of his 100 years.

When a freshman, I first volunteered, then was paid, to repair the bird study skins. Soon I was helping to lead his ornithology field trips. I was welcomed to the botany field trips even though I did not take the course.

George T. Jones touched the lives of many.

HANNAH BONSEY SUTHERS ’53
Hopewell, N.J.

I take issue with the final quote: “The college can’t find another Jones.” Of course,

Oberlin did find another: Lynd’s son, George Tallmon Jones, my mentor in botany and ornithology.

Dr. Jones provided a rich history of the early 20th century, travels, the breakup of the prairie, and the tribulations during the war. Like Althea Sherman, he too saw the decline of many bird species and would be shocked at conditions today. He often spoke of Lynds Jones, whom he referred to only as “father.” “Father” led summer trips, as described in the article, the funding for which seems novel. The party traveled to Detroit and purchased new automobiles. The caravan proceeded across the plains to the mountains and the Pacific, “botanizing” and “bird watching,” always camping. At summer’s end, they sold the “new cars” in California for a profit that covered at least part of the costs and returned to Oberlin by train.

Dr. Jones led early morning bird trips in Oberlin, and five of us were regulars. We gathered before dawn on College Street, listening to the booming sound of displaying nighthawks, one of the species that has crashed in subsequent decades. We proceeded to the Arb and cemetery, and on to the Reservoir. I remember particularly being charmed by the red-headed woodpeckers, which I had never seen at home in New York. “They were very common when father was a boy,” Dr. Jones explained. “But they were often killed by the automobile. They seemed to be attracted by cigarette butts on the roads.”

Even more than the declining birds, the number of bird watchers in the Oberlin community in the 1950s had declined to the point where there was no longer a course in ornithology. I took it as an independent study. Dr. Jones offered a weekly field trip, taking eight students in his big blue station wagon, often to Lorain and the Lake Erie shore. When I visited Oberlin in 1990, the Sunday field trips were still on, and Dr. Jones was still a regular participant.

MICHAEL GOCHFELD ’61
Somerset, N.J.

Send letters to Oberlin Alumni Magazine, 247 W. Lorain St., Suite C, Oberlin, OH 44074; or send emails to 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



SECOND LINE AND A FIRST Juneteenth, considered the date when the last enslaved people in America were freed, has been celebrated in the town of Oberlin for over two decades. This year's event, called "Dancing and the Second Line: Releasing Enslaved Spirits to Freedom," invoked the New Orleans musical funeral parade tradition of the Second Line and was led by Preservation Hall Jazz Band horn player Kevin Louis '99 (above, left). For the first time, Oberlin College added Juneteenth as a paid holiday this year, and it was named a federal holiday, as well.

AWARDS

Neuroscience Student Goes for Goldwater

BY YVONNE GAY

In his first three years at Oberlin, neuroscience major Paul Kamitsuka conducted research to establish and understand nature-nurture interactions in brain disorders—studies that illuminated a path toward graduate research of brain cancer and other diseases.

Now the rising fourth-year student from Avon Lake, Ohio, is the recipient of a 2022 Barry Goldwater Scholarship, which will support his final year of undergraduate studies at Oberlin.

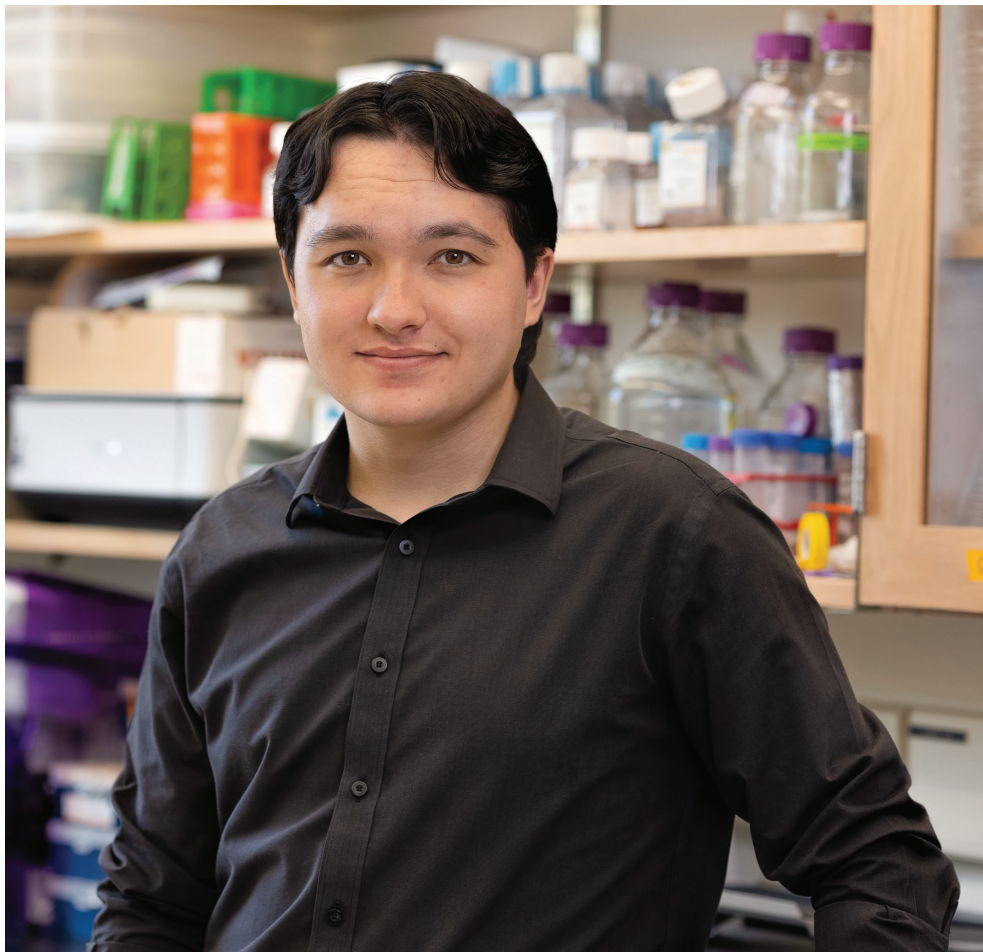
Established by the U.S. Congress in 1986, the Goldwater Scholarship is a highly competitive, merit-based award offered to college sophomores and juniors preparing for careers in the natural sciences, engineering, and math.

Kamitsuka, who paired his neuroscience major with a minor in chemistry, is interested in studying what can go wrong with cellular and molecular mechanisms that regulate nerve cell function in the brain, as well as how disruption in energy production affects other seemingly separate biological processes to cause diseases.

“Although neurodegeneration is the progressive loss of nerve cells, and cancer is the uncontrolled growth of cells, the metabolic characteristics between the two diseases are strikingly similar,” he explains. “Brain cancer is particularly fascinating because of the strict metabolic regulation that is needed to provide sufficient energy for the brain, the practical challenge of dealing with this balance, and the challenge of drug delivery to the brain.

“These factors, the lack of a cure or efficacious treatment options, and my interest in studying cellular metabolism have led me to want to pursue a career as a medical scientist in neuro-oncology.”

At Oberlin, Kamitsuka works in the lab of Biggs Professor of Neuroscience Gunnar Kwakye, whose research team studies the impact of environmental pollutants on the



development and progression of various neurological disorders such as Parkinson's, Huntington's, and multiple system atrophy diseases, which are characterized by selective loss of nerve cells, motor incoordination, and altered involuntary functions such as breathing and blood pressure.

Ongoing research conducted by Kamitsuka and other members of Kwakye's lab examines the effects of the heavy metal cadmium—which is abundant in our environment and in tobacco plants—on the development and severity of Huntington's disease. The lab also undertakes ongoing collaborative research projects to use innovative drug discovery through computer-aided drug design, genetic editing, and chemical synthesis of small molecule probes to interrogate human biology processes and disease states in neurodegenerative diseases and breast cancer, toward the goal of developing new therapeutics.

Kamitsuka and Kwakye are coauthors on a collaborative research paper under review that demonstrates the efficacy of a novel small molecule in altering energy function in triple-negative breast cancer cells and mice.

“The immense support of my research mentor, Professor Kwakye, and other mentors within chemistry, neuroscience, and CLEAR (Center for Learning, Education, and Research in the Sciences) have made my academic and experiential learning here at Oberlin exceptional,” he says.

In addition to the Goldwater Scholarship, Kamitsuka is a 2022 recipient of the Society of Toxicology Undergraduate Research Award, which fosters interest in graduate studies in toxicology and adjacent scientific fields.

To learn more about recent awards and fellowships for Oberlin students and recent graduates, visit go.oberlin.edu/awards.



AWARDS

Nexial Prize Winner to Study Cultural Influences on Neuropsychiatric Disorders

BY AMANDA NAGY

MARWAN GHANEM '22 CAME to Oberlin College from a STEM-centered high school in Egypt, where he worked in teams to design and test solutions for Egypt's challenges. While he considers himself fortunate to have an early foundation in interdisciplinary research, it was through Oberlin's liberal arts courses in anthropology, history, and sociology that Ghanem began to rethink approaches to problem solving.

A resident of El Mahalla El Kobra, Egypt, Ghanem is the winner of Oberlin's 2022 Nexial Prize, a \$50,000 award made annually to a member of the graduating class whose science studies are complemented by a profound interest

in the study of culture. With majors in biology and neuroscience and a minor in Middle Eastern and North African studies, Ghanem will use the Nexial Prize to study how cultural upbringing might influence the development of neuropsychiatric disorders among Arab youth.

"I feel honored that Oberlin believes in my potential as a next-generation leader and scientist," Ghanem says. "The Nexial Prize will advance my goal of understanding neuropsychiatric disorders."

The Nexial Prize was launched in 2017 with support from an alumnus who wanted to recognize the contribution that Oberlin's liberal arts education made to his successful career as a

scientist and manager, as well as his growth intellectually and culturally.

During his academic and experiential learning journey at Oberlin, Ghanem received the Oberlin College Research Fellowship award through the Office of Undergraduate Research and studied the neural mechanisms behind drug addiction and learning with Assistant Professor of Neuroscience Christopher Howard. Ghanem was a contributing author on three papers.

Under the mentorship of Biggs Professor of Neuroscience Gunnar Kwakye, he developed his understanding of genetic and environmental influences in neurodegeneration. Specifically, Ghanem and Kwakye are co-authors on a paper in preparation that examines how the huntingtin gene and heavy metals cooperatively alter cellular and biochemical processes to promote Huntington's disease. He also studied Middle Eastern cinema history in a private reading with history professor Zeinab Abul-Magd.

"I was attracted to Oberlin's liberal arts education, which widened my horizons to non-STEM fields like the study of cultures in anthropology, history, and sociology, in addition to the exceptional training in neuroscience research," Ghanem says.

"Oberlin reshaped the way I approach the world and its challenges. I came to discover the key to solving problems is vulnerability—being vulnerable to admit lacking the knowledge and to find humility is what a scientist needs to solve big problems."



LADIES COURSE CORRECTION—AND COMMENCEMENT

"Boldly and fiercely, she fashioned internationally esteemed works of art and created a trailblazing career that exemplifies the complexities and paradoxes of Oberlin's vision. She has long deserved to have her official recognition of her interrupted studies. It is my honor, Madame President, to present Mary Edmonia Lewis her diploma of the Ladies Course, Class of 1863."

With those final words, spoken during the 2022 commencement exercises, Caroline Jackson Smith, professor of theater and Africana studies, bestowed upon Lewis the diploma she was denied a century and a half before. Lewis, born of a Native American mother and an Afro-Haitian father, had been accused of trying to poison two of her classmates. Though she was found blameless in this and in a subsequent accusation, she was not allowed to enroll for her final semester.

This year's commencement exercises returned to Tappan Square following a cancelled 2020 commencement and a socially distant ceremony at Oberlin's athletic fields in 2021. The commencement speaker was recent Nobel Prize winner Joshua D. Angrist '82. He received an honorary doctorate, as did musicians John Brombaugh and George E. Lewis. Earning Distinguished Service to the Community awards were James Anthony '75, who helped lead Oberlin's COVID response, and Oberlin High School teacher Kurt Russell, the 2022 National Teacher of the Year.



A FIXTURE ON CAMPUS
 Claes Oldenburg didn't go to Oberlin, but his first public commissioned sculpture did, making him an indelible presence on the campus ever since *Giant Three-Way Plug* was installed in August 1970. That same year, the college awarded him an honorary degree. Oldenburg died July 18, 2022.

A Letter from the EnviroAlums Steering Committee

EnviroAlums is an alumni affiliate group committed to promoting environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainability and resilience. We are happy to celebrate our 20th anniversary this year.

Those least responsible for climate change are the most affected by it. As the world wakes up to the intersectionality of the existential environmental challenges we face, we support Oberlin College in learning and leading efforts to address these challenges.

We applaud the work of administrators, professors, students, staff, and alumni to lessen Oberlin's environmental impact, while striving to demonstrate the viability of a more positive vision of the future. Investment in green buildings, renewable energy, sustainable food, natural landscaping, and the Sustainable Infrastructure Project, and deep town-gown collaboration on

climate mitigation and adaptation, teach Oberlin students that there is reason for hope and opportunities for concrete action. We recognize that there are always opportunities to do more and do better.

EnviroAlums supports students by supporting Oberlin's Environmental Studies Program, funding student fellowships to help underwrite internships at environmental organizations, hosting careers in the environment events, and connecting students and alumni with each other for advice, support, and encouragement.

In 2002, Carl McDaniel '64 coordinated a group of other founding members to create EnviroAlums. Thanks to the foresight, enthusiasm, and generosity of several generations of steering committee members and many donors, EnviroAlums has an endowment that, along with ongoing fundraising

campaigns, supports our ambitions.

We invite other alumni to join us in enhancing environmental initiatives at Oberlin. Get involved by visiting our webpage at www.oberlin.edu/alumni-association/groups/enviro.

Sincerely,
 The EnviroAlums Steering Committee

Abe Kruger '04, Chair and
 Michael J. Lythcott '70, Vice Chair

Susan Bernat '97, Krista Egger '04,
 Walt Galloway '69, Aviva Glaser '04,
 Cria Kay '16, Jeayoon Lee '08, Harriet
 McSurdy '23, Simon Nussbaum '02,
 Elise Paeffgen '04, John Petersen '88,
 Michael Rossotto '84, Paul Safyan '68,
 Molly Samuel '04, Howard Sinclair '22

Thought Process





ART

The Shapes We're In

New York City artist Nanette Carter '76 works with her hands, her soul, her heart, oil paints—and mylar. She paints on, scratches off, roughs up, and otherwise treats the translucent stretched polyester film, which she then assembles (“choreographs,” she says) into large-scale abstract collages that are affixed directly onto walls—frameless, and thus unbound.

Carter was first exposed to the material in the 1990s at a show of architectural drawings at Cooper Hewitt Museum in New York City created by

students of Frank Lloyd Wright. “The drawings were beautiful on the mylar,” she told the podcast *Cerebral Women*. “The pencil drawings appeared to be like poured, black butter.”

Carter, an avid reader of the daily *New York Times*, builds her work around particular themes that ignite her energy and that are often informed by the prevailing issues of the time in which the art is created. Since the turn of the century, her work has reflected concerns around social media, technology, and economic

struggle, and the attempts—and need—to find balance. Not that she expects that her work, which eschews figures in favor of shapes, color, mark-making, and texture, would necessarily mean the same to the viewer as it does to her.

“As an abstract artist, I don’t mind if the viewer sees something totally different. If their imagination enters into the piece, I love it. If they see something totally different, that’s fine with me. But,” she adds, “I need that theme when I’m in the studio.”

For more on Carter, including upcoming exhibitions, visit nanettecarter.com.

ABOVE: The exhibition *Shape Shifting* at New York City’s Berry Campbell Gallery.

LEFT: Nanette Carter, *Destabilizing #1*, 2021, oil on Mylar, 72 x 67 inches.

MUSIC

Like Being a Kid Again (and Again)

BY ERICH BURNETT

PHYLLIS CHEN HAS PLAYED THE PIANO EVER since she was a child. She's played the *toy* piano ever since she was an adult.

A 1999 graduate of Oberlin Conservatory, the New York-based composer and sound artist has forged a career where few others would think to tread, creating music on and for marginalized and unconventional instruments like the toy pianos and music boxes that have fascinated her for decades.

Chen has been called a virtuoso of the toy piano and a master of the art of play. Now a professor in the music department at the State University of New York at New Paltz, she is also the winner of a 2022 Guggenheim Fellowship for composition that will fuel an innovative new project with a sculpture museum in New York City.

Chen fell in love with the instruments' tactile qualities: the way they allow the player to literally *feel* sound. She fell in love with their lack of history and preconceived expectations. To her, they represented a welcoming new realm for exploration.

"There was just so much music and so much tradition for piano that it was really a burden for me," she says of her traditional piano studies, which included performance degrees from Oberlin, Northwestern University, and Indiana University. An injury that sidelined her from the keyboard for the better part of two years during graduate school helped cement her passion for toy pianos.

"What was really incredible was not only that the instrument is smaller and requires a lighter touch—which helped with my physical rehabilitation—but because the instrument is not used often, it has sort of a chameleon-like reputation. Because it's smaller and less versatile, it felt liberating to me. At that time, there wasn't a tradition I had to carry forward, so that gave me a sense of permission that I could explore with this instrument."

That freedom has resulted in a long list of achievements, from Chen's 2007 founding of the Uncaged Toy Piano competition and festival, which celebrates unconventional instruments and those who play them; to her

role as the sole onstage musician in the Off-Broadway adaptation of the Neil Gaiman children's story *Coraline*; to countless commissions leading to solo and chamber performances. All of them are united as much as anything by their sheer *approachability*—by their freedom from the structure and expectations of traditional classical music.

A student of Professor Robert Shannon at Oberlin, Chen became a founding member of the International Contemporary Ensemble, the New York-based collective created by fellow Oberlin alumna Claire Chase '01.

"I still think of Oberlin as my creative community," Chen says today, noting that her Oberlin colleagues remain close all these years later. "It's where I learned to think, and it embodies all the things that are important to me as a creative person."

The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation was established in 1925 to support advanced scholarship or artistic endeavors among exceptional individuals at the mid-point of their careers. Approximately 175 fellows are selected annually from a pool of 3,000 applicants representing a comprehensive range of disciplines, from science and

engineering to performing arts and fine art. Chen is one of three Oberlin alumni to earn Guggenheim Fellowships this year, joining trumpeter-composer Peter Evans '03 and playwright-composer César Alvarez '03.

Chen's fellowship will support research and the creation of an installation in tandem with the Noguchi Museum in Queens, New York, one of several former studios of the late American sculptor Isamu Noguchi.

The museum's collection includes an assortment of large sculptures crafted from obsidian, a dark glass created by the hardening of molten lava. Noguchi came to refer to them as "sounding stones" for the bell-like sound emitted when the sculptures are tapped.

"He thought of them as bells that related to his traditional Japanese culture, but they were never realized as musical instruments," says Chen. "So they are pieces of fine art that have been stored away but never used."

That will change in the coming year, as Chen plans to take intermittent breaks from her teaching to conduct research and compose for the installation. In addition to freeing up bits of time in her teaching schedule, she





hopes the fellowship will support additional research at Noguchi's former island studio off the coast of Japan.

"I have a personal fascination with Japanese music, and this project kind of intersects with my interest in traditional Japanese music," says Chen, who plays bamboo and shakuhachi flutes, and studies the musical and practical uses of bells—such as mapping locations and charting times of day—among ancient cultures.

"All the things I've done on a toy piano make sense now, because so much of it was just about sound exploration," she says. "As I explore the nature of the object and what makes it resonate, I'm understanding something very elemental about the material itself."

In this way, Chen operates somewhat as Noguchi did decades earlier, carefully tapping raw materials in search of clues about their makeup and how they might best be used.

"I'm finding the sweet spots and then finding the spots that are more dense and less resonant," she says. "All of it reveals something about the world we live in."

POEM

Reasons to Learn Another Language —after Cecilia Llompart

BY EMILY PAIGE WILSON '13

Because verbs only move if tongues
do. Because there is a no man's land

where all of the mouth's mistakes are
allowed: teethlings tripping sounds

to tatters. Because *untranslatable* is just
a challenge. Because your jaw gets bored.

Because *You are missing from me* means
much more than *I miss you*. Because

everyone wants to tell you their name
in a way that feels most familiar. Because

not all facial expressions are universal,
not even the ones for pain. Because

some people are forced to give up
their alphabet in order to assimilate.

Because consonants can often not.
Because you and a stranger can stare

at the same water, but if you don't share
a word for *please*, then you are both still

thirsty. Because lineage is a lace that frays.
Because my stutter—a string of sounds arrested—

is still an attempt. Because we wouldn't
be able to tell the sky from the sea

had the color blue decided not to divide itself.

From Emily Paige Wilson's debut poetry collection *Jalubí*, published in May 2022 by Unsolicited Press. The poem first appeared in *Puerto del Sol*, Vol. 52.1. Learn more at www.emilypaigewilson.com.



RECIPE

That Joodooboo That You Do So Well

BY JEFF HAGAN '86

STEVE JOO '04 AND SHIGEHARU Kobayashi '04 met during their first year at Oberlin and became roommates for their fourth. But it was Joo's Winter Term working at Kobayashi's family Sushi restaurant in Columbia, South Carolina, that set the two on the road to Joodooboo.

Joodooboo is the Oakland, California, restaurant where Joo serves as chef and Kobayashi as manager. The name plays on dooboo, the Korean pronuncia-

tion and preparation method for what some call tofu. "We wanted to push the culture a little bit," says Joo.

After attending the New England Culinary School, Joo went to work at the famed Chez Panisse and eventually created his own Bay Area pop-up restaurants. Meanwhile, Kobayashi helped to run the family restaurant. In October of 2021, Kobayashi moved to Oakland, and in January of

2022, the pair opened Joodooboo to rave reviews.

Joodooboo uses "hyper-seasonal" vegetables that are part of Korean cuisine and divides its fare between tofu and banchan—essentially Korean deli fare, which the restaurant offers to support home cooks by providing a range of side dishes for several meals (they even offer a weekly subscription service). "It's a flexible enough format," says Joo.

This recipe is for a staple

Joodooboo banchan called "rice thief."

"Rice thief is a term that's used for any banchan or food item that makes you want to eat a lot of rice," says Joo. "You can think of it as an analog for bar snacks—food that makes you want to drink a lot of beer or alcohol. It's higher on salt and other seasonings and makes you salivate."

Joo says that the type of greens and veggies can be adjusted according to preference and



DOOBOO DUO Steve Joo, left, and Shigeharu Kobayashi.

recommends eating the rice thief as a condiment or accompaniment to a bowl of rice or other prepared grains. “A very simple crowd-pleaser that we prepare in the shop from time to time is a bowl of steamed rice topped with a generous spoonful of rice thief and a fried egg—mixed together and eaten with nori.”

Rice Thief

Ingredients

2 bunches lacinato kale (or other greens)

1 large or **2 small heads** of cauliflower

6-8 medium-sized garlic cloves

2 thumbs of ginger

1 cup dried mushroom (shiitake or whatever’s in your pantry) loosely packed and then soaked in lukewarm water.

1 serrano chili

1 red jalapeño or Fresno chili

4 scallions, thinly sliced

¼ to ½ cup fish sauce (or substitute a teaspoon or two of salt and a few dashes of your favorite soy sauce to taste)

2 Tbsp sugar

2 to 3 Tbsp brown rice vinegar

Salt

Your favorite cooking oil

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees and bring 4-6 quarts of water to a boil over medium heat, covered with a lid.

2. Wash cauliflower and remove base of stem, then cut into ½” chunks. The leaves are delicious when cooked, so keep them in the mix. Use a food processor or a knife to cut the chunks of cauliflower into nickel & dime-sized pieces. It helps to work in smaller batches—a lot of gravel-sized bits are ok.

3. Add cauliflower to a bowl, toss with a light drizzle of oil, place on a parchment-lined sheet tray in a thin layer, and bake on the middle rack. Check after 12 minutes.

4. Blanch kale—stems and all—in the boiling water for 2 minutes. Remove with tongs or into a colander, and allow to drain on a plate or sheet tray. Once cool enough to handle, squeeze out as much liquid as possible, lay it on a cutting board in a flattened bunch. Cut once longitudinally along the stems and then slice across in about ¼” segments. Set aside.

5. Once the edges of the cauliflower begin to caramelize and brown, use a wooden or rubber spatula to incorporate the edges towards the middle, and flatten out the mound with your spatula. Return the tray to the oven and restart your timer. This will take about 30 minutes overall. The goal is to achieve golden brown caramelization somewhat evenly throughout. After reaching satisfactory homogeneity, pull from oven, sprinkle with salt, and set aside.

6. Finely mince the garlic, ginger, hydrated mushrooms (after squeezing out excess moisture), and chilies separately.

7. In a dutch oven or heavy-bottomed skillet, heat ¼ cup of oil over medium heat. Reduce heat to low, and slowly toast garlic and ginger together. This will stick quickly to the bottom of your pan, so use a wooden spatula to scrape and keep your aromatics from burning.

8. Once the garlic and ginger mixture begins to smell sweet and delicious, add the mushrooms and chilies. Continue to toast over low heat for 5-7 minutes. Add more oil if the mixture seems dry.

9. Once the aromatics are cooked through, add sugar and the fish sauce (or salt/soy sauce) and cook for 2 minutes. Add chopped kale and mix well. Cover, and cook over low heat for 10 minutes.

10. Uncover and cook for another 10 minutes, tasting every now and then, and remove from heat once tender and sweet. Fold in caramelized cauliflower, sliced scallions, and 1 tablespoon of the vinegar.

11. If you prefer more acidity, add in the extra tablespoon(s) of vinegar. Adjust seasoning with additional fish sauce (or salt/soy sauce). The seasoning should be sharp and unctuous at first bite and eventually give way to the sweetness of the vegetables by the last chew.

For more information—or to place an order if you’re in the Bay Area—visit www.joodooboo.co

BOOK

Folklore (Tailor's Version)

BY PJ GRISAR

DAVID FORMAN'S NEWEST BOOK is an old one. Rich with tales of giants, the Tudor court, and highwaymen besieging a humble Jewish village, *The Clever Little Tailor* (Kinder-Loshn) is the first English translation and bilingual edition of Yiddish writer Solomon Simon's 1933 collection of stories about Shnayderl the tailor.

The book is noteworthy for having the Yiddish and English lines side by side on opposite pages, but all the more remarkable for what's happening between those pages: Simon was Forman's grandfather, and the two are in conversation, telling the same stories in their native languages and cementing a family legacy.

Forman '83, a writer and cataloger of Jewish manuscripts at Cornell, remembers Simon, whom he called Zeidy, as "a light."

"He smoked foul-smelling cigars and drank whiskey, and nonetheless, when he put me on his lap as a little kid, I was happy there," Forman says.

Forman has fond memories of going to the corner store, where Simon would buy him a pink rubber ball—soon to be lost near the garage of Zeidy's Brooklyn home. Of course, he also remembers hearing his stories.

There were the tall tales of how Simon lost a finger on his left hand: animals in the woods; a pitchfork accident in the Old Country. (The real reason was Simon's full-time work as a dentist, where his finger was a casualty of radiation from early x-ray technology.) Forman's parents read him *Wise Men of Helm*, Simon's celebrated collection of folk tales, and Forman recalls Simon showing up to his school and summer camp and reading to the other kids.

But when Simon died in 1970

when Forman was 10, many stories were left untold, and many more had never been translated into English.

"In addition to the loss of his vitality and his love and just his person, there was also all this other stuff about him that I couldn't have," Forman says. "I felt that. I wanted to learn Yiddish."

It took till Forman was in his 50s, but he finally did learn, learning more about his place among Yiddishists, where Simon often felt ignored for championing a world so many were eager to leave behind.

"He believed that secular Jews in America had thrown out the baby with the bathwater," Forman says of his grandfather's written commentary. "It was good to be free of superstition, it was good to be free of some of the Old World ways that didn't make sense in modern times, but there was this tremendous loss of spirituality, of community."

In addition to his lauded work in memoir and children's literature, Simon left behind thoughts on what secular Yiddish institutions were missing and also weighed in on Israel. For his efforts, Forman said, Simon was "widely and cheerfully ignored."

But as the onetime president of the Sholem Aleichem Folk Institute, a Yiddish educational organization based in New York, Simon did hold sway when it came to storytelling, and he would often bundle his defense of the Old Country into his folk tales. Of these stories, "The Clever Little Tailor" was ripe for readers unfamiliar with Simon's work or hungry for more. In it, the titular tailor outfoxes an antisemitic archbishop and gets the better of misers, bandits, and giants.



Packaging the stories in a bilingual edition had special meaning for Forman, who learned Yiddish by reading with a Yiddish-to-English dictionary in one hand and one of his grandfather's books in the other.

Forman says it was a dream to create a bilingual edition, but also a challenge. Because the lines of text are paired, Yiddish on the right side of the spine, English on the left, the words need to track closely. If Simon used a metaphor that may not work quite as well in English, for example, the constraints of this setup may mean sticking more closely to the original text.

Some puns are lost in translation, but Forman took particular delight in translating songs that Shnayderl sings on his cart, taunting robbers.

Forman, who still identifies as a student of Yiddish, believes that the book, with new illustrations by Yehuda Blum, fills a need for people who have an intermediate understanding of Yiddish and for Yiddish speakers who are just learning English. But apart from its value as a teaching tool, Forman is interested in learning how children will like the stories.

"I'm excited to find out about that, and to maybe even go to a school and read aloud the stories like my grandfather came to my school," Forman says.

This article originally appeared in the *Forward*, the nation's leading Jewish journalism outlet. Though he has translated five of Simon's books, this is the first of Forman's translations to be published.

BOOKSHELF

Recent Releases



Going Big: FDR's Legacy, Biden's New Deal, and the Struggle to Save Democracy

Robert Kuttner '65

THE NEW PRESS

Kuttner lays out what's at stake for the United States at this particular juncture with a sobering opening line: "Joe Biden's presidency will be either a historic pivot back to New Deal economics and forward to energized democracy, or a heartbreaking interregnum between two bouts of deepening American fascism." Kuttner, cofounder and coeditor of *The American Prospect* and professor at Brandeis University's Heller School, is an unabashed progressive, and his explanation of how we got here is at least as unsparing in its criticism of Democratic Presidents and policies as it is of anything on the right. But Kuttner still holds qualified hope for Biden, and the book's final chapter is a blueprint outlining a range of remedies he hopes Biden will pursue moving forward, including executive orders, increased oversight of financial practices, and legislative initiatives.

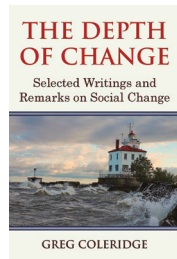


City of Incurable Women

Laura Larson '87

SAINT LUCY BOOKS

In the late 1870s, the director of Paris' Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital established a photography studio to document its treatment of women with hysteria and published three volumes of its photographs as a medical reference book. Larson juxtaposes photography from those books and other archival material with her own images and words as a sort of dialogue between her and the women depicted in the book, whom she imagines as a collective. Among other things, the book is a mesmerizing and complex meditation on the autonomy of women's bodies.



The Depth of Change: Selected Writings and Remarks on Social Change

Greg Coleridge '81

48 HOUR BOOKS

Coleridge's lifetime dedicated to social change activism began with the anti-Apartheid movement at Oberlin and is currently centered around Move to Amend, an organization working to pass a constitutional amendment abolishing the doctrine of "corporate personhood." His approach to politics extends to the marketing of this anthology of Coleridge's articles, columns, editorials, sermons, and poems: It's available only at Cleveland Heights, Ohio, bookstore Mac's Backs, not Amazon (they ship—www.macsbacks.com).

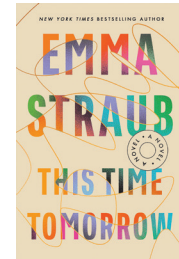


Binge Times: Inside Hollywood's Furious Billion-Dollar Battle to Take Down Netflix

Dade Hayes '93 and Dawn Chmielewski

HARPER COLLINS

Hayes, a veteran entertainment industry reporter, explores with his cowriter the attempts to undermine the once-growing streaming service. "In their writing, in their perceptive analyses, and in their vivid portrayal of a large cast of characters, Hayes and Chmielewski's book easily rivals such business-book staples as *Barbarians at the Gate*, *The Informant*, and *Too Big to Fail*," says *Booklist*. "The authors...take a complex subject and make it not only understandable but riveting."



This Time Tomorrow

Emma Straub '02

RIVERHEAD BOOKS

The fifth novel from *New York Times*-bestselling author Straub is a time-travel fantasy that asks the big question—what would you do differently if you could go back in time?—but narrows it to something intimate: the relationship between the main character and her father. "The pages brim with tenderness and an appreciation for what we had and who we were," says novelist Ann Patchett. "I could not have loved it more."



ART AND ACTIVISM

Activist Artist Josh MacPhee '96 Knows How to Make an Impression

BY DANIEL BURTON-ROSE '98

THE GRAPHIC ARTIST JOSH MACPHEE '96 doesn't usually work in gallery spaces. A Woody Guthrie of street art, he immerses himself in oppositional iconography so as to preserve its potency. He is a connoisseur of clenched fists, finely attuned to the emotional range of the human face rendered in spray paint through cardboard cutouts. Producing such images means collaborating with others occupying public space in ways both illicit and sanctioned. Around the time the English street artist Banksy was becoming a household name, MacPhee's first book, *Stencil Pirates: A Global Study of the Street Stencil* (Soft Skull Press, 2004), offered a decentralized survey of the phenomenon of

low-tech cultural interventions in the cityscape.

When offered a solo exhibition at the Cleveland Institute of Art (CIA), he was initially dubious: The idea of an individual creator producing fixed works contravenes the gist of his work. Then he realized: "The gallery doesn't have to be a gallery: It can be a print shop." This insight prompted a novel exhibition dedicated to turning the viewer into a producer. MacPhee isolated recurring motifs in protest art dating back centuries, then offered them to exhibition-goers as a grammar in which they could speak.

The exhibition, which ran from April 1–June 10 at the Reinberger Gallery and was called *We Want Everything*, consisted of stations of

reproducible iconography that gradually escalated the engagement required. The first consisted of large cubes—"like giant children's alphabet blocks," MacPhee explains—emblazoned with stirring images. All the viewer needed to do was play with them; the juxtapositions that emerged would take care of the rest. Production began at the next station. Rubber stamps bearing simple icons demonstrated how the act of physical reproduction alters meaning and engenders creativity: The female symbol (♀) doubled (♀♀) becomes "lesbian"; the same icon combined with a fist becomes "pro-choice." The culmination of audience engagement was a station centered on a risograph machine, which MacPhee describes as "a printer that is basically a photocopier/screenprinting hybrid" but "almost as easy to use as a copy machine." Over the course of the exhibition, visitors produced hundreds of 11"x17" posters collaging elements from the show, each displaying their unique

Cleveland Institute of Art students use a press to make a 4 by 6 foot “Hands off trans kids” sign during the opening reception of Josh MacPhee’s exhibition, *We Want Everything*.

perspective. (CIA will host a new pop-up exhibition, *We Want More*, throughout the weekend of October 12-16, when MacPhee returns to Cleveland to deliver the keynote speech as part of a Mid America Print Council’s conference.)

The prolific results of MacPhee’s decades of collaboration with other artists and activists encircled the printing stations in the form of albums, books, and posters. Since 1998, MacPhee has been curating the Celebrate People’s History poster series, in which artists are invited to memorialize a person, event, or organization who contributed to social justice but remains poorly recognized. It now has more than 200 contributions, many of which are preserved in *Celebrate People’s History: The Poster Book of Resistance and Revolution* (The Feminist Press, 2020). MacPhee also designs book jackets; several hundred books bearing his covers lined the exhibition space floor. They “make for a strange library,” MacPhee opines, but common motifs pop out to the viewer newly attuned to perennial icons. (I quickly abandoned a tally of clenched fists.)

MacPhee’s earliest exposure to the power of reproducible images came through the punk scene, so it’s no surprise that he is an aficionado of the album cover. His knowledge is literally encyclopedic: he authored *An Encyclopedia of Political Record Labels* (Common Notions, 2019), containing over 750 entries. This innate alliance between sound and image prompted an exhibition tie-in with the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. MacPhee hosted what was billed as an “interactive vinyl listening pop-up event”—what actually occurred, he discloses, was DJing a set before a Black Sabbath cover band took the stage: “I was the opening act for 16-year-olds playing ‘Sweet Leaf.’” Adolescents finding meaning in a 50-year-old anthem constructed from a handful of power cords is oddly concordant with the CIA exhibition. The conceit was not new, MacPhee observes, but it was “generationally new,” which is what cultural transmission is all about.



Scholarships made Oberlin College a possibility for **SIENA AGUAYO '10** and **ANDY BARTHOLOMEW '07**. Once on campus, they both thrived. They took full advantage of Winter Terms, research endeavors, and student clubs. Their days at Oberlin were jam-packed with class work, attending performances and recitals, and learning from peers who were passionate about politics, economics, and social justice. The opportunities they had to learn critical thinking, communication, leadership skills, and consensus building have been vital to their career paths. “We believe in giving back to the institutions that made us who we are. We are grateful for our Oberlin experience and want others to have the same opportunities afforded to us.”

Join Andy and Siena in providing for the next generation of Oberlin students with a gift to the Oberlin Annual Fund today.

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REACHING

MATURITY

Q&A BY
Jeff Hagan '86

DARRICK HAMILTON '93
THINKS IT'S TIME TO
TRY BABY BONDS TO
CLOSE THE WEALTH GAP.

ILLUSTRATION BY
Aaron Marin

Economist Darrick Hamilton grew up in the pre-gentrification Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn when it was considered dangerous. Through their hard work, his parents owned their home and sent Darrick and his sister to a private Quaker school instead of the neighborhood public. While his personal story might seem like one of triumph over adversity, Hamilton dismisses that narrative, partly because his success came at great costs. His mother died shortly before he turned 18, and his father died a few months after. Hamilton believes their lives of hardship made his life easier but contributed to their health troubles, and he makes it clear: He'd rather have them alive than have his success.

Hamilton has become one of the nation's most prominent stratification scholars—economists looking for long-term solutions to address the growing chasm between the rich and the poor. A dozen years ago, he first floated the idea of baby bonds—a sort of publicly financed trust fund invested at birth that each person can access in adulthood for education, to buy a home, or start a business. In 2020, Hamilton, the Henry Cohen Professor of Economics and Urban Policy and University Professor at the New School in New York City, was asked by Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders to join the Biden-Sanders Unity Task Force to make recommendations for Joe Biden's general election campaign platform. While baby bonds is not included by name among the group's recommendations, its outlines are embedded in the text: "To provide more Americans the right to enjoy the economic and social benefits of wealth-building, we will equalize established pathways for building wealth while exploring innovative approaches to closing racial wealth gaps, including policies that provide seed capital in order to access the economic security of asset ownership."

Oberlin Alumni Magazine editor Jeff Hagan '86 met Hamilton to discuss baby bonds at Ryerson, a Southern-cuisine restaurant in Crown Heights, the Brooklyn neighborhood where Hamilton lives, about two miles from where he grew up. What follows is an edited version of the conversation.

JEFF HAGAN: Baby bonds is a way to address some of the racial disparities of the economy without calling out the racial disparities. Can you talk about how the idea came about, and can you explain it to someone who is not great at econ?

DARRICK HAMILTON: Baby bonds fits in with a realm that I have grown to articulate as an inclusive economic right.

So why not just say *economic right*? Adding the word *inclusive* is recognizing that we structurally treat people differently based on social identities. It is recognizing that throughout history, there's no policy that's ever been race-neutral, gender-neutral. With that experience, knowledge, and insight, it's important that when we design an economic right like baby bonds, that we are intentional in the way we design it, the way we manage it, and the way we implement it, that it's anti-racist, that it's anti-sexist.

At its core, baby bonds is a birthright to capital. It is a recognition that for young adults, when they just enter a formative point in their life cycle, the pathway by which they begin is critical. It will not only impact you at that point in time but your trajectory. What baby bonds is offering is kind of like Social Security over the life course. [It] is ensuring that everybody has some capital reserved for them for an asset like a home, like a college education without debt—which gives access to a managerial or professional occupation that provides a 401k plan and other forms of non-pecuniary benefits or non-wage benefits that can provide security—or an entrepreneurial business, which, however great and insightful you are in terms of coming up with ideas, however hardworking you may be, if you don't have capital, you have to go to someone else with capital to actualize that idea.

JH: What you just talked about on the one hand seems radical, but it also doesn't challenge capitalism, exactly. I wonder how much the palatability of baby bonds, the political viability, has to do with proposing this and pushing this kind of idea.

DH: In terms of the political viability, that Overton moment¹ occurs where we can't predict. Sadly, George Floyd's murder, along with the murder of so many others, Brianna Taylor, etc., sparked off a renaissance in recognition of our racial disparities writ large in society. People in that movement astutely turned it on to economics as well, which is also presenting a pathway for not just policies for Black Americans, but for all people. I dare say that some of the movement around the ability to even get a child refundable child tax credit² passed has some linkages to Black Lives Matter.

Through experience, capitalism and socialism are largely academic concepts that have practical use and have purpose. But in practice, the bailout during the great recession—one could hardly call that capitalism. We can go to various democratic socialist societies and find a lot of elements of capitalism going on, as well. But what I'm moving towards is back towards where we were coming out of World War II, when the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human rights declared five pillars of human rights. They talked about social rights, cultural rights, political rights, civil rights, but the one that we have forgotten is economic rights.

In a lot of ways, [the idea of] economic rights is non-ideological. It is a recognition that, regardless of your leaning towards the manner in which distribution is managed at a macro level, fundamentally, if somebody engages in a transaction without the essential goods and services like a job, like some income, and, in the case of home purchasing, some capital, you're at the whim of charity, you are vulnerable to

exploitation by another agent that engages in that transaction with some power.

Baby bonds has room for different ideological perspectives. I have an ideological perspective. Many people do. But at a core, where we need to get to in a society is [seeing] economic rights as inseparable as a human rights, that they're synonymous. [That means] the right to a job, a right to income, right to healthcare—not a right to a disco, not a right to eat at Ryerson. These are choices that one can make. But a right to capital, these are human rights. If we want a fair, moral society, we should ensure that simply being a human being puts you in that position.

JH: How much of the idea's development is because it could be politically viable and how much of it is a pure economic, structural argument?

DH: I get a lot of credit for coming up with ideas promoting economic

1. The Overton window refers to the range of what is politically acceptable by the population at a given moment; the width is generally considered fixed, so the shift usually means it moves right or left, and doesn't widen.

2. From the IRS: "The Child Tax Credit is a fully refundable tax credit for families with qualifying children. The American Rescue Plan expanded the Child Tax Credit for 2021 to get more help to more families."

justice and economic wellbeing, but the ideas are basically direct and taking a problem head-on. If the problem is how wealth is generated—well, wealth begets more wealth.

There's nothing magical about babies. Babies were chosen because, particularly at the time when I was thinking about the idea, we had all these narratives that are bipartisan—Republican and Democrat—around "deadbeat dads," around "welfare queens," around "super predators," around "thuggish kids," telling Black kids to pull their pants up—all this rhetoric around why poverty exists, couched in a culture of poverty.

So that was a political strategy. But the thrust of the policy is capital at a key point in one's life. People will talk about some of the psychological impacts of knowing you're going to receive rewards. And I believe those actually are real and matter. It helps from your perspective, if you have nothing, to know that at some point in your life, you're going to have something. But the biggest impact is the capital

“At its core, baby bonds is a birthright to capital. It is a recognition that for young adults, when they just enter a formative point in their life cycle, the pathway by which they begin is critical.”

“Baby bonds is an automatic stabilizer”

itself. Because psychological well-being and desire and hope are irrelevant if you don't have that capital material asset in the end.

There was a group of people that would convene regularly...to consider ways in which we can address the racial wealth gap, as well as develop social movements to get this in the national purview. I would often present, and people would ask, “Well, what can we do, Mr. Economist? Give us the answer.” And the most direct, parsimonious one is reparations. Reparations is a complement to baby bonds, not a substitute. Reparations is a retrospective, racially just, and economically just policy. It requires us to take public acknowledgment and issue a truth and reconciliation of all the atrocities—and we can name them—that have led up to what is manifest in this racial wealth gap and all the other atrocities and loss of life that have gotten us to this point. It is a form of redress that can be implemented in a way to ameliorate the racial wealth gap.

That to me seems like the obvious one. But I use the word retrospective, meaning we also know what capital does: Capital consolidates. It iterates.

3. In their article “Stereotype threat and the intellectual test performance of African Americans” in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*,” Steele and Aronson define the term as “being at risk of confirming, as a self-characteristic, a negative stereotype about one's group.”

4. The Center for Family Research at the University of Georgia explains James' idea of John Henryism as the “hypothesis proposed that having a single-minded determination to succeed while contending with structural racism makes it more likely that African Americans will develop hypertension and cardiometabolic diseases.”

And it excludes. Capital has a power element which, without some intervention, will accumulate and will accumulate in perpetuity in a way that does not include others. There's a need for something like baby bonds, even if we were to do reparations, as both an economic and racially just policy.

[But] baby bonds doesn't have truth and reconciliation. Truth and reconciliation are important because politics, economics, and identity group stratification have never been separable in the United States.

[There is all] the stigma associated with a group, where society tells them that they're unworthy, that as a group, they're deficient, that they engage in bad and immoral behaviors. It started out we were “cognitively deficient”—it is not PC to say that now, whether people believe it or not—so we switched to other types of deficits in terms of behavior and attitudes. All of that deficit framing obviously has an impact on the psyche of a people. And we've seen it play out—with great social psychologists like Claude Steele and Joshua Aaronson when they talk about stereotype threat³. When we look at SAT scores and know the difference in predictability of the score for Black people versus white people.

And then there's the material consequence. When we think about scholars like Sherman James, in his theory of John Henryism,⁴ and you tell a populace, “Stop making excuses, work twice as hard to get by, pull up by your bootstraps.” What are the health consequences of trying to be heroic? What are the health consequences of being twice as good as somebody else?

Baby bonds is an automatic stabilizer. Reparations is a one-time policy meant to, if it's done right, redress in some material way, as well as psychological way, the harms that have taken place in the past.

JH: Are you concerned at all that moving forward on baby bonds could undermine support for reparations?

DH: I think they are complements. I think they build upon each other.

JH: I'm more thinking about politically.

DH: I think we need a shift in our psyche. Our politics have been dominated by a discipline of economics that's purported as a science devoid of norms, devoid of values, that just *is*. It has become a religion and an ideology that markets are the most efficient, colorblind, fair arbiter of our work and value, and what is good for society, period. Devoid in that understanding is power itself.

JH: I wonder if people will say, “Reparations is a complicated thing, and we can't get a lot of white people to support this, but baby bonds, which white people will benefit from as well, that's something that we can support,” and it might lead people to think that we're solving the problem.

DH: Well, hell, if we solve the problem, great, but I don't think that's the case.

Our mindset, our understanding of what's possible in the here and now, is captured and limited by a framing that has tamed our imagination, that has moved us away from an economic rights framework.

JH: Even [programs] that were designed to ameliorate some of the worst conditions of the market, that people would say helped people across the board, as you've pointed out, have a racist element to them. Can you talk a little bit about that?

DH: The Homestead Act was racist in its implementation in who could get access to the land: If you're not letting Black people get access to the land grants, or if you implement terror when they are, and you don't have the political apparatus to protect them from that terror, or the

state itself is involved in that terror.

And we didn't even mention the Native American aspect of it.

The Wagner Act⁵ still excludes domestic and agricultural workers, which is still racist today. But at the time when they produced the policies, 90 percent of Black women that were working were employed as domestic or agricultural workers and over half of Black men, so that's not an oversight. In fact, Southern legislators would not have voted in favor of it because they wanted to maintain their racially hierarchical Jim Crow structure. And that was what people have characterized as the Faustian bargain for it to get implemented.

And then management of the policy itself—you can manage it in a way that's also racist. We've seen that throughout American history, particularly with the United States Department of Agriculture and farmland.

JH: Have you designed the idea of baby bonds in a way that's

bulletproof on these kinds of things?

DH: Given the distribution of wealth in our society, that is the manner in which I was thinking of it as race conscious or anti-racist. If we were to define a single indicator of economic wellbeing that best captures the history and ongoing disparate treatment of Black people versus white people, wealth is probably the best one we can come up with.

JH: But, also, there's violence attached to [racism]. The issue of violence as a whole seems to be a whole other separate and equally difficult challenge.

DH: Here's the part that I don't think we capture enough: that violence in American history was often purposeful.

The Tulsa riots was a land grab. The Tulsa riots was an enforcement of relative status to say, "You uppity Black people, let me put you back in your relative economic state." That

5. The 1935 Wagner Act, officially the National Labor Relations Act, guaranteed the legal right of most workers to organize and join labor unions and to collective bargaining with their employers. It excluded domestic and agricultural workers.

terror and violence have been weaponized throughout American history.

You remember the Central Park jogger? They called the police. That was a weaponization of whiteness in a way that wasn't just bigotry or the threat of violence or bodily harm on somebody, which is still big. I don't want to downplay that in any way, but it's also an economic tool.

JH: What are the prospects for baby bonds now? Do you know what the political landscape is?

DH: Connecticut passed baby bonds and they made it universal, but universal for a targeted group, which is babies born to Medicaid-recipient moms. Washington, D.C., had a different approach: It's means-tested and has some gradation within the means. Washington state is interested. Massachusetts has put together a task force. Washington state and California—their governors are considering ways to implement baby bonds in a creative way. There's momentum building, and then we need to get philanthropy [involved]. There's even international interest.

JH: Just speaking politically right now, it seems like the states that you've mentioned are notoriously blue states. Is there a way that you can get this across to a red state? What's your best argument for the red stater?

DH: Regardless of your ideology, socialism or capitalism, if you believe in the integrity of people reaping the rewards for their efforts, for their ingenuity, for their studying, for their knowledge, you should also recognize that without resources, they're at the whim of charity or exploitation of those that have.

This is not anti-capitalism, nor is it anti-socialism. This is a resource by which somebody could reap the rewards for markets or whatever type of other structure you have in the beginning. ■

“Capital has a power element which, without some intervention, will accumulate and will accumulate in perpetuity in a way that does not include others.”

A photograph of a tree trunk with green leaves in the foreground and background. The tree trunk is on the left side, showing a rough, textured bark. The leaves are vibrant green and fill the right side of the frame. The text "WRITTEN IN THE" is overlaid in white, bold, uppercase letters across the middle of the image.

WRITTEN IN THE

An innovative study led by biology professor Mary Garvin provides clues to childhood



T R E E S

cancers in her Ohio hometown. / By G.M. Donley '83 / Photos by Tanya Rosen-Jones '97

MARY GARVIN GREW UP

in Clyde, Ohio, a small town just south of Sandusky Bay, where her family settled nearly 200 years ago. Clyde sits about 50 miles west of Oberlin and is known to many as the inspiration for Sherwood Anderson's 1919 story collection *Winesburg, Ohio*, which focuses on the alienation of small-town life and includes glimpses into the intimate lives of the town's residents. "When I was in high school, I had to get written permission from my parents to read that book," Garvin, Oberlin College professor of biology, says with a laugh.

Anderson's stories may have rattled some residents of Clyde, but much more troubling was a trend that emerged in the 1990s: a cluster of childhood cancers in the area. "It was a school nurse in Clyde who noticed an unusually high incidence of cancer among children," Garvin recalls. From 1996 to 2010, 35 childhood cancer cases—triple the expected rate—were reported within a 6.7-mile radius centered a bit north of Clyde.

Attempts over the years to identify the causes had proved inconclusive. Based on the types of cancers in the cluster, the general suspicion was that an environmental carcinogen might have been involved. But studies of surface and groundwater, air, and soil by the state, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the local health department turned up nothing out of the ordinary.

At the time, Garvin had finished a PhD at the University of Florida and was doing post-doc work at the University of Notre Dame. Her research focus was (and continues to be) the ecology of mosquito-borne viral infections and the bird reservoir hosts, but she knew some of the affected families personally, and she wanted to learn more.

"I started to follow the story and go to the city and town meetings," Garvin recalls. One theory that kept resurfacing was the possibility that waste from an old industrial site—where currently the Whirlpool Corporation operates the county's largest factory—might be to blame. But there are more than a dozen abandoned industrial waste sites spread over the area, and Whirlpool has a solid record of compliance with environmental regulations. Garvin's father, uncles, and cousins had worked for Whirlpool—as had Garvin, to put herself



through Hiram College; the company had even provided a scholarship. But, she says, "I knew I had to approach the project objectively as a scientist and compartmentalize my personal connections."

One of the fundamental challenges of the previous studies undertaken by federal, state, and local officials was that causative exposures would have happened before the children became ill, and whatever toxins might have been present in the environment at that time may no longer exist.

Returning home after one of the community meetings, Garvin began mulling over ways to track down the carcinogens at the root of the cluster with her husband, fellow biology professor Keith Tarvin. "I need a time machine," she told him.

Tarvin thought about it and then replied, "How about tree rings?"

"I remember that at that moment, we were driving past the farm where my dad was born and wondering if those old trees that I used to play under might have some information to



share,” Garvin says. The Eastern Cottonwood, in particular, is effective at absorbing metals and tolerating them, and its root system extends far below the surface, often reaching groundwater. It’s also found in abundance around Clyde. Sample the wood, the thinking went, and it may tell you what was in the environment years—or decades—ago.

Beginning in 2010, Garvin and a student researcher, Sonya Kauffman ’13, pored over literature to learn how similar studies were conducted. Wanting to understand more about the chemistry end of the science, Kauffman devoted a Winter Term to studies with Johan Schijf, a chemist at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.

“He does analytical chemistry—which I don’t know much about—and he immediately saw it as a kind of work that could have high impact,” says Garvin. “That was a pivotal point in the project because thereafter, Johan became the key collaborator. He analyzes all of the samples and continues with that work today.” Schijf’s lab later hosted Annie Nigra ’14, who contributed to the study along with Bud Stracker ’12, Courtney Konow ’12, and Ben Garfinkel ’14. (Schijf hosted researcher Aesha Mokashi ’22 during the summer of 2022.)

Garvin’s initial plan was to ascertain from the growth rings the specific five-year intervals between 1970 and 2009 during which there may have been spikes of suspected heavy metals—arsenic, cadmium, chromium, nickel, mercury, and lead—and a few considered less harmful: cobalt, copper, vanadium, and zinc. Unfortunately, cottonwoods typically are subject to significant migration within the porous wood—a lot of “bleed” across growth rings—making it impossible to know with certainty that specific deposits started off where they end up in the ring structure. Thus there is no way to know exactly when the tree absorbed a given metal.

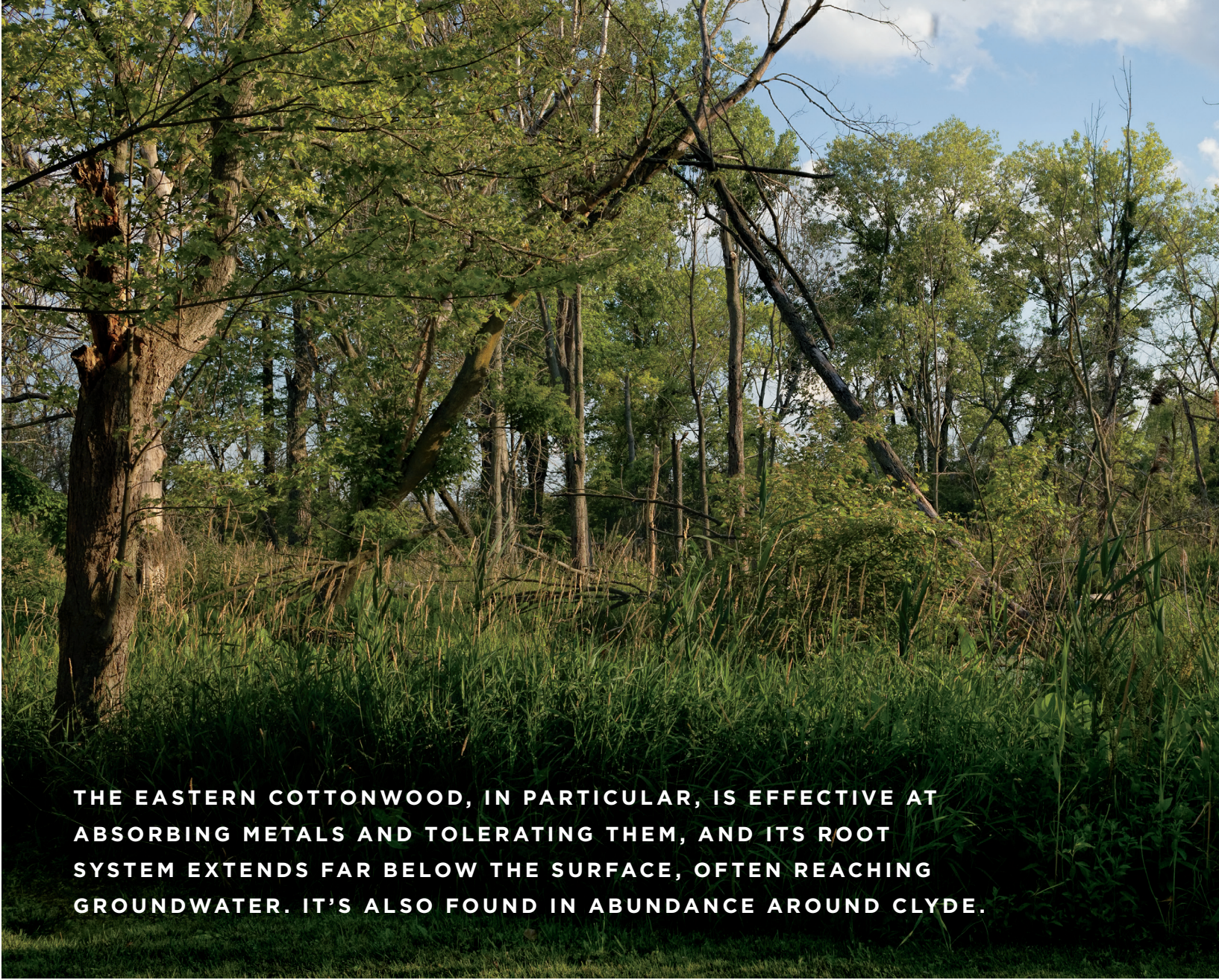
But all was not lost: Although the chronological data was unreliable, tree cores collected within the cluster area could be compared to those from a control area a few miles to the west. That comparison could tell whether the cluster area had once experienced higher levels of those heavy metals.

The study showed significant hotspots of cadmium, chromium, and nickel that corresponded with higher cancer incidences. Identification of the contamination sources was not a goal of the study and is typically difficult or impossible to conclusively

determine because it’s often not possible to backtrack from that information and pinpoint the sources of the metals. The highest rates of tree contamination were observed in the northern part of the study area, yet no industrial sites were located there. One might speculate, at best, that such a pattern might point to airborne particulates carried in a northwesterly direction by the prevailing winds or water-borne deposits, because both groundwater and surface water in the area flow to the northeast and into Sandusky Bay north of Clyde.

The most interesting finding in that initial research was high levels of cadmium, a known cancer-causing agent that had been suspected in other clusters. Cadmium was used for paints, porcelains, and coatings for metals, Garvin says. “It was really important in World War II.

LEFT AND ABOVE:
Biology Professor Mary Garvin and core samples taken from the Eastern Cottonwood from her Sandusky Bay property.



THE EASTERN COTTONWOOD, IN PARTICULAR, IS EFFECTIVE AT ABSORBING METALS AND TOLERATING THEM, AND ITS ROOT SYSTEM EXTENDS FAR BELOW THE SURFACE, OFTEN REACHING GROUNDWATER. IT'S ALSO FOUND IN ABUNDANCE AROUND CLYDE.

These little post-war factories that popped up in that area, including Clyde Porcelain and Steel, which was there before Whirlpool on that site, were certainly using cadmium, but those companies are gone now.” In the pre-EPA ’50s and ’60s, she says, the companies paid local landowners to let them dump their waste on out-of-the-way parts of their property.

“My sense is that no one was acting maliciously or knowingly risking harm to anybody. But the water table is quite high. It is basically an underground stream flowing from southwest to northeast—and the bedrock is porous limestone, so it’s possible that contaminants could eventually make their way to the bay and lake.”

While the study doesn’t definitively identify the cause of the cancers or attempt to pinpoint the sources of the toxins to which these childhood cancers could be attributed, it did suggest additional avenues for future study to further understand the migration of human-

made contaminants in local ecosystems.

Garvin retired from teaching at the end of the 2021-22 school year but maintains a lab for the study and provides academic credit for current student researchers. She hopes to sample other species of trees that might hold the contaminant in the ring, and they’ve identified a few possibilities. “Pin oak, for example, readily takes up cadmium and also holds it. They’re pretty common in these wetland areas—much less common than cottonwoods—but something we could probably take a look at.” Examining such trees could help pinpoint the year during which a high level of a particular metal was absorbed, much as growth rings can record when a forest fire scarred a tree.

Garvin is also looking at something called ecosystem cycling. “In the trophic system, the herbivores eat the plants that take up the contaminant; they get eaten by the heterotrophs, and then up the trophic level. It could

be that the cadmium that doesn’t get locked in the bottom of Sandusky Bay continues to cycle. And if that’s the case—whether that’s the cause of the cancer cluster or not—we could be looking at a continual cycling and continual exposure of a known carcinogen to children.” The study’s current focus is zebra mussels, an exotic invasive species. “They’re really interesting for two reasons: one is that they filter-feed and eat algae, and the other is they’re known to have very heavy uptake of cadmium in the shells.” Choose something else for your next bouillabaisse.

Garvin’s “time machine” approach of trying trace contaminants found in current plant and animal life is a particularly promising line of inquiry when looking at complex local ecosystems that historically have not been (and probably never could be) comprehensively monitored using conventional sensors—in part because sometimes it’s only later that researchers figure out what they would have wanted to



SIDEBAR PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY GARVIN

be measured in the first place, or where.

Garvin's work pushes past that conundrum by understanding that the data may already have been recorded in the field, the bay, and the woods. If scientists can figure out how to locate, extract, and interpret that information, that knowledge may help head off future disease hotspots.

"Science is all about adding pieces to a puzzle," she says. "This is how science works. Childhood cancer clusters are notoriously difficult to study and thus are rarely solved. While our research is unlikely to reveal what happened in Clyde, our work may spark an idea for another scientist or serve as the basis for another childhood cancer study. That makes it all worthwhile." ■

GREG DONLEY '83 DESIGNED AND EDITED PUBLICATIONS FOR THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART FOR THREE DECADES AND CONTINUES FREELANCE WORK AS A WRITER, DESIGNER, AND PHOTOGRAPHER.



Core Values

For Annie Nigra '14, the experience of participating in cancer cluster research proved deeply formative. Nigra wrote her honors thesis in biology on the initial findings from Mary Garvin's Clyde project and in the process decided to pursue a career in environmental science. "The cancer cluster is very personal to Mary. This area was her home, and she has lots of community connections here."

It's become personal to Nigra too. "I grew up in a small steel mill town with serious environmental justice issues related to air quality, but I never thought I'd be able to contribute scientifically to actually supporting communities like mine."

Nigra watched Garvin "navigate tough conversations with community members, land owners, and government officials. It was a unique type of science I hadn't been exposed to before, and it inspired me to pursue environmental public health research as a career. I wanted to do this type of science—science that was directly aimed at supporting communities

impacted by environmental hazards."

Nigra, who followed a master of science in environmental epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University with a PhD in environmental health sciences at Columbia University, also came to realize the way she was able to study science at Oberlin is unusual. "I know now that it is very rare for undergraduates to have such rich and rewarding research experiences," she says, "and to be so intimately involved in all aspects of a research project. Mary really involved her students every step of the way."

Work on the cancer cluster study also influenced the career path of Aesha Mokashi '22, who continued to work on it this summer after graduating in May. This fall, she starts graduate studies at the University of Washington's Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences.

She remembers visiting Sandusky Bay on Lake Erie in the autumn of 2021 to collect samples, following a year of intensive literature review and delays due to the

The release of water following the coring of a cottonwood was a surprise to student researchers in 2012, but not to Garvin, who was ready with a camera.

"It was a lesson in transpiration and water pressure," says Annie Nigra '14 (pictured at right), "but also a lesson in well-timed photography and how to give a great field demo."

COVID-19 pandemic. "To finally be able to go out into the field was really exciting. October in Ohio was cold, but our research group was well-equipped with rain boots and gloves, and we splashed around the bay collecting various organic samples." They also took a group photo in front of a tree that had been tested during the initial research years earlier. "That picture felt like a celebration of all the work we had been putting in the last year," Mokashi recalls, "but it was also a moment of realization for me because it felt like I was a part of something bigger than myself—and that was a feeling I wanted to continue to have through the rest of my academic and professional career."—Donley

CHUM

**SHARKS COULD BE OUR FRIENDS, IF ONLY WE'D LET THEM.
BY DAVID LEVIN '03 — ILLUSTRATION BY PAUL THURLBY**



**IT'S EVERY
BEACHGOER'S
NIGHTMARE:
A LONE SWIMMER
SCREAMS; A
TELLTALE FIN
SLICES THROUGH
THE WATER; A
GAPING, TOOTHY
MAW BURSTS
OUT ABOVE
THE SURFACE.
SHARKS ARE ON
THE HUNT.**

If this panic-filled vision comes to mind during a summer dip, you can breathe easy—according to shark experts like Toby Daly-Engel '00, those gory scenarios are more fiction than fact.

Daly-Engel is a marine biologist at the Florida Institute of Technology, where she studies shark behavior. She says that your chances of being maimed or killed by one of these animals are staggeringly small; for perspective, more human casualties are caused each year by lightning, vending machines, cleaning supplies, window blinds, and Grand Canyon selfies.

“Worldwide, between zero and five people are killed by sharks every year,” says Daly-Engel. “I mean, you’re more likely to be bitten by a New Yorker.” (That’s not hyperbole—a 2001 study counted more than 700 bite injuries in a two-year period; in the same time frame, only 147 shark attacks are on record nationwide.)

In other words, the fear and panic that comes with shark sightings are just a matter of public image, says Michael Heithaus '95, a shark biologist at Florida International University. “Everybody loves dolphins, right? They have the best PR agency in the world. A lot of people still think the only good shark is a dead one.”

Pop culture may be largely to blame for that malice. Over the past few decades, Hollywood has primed us to think of sharks as cold, emotionless killing machines that prey mercilessly on humans (see: *The Reef*, *The Shallows*, *The Meg*, and of course *Jaws*, *Jaws 2*, *Jaws 3*...the film in which a shark—which has no vocal cords—roars, and the inexplicable *Sharknado* franchise, among others).

To buck that trend, Heithaus and Daly-Engel are working tirelessly to shift public opinion about these animals. The pair say that sharks aren't the enemy;



they're actually a critical part of the ocean ecosystem. With fishing and climate change decimating their populations worldwide, it's becoming more urgent than ever to study sharks and educate others about them.

MAKING THE WORLD'S most notorious predators seem relatable is an uphill battle. If anyone can pull it off, though, it's these two. In interviews, they're animated and gregarious. They gesture wildly with their hands and drive each point home with folksy charm. Their delivery has the polished, performative air of a television host speaking to the camera.

That may be a product of experience. Daly-Engel and Heithaus have both appeared

extensively on the Discovery Channel's Shark Week and National Geographic's Shark Fest and have each hosted their own shark-centric series as well; Daly-Engel was among the first and is currently one of the few female shark scientists to have a series of her own (she points out that a recent meta-analysis shows that Shark Week has featured more men named "Mike" than women in its whole history).

As it turns out, when your career is studying sharks in the field, you'll quickly rack up stories that are made for TV. Case in point: Heithaus once swam half a mile through shark-infested waters to get help for a broken-down boat; Daly-Engel once shot a documentary with comedian Tiffany Haddish

while hauling a cooler full of shark penises (as one does).

Daly-Engel insists that all these strange adventures have been in the name of science and education: As odd as it may be, she says her genital-filled cooler was just an unorthodox teaching tool. "Sharks actually have two penises, and they're always erect, they're calcified," she says, "so I figured it'd be a great way to talk to Tiffany about shark reproduction and get her excited about collecting field data. I'll sacrifice my dignity if it helps people learn."

That approach seems to be working; the irreverent tone she uses to discuss sharks has earned her guest spots on even the most conservative cable news networks. "I'm an Obie, but

I've been on *Fox and Friends* three times. *Really?*" she says, laughing. "I go on there, and I'm like, yes, sharks *evolved* a long time before we did. There *is* a threat to their environment. They're *not* coming for you and your children. I'll talk to whoever's willing to listen."

Heithaus has a similar mentality about public outreach. By appearing on TV programs like Shark Fest and Shark Week, he says, it's possible for him to reach an audience that may not already be conservation-oriented. "Without embracing those viewers, you're just talking to an echo chamber. You're preaching to the converted. That's why we do crazy shows called 'Sharkcano' or 'Jaws Versus Boats'; it brings in a different audience. Once we

**“WORLDWIDE,
BETWEEN
ZERO AND FIVE
PEOPLE ARE
KILLED BY
SHARKS EVERY
YEAR. I MEAN,
YOU’RE MORE
LIKELY TO BE
BITTEN BY A
NEW YORKER.”**

get them, we can show them real science and teach them about the issues facing the oceans and our planet.”

AT ITS CORE, the message that Heithaus and Daly-Engel both want viewers to understand is straightforward. To have a healthy ocean, the world *needs* top predators like sharks. Through their constant hunting, these animals keep marine food webs in balance, preventing fish and other organisms from exploding in numbers. Take sharks out of the equation, and fish populations will grow exponentially, eat more food than their environment can provide, and eventually trigger the collapse of their entire complex ecosystem.

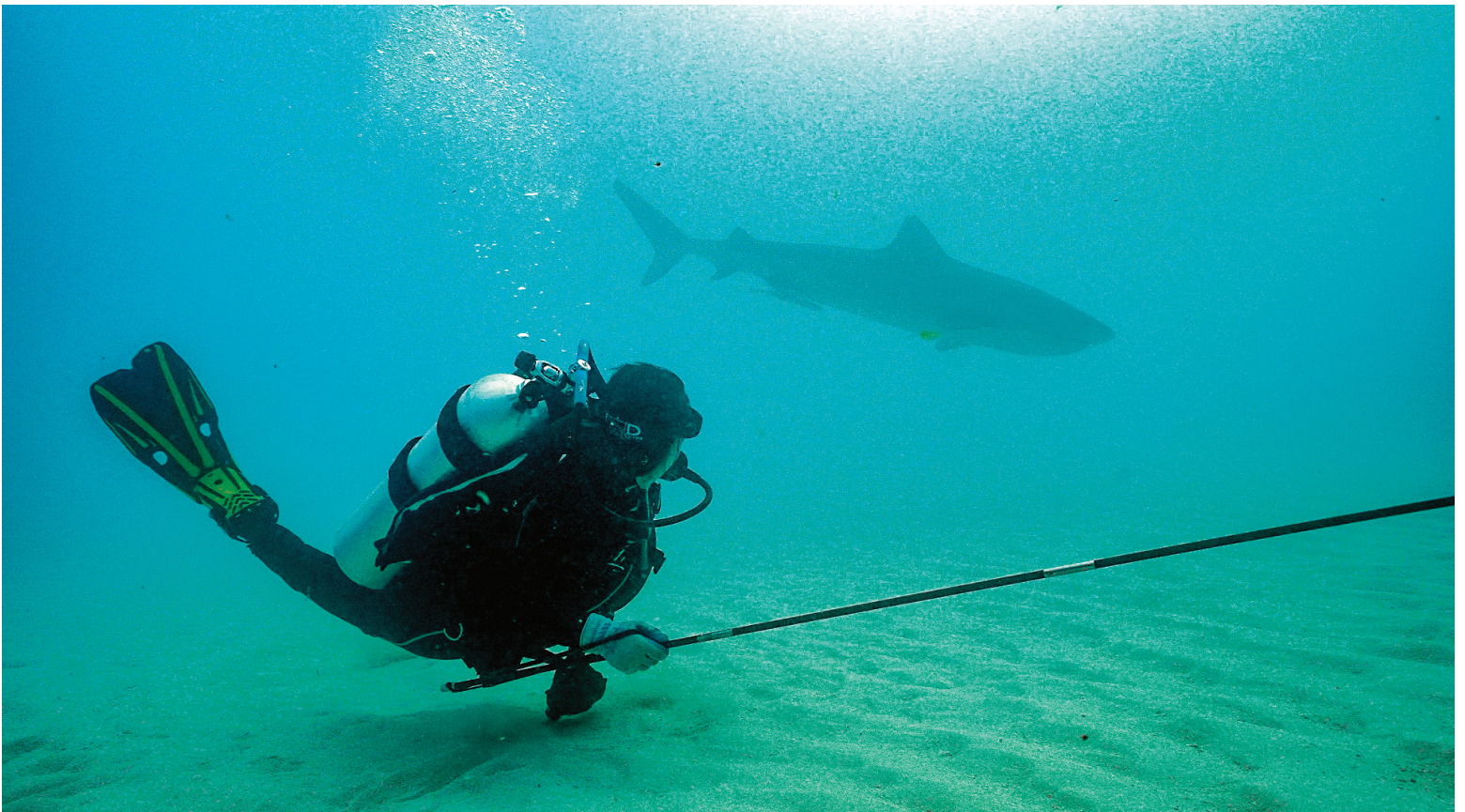
“When you lose the predators from a place like a coral reef, you start to get what’s called an extinction cascade,” Daly-Engel says. “Everything slowly dies off, and eventually you’re left with just sea urchins and algae on a

reef where there used to be coral and hundreds of kinds of fish.”

That phenomenon has more significant implications as well. In addition to coral reefs, sharks also help to protect seagrass meadows, massive underwater plains filled with plant life. Lose the sharks, and those ecosystems may follow—a fate that directly affects global climate change.

“Seagrass meadows help to regulate climate. They sequester carbon by pulling it out of the seawater and putting it into the sediments at the bottom,” Heithaus says. “If you were to lose sharks, that whole process might come unraveled.”

The outsized influence these animals have on their surroundings should come as no surprise, he says. As a group, they’ve had plenty of time to evolve with their environments. Sharks, after all, have been around in some capacity for hundreds of millions of years—before mammals, before dinosaurs, before even *trees*.



THAT LONG AND SUCCESSFUL

run may be coming to a close, however, thanks to human activity.

As much as we fear sharks, we're far more dangerous to *them*: Between climate change and commercial fisheries, sharks worldwide are being killed off in record numbers.

"The shark meat trade is picking up," says Heithaus. "It's become a super-valuable catch. Some fishing operations wouldn't be economically viable these days without selling shark parts." Recent studies estimate that more than two million sharks may fall victim to commercial fishing each year, and some populations may be down 90 to 99 percent from historical numbers, he adds. "It's bad—we're harvesting them globally at an unsustainable rate."

Part of the problem is that shark populations can't bounce back very easily. Most sharks live for decades and breed exceedingly slowly, with just one litter of pups every year or two. Some species, like Greenland sharks, are even more extreme: Each female takes at least 134 years to reach sexual maturity, and its embryos need more than eight years of gestation before they emerge from their mothers.

Complicating this situation is the fact that shark nurseries—shallow areas where some species congregate to birth their young—are also shrinking thanks to human activity. Bull sharks, for instance, can swim up to 25 miles inland via rivers and wetlands, where they give birth and raise their young without natural

SWITCHING CHANNELS

LEFT: Daly-Engel holds a biopsy-tipped pole spear to collect DNA samples from her swimming companion, a 13-foot tiger shark. **RIGHT:** Daly-Engel being interviewed for a Discovery Channel Shark Week program unfortunately titled "Mothersharker."

predators to bother them. In places like Florida's Everglades, however, humans are increasingly draining and developing those critical habitats, leaving the sharks with limited options to reproduce. Between this trend and warming ocean temperatures, the sharks are being driven away from their traditional stomping grounds and forced to find cooler, less crowded waters further away.

"In 2018, my collaborators at the Smithsonian documented a permanent year-round nursery habitat for bull sharks in North Carolina. For a species that prefers tropical waters, that's a long way north," says Daly-Engel. "This was the first evidence we had that these sharks were relocating their permanent range, and those movements are tied directly to sea surface temperatures. They're being driven out of habitats that are critical to the survival of the population. That's really what we're worried about."

THERE'S A GOOD REASON for this concern. In a recent survey of nearly 400 reefs worldwide, Heithaus and his colleagues found that shark species were functionally extinct at almost 20 percent of the sites studied. "We just didn't see any sharks at all in those areas. That's not to say they're missing entirely, but they're obviously at low enough levels that they're not going to be fulfilling their normal ecological role," he says.

Daly-Engel says that this finding underscores the urgency of studying and documenting these sharks before they disappear. Even well-studied species still have tantalizing secrets waiting to be revealed. "For some of those species, we have no idea where they're breeding. We don't even know where they're giving birth, most of them. So we're still trying to figure out really basic stuff—and it's imperative that we find out the answers soon because those



species are going downhill," she says.

Another factor, she notes, is that undiscovered shark species could be hiding in plain sight, swimming alongside populations that researchers study every day. Physically, they may look just like a member of an existing species, but genetically, they're an entirely different animal. Within the past few years, Daly-Engel has already identified three of these clandestine species by analyzing DNA samples from the field.

"The fact that we're finding them so regularly tells us that there's a lot of diversity going extinct before it can get described," she says. "We're in the middle of a wildlife crisis. Climate change is speeding up, and its effect on shark habitats is going to get exponentially worse."

While the immediate future doesn't look rosy for certain

sharks, there are some bastions of hope. Even in heavily populated areas, stringent regulation on fisheries is helping to protect existing shark populations, proving that humans can indeed stop the animals' numbers from dwindling.

"It turns out it doesn't take much to do that: Either have big marine protected areas for sharks, or minimize gill nets and long lines used in fisheries," which can inadvertently catch the animals along with other fish, Heithaus says. "If we can protect those shark populations and get the management right, we can rebuild their numbers. That needs to be our focus—sharks have a lot more to worry about from us than we do from them." ■

DAVID LEVIN '03 IS A FREELANCE SCIENCE WRITER BASED IN BOSTON, WHERE HE'S STILL WAITING UNTIL IT'S SAFE TO GO BACK IN THE WATER.

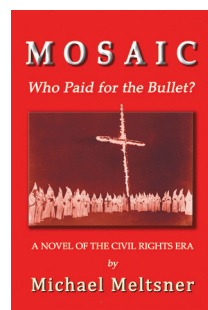
Class Notes

1950s

1951

Phan Wannamethee, now 97 years old, has been secretary-general of the Thai Red Cross since 1991. He also serves as president of the World Buddhist Fellowship. A veteran Thai statesperson, he served in key diplomatic positions, including permanent secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand; Thailand's ambassador to Germany and, later, the Court of St James (U.K.); and secretary-general of ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

1957



Meltsner '57

published his second novel, *Mosaic: Who Paid for the Bullet?* (Quid Pro Books). Hired by Thurgood Marshall in the 1960s, Michael was first assistant counsel to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund during the Civil Rights Era. He is a professor of law and former dean at Northeastern University.

■ **Elsa Ludewig Verdehr** is the clarinetist of the Verdehr Trio, which recently released three CDs on Crystal Records, bringing its total output for the label to 28 discs. The first of the three features works by Mozart, Beethoven, and other masters; the second showcases commissions made by European composers; and the third consists of music by American composers. [w] verdehr.com

Michael Meltsner published his second novel, *Mosaic: Who Paid for the Bullet?* (Quid Pro Books). Hired by Thurgood Marshall in the 1960s, Michael was first assistant counsel to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund during the Civil Rights Era. He is a professor of law and former dean at Northeastern University.

1960s

1960

Robert J. Ailes and wife Patricia have moved from Tampa, Fla., to Frederick, Md., to be near several of their five children and 16 grandchildren who now live there. Rob's email address is rjailsmd@gmail.com. ■

Polly Shaw Feitzinger met Oberlin's ensemble in residence, the Verona Quartet, at a concert presented by the Asheville Chamber Music Series in North Carolina. The quartet includes alumna violist **Abigail Rojansky '11**. "I could see them doing the math as to how old I must be!" jokes Polly,



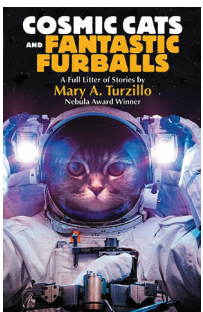
MUDD-RAKING When the architects designed Oberlin's Seeley G. Mudd Learning Center, they failed to take into account the weight of the books, as many people have noted—*totally incorrectly*—in the years since its construction, captured here in images from the 1972 *Hi-O-Hi*. (The sinking college library story has become such a trope for campuses across the country, it has its own entry in the fact-checking website *Snopes*.) Recent visitors to Wilder Bowl encountered a similar muddy state over the last year, as geothermal systems were installed underground for Oberlin's, well, groundbreaking Sustainable Infrastructure Project.

who serves on the series' board and leads its program committee.

1962

Jim Payne wrote his fifth book of kayak adventures, *In Dutch—Again! A Kayak Adventure in the Heart of Holland* (Lytton

Publishing), about his trip on the Rhine River. A political scientist who has taught at Yale, Wesleyan, Johns Hopkins, and Texas A&M, Jim took up kayaking as a recreational diversion; his first act of "running away from home" was a trip down the Potomac—at age 57. Since then, he's made 14 trips on



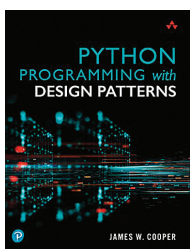
Turzillo '62

her creative writing studies at Oberlin.

1963

Paul Alan Levi's *Dreaming in Yiddish*, a work for clarinet and piano, was premiered as part of the series "Continuing Evolution: Yiddish Folksong Today" at New York's YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. The piece marks the fifth and final movement of Paul's "Dreaming Of..." series, which blends the styles of Schubert, Bartók, Ravel, ragtime, and Yiddish folk music.

1964



Cooper '64

instrument marketplace. Jim also has

three continents. ■ **Mary Turzillo** is a Nebula and Elgin Award-winning science fiction author who recently published the story collection *Cosmic Cats & Fantastic Furballs* (WordFire). Mary fondly recalls

returned to performing, playing Old Actor in *The Fantasticks* at the Newtown (Conn.) Players in November 2021, followed by a role in *The Pirates of Penzance*. ■ **Bob Tittler** published an economic and social study of the painting occupation, *Painting for a Living in Tudor and Early Stuart England* (Boydell), and issued the seventh edition of his online biographical database, *Early Modern British Painters*. Bob is a professor emeritus of history at Concordia University. He and **Anne Kelso** welcome news from classmates. ■ **Michael Zack**, who practices pulmonology in suburban Boston, received the Alfred Soffer Award for Editorial Excellence. Michael has published several hundred poems in major poetry journals, authored three books of poetry, and in 2008 became poetry editor of the "Pectoriloquy" section of *CHEST*, where he reviews more than 1,000 submissions annually.

1965

Harpist **Jean Altshuler** recorded a new album with classical guitarist Ed Heslam as the Cumbrian Duo. *Bleckell Murry Neet* is available through Willowhayne Records.

1966

Suburban Columbus won the sweepstakes to get a new \$20 billion Intel semiconductor plant in Ohio, but Richfield-based weaver and film director **Logan Fry** produced the first Intel microchip in Ohio back in 1991. Logan's chip—actually an artwork crafted



Carroll '67

from wool—can be seen in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. ■ **Jeffrey S. Ross** earned a Doctor of Science Honoris Causa degree at the 2022 Commencement of the Albany Medical College in April. ■ **Tom Wolf**, who has resided in Kenya on and off since 1967, successfully nominated two Kenyan bluegrass fiddle students, Oscar Chilumo Mbwana and Stephanie Waithera Mwaura, for a grant from the IBMA Foundation, which supports virtual lessons with two accomplished bluegrass musicians in North America. Tom played in the Plum Creek Boys at Oberlin from 1963 to '66, along with his cousin, **Neil Rosenberg '61**.

1967

William C. Carroll published his 10th book, *Adapting Macbeth: A Cultural History* (Bloomsbury/Arden). William retired in 2020 from Boston University, where he taught Shakespeare for 48 years, and he remains active in his field. His wife, **Carol Beth Clark Carroll**, retired from teaching several years earlier. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2018, joined by **Tom Tudor** and wife **Fran '68**. ■ **Curtis Seltzer** completed the second volume of his Becker trilogy, *Squeezing the Flats*. Set in

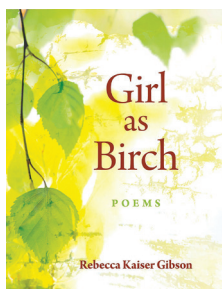
Class Notes

1988, it's a tangled love story that includes the intrigue of an attempted land grab for a casino. It follows *The Point of the Pick: A Novel of the 20th Century*. The third volume, *The Past Rises*, is in the works.

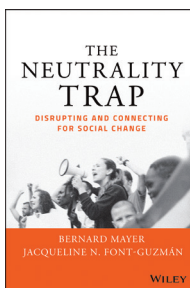
1968



Acree '68



Gibson '68



Mayer '68

Michael Acree's book, *The Myth of Statistical Inference*, was published by Springer. "General readers will find here an interesting study with implications far beyond statistics," Michael says. "The development of

statistical inference, to its present position of prominence in the social sciences, epitomizes a number of trends in Western intellectual history of the last three centuries." ■ **Rebecca Kaiser Gibson** has written the poetry collection *Girl as Birch*, which was published in April by Bauhan Press. [w] rebeccakaisergibson.com ■ **Bernie Mayer's** newest book, *The Neutrality Trap*, coauthored with Jackie Font-Guzmán, focuses on the "let's just talk" response to serious conflict, which avoids addressing systemic inequalities, biases, and power. It includes stories from Bernie's years as an activist at Oberlin. He lives in Kingsville, Ontario, with his wife, Julie Macfarlane. Bernie was a founding partner of CDR Associates, an internationally recognized conflict intervention firm. He is an emeritus professor of conflict studies at Creighton University.

1969

Jeffrey Gordon won the 2022 Senior Scientist Award, presented by the pharmaceutical manufacturer Takeda and the New York Academy of Sciences. Jeffrey is



director of the Edison Family Center for Genome Sciences and Systems Biology and a professor at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. Known to many as the "Father of Microbiome Science," he received a \$200,000 prize for his research on the gut microbiome and its connection to various diseases. ■ **David Kurkowski** has taken up writing music in retirement, inspired in part by his Oberlin experience. His musical *Finding Madame Curie* was performed at Theatre Row on 42nd St. in New York in April. "She's one of history's greatest women," David says of the titular scientist.

1970s

1970

John Lawrence's first book of short stories, *The Undiscovered Archives of Sherlock Holmes*, includes seven tales featuring the famed detective in cases based on historical events. John's upcoming nonfiction book, *Arc of Power: Inside Nancy Pelosi's Speakership 2005-2010*, is due out in November. ■ A photo by **Connie Springer** was one of 50 works selected from nearly 18,000 entries across the country for the outdoor exhibition *Embracing Our Differences* at Bayfront Park in Sarasota, Fla.

1971

David Bieler was named professor emeritus of geology after retiring from a 34-year career on the faculty of Centenary

College in Shreveport, La. He plans a return to the Finger Lakes region of Upstate New York to continue research and spend time with family and friends.

1974

Gerald Elias's seventh Daniel Jacobus mystery was released in December 2021. *Cloudy with a Chance of Murder* (Level Best Books) finds Jacobus, the curmudgeonly, blind violin pedagogue and amateur sleuth, trapped on an island in the middle of the Great Salt Lake with a murderer on the loose. Also a violinist, Gerald was part of the chamber ensemble that created the first-ever complete recording of Baroque composer Pietro Castrucci's 12 Opus 1 sonatas. *Sonate a Violino E Violone* is available as a two-CD set on the Centaur label. [w] geraldeliasmanofmystery.wordpress.com ■ **Kathleen C. Stone's** new book, *They Called*





Stoffregen '79

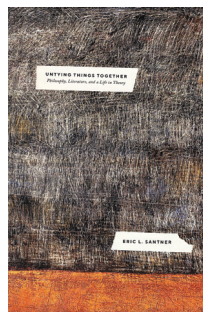
Us Girls: Stories of Female Ambition from Suffrage to Mad Men (Cynren Press), illuminates the lives of seven women who aspired to professional jobs in contrast to trends of the mid-20th century. Kathleen founded and cohosts the Boston literary salon Booklab.

1975

Debbie LeeKeenan coproduced the documentary *Reflecting on Anti-Bias Education in Action: The Early Years*, which features vignettes of anti-bias strategies in early childhood classrooms interspersed with teachers reflecting on their practice. Since its release in April 2021, the film has been viewed more than 100,000 times. It's based on theory and research from the 2015 book *Leading Anti-Bias Early Childhood Programs: A Guide for Change*, which Debbie coauthored. "The film fits perfectly with Oberlin's longstanding history and commitment to social justice," she says. "I thought back to my years at Oberlin as being key in my development as a social justice educator. [w] AntibiasLeadersECE.com

1976

The Chicago Philharmonic premiered composer **Nicholas Hubbell's** "Chicago Fanfare" as part of its Fanfare Chicago celebration. *Chicago Classical Music Review* praised the work for its "broad-shouldered sweep and pulsating exuberance." ■ **Ken Perkins** won the Ove Ferno Award for groundbreaking advances in clinical research at the March 2022 meeting of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco. Ken is a professor of psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh.



1977

Untying Things Together: Philosophy, Literature, and a Life in Theory, a new book by **Eric L. Santner**, the Philip and Ida Romberg Distinguished Service Professor in Modern Germanic Studies, was published in April by the University of Chicago Press.

1978

Suzanne Ludlow was elected to the Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation board, which she became involved with after her late husband's battle with neuroendocrine cancer. Suzanne funded the development of the foundation's guide for patients and families dealing with the disease. She is the former city manager of Takoma Park, Md., and earned an MS in urban affairs and economic development from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

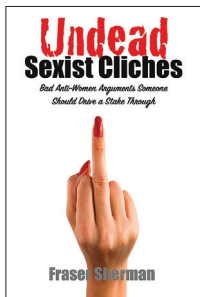


1979

David H. Brown completed a PhD at Yale and taught art history at Emory University and the University of Texas at Austin from 1990-2000. His second book, *Santería Enthroned: Art, Ritual, and Innovation in an Afro-Cuban Religion* (Chicago), won the 2004 American Academy of Religion Award in the Analytical/Descriptive category. David wrote two additional books in 2018: *Patakin: Orisha Stories from the Odus of Ifá*, a translation of 250 prophetic narratives; and *Adeshina's Cuba: The Yorùbá Lucumí Priesthoods, 1930-1959* (Africa World Press). The latter book derives from 20 years of oral history fieldwork in Cuba (1986-2006). David survived a widowmaker heart attack in 2013 and prostate cancer in 2018. He lives at the Jersey Shore with his son and three dogs. ■ **Lorin Burte** is delighted to announce his engagement to Cathy Ziff Drucker and planning a fall 2022 wedding. Cathy holds a BSSW from Ohio State and an MSSW from Case Western Reserve. ■ Attorney **Merril Hirsh** was named executive director of the Academy of Court-Appointed Masters, a role through which he helps promote diversity in the special master profession. He encourages anyone interested to contact him. [e] ExecDir@courtpointedmasters.org ■ **Tom Stoffregen**, a photographer for 40 years, has begun showing his work in juried exhibitions, including galleries in Kentucky, Ohio, Missouri, New Mexico, and Pennsylvania. He was selected to participate in New Photography III, which began in April at the Academy Art Museum in Easton, Md.

1980s

1980



Sherman '80

Rachel Abelson Hickson and **David Hickson '82** celebrated the wedding of their daughter, **Jessamine Hickson**, to **Jacob Schwartz** on May 15, 2022 in Rye, N.Y. Obies in attendance included the officiant,

Cantor **Richard Lawrence '08**, and his wife, **Meredith Hickson '11** (the Hicksons' daughter), and **Louis Reichwein '78**. Pictured left to right are David, Rachel, Jessamine, Jacob, Meredith, and Richard. ■ Poet **Peter Haslett Kelly** collaborated with composer Nathan R. Mathews on the song cycle *The Ruminations and Reflections of an Armchair Philosopher*, performed in May 2022 at Merkin Hall in New York City. The concert included the voice of Grammy Award-winning baritone **Edward Parks '06**. ■ **Fraser Sherman** published the book *Undead Sexist Clichés: Bad Anti-Woman Arguments Someone Should Drive a Stake Through*, which probes sexist and misogynist perspectives against women's equality. It covers bad science, double standards, rape apologists, and the supposed inferiority of women, among other topics. [e] bogatyr5@aol.com

1983

Evan Albourn created a series of classical music workout videos called *The Mozart Musical Workout* (Beating Path Publications). Evan thanks the Dalcroze approach to music learning—and Bugs Bunny—for the inspiration behind the project. [w] mozartmusicalworkout.com [e] musicteachernewyork@gmail.com ■ **Melanie Eversley** was named executive editor of *Black News & Views*, a division of the National Association of Black Journalists. Previously, Melanie was a contributor to *The Guardian* and was part of the team that covered the 2020 White House race for Fortune.com. She was a longtime reporter for *USA Today*, where she covered breaking news and race, and was a Washington correspondent for the *Atlanta*



Journal-Constitution. She is an honors graduate of Columbia Journalism School. ■ After many years as a film and studio producer, **Vicki Green** has operated her own practice as a performing artist coach since 2007. She specializes in coaching serious performing artists and other creatives, in addition to teaching performance/artistry master classes and consulting and producing for independent recording artists. Her website includes in-depth conversations with performers, including **Kelly AuCoin '89**. [w] vickigreen.com

1984

Michon Boston and her sister, Taquiana Boston, have launched their first podcast, *Historical Drama with the Boston Sisters*, a culmination of years of the Boston sisters

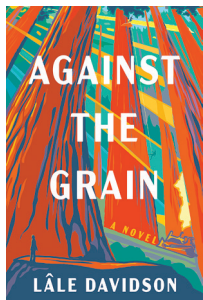
watching and talking about period dramas, including adaptations and biopics, as windows on the past and mirrors of the present. Michon says her work at WOBC gave her a great foundation for podcasting, in addition to her current film engagement work with documentary filmmakers. She enjoys writing historical dramas and looks forward to a production of her first full-length play about the journalist and anti-lynching activist Ida B. Wells in 2023. The podcast is available on Apple, Spotify, Google, and Stitcher. [w] michonbostongroup.com/bostonisters ■ **Matt Lehrman** delivered the keynote presentation “From Conflict to Conversation: Must Disagreement be Disagreeable?” to the conferences of the Texas Municipal League, the North Dakota League of Cities, and the Tennessee



Lehrman '84

Municipal League. Matt's new podcast, *Tell Me More*, brings together people from diverse walks of life to share perspectives on politics and social issues.

1985

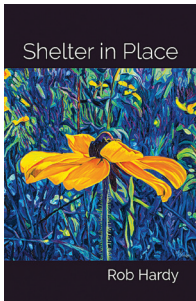


Davidson '85

Lâle Davidson's new eco-novel, *Against the Grain* (Emperor Books), weaves into its narrative insights into why trees matter and how they grow. Lâle's book of short stories and a debut novel, *Blue Woman Burning*, were

released in fall 2021. Her next novel, *Beyond Sight*, is due out in October. ■ Visiting professor **Jonathan Feldman** collaborated with professor **Estelle McKee '90** in teaching first-year JD students at Cornell Law School.

1986



Hardy '86

After becoming obsessed with Wordle, **Jordan Brown** and a musical friend wrote and performed a silly song—called “When Myrtle Plays Wordle”—to celebrate the 94th birthday of one of Jordan's

heroes, musical humorist Tom Lehrer. ■ University of Iowa (UI) associate professor of English and director of UI's Center for the Book **Matt Brown** and his colleague Elizabeth Yale received a \$150,000



Burger '86

Humanities Initiatives grant for their project “Global Book Cultures and the Student Laboratory: Undergraduate Education at the UI Center for the Book.” The project aims to develop an undergraduate laboratory space and related curriculum that will engage students in the study of global print and manuscript cultures. Matt, who has taught at UI since 2001, researches how readers in history have used books. ■ **Mary Burger** was the artist in residence at Pond Farm in Sonoma County, Calif., during April 2022. Pond Farm, set amid acres of redwoods and oak woodlands, was once the home and studio of Marguerite Wildenhain, a renowned ceramics artist who trained at the Bauhaus. During the residency Mary worked on a painting series, *Forest Patterns*, that explores the impacts of California's wildfires

and the forest's resilience. Pictured is gouache on paper, *Forest Patterns 6*. ■ **Rob Hardy** used the onset of the pandemic to write poetry, and his efforts resulted in 16 poems that are part of his new chapbook, *Shelter in Place* (Finishing Line Press). Rob found inspiration in frequent walks through nature and tracking the progress of the seasons. ■ **Tracie Holder** codirected and produced the feature-length documentary *Joe Papp in Five Acts*, about the famed musical theater producer and director. It aired nationally on PBS' *American Masters* in June 2022. ■ **Pamela L. Jennings** was named a White House Presidential Innovation Fellow for 2022. She will work for the U.S. Department of Transportation to support the development of a community stakeholder platform to address gaps in



Feldman '85



Holder '86



THE NEEDS OF THE TIMES

Dear Obies,

A couple of years ago, I met a retired Franciscan sister who had spent most of her working life in Guatemala caring for children who became orphans during the Guatemalan Civil War. When she and her fellow sisters found their names on the junta's death lists, they took the children, about 300 of them, and went into hiding. They hid the children with families all over Santa Apolonia and created seemingly random routines to check up on them every day. To avoid detection, they dyed their hair and started wearing makeup and miniskirts. I asked her what motivated her to do this dangerous work, and her reply was simple: "The will of God is expressed in the needs of the times."

The sheer simplicity of her statement stopped me in my tracks. It was so adaptable. So useful. I didn't convert to Catholicism because (thanks to Oberlin, mainly) I'm still not convinced of the existence of a supreme deity. But I couldn't shake this idea of hearing a voice from somewhere else in my contemplative moments, urging me to meet the needs of the times and make the world fairer. It struck me as an Oberlin sentiment and one that I could get behind. Because from slavery to Jim Crow to the Vietnam War to civil rights to women's rights to LGBTQ+ rights, and now back to civil and women's rights, Obies have been meeting the needs of the times.

It's also during these contemplative moments that I wonder if this 59-year-old Obie has gotten a little too comfortable. I'm disgusted with our political landscape, I see retirement drawing near, I'm tired, and I have responsibilities. Lately, I've focused on seeking places where I can leverage my experience to do the most good, so I've been trying to pick my battles. But a persistent voice keeps asking: Is this wisdom, or am I getting lazy? Not too long ago, I had a dream of being in the Oberlin mailroom, needing to open my mailbox but unable to because I'd forgotten the combination. I told this to a Jungian psychologist, and her quick analysis was that the Oberlin part of my subconscious was trying to send me a message.

And so, my fellow Obies: It's clear that the world needs more Oberlin. Have you been a little too quiet lately? Have some of the values that you picked up at Oberlin taken a back seat to the daily-ness of your life? What are you going to do today, tomorrow, this month, or this year to meet the needs of our times?

Sincerely,

Young Kim '85

President, Oberlin Alumni Association



Kinscheck '86

transportation equity. The project is intended to have a significant impact on DOT policies and programs in response to the federal government's Justice40 initiative. ■

Julie Gibbons

Kinscheck joined the voice faculty of the Berklee College of Music in fall 2021 and released the book *Vocal Training for Praise Singers* (Xulon Press), a training manual for Christian artists, worship leaders, choir directors and members, and voice teachers. ■ Attorney **Paul T. O'Neill**, an expert in education law who founded the New York office of Barton Gilman, was named cochair of the firm's education law practice, which serves clients from New England to the Mid-Atlantic. Paul also serves on Columbia University's Teachers College faculty and has authored several books on education law. ■ **Ann Quinn** created *Poetry is Life* (Yellow Arrow Publishing), a craft book that resulted from poetry workshops she led through the pandemic. It celebrates work created during early 2020 and offers guidance for those who would like to create their own poetry. Ann won first place in the 2015 Bethesda Literary Arts Festival poetry contest and has been nominated for two Pushcart Prizes. Her chapbook *Final Deployment* was published by Finishing Line Press in 2018.

1987

Nicole Boyer Barnett was named chief operating officer and chief nurse executive of the Kaiser Foundation Hospital and Health Plan in Richmond, Calif. [e] drnmbarnett@gmail.com ■ **Liz Brent**, now Lizzi Wolf,



Clockwise from left:
Barnett '87, Hewes '87,
Sorrell '88, Douglass '89



Brent '87

published *Athena's Shield: A Novel of the Spartacus Slave Revolt* in March 2022. Lizzi's *The Orphan King: A Short Novel Based on the Brief Life of Louis XVII* is also available. ■

Patrick Hewes and **Kevin Gleeson '88** enthusiastically attended the world premiere of a work by **Russell Platt**, *Symphony in Three Movements (For Clyfford Still)*, with the Buffalo Philharmonic, JoAnn Falletta, conductor. ■ **Sara C. Hotchkiss**, a professor of botany at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was named a fellow of the Ecological Society of America for 2022. Sara was honored for her insights on ecology and her contributions to paleoecology, ecosystem ecology, and landscape ecology.

1988

Michael J. Sorrell, president of Paul Quinn College—the first HBCU in Texas and the only one in Dallas—was honored by Southern Methodist University with its Erik Jonsson Ethics Award for 2022. Michael, the longest-serving president in Paul Quinn's 150-year history, is widely celebrated for his efforts to emphasize the needs of underserved students and their communities across the higher ed landscape.

1989

Violist **Jenny Douglass** of the San Francisco Symphony captured the convergence of seven Obies on stage together in October 2021 for a concert that featured flute soloist



Claire Chase '01 and pianist **Jeremy Denk '90**. This intermission photo includes (from left) Claire Chase, Jeremy Denk, violinist **Alicia Huang '91**, hornist **Robert Ward '77**, double bassist **Andrew Butler**, violist **Nanci Severance '79**, and Jenny. ■ Nine poems by **Eric Elshain** were installed in multiple exhibition spaces at Chicago's Field Museum, where Eric serves as poet in residence. His works were inspired by and appear alongside such Field attractions as Maximo the Titanosaur and Lucy, the 3.2-million-year-old hominid. He also hosts weekly poetry pop-ups at the museum.

1990s

1991

Attorney **Kris E. Lawrence** was named a partner of the civil litigation and trial group of the Buffalo, N.Y., law firm Goldberg

Segalla. Kris represents businesses and their insurers in general liability, premises liability, product liability, motor vehicle, and employment matters. He earned his JD from the Seattle University School of Law. ■ **Jonathan Levin** completed his 11th year as principal of the Clinton School, a New York City public school that supports all students in the International Baccalaureate program, an opportunity made available by the school on the advice of **David Siu '91**. Jonathan was named a 2021-22 Cahn Fellow, a program that supports public school leaders.

1992

In May, **Keiko Broomhead** was named vice president for enrollment management at Berklee, where she will oversee the overall enrollment strategy and execution for Berklee College of Music, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Berklee Valencia, Berklee NYC, and the college's Summer Programs.

1993

Dade Hayes has written his third book, *Binge Times: Inside Hollywood's Furious Billion-Dollar Battle to Take Down Netflix* (William Morrow), which chronicles the streaming boom that is reshaping the media and entertainment business. Dade is the business editor at *Deadline Hollywood*, where he has reported extensively on the topic. He lives just outside New York City with his wife, poet Stella Hayes, and their two children. ■ **Naeem Mohaiemen's** feature film *Jole Dobe Na (Those Who Do Not Drown)* made its U.S. premiere at Cleveland Clinic as part of FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial. Naeem is an associate professor of visual arts and concentration head of photography at Columbia University's School of the Arts. ■ **Libby Otto's** most recent monograph, *Haunted Bauhaus: Occult Spirituality, Gender Fluidity, Queer Identities, and Radical Politics*, published by the MIT Press (2019), won the Peter C. Rollins Book Prize, awarded by the Northeast Popular and American Culture Association. Libby is professor of art history and visual studies in the Department of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University at Buffalo SUNY. She recently completed a fellowship at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles and next year will be on a year-long Gerda Henkel Foundation Fellowship and a two-month stint at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Mandel Research Center while writing her next book, *Bauhaus Under National Socialism*.

1995



Lozito '95

Sociologist of education **Rachel Fix Dominguez** completed a postdoc at the University at Buffalo—working on a National Science Foundation-funded project on STEM education—and joined the Buffalo Public Schools as a program evaluator for Student Support Services, which includes crisis prevention and intervention and student wellness. “This expanded focus on whole child, whole school, whole community wellness is crucial, given the inordinate demands on schools during the COVID-19 crisis,” writes Rachel, who

earned a master's degree in education from Harvard University and a PhD from Buffalo.

■ The U.S. Senate confirmed **Deirdre Hamilton** as a member of the National Mediation Board, a position she began in January 2022. Deirdre had been a staff attorney at the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, working with its airline division. She began her career as a legal fellow at the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. She completed her education at the University of Michigan Law School. ■ **Stephanianna Lozito** published her first novel, *We Turn to Face the Sun*, about how two sisters navigate their complicated and painful past, present, and future. Told through flashbacks and memories, it examines sisterhood's fraught, loving bonds through the complexity of death and grief, loss, and love, as Stephanianna puts it. [w] stephaniellozito.com

1997

Flutist **Molly Barth** performed at Carnegie Hall's film release of composer Julia Wolfe's *Oxygen* for 12 flutes. Written during the pandemic and filmed in October 2021, it includes an all-star cast of flutists collaborating after more than a year of artistic isolation. Molly is a professor at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music. [w] mollybarth.com

1998



Guy-Decker '98

Jackson Bliss published a choose-your-own-adventure-style memoir called *Dream Pop Origami* (Unsolicited Press). As its advance press notes, the book “examines, celebrates, and complicates what it means to be Asian and white, Nisei and hapa, Midwestern and Californian, Buddhist and American at the same time.” ■ Since September 2020, **Tracie Guy-Decker** has cohosted a weekly podcast, *Jews Talk Racial Justice with April & Tracie*, with April Baskin. They have a lot in common and some important differences: April is a multiracial, Ashkenazi Jewish woman of color, and Tracie is a white, Ashkenazi Jewish woman. Together they discuss issues of race and racism from a Jewish perspective.

2000s

2000



Kolker '00



Morse '00

The U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory named **Amanda Kolker** laboratory program manager for geothermal energy. She has led research projects around geothermal resource assessment and innovative geothermal energy utilization. “I believe renewable energy has a huge role to play in our society because I've seen it firsthand around the world,” she says. “There is no better time to showcase how geothermal's unique benefits can improve our lives while mitigating climate change.” Amanda earned a doctorate in geology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. ■ **Jesse Morse** published the poetry book *Flash Floods Are Anomalies* (Finishing Line Press). ■ **Spencer Myer** was appointed associate professor of piano at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.

2001

Nicolás Alberto Dosman conducted a concert of the National Opera Chorus and Orchestra at Carnegie Hall on June 11, 2022—a program that included acclaimed soprano **Alyson Cambridge '02** as soloist. Nicolás is an associate professor of choral conducting and director of choral studies at the University of Southern Maine School of Music. ■ **Tamar R. Gubins** has been named partner at Fox Rothschild LLP. Tamar is based in the firm's New York office, where she advises businesses on formation, financing, corporate governance, and public offerings, as well as technology transactions, data breach response, security policies, and HIPAA compliance, among other data security issues. ■ In March, **Danielle Kranjec** received a Special Recognition Award at Hillel Jewish University Center of Pittsburgh's annual Campus Superstar fundraiser. Danielle was Hillel JUC's senior



Jewish educator from 2013 to 2021, during which time she supported Pittsburgh college students. ■ In between spikes in the pandemic, **Luke Shaefer** met up with friends and their families for fun and games at the Boston-area home of **Meg Ansara** and Joel Gagne and their kids, Tessa Rose, Seamus, and Owen. **Felicia Kazer** and David Vitale-Wolff, who live nearby, brought children Aviv and Micah; Luke and Susie Shaefer brought children Bridget and Michael from Ann Arbor, Mich; and **Kristian Whitsett** and **Lillian Whitsett** brought Anneke and Aksel from western Massachusetts.

2002

After 15 years as a director and curator at history museums across the country, **Suzanne Fischer** started her own business as an exhibit developer. She enjoys focusing on the creative storytelling of interpretive planning and exhibit development. Suzanne, her wife Amanda, and their bulldog and two kittens still live in a cute bungalow in Lansing, Mich. She would love to be in touch with classmates and colleagues. [w] exhibitcoach.com

2003

Lyricist, playwright, and composer **César Alvarez** won a Kleban Prize for Musical Theatre, a prestigious honor for emerging artists that carries a \$100,000 cash prize. “An award like this makes me feel like what I’m doing is resonating,” says César, who was honored in February. “It doesn’t make the self-doubt go away. It doesn’t make you

able to write great songs every day. It’s just an incredible boost.” By April, César learned that they had also won a Guggenheim Fellowship in the drama and performance category.

2004

Grace Hammond, a media specialist at the Delaware Area Career Center in Delaware, Ohio, was honored by the Young Adult Library Services Association with its 2022 Innovation in Teen Services Award. Grace was celebrated for her Work Smarter Boot Camp, which was created to help students adapt to hybrid learning.

2005

with eyes the color of time, a composition by **Anne Leilehua Lanzilotti**, was a finalist for a 2022 Pulitzer Prize in music. The piece premiered on August 6, 2021, at the Tenri Cultural Institute in New York, N.Y. and was inspired by works in the Contemporary Museum in Honolulu.

2006

Deena Guzder was named news director of the independent news program *Democracy Now!* with **Amy Goodman**. Deena is grateful for her Oberlin independent major in peace and conflict studies, which she credits for providing a strong foundation for the work she does now. A resident of New York City, she is the author of *Divine Rebels* and numerous articles on human rights issues. ■ Baritone **Edward Parks** closed 2021 performing on Andrea Bocelli’s *Believe* tour,



which also included such artists as Jennifer Hudson and Jon Batiste. Edward’s upcoming season includes performances with Opera Colorado’s production of *The Shining* and Michigan Opera Theater’s *La Bohème*.

2008

After winning 86 percent of the vote in the November 2021 election, **Brian Pugh** has begun his third term as mayor of the village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York.

2009

Esther Fredrickson cofounded the Albuquerque Joinery, a small design-build company specializing in new home construction using traditional adobe building techniques. She also continues an active career as an orchestral flutist in New Mexico and Texas and in 2019 joined the Austin Symphony Orchestra.

2010s

2010

Chris Lipski married Skip Perry on February 12, 2022, in Daly City, Calif. **Joe Thome** also attended.

Class Notes

2011

Joe Brophy was among nearly 100 cyclists riding through the streets of Jerusalem during an early May night to protest unsafe conditions for bikers but he was perhaps the only one playing jazz on a speaker. That was enough to attract a fellow rider, **Josh Shuman '86**—“a fun Oberlin connection, made in Israel,” says Joe. Joe, his wife Rachel, and their baby daughter, Leora, are moving back to the U.S. this summer after three years in Israel, where Joe got his master’s degree in Jewish Education in a joint program between the Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies and Hebrew College. Josh has been a Jerusalemite for many years now and has been peddling his way around the holy city for about 20 years. ■ **Jordan**

Jancosek and **Jake Wishart '10** welcomed the arrival of Eloise Bernadette Wishart in June 2021. They look forward to returning to campus in October for Jordan’s 10th reunion.

■ **Colin Lynch** won the Organ Competition Award, a national career-development honor presented by the Masterwork Music and Art Foundation, in December 2021. Colin is associate director of music and organist for the Trinity Church in Boston, in addition to his solo performance career. After Oberlin, he earned additional degrees from Yale and Northwestern.

2012

Eric Anderson and **Jane Mitchell '11** were married in Oberlin on June 26, 2021. The ceremony took place in Fairchild Chapel and was officiated by their good friend **Jesse Miller '10**. Festivities included a reception at the Hotel at Oberlin and an after-party at the Feve. “We were overjoyed to hold our wedding in the place where we both made so many cherished memories and friendships,”



Brophy '11



Lipski '10



Jancosek '11



Anderson '12

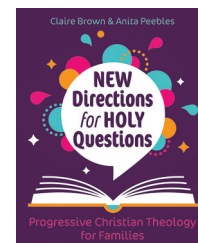
they write. Top (left to right): **Tom Schneider '08**, **Marina Kifferstein '11**, **Robin Su '12**, **Samantha Farnilant Grambow '10**, **Caitlin Franc '10**, **Andrea Beyer '13**, and Andrea’s husband, **Kevin Schaffter**. Front (left to right): **David Barford '10**, **David Walker '72**, **Megan Kyle '11**, **Jesse, Eric, Jane, Allie Mayer '10**, **Jay Henderson '08**, **Paul DeRonne '13**, and **DJ Cheek '12**.

2013

Emily Wilson explores translation theory and her Czech lineage in *Jalubi* (Unsolicited Press), a new book inspired by her 2012 trip to Prague in search of her ancestors’ farming village. It follows two chapbooks from Emily, *Hypochondria*, *Least Powerful of the Greek Gods* (Glass Poetry Press, 2020) and *I’ll Build Us a Home* (Finishing Line Press, 2018). ■

Tess M. Yanisch completed a PhD in psychology and social intervention from New York University in January 2022.

2014



Peebles '14

Cristina Carnie earned an MA in counseling psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute. She now practices as a licensed mental health counselor associate and lives on Vashon Island, Wash., with her husband, Matthew, and their son, Angelo. ■ **Anita Peebles** coauthored her first book, *New Directions for Holy Questions: Progressive Christian Theology for Families* (Morehouse). Anita earned an



MDiv from Vanderbilt Divinity School in 2018 and serves as pastor at Seattle First Baptist Church in Washington. [w] newdirectionsforpholyquestions.com

2015



Spence '15

Hannah Gilfix married Andrew Plata on March 19, 2022, at the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club in St. Petersburg, Fla. They were joined by Oberlin friends (from left) **Monica Hunter-Hart**, **Audrey Knox**, officiant **Michelle Johnson**, and **Mallory Cohen**. Hannah is the daughter of **Florence Kis Gilfix '85** and **Daniel Gilfix '84**. ■ **Madeline Raube** made her Broadway National tour debut as

Raube '15

Elodia '16

Countess Lily in *Anastasia the Musical*. Her recent credits include *Kiss Me, Kate* (as Kate), *The Secret Garden* (Lily), *Life of the Party* (Nina), *The Phantom of the Opera* (Christine), and *Annie* (Lily St. Regis). A vocal performance major at Oberlin, Madeline earned a Master of Music degree in vocal performance and musical theater at NYU Steinhardt. [w] anastasiathemusical.com/tour ■ Trumpeter **Luke Spence** released his debut solo album, *20th Century Art Songs*, on the Tonsehen label. It includes the music of **H. Leslie Adams '55**. Luke joined the faculties of Frostburg State University and Frederick Community College in 2021. [w] LukeSpenceTrumpet.com

2016

Composer and drummer **Chase Elodia** was awarded a 2022 fellowship at the MacDowell Residency and released the album *Portrait Imperfect* (Biophilia Records), which was supported by a recording grant from the Boulder County Arts Alliance. ■ **Ziya Smallens** served as a speechwriter for U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) over the past

year. “It’s been the opportunity of a lifetime!” he reports. “One highlight of my role thus far has been helping prepare remarks in support of **Jennifer Sung '94**, whom we confirmed to the Ninth Circuit Court.”

2017

Jacob M. Baron plays the role of Father/Sheriff, the sole male character in *Mi Abuela, Queen of Nightmares*, an original play that premiered at the Gene Frankel Theatre in Manhattan in June. The play won a national playwriting competition in January 2020, but couldn’t launch that year because of the pandemic.

2020s

2020

Kirsten Heuring completed an MA in professional writing with a focus in science writing from Carnegie Mellon University. She is a communications specialist for the Mellon College of Science at Carnegie Mellon, and she lives in the Pittsburgh’s Squirrel Hill neighborhood. [e] kheuring@andrew.cmu.edu ■ **Griffin Woodard** won a 2022 ASCAP Foundation Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award on the strength of his submission “Kyrie,” performed by the Jazz Composers Workshop Orchestra of New England Conservatory. “I am overwhelmed with gratitude for all the musicians involved,” Griffin says. [w] griffinwoodard.com

Class Notes are prepared from a variety of sources, including news media reports, press releases, and other material sent to us. Send your news—and high-resolution images—to alum.mag@oberlin.edu.

A Lifetime of Giving

DANIELLE TAIT

Growing up in a small town, **Marybeth Bridegam '57** felt that her “life completely changed at Oberlin.” The college helped to instill in her a greater appreciation for education and culture, and Marybeth soon focused her studies on music. The skills she developed became the foundation for her careers as a teacher, a musician, and the director of a travel company specializing in immersive cultural experiences.

As a scholarship recipient, Marybeth knows first-hand how transformative scholarships can be. She established a named endowed fund that provides support to first-generation students. Deferred gifts via her charitable

remainder trust and estate will provide additional support for the endowed fund. These gifts were made through close collaboration with Oberlin’s fundraising team, which assisted Marybeth in achieving both her charitable and financial goals.

Marybeth has been a dedicated alumni volunteer, serving as a regional coordinator for the Oberlin Alumni Association, promoting the Oberlin Annual Fund, and working on Alumni Leadership Council committees. She is deeply proud of her many ongoing connections to Oberlin, which provided her with experiences that transformed her life and career.

Would you like to learn more?

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Losses

Faculty, staff, and friends

John Edward Bucher dedicated more than 30 years to a career in higher education, including 15 years as Oberlin's chief technology officer from 1996 until his retirement. He graduated from Wright State University and earned a PhD in evolutionary biology and ecology from the University of Kansas. His interests included baseball, photography, music, and nature. Dr. Bucher died April 27, 2022, leaving his wife of 50 years, Julie; a son and daughter; and eight grandchildren.

1941

The daughter of Oberlin alumni and American Board missionaries, **Emma Rose Hubbard Martin** was born in China and relocated during her teen years to Oberlin, where she followed her parents' path to Oberlin College. A specialist in early childhood education, she earned a master's degree at Pacific Oaks College and worked in numerous capacities, including in parent education and support in Hiram, Ohio, in the 1970s, and later as director of Rosemount Center in Washington, D.C., and director of the Meetinghouse Preschool in Alexandria, Va. She married Edwin Webb Martin '39, a U.S. Foreign Service officer with whom she traveled for many years to locales throughout the world. Ms. Martin died December 15, 2021. She is survived by three children, including Marguerite Martin Cairns '65 and Sylvia Martin Lindsay '68; seven grandchildren, including Nicholas Cairns '98,

Elizabeth Martin-Shukrun '01, and Peter Cairns '02; and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband and a son, David Martin '71.

1946

Anne Nancy Wilson Baxter was a professor of piano and music literature at Miami University of Ohio from 1965 to 1992, in addition to earlier stints teaching at Heidelberg College and Earlham College. She earned a graduate degree in music from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. Ms. Baxter died January 14, 2022, leaving three daughters, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. ■ **Anne Latourette Foster**, a teacher at McCulloch School in Jackson, Mich., died May 16, 2021. She was predeceased by her husband, William H. Foster, and is survived by their four children, four grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

1947

Don VanDyke was an ophthalmologist and decorated veteran who made his life and career in Northeast Ohio. His Oberlin studies were interrupted by his service with the U.S. Army's 8th Armored Division in Europe during WWII, through which he earned three Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart. He returned to complete his degree before attending Western Reserve Medical School, eventually operating an ophthalmology practice in Kent, Ohio, for 19 years. He

relocated to Oberlin with his wife, Mary Louise VanDyke '47, and continued his career at the Oberlin Clinic. He was active throughout his life with numerous church groups and volunteer organizations, including Rotary International. Dr. VanDyke and Ms. VanDyke were founding residents of Kendal at Oberlin. He died June 22, 2021, and was survived by his wife. ■ **Mary Louise VanDyke** lived in Oberlin with her husband, Don VanDyke '47, for more than 50 years, both of them longtime fixtures at campus events and active volunteers throughout the community. Their support of Oberlin College and Conservatory was wide-ranging, from the Artist Recital Series to athletics teams to international students, whom they "adopted" through their role with American Field Service. Ms. VanDyke was an accomplished musician, educator, weaver, and director of children's choirs. She died December 12, 2021, six months after the death of her husband. They leave a community deeply affected by their lifetime of commitment.

1949

Paul F. Chalfant Jr. was a lifelong musician and former owner and publisher of the *Record Herald*, the newspaper in his hometown of Waynesboro, Pa. After service in the U.S. Navy during WWII, he returned to his studies and completed a master's degree from the University of Tulsa. He earned a Fulbright Scholarship, through which he formed the Iran-American string



Carl Walker Bewig '62 began his career as a high school history teacher before returning to Oberlin to serve

as director of admissions, first for the conservatory, and later for the college as a whole, for nearly 20 years. During that time, he led a team of admissions professionals with whom he pioneered the system of regional recruiting, facilitating closer relationships with counselors at high schools nationally and internationally. He was known for his gregarious personality, his retentive memory for faces, and his dedication to helping young people find

their path in life. Many Oberlin alumni recall being surprised when he would greet them by name years after their admissions interview, asking after their parents, their pets, or their love of Dostoevsky. Mr. Bewig was a deeply loyal Oberlin alum, and the college and town were always dear to his heart. He also embodied the community's love of music—both as a patron and as a baritone. While a student at Oberlin, he met and married Mary Reiss '62, his

lifelong friend and wife of 30 years, with whom he raised two daughters. He earned a master's degree in education at Washington University in his native St. Louis, Mo. After Oberlin, he became director of college counseling at Phillips Academy Andover in Massachusetts. In 2001, Mr. Bewig met his eventual husband, William Magoon. He died April 24, 2022, leaving his husband, daughters Wendy and Laura, and four grandchildren.

Quartet in Tehran, and later began his career as a violinist with the Baltimore Symphony, then the Minneapolis Symphony, before returning to his hometown to take over his father's newspaper. Mr. Chalfant led the local chamber of commerce, manufacturing association, school board, and other organizations. He also played a leading role in organizing numerous orchestras and chamber groups across the region. He died September 27, 2021, leaving his wife of 35 years, Dianne Thomas Chalfant, as well as three children, three stepchildren, and two grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his former wife, Marion '50. ■ A native of Beijing, China, **Samuel Fei** worked for many years in international finance research for the People's Bank of China and as a professor at the central bank's Finance Academy. A graduate of Yenching University, he earned a master's degree in economics from Oberlin and a second master's from Bowling Green State University. Upon his retirement, Mr. Fei was honored by the Chinese Museum of Finance for his lifetime contributions to financial education in China. Mr. Fei died August 15, 2013. He was survived by his wife, Isabel Chao '50; two daughters; and three grandchildren. ■ A native of Lebanon, **Annabel Perlik** forged a vibrant life in the arts and was committed to promoting the artistry of Oberlin students in her longtime home of Fairfax, Va. She came to America in 1945 to attend Oberlin, where she met her eventual husband, WWII veteran William Perlik '48. She taught middle school art and social studies before transitioning into a role with the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., where her husband established a law career. In 1955, they helped found the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, which would become the home of Oberlin at Oakton, an annual music series they established that offered performance opportunities for conservatory students. She completed a master's degree in art history at George Washington University in 1979 and became a volunteer docent for school tours at the National Gallery, one of many ways she remained engaged with the arts and education in retirement. Ms. Perlik died November 2, 2021. She is survived by two children and a grandson. She was preceded in death by her husband and a son.

1950

Born in Beijing, **Isabel Chao** worked for 32 years in the international department of the Xin Hua News Agency in China. Upon completing her undergraduate degree at Yenching University, she began a high school teaching career before relocating to America to earn a graduate degree in literature at Oberlin. She returned to teach in the Western language department at Yenching before transitioning into her role with Xin Hua. Ms. Chao died January 3, 2021, leaving two daughters, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Samuel Fei '49.

1951

Judith Emery Millican Bixler Collier taught kindergarten and first grade while living on American military bases in Germany and France, and in Waltham, Mass. She married Robert G. Millican, with whom she had a son. After the death of her husband, Ms. Millican married Herbert E. Bixler, who brought three grown children to the relationship. Following the death of Mr. Bixler, she married Abram T. Collier and became involved in the lives of his four grown children. Ms. Collier died December 3, 2021, and is survived by many loving family members. She was preceded in death by her third husband.

1953

Mezzo-soprano **Nancy Carnarius Jackson** performed for more than 50 years with the professional choir of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Trenton, N.J., an enduring through line in a career that began with a female trio at Radio City Music Hall and included leading roles in many operas staged in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. For three decades, she also taught private voice lessons in her home. Ms. Jackson met her future husband, Charles "Chuck" Jackson '52, at Oberlin, and together they raised two daughters. She died December 23, 2021, leaving her former husband, her daughters, and three grandchildren.

1954

Jane T. Blodgett was a schoolteacher in Cambridge, Mass., and San Diego before resettling in Oberlin with her husband, Geoffrey T. Blodgett '53, who joined the college's history faculty in 1960. She

eventually returned to the classroom, directing the First Church Nursery School and teaching multiple grades in the Oberlin public schools, a career that spanned 26 years. Ms. Blodgett later became active in historical preservation, serving on the city of Oberlin's Design Review Committee and chairing the Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission for 10 years, a tenure during which she penned an ordinance to protect the historic character of city landmarks and initiate community education programs. She published two of her husband's works after his death in 2001: a collection of pieces about Oberlin history and a digital version of his popular course, *The Social History of American Architecture*. Throughout her life in Oberlin, Ms. Blodgett was an active member of First Church and her home community at Kendal. She died November 29, 2021, leaving three daughters and four grandchildren. ■ **Edward Lazansky** was a painter and longtime faculty member at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y. He earned a BA from Syracuse University and an MA in fine arts from Oberlin, then served in the U.S. Army in Munich, where he was identified as a regimental artist. He returned to study painting at the Art Students League in New York, and later continued his studies in Paris at l'École des Beaux-Arts and the Sorbonne. Upon returning to the U.S., he became involved in the avant-garde theater scene, designing sets for theater companies as well as the New York City Ballet, New York City Opera, *Saturday Night Live*, and many feature films. His works were displayed at the Brooklyn Museum of Art and in galleries across the northeastern U.S. Mr. Lazansky died March 5, 2022. He leaves two daughters, his grandchildren, and numerous other loved ones. ■ **Maria Eleanor Lenhoff Marcus** was a lawyer and professor who rose to prominence working for the NAACP from 1961 to 1967, a tumultuous period during which she successfully litigated numerous civil rights cases across the South. In 1967, she became assistant attorney general for the state of New York, eventually rising to chief of the litigation bureau and winning six cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. She joined the faculty at Fordham Law School in 1978 and taught for more than 30 years. Dr. Marcus was born in Vienna, the daughter of a justice on Austria's highest court. Her family fled their native country as it fell

MEMORIAL MINUTE

John “Jed” Erickson Deppman, 1967-2019



Jed Deppman, Irvin E. Houck Professor of Comparative Literature and English, died on June 22, 2019. He was 52.

Born in Washington, DC, John Erickson Deppman grew up in Middlebury, Vermont—where, as he always emphasized, he was a full-blown townie. At 18, he confirmed his love of languages and discovered the value of mental tenacity during a year as a high school exchange student in northern France, where he completed the demanding Baccalauréat—in French—placing second in his class. In 1990, he graduated from Amherst College *summa cum laude* with Phi Beta Kappa and a senior thesis on mental heroism in European folklore.

Jed went on to the University of Wisconsin, Madison, to earn his MA and PhD in comparative literature with a dissertation on Dickinson, Valéry, and Joyce. While in graduate school, he earned a Diplôme d’Études Approfondies in philosophy and epistemology at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris, where he studied with Jacques Derrida. After a short visiting stint at Oberlin and a detour to Texas, he and his wife, Hsiu-Chuang Deppman, Professor of Chinese and cinema studies, rejoined the Oberlin College faculty in permanent positions in 2003. Before long, their daughters, Formosa and Ginger, became star players in the Oberlin school

orchestras, on violin and viola, respectively.

A prolific and original author, Jed wrote about Joyce, Borges, Whitman, Nancy, Sophocles, 19th-century lexicography, and Dickinson, on whom he published and edited three books, including his 2008 monograph *Trying to Think with Emily Dickinson*. He also edited and translated a seminal volume on genetic criticism and completed a novel, *Taking Chemo with Nietzsche*.

At Oberlin, Jed directed the Comparative Literature Program almost without interruption for 15 years. Under his leadership, it became Oberlin’s flagship humanities program. Jed also conceived and organized Oberlin’s legendary annual Translation Symposium.

Jed was driven by a profound belief in the transformative power of literature, art, music, and thought. He was deeply committed to rigorous humanistic scholarship as a means of deepening our understanding of life, death, and the world. A dynamic and innovative teacher and sought-after advisor, he was ferociously demanding of his students while offering them his unconditional support.

In his life and work, Jed embodied the border-crossing, eclectic ethos of comparative literature to a tee. A specialist in 19th- and 20th-century literature, postmodern and poststructuralist French thought, genetic criticism, translation theory, and philosophies of death, he had a near-native command of French and spoke Spanish, Portuguese, and Mandarin as well. In high school and college, he distinguished himself in math and science. At different points in his life, he excelled as an ice hockey player, an academic translator, an ultimate frisbee athlete, a sponsored-program officer, and a line cook in a Parisian restaurant. He was a fiercely competitive table

tennis player. Although he lived by the Deppman family motto—“Henceforth, suck it up: no whining”—he was a compassionate and supportive father, husband, son, brother, and friend.

At Oberlin, Jed taught many popular cross-listed courses. He was known for his first-year seminar *Ars Moriendi: Death and the Art of Dying*, in which students not only read, thought, and talked about death but also paired up with residents of Kendal at Oberlin to connect with people for whom the end of life is an imminent reality. It quickly became one of the most transformative courses in the First-Year Seminar program. He taught it almost every year.

The seminar gained an unexpectedly personal dimension in the fall of 2008, when Jed was diagnosed with stage IV cancer. For the next 11 years, he nonetheless taught full time, traveled the world, lived abroad, and continued to produce scholarship of the highest caliber.

Jed Deppman is remembered for his deep love of his family and friends, dedication to his students, fierce intelligence, sharp sense of humor, extraordinary mental tenacity, and thirst for adventure. In his final essay, “Living and Dying with Emily Dickinson,” he concluded: “We can identify impressive moments we have witnessed or imagined, work them into dynamic images, and use them to organize our attitude toward life and death. Similarly, we can always rethink the limits of who and where we are. We have always been connected to so much—our loved ones, people who have died already, our childhood, our past and future selves, our past and future places—that we can always think about new ways to belong to them.”

Sebastiaan Faber
Professor of Hispanic Studies

Losses

under Nazi rule. After completing studies at Oberlin, she graduated from Yale Law School, where she met her future husband, Norman Marcus. They settled in Manhattan and raised three children, including Valerie Marcus '84. Dr. Marcus died April 27, 2022. ■ **Hope Eleanor Griswold Murrow** was a longtime social worker in New York and Boston and later taught at Simmons College, Boston University, and other colleges. In 1956, she married Daniel Murrow, a fellow social worker with whom she worked for the American Friends Service Committee on the East Harlem Project, through which they lived for five years within the Puerto Rican community of Spanish Harlem. She earned a master's degree in social work from Columbia University, conducted postgraduate studies at Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health, and completed doctoral studies at Boston College. She served as director of human services for the Massachusetts Department of Social Services and the Boston Children's Service Association, and was president of the New England Society of Jungian Analysts, among numerous other leadership roles. Dr. Murrow died August 2, 2021. She leaves her three children, five grandchildren, and one great grandchild. ■ **Allan Thomas Needle** completed his training in dentistry at New York University and established his career in the city, where he offered volunteer dental work to HIV-positive patients in the 1980s and '90s, and helped identify human remains at the site of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. He enjoyed a deep appreciation of music, playing the violin and participating in the Mendelssohn Glee Club of New York City. Dr. Needle died January 6, 2022, and is survived by his wife of 57 years, Annette Buonanno Needle, as well as their three children and six grandchildren.

1955

For 25 years, **Charles Yarrow Mansfield** was a senior economist at the International Monetary Fund, specializing in government finance and traveling to more than 27 countries across South and Central America, Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. He earned a master's degree in public policy and a PhD in economics from Princeton University. In retirement, he returned to his longtime passion of music, studying music theory at Catholic University. Dr. Mansfield

died March 5, 2022. He leaves his wife of 67 years, Anne Blackenburg '54; their two daughters; and five grandsons. ■ **Ruth Elizabeth Bradford Ohlsen** was an organist and piano teacher who later took up a career in administration at the University of Utah. She completed an MM in organ performance at the University of Michigan, followed by an MS in psychology from Utah. In her 50s, she opened the Salt Lake Weaver's Store, where she helped others learn to spin, weave, and knit. Ms. Ohlsen died December 28, 2021, leaving her three daughters, nine grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Her husband, William David Ohlsen, died only months earlier.

1956

William W. Bishop was a broadcaster who launched his career covering athletics for the University of Michigan and later worked for WNIS radio in Virginia and for universities and teams in the region. After beginning his studies at Oberlin, he served in the U.S. Army for three years in Korea. Mr. Bishop died November 28, 2021. ■ **David Gordon Mitten** was a longtime professor at Harvard University whose affiliation with Harvard began with his own graduate studies, which resulted in a master's degree and doctorate in classical archeology. His reach extended from the university's art museums, whose collections—especially its bronzes—he researched extensively as curator of ancient art, to its excavations at the Persian capital of Sardis in Turkey. He mentored students in the departments of fine arts and classics for three decades. In 2010, Dr. Mitten's former students and friends honored his retirement with the book *Teaching with Objects: The Curatorial Legacy of David Gordon Mitten*, which recounts their many fond memories of his mentorship. He died January 18, 2022, and is survived by his wife, Heather Barney.

1957

Nancy Lucille Nieburger Cox was a speech and drama major at Oberlin who performed in a wide range of theater settings across America and abroad. Ms. Cox died February 27, 2022. She is survived by her former husband, Harvey Cox, whom she met when he was an Oberlin campus minister and with whom she remained close throughout her life. She also leaves their three children, including Sarah Cox Marshall '87, and eight

grandchildren, including Josephine Marshall '18. ■ **Michael Voichick** was a longtime professor of math at the University of Wisconsin. He earned a PhD in math at Brown University and conducted postdoctoral studies at Dartmouth University before relocating with his family to Wisconsin. Dr. Voichick died July 1, 2021, leaving his wife Jane, to whom he was married for 60 years, as well as their three children and grandchildren.

1959

Evelyn Loeb Beilenson founded and operated the successful Peter Pauper Press with her husband Nick. She authored or compiled more than 60 books, including *Simple American Cooking*, *Wit and Wisdom of Famous American Women*, and *The Zoo is Closed Today*. Prior to starting the press, she co-owned a home design firm. Ms. Beilenson died October 4, 2021; she is survived by her husband, their three children, and six grandchildren. ■ **David Hibbard** was a physician whose distinguished career was marked by ongoing service to underserved regions around the world, a priority he developed with the Peace Corps in Nigeria and India. After Oberlin, he continued his studies at Case Western Reserve Medical School and the University of North Carolina, then worked in a Kenyan hospital through the support of a Ford Foundation grant. With his wife Chris, he founded the Family Medical Center in Louisville, Colo., and in 2005 established the Malaria and Health Care Project at Kisiizi Hospital in Uganda, through which he coordinated internships for students at the University of Colorado Medical School as a member of the faculty. A lacrosse and football player at Oberlin, Dr. Hibbard was inducted into the Heisman Club Hall of Fame in 2006. He died April 7, 2021, leaving his wife, their three children, and two grandsons.

1960

John Andrew Gerber devoted 35 years to the Harshaw Chemical Company and its successor companies, which he served in a variety of roles until his retirement in the late 1990s. A lifelong Ohioan, he was an active member of his church community and treated his family to annual trips to their lake house in New York's Finger Lakes region. He earned an associate's degree in

professional management from John Carroll University. In retirement, he was a driver for Geauga County Transit in suburban Cleveland for more than a decade. Mr. Gerber died February 21, 2021. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Donna Harrington Gerber '62; two sons; and two grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a daughter. ■ **Jane Hatch Herndon** was a devoted member of First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange, Ohio; a longtime member of the Philanthropic Educational Organization; and a founder of her bridge and sewing groups. Ms. Herndon died August 4, 2021. She is survived by Larry, her husband of 60 years; their three sons; and eight grandchildren.

1961

Richard Curtis Harris was a highly regarded lichenologist. He died May 10, 2021. ■ **Peter Beyer Lund** was a 32-year member of the economics faculty at California State University, Sacramento, 12 of which he served as department chair. He completed a PhD in economics at the University of California, Berkeley, and began his teaching career with a brief stint at Vanderbilt University. He was a four-year basketball and track athlete at Oberlin. Dr. Lund died November 25, 2021. He leaves his wife, Maureen McDermott; his first wife, Sandra Coyle; three children; and seven grandchildren. ■ **John Vinocur** was a foreign correspondent for the *New York Times* and the Associated Press and later served as VP and executive editor of the *International Herald Tribune*. He won the prestigious Polk Award for Magazine Reporting for his 1984 *Times* story on Paraguay's brutal dictatorial regime. His long career included coverage of an endless range of subjects, from the Cold War to cooking to landmark sporting events including the 1972 Munich Olympics and the legendary "Rumble in the Jungle," the 1974 title fight between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman. After a decade at the helm of the *Tribune*, he returned to writing on a wide range of topics for the *Times* in 1996, including a syndicated column called *Politicus*, and for the *Wall Street Journal*, among other publications. He died February 6, 2022, leaving his companion, Jacqueline Schaap. He is also survived by his third wife and their two sons, two daughters from his second marriage, and seven grandchildren.

1962

Linda Wishart Smith Chase enjoyed a long career at the library of American University in Washington, D.C., where she led the transition to an almost entirely digital collection. She earned an MSLS from Columbia University's School of Library Science. In addition to American, she worked for Columbia's Thomas J. Watson Library, the Library of Congress' Congressional Reference Service, and the University of Maryland's McKeldin Library. Ms. Chase died March 26, 2022. She leaves her husband of 59 years, Tom Chase; their three children; and four grandchildren. ■ **Katherine R. Humphrey** established a career in book-keeping while performing as a professional singer with a specialty in opera. She continued her studies at the University of Michigan and earned a master of arts in teaching from Yale University. She died February 25, 2022, leaving her husband Joseph, two children, and five grandchildren. ■ **Robert Jervis** was legendary in the field of international relations, a longtime professor of political science at Columbia University who was renowned for his productivity and his mentorship. He was the recipient of the Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order and was elected to the American Philosophical Society and the National Academy of Sciences. He earned a PhD in political science at the University of California, Berkeley, and taught for six years at the University of California, Los Angeles, before beginning at Columbia in 1980. He earned an honorary doctorate from Oberlin. Dr. Jervis died December 9, 2021. He leaves Kathe, his wife of 54 years; their two daughters, including Lisa '94; two grandsons; and a step-grandson.

1963

David A. Evans was a professor of chemistry and chemical biology at Harvard University whose research led to great advances in the construction of synthetic molecules. With his wife, Sally Evans '63, he helped develop and popularize the chemical structure drawing software ChemDraw. He completed his doctoral studies at the California Institute of Technology and served on the faculties of the University of California, Los Angeles and Caltech before moving to Harvard in 1983. He was presented with the American Chemical

Society's Arthur C. Cope Award and was given an honorary doctor of science degree from Oberlin College at his 50th anniversary reunion. Dr. Evans died April 29, 2022, and is survived by his wife. Donations in his memory can be made in support of Oberlin College's David A. Evans '63 Chemistry Prize.

1964

John Ndikwe Tau was a teacher, minister, and family counselor who worked in his South African homeland before, during, and after the transition from apartheid to democracy. He completed studies in Oberlin's Graduate School of Theology and served the Methodist Church for many years and in numerous roles. He earned an honorary doctorate from North West University of South Africa and continued to practice family counseling in retirement until shortly before his death in September 2021. He leaves his wife, six surviving children, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

1965

Claire K. Morse was a member of the psychology faculty of Guilford College in North Carolina for 35 years. She began her teaching career at Tougaloo College in Mississippi and later served as a teacher's assistant in an elementary school. She was deeply committed to social justice—even co-founding an anti-racism alliance in her hometown with her husband of 54 years, Larry Morse—and was an active volunteer in her community for many years, including teaching citizenship courses to non-English-speaking immigrants. Ms. Morse died September 8, 2021, leaving her husband, their two daughters, and two grandchildren.

1966

William Barnes devoted his career to regional governance, municipal finance, and urban policy through his longtime role with the National League of Cities. He was respected for his ability to inspire civic engagement and for his innovative approaches to old problems. He died April 25, 2022, leaving his wife of 40 years, Eva Domotor; their daughter; and two grandchildren. ■ **Hannah Kay Case** taught in the modern languages department at Slippery Rock University from 1970 to 2004. She served as a member of and consultant for the

MEMORIAL MINUTE

Stuart Friebert, 1931-2020



The story of Stuart Friebert's career at Oberlin presents a fascinating match of individual and institution, each fostering and enhancing the other in a dance of possibility. Or a duet. Sometimes a duel.

To make Stuart possible, Oberlin had to relax its sense of what he was hired to do: teach German, produce scholarship, and direct a German play annually. Even as he performed these duties, he had begun branching out: into translation, mostly of contemporary German, Austrian, and Swiss poets, an activity which in turn inspired poems of his own, both in German and English. This led to editing, of the newly founded biannual journal of contemporary poetry and poetics, *FIELD*, and eventually to the books of Oberlin College Press, especially the Translation Series, where poets of other languages—Italian, Czech, Romanian, Russian, Spanish—enlarged his growing command of the international poetry scene.

When I found myself translating, especially from German—Rilke, Gunter Eich, Paul Celan—I knew I could count on his enthusiastic encouragement and expertise.

Translating and editing, as well as writing and revising his own poems, fed his teaching interests and fostered courses in creative writing. The enthusiastic student response led in turn to the founding of Oberlin's Creative Writing Program, which rapidly earned its reputation as perhaps the best of its kind in America, staffed by Oberlin faculty from several departments and by visiting writers funded through grants that Stuart proved adept at writing. His wife, Diane Vreuls Friebert, became the prose fiction expert in the program, and their accomplishments are reflected in the population of distinguished novelists, poets, playwrights, and memoirists who can boast of their Oberlin origins.

Oberlin's institutional flexibility, as I've suggested, made these transformations possible. Leaving the German and Russian department to found and foster the Creative Writing Program was a rupture not without pain, requiring the support of our then President Robert Fuller, but it led to enhancement on both sides. It's hard to think of another college or university where this could have happened: challenging courses,

lively visitors (e.g., Miroslav Holub), a journal of high repute, a distinguished book series, and a pedagogy that had to be developed and perfected without much in the way of prior examples. It was exciting in many ways, and Stuart deserves the credit for most of it.

Stuart was eccentric in many ways. His efficiency in reading for *FIELD* was notorious: many poets, who are used to waiting months to hear back from editors, have remarked to me that their poems were returned, often with encouraging notes, the next day (or so it seemed) after they had sent them. His physical abruptness once led to a serious collision with the hall clock in Rice's basement.

His sense of humor could be bewildering. But the energy and creativity persisted unabated, past his retirement, and led to more translations, more poems, prose memoirs, and a lively correspondence with compatriots all over the world. He periodically raided our science library for new titles, particularly in the natural sciences, which often contributed images and ideas for his poetry. Stuart was writing, translating, corresponding, and evaluating right to the end.

No one quite like him; he is missed.

David Young
Emeritus Professor, Creative Writing

Pennsylvania Humanities Council from 1991 to 2002. She completed a doctorate in romance languages at Northwestern University. In retirement, she remained active in her church and in other roles in her native Ohio, Texas, and later Pennsylvania, where she had lived most of her adult life. She died November 30, 2021, and is survived by her first husband and friend, Thomas Copeland '66, her three children, and two grandchildren. She was preceded in death by

her second husband, Chester Zinni Jr. ■ **Carol Adele Gaetjens** was a licensed counselor in schools, hospitals, and in private practice. After beginning her teaching career at New Trier West High School in her native Chicago, she transitioned to a role at Northeastern Illinois University and then Northwestern University. She earned an MAT from the University of Chicago, an MSW from the University of Illinois, and a PhD from Northwestern University. After

living for most of her adult life in her native Chicago, she relocated in 2010 to Fayetteville, Ark., where she was active in her Episcopal church. Dr. Gaetjens died February 27, 2021, leaving many loved ones.

1968

Mark Philip Schomer made his home in numerous locales around the world, his destinations determined by his lifelong commitment to service. Born in France and

raised in Geneva by parents who worked in postwar humanitarian relief, he relocated to Chicago in the early 1960s. He became active in the civil rights movement and, as a conscientious objector, served as a teacher and school principal in the Congo. He went on to study international development in Paris, where he met and married his wife, Ana Maria Rivera. In the years that followed, he completed an MBA at Yale University and dedicated himself to service in Peru, Costa Rica, and the U.S. Mr. Schomer died May 8, 2021, in Guatemala, where he had operated a coffee and banana farm for the past 20 years and devoted his efforts to economic development. He leaves his wife of 50 years, two daughters, and four grandchildren. His autobiography, *Hold On: Trying to Help People in a Changing World*, is due out this year.

1970

Born and raised in Colombia, **Enrique Cuéllar Ferreira** came to America to study chemistry at Oberlin and stayed to continue studies in laser spectroscopy. He earned a PhD in physical chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, and during subsequent postdoctoral research there, reported the first observation of chlorine monoxide, which is now known to play a role in the destruction of ozone. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the IBM Research Lab, where his work focused on optical information storage, laser-induced fluorescence, and other initiatives. He played leading roles with RayChem, RayNet, Ericsson Fiber Access, LGC Wireless, and Intelant, a firm he founded to develop new architecture for antenna systems for wireless operators worldwide. He transitioned to academia in 2013 as a recruiter of STEM students for the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center and tutored high school students in math and Spanish. He died September 30, 2021. He leaves his former wife, Georgette Stratos, and a son.

1971

David Joseph Rempel Smucker was a researcher and editor for the Mennonite Historical Society of Lancaster, Pa. He was born to a Mennonite family in Bluffton, Ohio, and attended Bluffton College, later earning an MA in religious studies from Hartford Seminary and a PhD in Christian church history and American religion from Boston

University. He pursued genealogical research in Switzerland, France, and Germany, before settling in Akron, Ohio, and raising a family with his wife of 37 years, Judith Rempel. Later, they relocated to her native Manitoba, where he earned dual citizenship. He died March 12, 2021, leaving his wife, two children, and two grandchildren.

1972

Carolyn Clark DeCato Mohrmann served as a registrar for the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, in addition to stints at the Baltimore Museum of Art and New York's Museum of Modern Art. She paused her two-decade career to complete an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh's Katz Graduate School of Business, then relocated to Little Rock, Ark., to work for the Arkansas Arts Center and later as a research assistant at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She died June 12, 2021, leaving her husband of more than 20 years, Harry Mohrmann. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Francis A. DeCato '72.

1976

Laurie Meckler found inspiration for a career in medicine after becoming fascinated by the chemistry involved in the process of art preservation through her early work at Guild Hall in East Hampton, NY. She graduated from Weill Cornell Medical College and completed her residency at Yale University. A specialist in psychopharmacology, she cared for her patients until the week before her own death on April 7, 2022. She is survived by her husband and two sons. ■

Robert Kirby Morrison was a teacher of natural meditation and Bodhicitta practices at Natural Dharma Fellowship in New Hampshire, and a practitioner of the Dzogchen tradition of Tibetan Buddhism. After attending Oberlin for two years, he transferred to the University of Washington. He co-wrote the oral history *From Camelot to Kent State: The Sixties Experience in the Words of Those Who Lived It*. Mr. Morrison died October 12, 2021, leaving his wife, Robin Merrill. ■ Initially a specialist in market research, **Myron P. Mykyta** became a Ukrainian Catholic priest at age 43 and served as pastor of churches in San Diego and Los Angeles. He played basketball at Oberlin and was a writer and later editor-in-chief of the *Oberlin Review*. He completed

master's degrees in political science at Arizona State University and in social science at the University of Chicago. He died March 31, 2022, leaving his wife, Alicia Senow '77, as well as their two children and grandchildren.

1977

James Meredith Day was a professor at Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, following an earlier stint on the faculty of Boston University. A clinical psychologist, he specialized in moral development and the psychology of religion, and served the Belgian Commission of Psychologists as associate editor of the *Archive for the Psychology of Religion: The Journal of the International Association of the Psychology of Religion*, co-founder of the European Society for Research in Adult Development, and co-director of the Louvain-Harvard Project in Cognitive Complexity and Religious Cognition. He earned a master of divinity from Harvard University and a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Day died December 21, 2021, leaving his partner, Christina Stadler, as well as a daughter and two sons.

1986

Jamil Rudolph Luckett harbored a great passion for music and art, which he enjoyed through travel to locales including London, Paris, Amsterdam, and Costa Rica. An excellent student, he was honored in his youth by a visit to the White House, where he met President Gerald Ford. Prior to attending Oberlin, he was a retail manager for the May Company in Akron, Ohio. Mr. Luckett died January 4, 2022, and is remembered as a free spirit and a Renaissance man.

2000

Aymeric Dupre la Tour was a pianist, organist, and harpsichordist who played a pivotal role with numerous organizations in his home state of Connecticut. He served as music director of St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Trumbull, artistic director of the Connecticut Art Song Society, creator and director of the Parlor Concert Series at North Stonington Historical Society, and a vocal coach and piano teacher for the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford. He died May 29, 2022.

“Amazing that no one I knew at Oberlin ever started a band called ‘Stalin’s Organ’”

July 21, 2022, tweet from **Josh Keating '07**, global security reporter at *Grid News*, referring to the nickname of the Katyusha rocket launcher

“When fascism comes to America, never forget that the elite press spent years hollering about the threat posed by utterly powerless Oberlin College sophomores rather than the threat posed by these people.”

David Menschel (@davidminpdx) July 14, 2022, tweet referring to a video of a packed audience reciting the Watchmen Decree, which states, among other extreme beliefs, “We have been given legal power from heaven and now exercise our authority.”

“my gf says I need 2 stop shouting oberlin dot edu whenever I c guy with ponytail and flowered shirt”

July 29, 2022, tweet from **@rpopetweets**

“She’s an original thinker, and she’s also a fantastic communicator with oodles of talent. I’m now a listener, an appreciator. I want to see what new people she brings on, I want to see how organizationally it will change. I’m really curious! I’m a fan.”

Yo-Yo Ma, commenting in the July 16, 2022, *Washington Post* on **Rhiannon Giddens '99** becoming artistic director of Silkroad, the ensemble he founded

“A bird in the hand is worth returning to the bush, where it can be with those two other birds, and perhaps rebuild a sustainable population.”

Allegra Hyde, Oberlin assistant professor of creative writing, in the article “Aphorisms for the Anthropocene,” in the *New Yorker’s* humorous Daily Shouts feature, June 24, 2022

“Oberlin was life-changing for me. I found myself. I became more of myself. I learned to think critically and stand up to injustice. Would I have decided not to go in this post-Roe world? Would I have lost that part of myself?”

July 11, 2022, tweet from **Dani Indovino Cawley '06** (@thequeengeek) about a *Reuters* article titled “Abortion bans force U.S. students to rethink college plans”

“For decades, Taiwan has welcomed members of US Congress in the spirit of friendship between our peoples, exemplifying our strong partnership in supporting shared values and common interests in democracy, human rights, peace, and prosperity.”

August 2, 2022, tweet from **Bi-khim Hsiao '93**, former member of the Taiwanese legislature and current representative of the Republic of China to the United States

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Artist and Kendal resident,
Peggy Kwong-Gordon in her
Oberlin studio.

Photo by Dale Preston

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**“Everybody loves dolphins,
right? They have the best PR
agency in the world. A lot
of people still think the only
good shark is a dead one.”**

SHARK RESEARCHER MICHAEL HEITHAUS '95