

Oberlin

OBERLIN ALUMNI MAGAZINE

WINTER 2018-19

H O L D
H I G H
T H E
B A N N E R

THE LEGACY OF MARY CHURCH TERRELL | P. 28

CLEVELAND HAS CLASS (OF 2022)

On August 29, 2018, the entire incoming college and conservatory class—approximately 850 students—spent the day in Cleveland as part of a brand new orientation program that aims to raise students' awareness of professional and service-oriented opportunities in the city and strengthen ties between Oberlin and the greater Northeast Ohio region. The students, pictured here at the Cleveland Museum of Art, participated in a variety of service projects with more than a dozen organizations, toured cultural institutions, and engaged in workshops related to their First Year Seminar Program coursework.

PHOTO BY SCOTT SHAW

ON THE COVER

A 1946 portrait of Civil Rights Leader Mary Church Terrell, Class of 1884, by Betsy Graves Reyneau.

OIL ON CANVAS. NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,
© PETER EDWARD FAYARD



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Chocolate may be sweet, but the way it's made isn't always. Tom Neuhaus '74, president and founder of Project Hope & Fairness, explores the bitter roots of the treat and ways to de-colonialize the chocolate you eat.





Looking to Oberlin's Third Century

THE WEEKEND BEFORE THANKSGIVING was a quiet one on the Oberlin campus. A November chill, accompanied by mist and light rain, kept many people inside. Much of the campus, no doubt, was focused on the work they would need to do over the few intense weeks left in the semester.

But one remarkable group of 31 faculty members, students, staff, trustees, and alumni spent the weekend looking ahead to Oberlin's third century. The steering committee of the Academic and Administrative Program Review (AAPR) spent the weekend immersing itself in a dizzying array of information—mission statements and financial models, survey data and focus group results, quality assessments, and trends in higher education. That may not sound like a recipe for excitement, but the energy in the room ran high, because the real agenda of this retreat was nothing less than building on Oberlin's excellence for generations to come.

The AAPR was established in March 2018 by Oberlin's Board of Trustees, which directed President Ambar to launch a sweeping examination of the college, conservatory, and all administrative divisions. The world of higher education is changing quickly, putting particular pressure on small, private, liberal arts institutions. AAPR is Oberlin's way of addressing those challenges head-on, employing the creativity and critical thinking we cultivate here to the future of the institution itself. The goal is to make significant choices about where Oberlin should invest in greater excellence, and how it can selectively scale back and redirect resources.

To guide the process, President Ambar solicited nominations from across the campus, vetted the nominations with our General Faculty Council, and appointed the members of the steering committee. Over the summer, the committee organized itself into several working groups. The nature of these groups is telling: while one working group is focused

on long-term financial viability, others have zeroed in on potential student interests, the quality of our programs, and their centrality to the institution's mission itself. Through the fall, the committee solicited and gathered a wide variety of ideas and perspectives from faculty and staff, students, and alumni of Oberlin. Academic and administrative departments and units provided essential information about their own activities via questionnaires and interviews. Outside experts are working with Oberlin staff to apply a rigorous analysis of our finances at institutional and unit levels, and work is underway to gather comparative information.

As fall gives way to winter, the working groups are plunging into this deep collection of quantitative and qualitative information and beginning to make significant observations about what they see. Those observations will then be synthesized by the steering committee as a whole, teasing out the implications that will become the basis for AAPR recommendations, following an extensive process of campus consultation.

Steering committee members look forward to engaging our community on the substance and merits of these opportunities in the months to come. But as the process gets underway, I want to highlight the tireless efforts of the committee so far, and especially the spirit behind this work. Our 31 committee members, drawn from all corners of Oberlin, have come together not as representatives of special interests, but as institutionalists who love Oberlin and are willing to put the long-term good of Oberlin above all other considerations. That powerful spirit has animated and shaped the work of AAPR, and it gives me great hope and confidence about the steps that lie ahead.

DAVID KAMITSUKA
Acting Dean, *College of Arts and Sciences*
Chair, AAPR Steering Committee

Oberlin

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THE RETURN OF HANNAH AND JANE

WHAT A JOY TO SEE Maxwell Ryan's subtle homage to late-1980s lesbian culture at Oberlin ("The Apartment Therapist will see you now," Fall 2018). In his redecoration of Barrows 127, he hung a sign by the window, reading "Appearing Tonight: Hannah & Jane." I was among the hordes of women who came to swoon while Hannah Higgins '88 and Jane Karras '87 sang their rough-edged versions of so-called "womyn's music." They often played at the Women's Collective, then housed at Mallory, and they were both gorgeous and hilarious. I blame Hannah and Jane for the fact that I came out at 18 and basically never looked back. Thanks, Maxwell, for remembering. And thanks, Hannah and Jane, for making lesbian feminist culture sexy and compelling.

ELIZABETH FREEMAN '89
San Francisco, Calif.

ALRIGHT, WHOSE "HANNAH AND JANE" POSTER is that? Editor Jeff Hagan '86, is that from your personal collection?

MARY BURGER '86
Oakland, Calif.

Editor's Note: The "poster" is actually a do-it-yourself sign and the idea of Maxwell Ryan '89.

PHILOSOPHER HALL

THANK YOU FOR PUBLISHING Peter McInerney's Memorial Minute for the late Tim Hall (Spring 2018). I was fortunate to know Tim as a teacher, mentor, and friend. How I loved being greeted by that booming voice at the beginning of class: "Good evening, philosophers!" That said it all. Tim treated us as intellectual equals, even before we could reasonably claim that status for ourselves. To those of us who were unhappy, as

students, with the "local prejudices" to which Professor McInerney alludes, Tim offered a reasoned dissenting voice. I didn't always share his conclusions, but I inevitably learned from Tim's arguments. His sheer existence—a right libertarian on a roundly left-wing campus—gave Oberlin another, otherwise absent intellectual dimension. At a time when ideological conformity is the demand on all sides, Tim's example still has much to teach us. He followed the argument wherever it led him, even into the contempt of various critics, and in so doing Tim modeled the moral integrity our world so often lacks. It took courage to defend the ideas Tim did at Oberlin. And you don't have to share his libertarianism (or, for that matter, his veganism) to appreciate that.

JONATHAN BRUNO '07
Pittsburgh, Pa.

PLEASE NOTE

Class Notes may be submitted through mail or email (if a photograph is included in the email, please make sure it is high resolution). Alumni-authored books are included in Class Notes, minus a few each issue that appear in Thought Process. Please indicate "Class Note" on the subject line or envelope. The *Oberlin Alumni Magazine* no longer includes class notes submitted through the online Tappan network. The magazine's Losses section includes very brief obituaries of alumni, staff, and friends of Oberlin College, often drawn from obituaries already published or posted online and submitted by family members or close friends of the deceased. We do not include photographs with our obituaries. Please indicate "Losses" on the subject line or envelope.

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Oberlin Alumni Magazine welcomes comments from readers. Please address your letters to *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, 247 W. Lorain St., Suite C, Oberlin, OH 44074-1089; or email: alum.mag@oberlin.edu. The magazine reserves the right to determine the suitability of letters for publication and to edit them for accuracy and length. We regret that not all letters can be published. Please include your name, class year, and city and state or country.

Commencement/ Reunion Weekend: May 24-27, 2019

(Note: This is Memorial Day weekend!)

10th

CLASSES OF
2008, 2009, 2010

25th

CLASS OF 1994

30th

CLASSES OF
1988, 1989, 1990

45th

CLASSES OF
1973, 1974, 1975

50th

CLASS OF 1969

60th

CLASSES OF
1958, 1959, 1960

Questions?

Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 440.775.8692 or alumni@oberlin.edu.

FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT
OBERLIN.EDU/REUNION OR
OBERLIN.EDU/COMMENCEMENT

Around Tappan Square





ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS A NARRATIVE

Since 2016, Brooklyn-based artist Alexandra Bell, who holds a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University, has been using walls in public locations to mount works that call attention to how issues around race and violence are reported, either subtly or explicitly, in the *New York Times*. For the project, called *Counternarratives*, Bell installed large-scale works on the facades of Mudd Learning Center and the Allen Memorial Art Museum.

For more information, visit oberlin.edu/news

PRESIDENT'S PLAYLIST

This Is How She Does It

The weekend-long celebration of President Carmen Twillie Ambar's inauguration included a lively night at the 'Sco (what older alumni know as the disco, and even older alumni know as Dionysus), featuring President Ambar's own dance music playlist. Want to party like the President? Here you go.

Humble

KENDRICK LAMAR

Let's Groove

EARTH, WIND & FIRE

Formation

BEYONCÉ

In Da Club

50 CENT

Holiday

MADONNA

Don't Stop the Party

THE BLACK EYED PEAS

I like It (Like That)

THE BLACKOUT ALLSTARS

Jamming

BOB MARLEY

Get Ur Freak On

MISSY ELLIOTT

24K Magic

BRUNO MARS

In My Feelings

DRAKE

SexyBack

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE FEAT. TIMBALAND

Push It

SALT-N-PEPA

Jungle Boogie

KOOL & THE GANG

Dinero

JENNIFER LOPEZ FEAT. DJ KHALED AND CARDI B

When Doves Cry

PRINCE

This Is How We Do It

MONTELL JORDAN





TOTS AND POPS For sophomore Olivia Fink, like many Oberlin students, brunch at the Feve is a special occasion. But a morning meal with her mom during Parents and Family Weekend in November took on even more meaning with a surprise appearance from her father, a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves stationed in Stuttgart, Germany—whom Olivia hadn't seen in nearly a year.

LTC David Fink says he took advantage of a four-day leave to travel for more than 10 hours to enjoy a 48-hour visit with his family. He'll be stationed at European Command headquarters in Stuttgart through December 2019, serving as a battle watch officer.

Olivia says her mother, Martha May Fink, loves coming-home surprises such as these: "She's done some pretty good ones in the past, but this I wasn't expecting at all!"

A German major from New Hampshire, Olivia says that after brunch she took her family to her co-op (Tank); the Carlyle flower shop to pet the shop's dogs; a fall festival at Johnson House; a visit with her German professor, Steve Huff; and the student opera production celebrating the music of Leonard Bernstein.

"It really was a great day," Olivia says.

SCIENCE

Helping First-Year Students Stay STRONG

BY ERIN ULRICH '18

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Research Opportunities for a New Generation (STRONG) returned to Oberlin during the summer of 2018 with a cohort of eight incoming first-year students participating in research ranging from conducting interviews for the citywide environmental dashboard to searching for dark matter. Since its inception in 2015, STRONG has paired first-year students with Oberlin College professors in STEM fields to conduct summer research together. Eligible participants include women, Pell-eligible students, students of color, or students who are the first in their families to attend college.

STRONG intentionally introduces college-level research to students who are typically underrepresented in STEM fields, allowing them to delve into their fields of interest even before taking their first college class. Assistant Dean of Arts and Sciences and Director of Undergraduate Research Afia Ofori-Mensa designed the program in 2014 and has since served as its director. She says that STRONG's approach to issues of belonging, identity, and care are relevant not just to STEM fields, but to institutions of higher learning as a whole.

"The idea with STRONG is that if underrepresented students want to remain in STEM, they should be able to remain in STEM," Ofori-Mensa says. "It is not skills or even resilience that those students are often lacking. It is things like confidence—their own confidence in themselves and the confidence of others in their capabilities—and a sense that they belong here, in



this place that may feel so different from everything they're used to."

But STRONG is about more than introducing scientifically gifted new students to the often intimidating space of a college lab. STRONG scholars get a head start adjusting to college life—meeting twice a week for summer workshops such as Math for Science and Study Skills and Time Management designed to prepare them for undergraduate courses.

And true to the program's mission to make research accessible, STRONG scholars earn a \$2,000 living stipend for five weeks of summer research work, plus funding to cover travel expenses to and from Oberlin and help paying for textbooks their first year on campus. Housing and dining for the summer weeks are covered by the program.

"Before STRONG, I thought 'research' and 'science' were inclusive of nothing but lab coats and beakers," says Ifunanya Ezimora '19. "I didn't realize you could conduct research in a library

doing literature reviews, or outside in the midst of fieldwork, or without even seeing your participants through online surveys."

Ezimora credits STRONG for inspiring her to add environmental studies to the psychology major she was already pursuing, and to helping to choose her academic and post-college path.

"There's no way I would have engaged in research all four years of college, and I really doubt going into my senior year that I would already have a plan to take a gap year working at a wilderness therapy camp on the West Coast before going to graduate school to pursue a clinical psychology doctorate, with a focus in nature therapy," she says.

"If not for the STRONG program, if not for the psychology and environmental justice research I've done, and if not for the insight from summer opportunities I've been connected to through my majors, I wouldn't know what kind of person I wanted to be when I left Oberlin."

ALUMNI TRUSTEES ELECTED

Francisco X. Dominguez '89 and **Jay Whitacre '94** have been confirmed by the Oberlin College Board of Trustees to serve four-year terms, effective July 1, 2018, after winning the 2018 Alumni Trustee Election. Dominguez is a state district judge handling civil and felony criminal cases in El Paso, Hudspeth, and Culberson counties in Texas. Whitacre is a scientist and entrepreneur with a passion for renewable energy technology.

The Trustee Search Committee seeks to expand its pool of potential candidates (college and conservatory) for future elections. To suggest a candidate, please contact Danielle Young, executive director of the Oberlin Alumni Association, at alumni@oberlin.edu.

ALUMNI MEDAL RECIPIENTS

The Honorable **William F.B.**

Vodorey '87 received the Alumni Medal, the Alumni Association's highest honor, during the 2018 commencement ceremony. Integral to the development of the Oberlin Law Scholars Program, William has served as a visiting professor of politics at Oberlin since 2007, teaching Legal Advocacy and advising the Oberlin Mock Trial team. In this capacity, he has engaged with and enlightened students about the intricacies of law—from oral advocacy to ethics, legal research and writing, and professional responsibility. Students have benefitted from his broad legal experience as a solo practitioner, legal aid attorney, prosecutor, and magistrate for the Cleveland Municipal Court. He has declined



Vodorey '87



Kirsch '79

payment for his teaching, offering his service as a volunteer and for the benefit of Oberlin students.

Peter J. Kirsch '79 received the Alumni Medal during an Alumni Leadership Council event on November 10, 2017. A partner with Kaplan Kirsch Rockwell, Peter's practice emphasizes environmental and land use law and public-sector development and large infrastructure projects. Peter has been a dedicated volunteer and supporter of

Oberlin from the moment he graduated, serving as an admissions coordinator, chair of multiple reunion committees, a member of EnviroAlums, an Oberlin College trustee, and president of the Alumni Association. As president, he focused on initiatives that increased alumni involvement in career support for students and on alumni communication enhancements. He is an active member of the Oberlin Club of Colorado/Wyoming (COWY).



LA LA VIOLA DA GAMBA Professor Catharina Meints and four of her graduate students majoring in historical performance presented *The Nymphs of the Rhine*, a collection of duets for viola da gamba by Johann Schenck, at Kulas Recital Hall in October. The music was performed on antique German viols from the Caldwell Collection, built between 1680 and 1720. Meints and her husband and collaborator, former Oberlin oboe professor and viol enthusiast James Caldwell, enjoyed a 40-year partnership during which they became leaders in a revival of the viol. Their collection is featured in the 2012 book *The Caldwell Collection of Viols: A Life Together in the Pursuit of Beauty*, a catalog and memoir of the large and important collection of antique viols that they collected together.

Faculty Notes

Ann Cooper Albright, professor of dance, gave a lecture at the Center for Women in the Arts and Humanities at Rutgers University, and performed “Working It Out with The Flaming Bitches,” in honor of her first feminist study group at Oberlin in the early 1990s, as part of the opening plenary “provocation” panel at the Dance Studies Association conference in Valletta, Malta. She also published an essay in *The Sentient Archive: Bodies, Performance, and Memory*, published by Wesleyan University Press. ■ An essay by associate Professor of Creative Writing and Comparative Literature **Kazim Ali** appeared in the *Ben Jonson Journal*. ■ Associate Professor of Sociology **Rick Baldoz** gave the keynote address at the Legally Liminal Asians Conference at Brown University. ■ Associate Professor of Anthropology **Cal Biruk** gave a talk at Princeton University’s Global Health Colloquium, presented a paper at the Society for Social Studies of Science annual meeting in Sydney, Australia, and presented work at the National Science Foundation-funded AfricaSTS pre-conference. Biruk was awarded an Engaged Anthropology grant from the Wenner Gren Foundation. ■ **Tania Boster**, associate director of the Bonner Center, presented on transnational partnerships for community-based learning and research at the Association of American Colleges & Universities’ Global Engagement and Spaces of Practice conference in Seattle. ■ Assistant Professor of Economics **Maggie Brehm** presented a paper at the annual Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management fall research conference. ■ Assistant Professor of Economics **Paul Brehm** presented a paper at the World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists in Gothenburg, Sweden. ■ Professor of

Economics **Ron Cheung** gave a talk at Canada’s Brock University. ■ Assistant Professor of Religion **Cheryl Cottine** and Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry **Lisa Ryno** coauthored an article published in the *Journal of Chemical Education*. ■ Professor of Economics **Barbara J. Craig** represented the Oberlin economics department at an event honoring distinguished economist Anne O. Krueger ’53, as she received an honorary doctor of science, the University of Minnesota’s highest honor, in recognition of her enormous contribution to the field of economics. Having held prestigious posts at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and several universities (including the University of Minnesota from 1959-1982), Krueger is a world-renowned expert in economic development, international trade and finance, and economic policy reform. ■ Danforth-Lewis Professor of Economics **John Duca** presented a paper at Harvard Business School and two papers at the 35th annual International Association for Research in Income and Wealth conference in Copenhagen. ■ Professor of Hispanic Studies **Sebastiaan Faber**’s piece about General Francisco Franco was published in *Foreign Affairs*. ■ Professor of Physics **Stephen Fitzgerald** presented a seminar at the University of California, Berkeley. ■ Professor of Psychology and Environmental Studies **Cindy Frantz** gave the keynote address on at the Nature Connections Conference at the University of Derby in Derby, United Kingdom. ■ A short story by Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies **Sergio Gutiérrez Negrón** was included in The Hay Festival’s anthology *Bogotá39: Nuevas voces desde Latinoamérica*, published in Spain, Colombia, Argentina, Mexico, Uruguay, Perú,

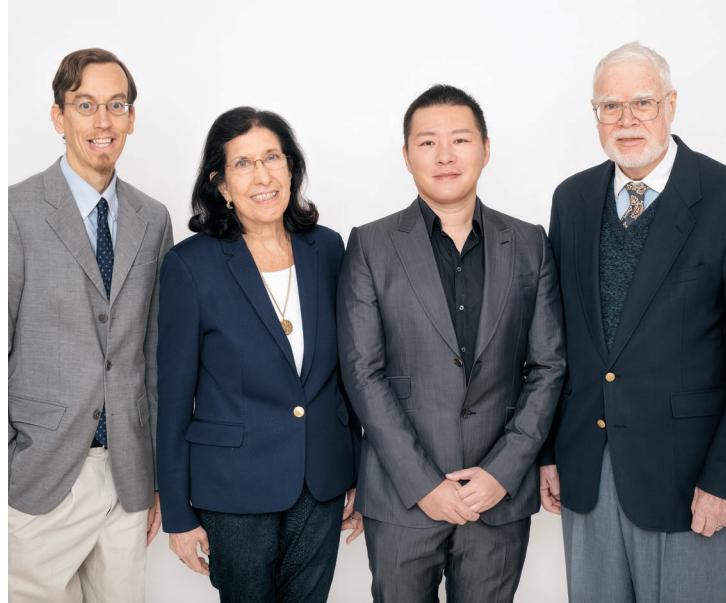
and Ecuador and translated into English as *Bogotá39: New Voices from Latin America*. His short story, “People Who Go To The Beach Alone,” translated by Hannah K. Cook ’18, was published in *The Common*. ■ **Jared C. Hartt**, associate professor of music theory, published *A Critical Companion to Medieval Motets* (Boydell and Brewer, 2018). ■ Professor of Physics **Yumi Ijiri** gave two presentations and chaired a session at the International Conference on Magnetism. Jane Hsieh ’20, Ian Hunt-Isaak ’17, and Hillary Pan ’17 were among the coauthors on the presentations. ■ Associate Professor of Religion **Margaret Kamitsuka** published in the *Journal for Feminist Studies in Religion* and presented at the Societas Ethica Conference in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. ■ Assistant Professor of Music Theory **Megan Kaes Long** organized a conference at Brandeis University in June celebrating the 20th anniversary of the volume *Tonal Structures in Early Music*. ■ **Jody Kerchner**, professor of music education, **Jennifer Fraser**, associate professor of ethnomusicology and anthropology, and **Adrian Bautista**, assistant vice president of student life, presented at the October 2018 Imagining America National Conference. Kerchner was also elected to serve as a board member of the International Society of Music Education and presented “What I learned from prison: Practice teaching with community-based partners” at the international Music in the Schools & Teacher Education Commission Seminar in Prague in July. ■ **Evan Kresch**, assistant professor of economics, presented papers at the World Bank’s Annual Bank Conference, the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, and the annual Liberal Arts Colleges Development Economics Conference. ■ **Clayton Koppes**,

professor of history, presented a paper, “Hostility, Heroism, and Hope: How to Have History in an Epidemic,” at the Australian History Association annual conference in July in Canberra. ■ **Shelley Lee**, associate professor of history and comparative American studies, was named to the editorial board of Oxford University Press’ *American National Biography*. She published articles in the *Journal of Asian American Studies* 21, *Asian Diaspora Visual Cultures and the Americas* 4, and *Frontiers* 39, and coedited *A Companion to Korean American Studies*, an interdisciplinary anthology of essays by more than 30 authors. ■ Associate Professor of Sociology **Greggor Mattson** was a panelist and presented two papers at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA). ■ An essay by Professor of English **T. S. McMillin** appears in the book *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson*. ■ Professor of Classics **Kirk Ormand** delivered lectures at Brown University and at the fifth International Conference on Mythcriticism at the Universidad Autónoma in Madrid. ■ **Bryan Parkhurst**, assistant professor of music theory and aural skills, was given the Emerging Scholar Award by the Society for Music Theory in November for his article “Making a Virtue of Necessity: Schenker and Kantian Teleology” in the April 2017 issue of the *Journal for Music Theory*. ■ **Michael Parkin**, professor of politics, received a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to study candidate use of the internet during the 2018 congressional campaign. He also coauthored an article in the *Social Science Computer Review*. ■ An article by **Renee Romano**, Robert S. Danforth Professor of History and professor of comparative American studies and Africana studies, appeared in *Differences: A Journal of Feminist*

Cultural Studies, a special volume on the theme of black marriage. ■ Assistant Professor of Dance **Alysia Ramos** presented her new choreographic work *Forgone Territory* with Oberlin Dance Project in DanceWorks at the Cleveland Public Theater in June 2018. Five Oberlin students joined Ramos and New York City-based guest artist Nathan Trice to create and perform the work for the professional stage. ■ **Matthew Rarey**, assistant professor of art history, was selected to participate in the seminar series Black Modernisms at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art and delivered lectures at DePaul University in Chicago and the Center for Visual Culture at Bryn Mawr College. He was awarded a 2018-2019 Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities for his book project, *Insignificant Things: Assemblage, Occlusion, and the Art of Survival in the Black Atlantic*. ■ **Alison Ricker**, head of the science library, presented at the American Library Association annual conference and wrote “Excited about Science” for *American Libraries* magazine. ■ Assistant Professor of Economics **Martin Saavedra** presented papers at the annual American Society of Health Economists Conference and at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. ■ **Chie Sakakibara**, assistant professor of environmental studies and East Asian studies, received a \$10,000 research grant from the Foundation for Research & Promotion of Ainu Culture. ■ Associate Archivist **Anne Salsich** delivered a talk at the National Conference on Public History’s annual meeting. ■ **Matthew Senior**, Ruberta T. McCandless Professor of French, contributed a chapter to *Animals, Animality and Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 2018).

■ Associate Professor of Neuroscience **Patrick Simen** gave a talk for the Cognitive Forum Series in Michigan State University’s psychology department. ■ **Cynthia Taylor** published articles in the proceedings of the 2018 International Computer Education Research Conference in Espoo, Finland, and in the proceedings of the 2018 ACM Conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education. ■ **Heidi Thomann Tewarson**, professor emerita of German language and literature, published *Die ersten Zürcher Ärztinnen. Humanitäres Engagement und wissenschaftliche Arbeit zur Zeit der Eugenik (The First Zurich Women Physicians. Humanitarian Engagement and Scientific Work during the Age of Eugenics)*. ■ **Christopher Trinacty**, associate professor of classics, gave a lecture at George Washington University and published a chapter in the volume *Intratextuality and Latin Literature*. ■ A paper by Professor of Mathematics **Jim Walsh** appeared in the *Journal of Physics Communications*. ■ **Danielle Terrazas Williams**, assistant professor of history, was awarded a Huntington long-term fellowship to conduct research at the library for the 2018-19 academic year. ■ **Matthew Wright**, professor of theater, directed the world premiere of the musical *Everything is Okay (and other helpful lies)*, which ran in the fall 2018 at Cleveland Public Theatre. ■ Donald R. Longman Professor of English **Sandra Zagarell** published articles in *Handbook of the American Novel of the Nineteenth Century, Reinventing Lydia Sigourney, and Unconventional Politics: Nineteenth-Century Women Writers and U.S. Indian Policy*.

For more information on these and other faculty notes, visit www.oberlin.edu/news.



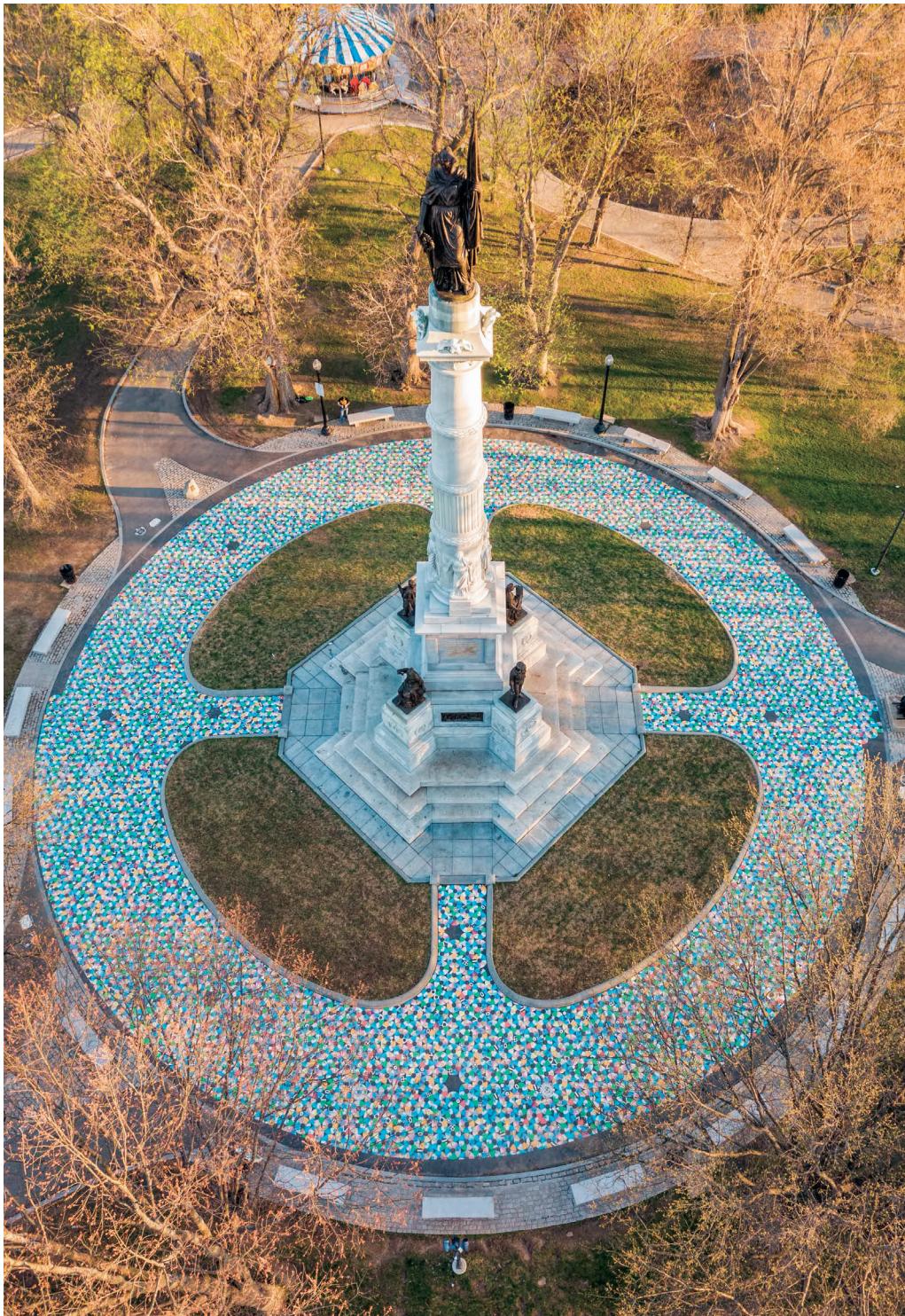
AND THE WINNERS ARE

Three of the 2018 Oberlin Alumni Awards were presented May 27 during the Commencement/Reunion Weekend’s Crimson & Gold Convocation, presided over by Alumni Association President Carol Levine ’84. The winners were (top, from left to right): **Addison Teng ’11**, Outstanding Young Alumni Award; **Anita Fahrni-Minear ’65**, Distinguished Service Award; and **Joey L. Mogul ’92**, Distinguished Achievement Award.

The 2017 Alumni Association Awards were presented on November 10, 2017, during an Alumni Leadership Council dinner. They included (bottom, left to right) **Roger A. Falcón ’92**, Alumni Appreciation Award; **Marcia Aronoff ’65**, Distinguished Service Award; **Zhiyi Wang ’04**, Outstanding Young Alumni Award; and **Scott B. Bennett ’60**, Distinguished Achievement Award.

For more information on the winners and their awards, or to nominate someone for an award, visit www.oberlin.edu/alumni-association/alc/awards.

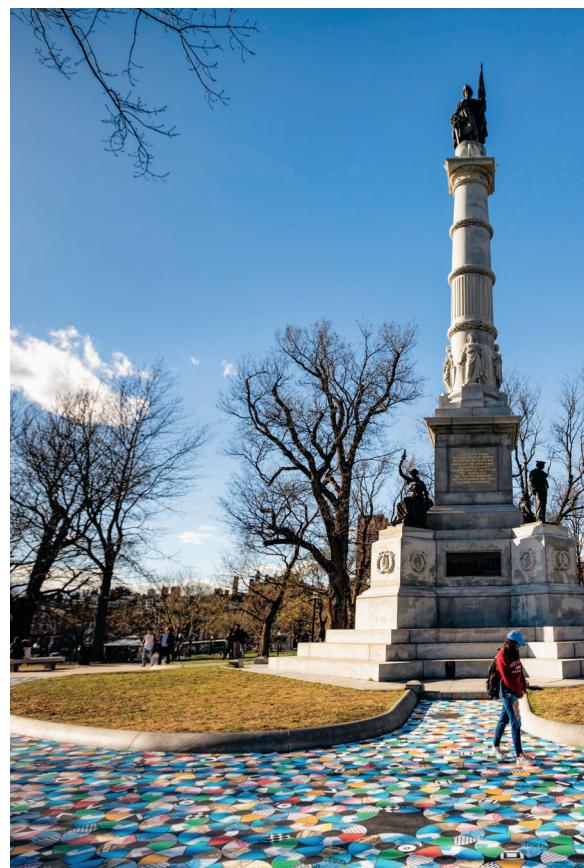
Thought Process



PUBLIC PUBLIC ART The vibrant, colorful artwork of Julia Vogl '07 rests upon what she calls her manifesto: The artwork must respond to site or community, the artwork must involve or engage others, and the artwork must employ a strategy of décor. Her art contains many viewpoints besides her own—sometimes those of thousands of others. The materials listed for her

2018 installation in Boston, *Pathways to Freedom*, include "6,000 square feet of vinyl, audio, and 1,800 individual opinions about freedom and immigration."

Vogl aims to put the public back in public art. "This means I do time with the community or site to make art that residents have ownership over. I socially engage people in playful activities and



workshops and get them to share their story with me. I use their data, their story, their engagement to make large-scale visual works that illustrate the individual as well as the community simultaneously. I call this social sculpture." The 1,800 discs in *Pathways* were originally emblem-like lapel pins that individuals made by answering four multiple choice



questions, and the answers were converted to a visual language designed by Vogl. Installed at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Boston Common and commissioned by the Jewish Arts Collaborative, *Pathways* was inspired by universal themes embedded in Passover, the Jewish holiday that celebrates liberation from slavery. To learn more, visit juliavogl.com.

COURTESY OF LEXIE BEAN

ANTHOLOGY

Body of Work

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO ONE OF YOUR OWN body parts if you could send it a letter?

That's the unusual premise behind *Written on the Body: Letters from Trans and Non-Binary Survivors of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence*, an anthology released by Lexie Bean '13 last March. The book features letters that Bean and others have written to their feet, ears, smiles, nipples, hair, hands, squishy belly, "boy parts," and more. Instead of turning out a quirky, bookstore checkout line impulse buy, Bean and their collaborators created a thoughtful book that explores the world well beyond the flesh and bone.

One letter, "Dear Rib," considers the bone's appearance in the Biblical story that casts Eve as a subset creation drawn from Adam's rib. The writer praises their own rib for the armor it provides for their organs. "During every panic attack, during every depressive episode, as my lungs and then my heart took turns shriveling, you protected them." The letter writer says that, rather than be Eve, they would prefer being Lilith, the "feminist demon."

Bean was inspired to write love letters to their body parts during a hospital stay while studying abroad in Budapest in 2012 and during the emotional healing that followed. Bean's anthology embraces vulnerability while empowering trans and nonbinary people by affirming their experiences, an approach that has earned the collection praise from activists.

"Coming out can be so alienating, and I wanted to hold space for others who are navigating certain questions or needing space to navigate other things," says Bean, a nonbinary trans writer whose work has been featured in *Teen Vogue*, among other outlets. "I was assigned female at birth, and the reality is that almost all of my rape and sexual assault experiences have happened with men. It has brought up a lot in terms of what I am transitioning toward, and that's been horribly traumatic. There have definitely been days that I've thought I'd rather die than be a man who can do these things."

The letters brim with blunt honesty. In a letter to "the folds and flaps between my legs," a contributor writes, "I sometimes wonder if I want to erase you because we were assaulted. That is to say, what if I'm not really trans, but merely a cis female survivor of sexual assault?



What if I only want to get rid of my vagina because of the vulnerability it represents?"

Tapping into the personal and making it universal is nothing new for Bean. Their second anthology, *Portable Homes*, derived its inspiration from the concept of home and displacement. As Bean neared graduation at Oberlin, a complicated relationship with home forced them to reconsider how to define the term.

"I didn't feel at home in any place, so I thought, 'How can I find that within my body? If I can't find it in a place, is it possible to find it in my own body?' Sometimes, is the answer," says Bean. "Being able to navigate that feeling with a group is really special. As someone who has gotten out of my abusive situation for the most part, I feel it's my responsibility to create space for people to process what they need to process. I've been privileged and blessed to have a second chance in a way."

Written on the Body has been featured in *Teen Vogue*, *Huffington Post*, *Ms. Magazine*, *Bust Magazine*, *The Establishment*, *FTM Magazine*, *Logo's New Now Next*, and *Bitch Magazine* (the magazine and nonprofit media organization cofounded by Lisa Jervis '94). Bean lives in New York City and is working on a children's book with Dial and Penguin-Random House, due in 2020, and their first screenplay, a collaboration with Ally Sheedy.

"I write this to my future," Bean writes in the book's closing. "To my voice, I know you're never gone." —*Tyler Sloan '17 and Jeff Hagan '86*



Q&A

Fugue States

Joshua Keating '07 has vivid childhood memories of the Berlin Wall coming down and his fascination with the idea that two countries could become one overnight. Soon afterward, with the breakup of the Soviet Union, he saw how one country could become 15. Now a foreign policy analyst, staff writer, and editor at *Slate*, Keating is exploring why, in recent years, the map of the world has remained fairly static. During a fall visit to Oberlin, Keating met with Jeff Hagan '86, the editor of the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, to talk about his book, *Invisible Countries: Journeys to the Edge of Nationhood* (Yale University Press) and the research behind it.

Oberlin Alumni Magazine: What do you mean by the term invisible country?

Joshua Keating: Actually, the original title of the book was *What is a Country?* We have these uncomplicated ideas of how you represent countries. They are places with a government and a flag and a military and defined borders. I wanted to look at the places that break the rules, places that resemble countries but aren't recognized as such by the

international community, so they're left off our mental framework of what the map of the world looks like.

OAM: Have there always been invisible countries? Or is this something new?

JK: Well, it's more that *visible* countries are new. There's this one-size-fits-all idea of what a country is, that there's one solid definition of it—that is what's more recent than people realize. There's

this idea that every piece of land on the Earth's landmass has to be occupied by a distinct unit, and that each of these units has to meet XYZ criteria with no exceptions. I talk in the book about holdovers like the Knights of Malta, a Catholic order that dates back to the Crusades. It isn't a country. It doesn't control any territory. It doesn't have citizens. It does have, for complicated reasons, diplomatic relations with dozens of other countries and an observer office at the UN. This is a sort of holdover from an older model of sovereignty. You could look at the Mohawk nation that I visited—a country that predated our current era of countries—that is trying to maintain its political independence. The invisible countries are places that our current framework, our current map of the world, doesn't recognize or can't fit into its predetermined categories.

OAM: Many of the places you talk about deal with geography that's a subset or part of other countries. Are there places on Earth that don't belong to any nation anywhere?

JK: There are. Not many. One example would be Antarctica. I write in the book about a project called Liberland, where Libertarian activists have claimed a piece of territory between Serbia and Croatia that neither country wants. They physically planted a flag there. They take applications for citizenship, and they have this idea that they're going to build an autonomous political community there, where radical libertarian economic and political ideas can be given free reign. There are a couple of those places. Some people have ideas about building small states on oil rigs or sea steeds. It is hard to find territory these days that at least one country doesn't claim.

OAM: For years, national borders have been established by wars or international agreements, but now

global warming might have a role in determining or changing a nation's borders. What would the impact of that be? Would it necessarily lead to more conflict?

JK: One of the places I discuss in the book is an island in the central Pacific called Carabass. It's one of the countries most threatened by sea level rise. It's also a country that has started to think about whether it will be possible to maintain some kind of political sovereignty or independence if the entire population has to relocate. A country more than anything else is a piece of land, so what happens when the land associated with a political unit no longer exists? We don't have a framework for what that looks like. It's an issue we'll unfortunately probably face as some of these smaller island states are threatened by the effects of climate change.

OAM: Was there anything that particularly surprised you in your research?

JK: When I started out, I was more sympathetic to the idea of separation; I didn't see why we were so attached to maintaining the map of the world the way it is. I thought that more places that are seeking self-determination should be allowed to do so. It seems like a very democratic idea. But the more I looked into it, the more I realized that there are not many examples of peaceful partitions in history. Czechoslovakia. Examples like Yugoslavia, or the partition of India, are much more common. And in a lot of the places I visited, places where claims for independence make a lot of sense and where some problems might be solved, new conflicts will be created. There tend not to be neat little units of people who agree to be part of a country together, that you can just draw a new international border and solve problems. I definitely understand more why there is reluctance to question borders as they exist.

POEM

Floating Heart

BY STUART FRIEBERT

Loves a shallow pond, spreads
its tiny white flowers over broad
leaves; and proceeds till it covers
the whole surface, sometimes in just
one summer. If you're foolish enough
to turn it over, look for the heart,
legend has it you'll not only not
catch the pickerel lurking underneath,
you'll quarrel with those you love,
cry yourself to sleep with worry; and
in the morning head nude and cold for
the old rowboat, tied to a stump; climb
aboard, paddle quickly out to the middle,
then float back slowly ashore in a wooden
coffin, when the pickerel goes belly up.

From the book *Floating Heart*, one of 15 books of poems published by Friebert and the winner of the 2015 Ohioana Poetry Award. Friebert, the cofounder of *Field Magazine*, the Field Translation Series, and Oberlin College Press, has also published 15 volumes of translation, anthologies, and prose. Pinyon Publishing released his most recent translation, *Between Question & Answer: Selected Poems of Ute von Funcke*, in 2018.

POLITICS

Before #MeToo Was a Movement

BY ALICE OLLSTEIN '10

DECADES BEFORE THE #METOO MOVEMENT lifted up long-buried stories of sexual harassment and assault, leading to the downfall of several powerful men in politics, journalism, and the corporate world, attorney Robert Adler '65 argued a series of cases that helped lay the legal groundwork for the revolution to come. The lawsuits he brought on behalf of three women who worked for the District of Columbia established the concept of the hostile work environment, strengthened discrimination victims' right to back pay, and made explicitly illegal the kind of gender-based favoritism that was routine for women at the time.

Though he says he was "not really an activist" during his college years, Adler couldn't help but be impacted by the social movements swirling around campus in the 1960s, especially conversations about sex discrimination. So when asked nearly a decade later to go out on a legal limb and represent working class women of color in cases without established precedent, his Oberlin values pushed him to say yes.

"I thought, there's a basic wrong here," he says. "And here was a chance to actually do some good."

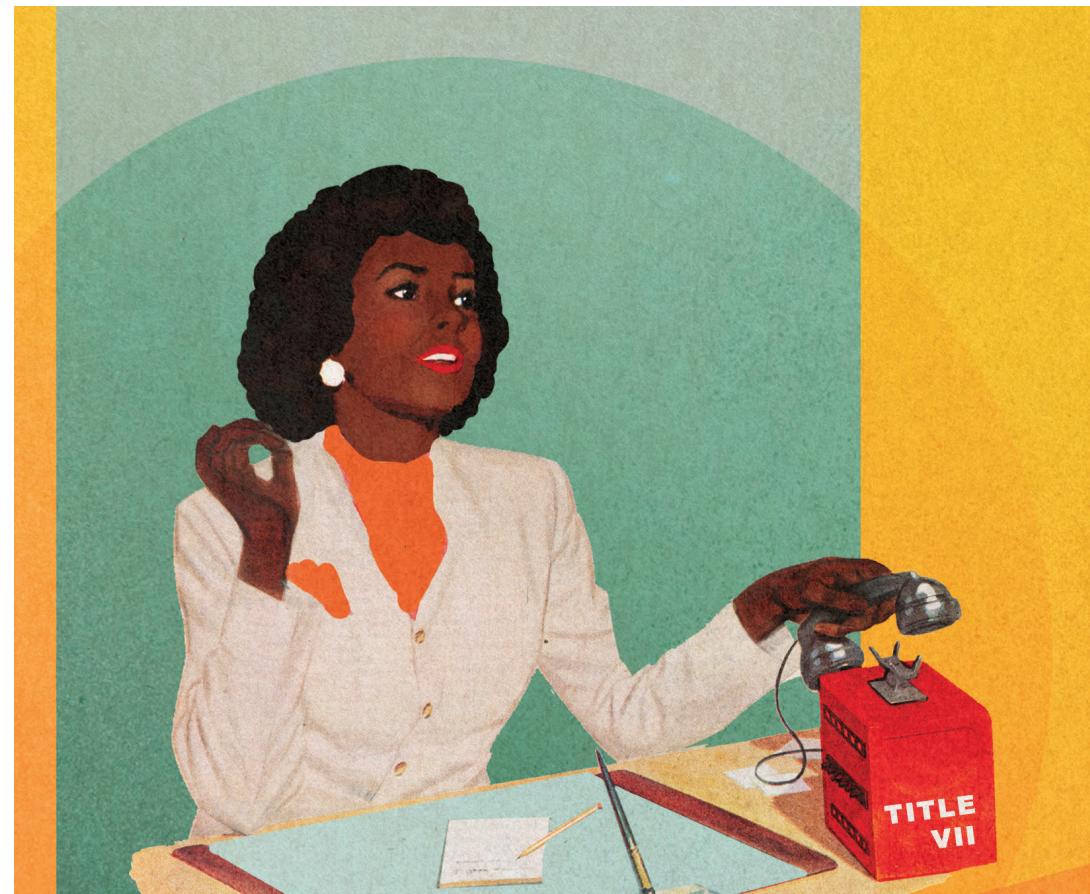
But amid a national conversation of how far we have come on workplace gender equality and how far we still have to go, Adler says his initial optimism now appears misplaced.

"I was young and naive. I thought that we would really change behavior in the workplace," he says. "Obviously, we didn't. Look at all the outrageous behavior that has recently come out, from Harvey Weinstein and the others, demanding back massages at work and all this craziness. What were they thinking? The message clearly didn't get through."

SANDRA, DEBORAH, AND MABEL

It all started during the political and cultural upheaval of the 1970s. After several years working at the Justice Department, Adler left to start his own private law firm with a couple of friends who had previously worked as public defenders. At first, he focused mainly on breach of contract and personal injury cases, not sex discrimination, which was a nearly uncharted area of the law.

"There hadn't been much litigation, and there was very little law," Adler explains, other than



one ruling barring explicit quid-pro-quo discrimination, such as a boss offering a woman a promotion only if she agreed to have an affair with him.

There were also few guideposts for attorneys on what *exactly* Congress meant when it banned employment discrimination on the basis of sex in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, because the provision was thrown into the landmark law at the eleventh hour.

"We didn't have committee reports to shed light on it, nothing on what the congressional intent was," Adler says.

But when D.C. Department of Corrections employee Sandra Bundy walked into his office and told him that multiple male supervisors were making her life a living hell, he offered to represent her, even though he had no background or experience in that area. Adler points out that neither did most other lawyers at the time since it was so new.

"There were two or three supervisors hitting on her, including the head of the agency, and she was miserable," he says. "She had tried to transfer to another agency but had been blackballed. They wouldn't let her move. She

was stuck. And we interviewed some of her coworkers, who supported her story."

Still, because Bundy hadn't been explicitly offered job benefits in return for sexual favors, it took Adler several years and a loss in the trial court before he could get judges to agree that what happened to her was illegal. Thus, the concept of the hostile work environment was born in 1981.

"It established that if there are repeated unwanted sexual advances that affect your work in a negative way, it's a violation of Title VII," he explained. "It can't just be a one-time suggestion of going out for a drink. It has to be repeated."

Next came Mabel King, a nurse at the D.C. jail who lost out on a promotion to a much younger, less-experienced coworker who'd had an intimate relationship with their supervisor.

"The difficulty there was arguing sex discrimination, because my client is a woman and the person who got the job was also a woman," Adler says. "We lost in the trial court; the judge said what we were trying to do was make flirtation in the workplace unlawful. He said it's commonplace to develop relationships in the workplace, and that people are going to



naturally favor and promote people they like working with.”

But when the case came up to the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, the judges were more sympathetic to the argument that King had experienced a form of sex discrimination.

“The case established that you can’t make a promotion decision based on a personal or sexual relationship, even if it’s consensual, because then you’re discriminating against other applicants,” Adler explained. “It was a huge advancement.”

A third corrections department employee, Deborah Bryant, whose case Adler took on in 1990, waited nearly three decades for justice. An assistant to the warden at the Lorton Reformatory prison who was denied a promotion after refusing the warden’s sexual advances, Bryant was suing for the amount of money she would have been paid all those years had she been given the promotion.

But what should have been a clear-cut case of harassment and retaliation dragged on for longer than any other case of its kind in the country, even after multiple judges agreed Bryant was owed back pay.

“After we won, and established that there was sex discrimination, the D.C. institutions just circled the wagons,” Adler says. “They just sat on it and did everything possible to delay this thing. Their strategy must have been: if we do nothing, one of these days they’ll just give up and go away.”

Adler and Bryant did not go away, and with the help of a *Washington Post* reporter who called attention to the city’s foot-dragging in a front-page story, she finally received a settlement. However, they first attempted to pay her those decades of back pay with no interest.

“Obviously, that money she would have made back then is worth a lot more now,” Adler says, explaining why they continued to press the case. “But after another two years, I got the decision for the first time that when there is substantial delay, employees are entitled to the interest.”

THE UNFINISHED WORK OF #METOO

Sitting in his K Street office in Washington D.C., where he is now a partner at the Nossaman LLP law firm, Adler says that when he looks back at these three cases, he sees both major advancements for women’s rights and

signs of why much of the same predatory behavior continues unchecked today. The years of draining court battles—during which neither he nor his clients saw a dime—is just one of the many disincentives for victims of harassment to bring such cases and for lawyers to take them on.

“People should not get any ideas that there are quick solutions or remedies,” he says.

Many victims of sex discrimination, he adds, may not even realize they are being paid less or denied promotions. And many corporations are not explicit enough about what kind of behavior is unacceptable and what the consequences are if someone steps out of line.

“You have to remind people that there are laws and in-house rules of a workplace, and if you want to act like that, you can go somewhere else—go find another job,” Adler says. “But there’s such an institutional resistance to putting out too strong a message about it.”

And while high-profile perpetrators like Harvey Weinstein and Bill Cosby have faced professional and criminal consequences for their actions over the past few years, Adler says lower-level bureaucrats like Bundy, King, and Bryant never get the same level of public attention and support as survivors who are Hollywood stars.

“It’s somewhat better if the perpetrator is a celebrity,” he says. “But if it’s Joe the Manager? Not so easy.”

While politicians and pundits are currently asking why women who experience harassment do not come forward to report it, Adler says the retribution and dismissal he witnessed when investigating these cases made him see such a decision as completely reasonable.

“I had a very difficult time getting other women in the workplace to corroborate the victims’ stories,” he says. “So it turned into he-said, she-said, and most times, the male supervisor would be believed.”

Instead of asking why so many women do not come forward, Adler wants people to understand how scary it is to do so, and why he is in awe of trailblazing women like Bundy who took a great risk for those who came after her.

“Talk about real courage,” he marvels. “She was just a mid-to-low-level staff person and she named, by name, the head of the agency. It’s just unimaginable how much courage that woman had.”

ALICE OLLSTEIN IS A POLITICAL REPORTER IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

EXCERPT

I assume that's what love is.
To be bursting full of the
most hurtful things you
could say to a person, and
not say them. And they lie
inches away from you, not
saying the things that could
hurt you most. You hold that
unbearable knowledge and
you feel the heat radiating
from each other's skin.

Hello, hello, let me buy you
breakfast. Let me rest my
lips against your neck as
though I were placing myself
inside the mouth of a bear.

You are the only missile, you
are the only shield.

From the story "Sex Dungeons for Sad People," from the story collection *Alien Virus Love Disaster* (Small Beer Press, 2018) by Abbey Mei Otis '11. Otis, who also goes by Abbey Otis Chung, is a visiting assistant professor of creative writing at Oberlin.



RECIPE

For Nights at Round Table

Martin Philip '92 is the head baker at King Arthur Flour and author of *Breaking Bread: A Baker's Journey Home in 75 Recipes* (Harper Wave), which won the Grand Prize at the new England Book Festival as well as the Vermont Book Award. We asked Philip, a conservatory grad who lives in Vermont with his con grad wife, Julie Ness '92, and their three children, for a recipe from the book. Instead, he came up with a new, original (and gluten-free) recipe just for the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine* and—even better—it's cake. To learn more, visit www.breadwright.com.

Cardamom Buckwheat Cake

SERVES 6

125g	buckwheat flour (about 1 cup)
100g	almond flour (about 1 cup)
1½ t	cardamom
1 t	baking powder
½ t	baking soda
½ cup	sugar (100g)
½ t	salt
2	eggs (100g)
3 T	milk
½ cup	plain yogurt
2 t	vanilla extract
3 T	melted butter

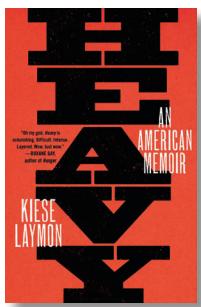
Prepare:

1. Preheat the oven to 375F.
2. Melt the butter. Grease two tea pans or one 8½ by 4½ inch pan.
3. Mix: In a medium bowl combine the flours, cardamom, baking powder, baking soda, and sugar. Whisk briefly to combine.
4. In a separate bowl whisk together the eggs, milk, yogurt, vanilla extract, and melted butter.
5. Add the wet ingredients into the dry. Stir until fully combined and homogeneous.
6. Pour into prepared pans and bake for 25 to 30 minutes or, until deep golden and firm. Note that a single large pan may require an additional 10 minutes.
7. Mix: Serve with loosely whipped cream.



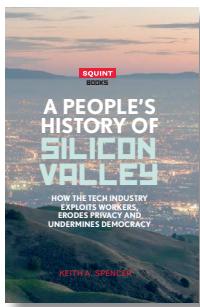
BOOKSHELF

Recent Releases



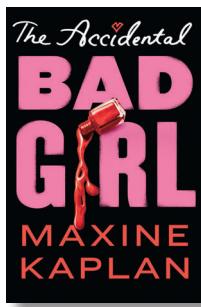
HEAVY:
An American Memoir
Kiese Laymon '98
SCRIBNER

Laymon's memoir is addressed to his mother, a woman whose desperate efforts to keep her son from danger made their own home dangerous with her sometimes brutal discipline. Laymon's quest for excellence is apparent in his work, but the cost makes the equation complicated. "Laymon's writing, as rich and elegant as mahogany, offers us comfort even as we grapple with his book's unflinching honesty," writes Saeed Jones in the *New York Times*.



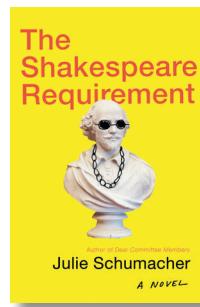
**A People's History of Silicon Valley:
How the Tech Industry
Exploits Workers,
Erodes Privacy
and Undermines
Democracy**
Keith A. Spencer '09
SQUINT BOOKS

Many of us who use our smartphones to book our Uber to take us to our Airbnb might think—if we think anything of it—that it's all kind of cool. San Francisco-based writer Keith A. Spencer is here to kill our buzz. While hip upstarts forming Silicon Valley startups tout their benefits—to employees and, sometimes, to all of humanity in general, Spencer shows us that the one thing they're not disrupting is traditional capitalism. Taking as his inspiration Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States*, Spencer explores how tech companies exploit cheap global labor as well as the private lives of its customers.



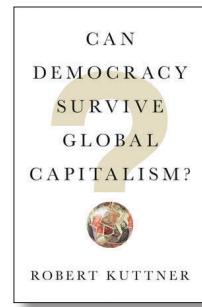
**The Accidental
Bad Girl**
Maxine Kaplan '07
AMULET

Kendall Evans begins her final year at her private New York high school with every insecure teen's biggest fear: to be caught with her best friend's ex and blackmailed into dealing drugs as a result. Okay, maybe not every teen. But Kendall's slide into a life of crime seems entirely plausible as told by Kaplan, who seems to understand the complex language of her characters—the gestures, glances, heavy sighs, and the single word that cuts sharp and deep. The sexual double standards and the predatory practices of some of the boys exposed in the book make *The Accidental Bad Girl* particularly relevant now.



**The Shakespeare
Requirement**
Julie Schumacher '81
DOUBLEDAY

The Shakespeare Requirement takes place on the campus of Payne University, where the gloomy English department literally labors beneath gleaming econ in its renovated second-floor faculty offices. While econ is skylight-lit and abuzz with buzzwords, English has a colony of wasps strafing hapless faculty members in nearly Dickensian digs. The university dean sends out a memo titled "The Road to Ecexellence," and helpful student leaders greet new students wearing t-shirts emblazoned with the orientation slogan "Get Ready for Payne." Such pleasures abound in this new novel, a sequel to Schumacher's *Dear Committee Members*, which earned this University of Minnesota faculty member the Thurber Prize for American Humor.



**Can Democracy
Survive Global
Capitalism?**
Robert Kuttner '65
NORTON

Americans sometimes confuse capitalism for democracy, and vice versa, but Kuttner argues that global capitalism, through policies that leave workers unprotected, bankers unregulated, corporation untaxed, and national economic security undermined, has put democracy in jeopardy. Kuttner, cofounder and coeditor of *The American Prospect* and the Ida and Meyer Kirschstein Chair at Brandeis University, offers a counter to runaway, predatory capitalism. "If democracy is to survive," he writes, "the cycle will need to be reversed. This will require much stronger democratic institutions and a radical transformation of capitalism into a far more social economy."

GENEROSITY IN FULL BLOOM

Tian Yoon Teh '19, a student in the Conservatory of Music, believes that giving—like performance arts—takes practice. She loves that alumni, faculty, staff, and fellow students collectively invest in students' success and growth.

Tian benefited from scholarships and wanted to pass her good fortune on to others, so she incorporated a fundraising event into her senior recital. In the Bertram and Judith Kohl Building of the conservatory she installed 500 carnations in gradients of red. When the flowers were in full bloom, students were asked to make a gift to the Annual Fund in exchange for a flower.

Join Tian in making an Oberlin education a reality for those who otherwise could not afford it. Your support will help students bloom.

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

OBERLIN

COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY



TANYA ROSEN JONES '97





EMBRACING WHO WE NEED TO BE

THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF
PRESIDENT CARMEN TWILLIE AMBAR

The inauguration of Carmen Twillie Ambar as Oberlin's 15th president offered a chance for the community to reflect on all that Oberlin has achieved and celebrate what makes it unique. The weekend featured homecoming, the dedication of the Terrell Main Library, open hours at the Allen Memorial Art Museum, a concert showcasing the broad diversity of talents and musical style in our community, a keynote address from acclaimed architect Sir David Adjaye, and an exhibit of undergraduate research. Her remarks encouraged the community to carry a spirit of boldness in the face of uncertainty, adding that it was in the nature of Oberlin to embrace radical change. ▶

Over the past nearly 185 years, Oberlin has evolved in ways its founders probably never would have imagined. But that passion, that perfectionism, that belief in hard work—they’re still active strands of who we are. At Oberlin, we still apply their learning and labor, and we still believe in having an impact on the world.

THANK YOU ALL. THANK YOU TO CHRIS Canavan ’84, to all of our Board of Trustees, to all of the faculty, staff, students, and alumni leaders who are here today. To the entire inaugural committee and

Professors Meredith Gadsby and Jan Miyake, I want to thank you for all of your efforts. As this time has drawn closer, I’ve seen the various committee members around campus, and they were still smiling at me, but it was that sort of strained smile that you give when you are in the midst of a project that you’re hoping ends sometime soon. But I have to say that they have planned each and every event in just wonderful fashion.

When we first began talking about this moment, we all agreed that it wasn’t about an individual, that it was rather about Oberlin College, the celebration of our historic institution, and the opportunity to think collectively about our future. There is no doubt in my mind that when they were designing these days, they demonstrated our institutional values: the liberal arts, academic and musical excellence, access and opportunity, and our fundamental commitment to ensuring that our graduates have an impact on the world. The committee really elevated all those values during the course of the various events, and they’ve done it fantastically. I promise you, committee members, it is almost over.

I want to acknowledge my family that is here today. As an African American woman, it’s hard to get before a group of people and not talk about your ancestors. When I think back to my grandparents and my great-great-grandparents, that lineage, my aunts and uncles, I just don’t know if they could have imagined a moment like this. I think that is particularly true of my parents. You all have heard me tell my parents’ personal story. You know that I’m five generations removed from slavery. You know that my dad grew up picking cotton in the Delta region of Arkansas. You know that he was living in a small town that they referred to as “Dark Corner.” You know that my mom grew up in a small town in Searcy. And somehow that little black girl got her mind wrapped around getting a PhD in dance. My parents don’t come from means. And they grew up at a time when the laws of the land were explicitly designed not just to marginalize—but to relegate to the back—African Americans. But they persevered like a lot of black folks did against all odds. They impressed upon my siblings and me a love of learning, a commitment to hard work. You’ve heard my dad’s saying: “Plow to the end of your row.” He’s said that to me on so many occasions. He was saying to me work hard and do it well. He taught us to be people of faith, to have faith in something bigger than yourself. My parents taught me that anything was possible, even if there weren’t really any images around them that demonstrated that it was true. So I stand here today as a daughter, and because of the efforts of Manuel and Gwendolyn Twillie, as the 15th president of Oberlin College.

Since arriving at Oberlin, I’ve had the most fantastic experiences. I’ve attended classes in a range of disciplines in the arts and sciences and the conservatory. I’ve watched our amazing students perform as musicians, as actors, as athletes. I’ve conducted the orchestra. I’ve watched our faculty and our students present their research. I’ve seen our campus community’s commitment to service. I’ve met alumni all over the world, and I’ve gotten to know remarkable people. You’ve welcomed my family and me, and after a year on campus, I remain humbled, honored, and inspired by you. This institution, frankly, has had that effect on anyone that’s come in contact with it. You have had this sway for years. Here’s how one visitor put it in 1965: “I can never come to this campus,” he said, “without a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude for all that this great institution has done for the cultural, political, and social life of our nation and the world.” And then he added, “By all standards of measurement, Oberlin is one of the great colleges, not only for our nation, but for the world.” And that is still true. That was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., speaking to the graduates of the Class of 1965. What King was praising that day was what Oberlin was created to do: to set an example for the world and then send its graduates out into it to change the world for good.

That was the vision of the two men who founded Oberlin in 1833, the Reverend John Shipherd and the missionary Philo P. Stewart. They were Christian perfectionists who set out to create a new kind of community and college, and their Oberlin was a place where educational innovation and physical labor would lead students toward perfection. Oberlin would train teachers and preachers who would spread this mix of evangelical fervor, hard work, and austere living far and wide. Over the past nearly 185 years, Oberlin has evolved in ways its founders probably never would have imagined. But that passion, that perfectionism, that belief in hard work—they’re still active strands of who we are. At Oberlin, we still apply their learning and labor, and we still believe in having an impact on the world. But today perhaps, more than ever, the world needs the example of Oberlin. You’ve heard me say on many occasions that I believe the world needs more Oberlin graduates. And I believe that to be true because I believe there’s an Oberlin way of thinking that can serve this country, that can serve the world, no matter what the field. So I stand by that declaration. I now believe that we have a historic opportunity to advance Oberlin’s mission and its legacy of leadership.

Now one of the things that is interesting is when you look back on your own history, and you are viewing it from the benefit of hindsight, you can sometimes believe that it’s just obvious that you would end up where you are. You’ve heard people recount Oberlin’s history, our leadership and our evolution, and maybe in hindsight, it seems predestined. The first college to accept students

without regard to race. Admitting women from its founding. The first to grant a degree to a woman of color. And the multitude and multitude of changes that have happened over these nearly 185 years. I suspect, in retrospect, it can seem like, well, of course Oberlin would be the place where higher education would serve a greater cause, that scholarship and social justice would march arm in arm. In retrospect, it might seem inevitable. But that's a framing of our history that's devoid of the challenge of it all. It sweeps away the rancor and disagreements. It takes the difficult and the complicated and the rethinking and the change, and it makes it all look easy with the passage of time. It has not been inevitable, my friends, the ways that we've changed over the years. And it has not been easy. It wasn't even clear to Oberlin's founders what this brand new college would be. They had very little money, they had very few followers.

Here's what the change looked like in the early years. They created this community and college literally from nothing, they embraced innovation, they introduced new ideas and methods, evaluated them, drew conclusions. Here was their first innovation: at Oberlin, they required every student to spend four hours a day doing physical labor. I know, students, you want me to bring that back. That's where we got our motto, "Learning and Labor." The notion was that students would get healthy exercise working in the fields and forest, and that their labor would feed the campus and keep Oberlin's cost down. It was an innovation at the time. But by the early 1840s, Oberlin had moved away from this manual labor requirement. As Professor Geoffrey Blodgett '53, the late, great historian wrote, student labor was simply too expensive and inefficient. And it was cheaper to buy meat and produce from local farms. So while we changed that requirement, our model of learning and labor remained. The Oberlinians of the time were willing to change and to move away from what was an innovation at the time but no longer serving the institution. Change and the things that come with it can seem inevitable when all the work is done. But it's not for the people in that moment who have to make it so. Even the opening of our doors to women—an innovation in higher education absolutely—Oberlin was at the fore. You might say inevitable, right? Well, not really. If you read our history, you'll see that women students were equal in the classroom, but there was some debate about that, because not all of the opportunities were open for women. And the college tried, very diligently, to keep women and men apart. And by all accounts, we weren't necessarily the hotbed of the suffrage movement, but generations and generations of Oberlin women worked hard to get to where we are today. In hindsight, this can look like an easy achievement, but you're sweeping away the difficulty. You're sweeping it away if you think that's true.

What about the seminal decision to admit students without regard to race? You've heard that happened in 1835, when Oberlin was just a little more than a year old; it had just appointed its first permanent president. It was a time of great excitement but also a time of great uncertainty. The nation was rapidly expanding, waves of evangelical fervor were sweeping the country, but in many states slavery was the law of the land. And Oberlin was struggling financially. It's against that backdrop that the Board of Trustees took up the then-dangerous question of educating African Americans. While many of the men on the board at that time shared abolitionist sympathies, they were also concerned that admitting black students at such a fragile time in the institution's infancy, and at a time when no other college in the country had done so, might destroy Oberlin. There were others who felt that it might be fine to admit the occasional black student, but do we need to enact a policy? Is that necessary? And there were some who suggested that maybe we should let another institution do it first and see how it works out for them. There were discussions and meetings. I suspect there was probably some disagreement, but the trustees finally voted. And the vote was split right down the middle. That's when Reverend John Keep, who was chairman of the board at the time, made a courageous choice. He chose to put principle above all, to lead rather than follow, and he cast the tie-breaking vote to admit black students. I would suggest to you that in that moment, once again Oberlin's boldness was demonstrated.

Inevitable, that history? Not at all. Even after the vote, I don't think the trumpet sounded and there was a parade, and it was magical. There was still work to be done. In fact, Reverend Keep would suffer personal harm because of his vote. He was shunned by many, and churches that had previously allowed him into the pulpit no longer allowed him there.

That momentous bold choice didn't make any of the other path-breaking things we've done any easier, but it did teach us something. It taught us that we have a DNA of boldness. That we have an ability to do the difficult. And it set a precedent for us leading higher education, and it embedded in us a deep story that now reflects the nature of who we are. I don't want to overstate the analogy, but I think it's fair to say that we're living in uncertain times. Not just national uncertainty, but uncertainty for small, private liberal arts colleges. There are deep social, political, and economic divisions in this country. Technology is rapidly changing the way we live and work. Income inequality is growing deeper and deeper. It's just an uncertain time. It's true for small colleges too. The public perception of the liberal arts and our value; the rising cost and the difficulty of students from economic disadvantage to afford what we offer; prospective student numbers shrinking; competition becoming fierce; and the changing expectations of what

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BOLD BEGINNING ON A LOVELY DAY

President Ambar turned her inauguration weekend into a celebration of all things Oberlin, including the wide-ranging Inauguration Prism Concert, which featured a bagpiper, Oberlin Taiko, a brass ensemble, Oberlin's a capella singers [2], a side-by-side performance of the Oberlin High School String Orchestra with conservatory students, a folk duet, opera singers, a jazz trio, dancers and musicians from the Djapo Cultural Arts Institute [3], an organ soloist, and Oberlin Steel. During the inauguration ceremony, distinguished guests such as Johnnetta Betsch Cole '57, director emerita of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art and president emerita of Spelman and Bennett Colleges [1], and the Inaugural Gospel Choir [4] welcomed President Ambar to Oberlin. The weekend's festivities also included an inauguration symposium, a keynote lecture with National Museum of African American History and Culture architect Sir David Adjaye [6], an undergraduate research open house, a night with President Ambar at the 'Sco (see her playlist of dance music in Around Tappan Square in this magazine), and the culmination of her Presidential Fitness Challenge, a 31-day program encouraging healthy physical activity among those in the Oberlin community [5].

For more photos and video of the weekend, visit oberlin.edu/inauguration.



colleges like Oberlin should and can provide. Some of the challenges are our own: that our expenditures don't match up with our revenues, that our values are colliding with our financial realities. We're having to ask ourselves the questions: How do we balance those values, and are we going to have to elevate some over others? We're asking ourselves whether we're going to be a place that celebrates difference—but only the difference we agree with.

So the question is, what should we do? You've heard me say it. We can do anything, but we can't do everything. So what should we do? Well the first step, I would say to you, is to tap into our origins. To tap into that bold DNA that resulted in a move undertaken by one vote but undertaken nonetheless. It changed the course of history, and it changed the course of Oberlin College.

Second, we have to remember who we are, that we have the ability to lead. In fact, we have the imperative to do so; that through our history we've not only been open to change, in fact we've been open to fairly radical changes compared to our peers. And that we can do the difficult and deal with the disagreements and rancor on our way to rethinking and having the change that will serve us best.

On a practical level, of course we have to secure our financial footing, but doing so makes our commitment to the liberal arts possible. It makes our commitment to scholarship and teaching and research and creativity and artistry possible. And yes, that will mean letting go of some things that no longer serve us. We can't hold on to who we are so much so that we can't embrace who we need to be. If we do that, then we will be able to see innovations that abound. We'll be able to set our sights on what it means to be the next generation of a liberal arts college. Might it mean broadening the scope of students? Might it mean distinctive new majors in areas of study and academic disciplines that both connect with the classical liberal arts but also connect with cutting-edge disciplines of the future? Might it mean strengthening and advancing our connections internationally? Might it mean being more explicit about the Oberlin experience and how it connects our students to their lives after Oberlin? I believe we have to do all of these things. The challenges are real, but the opportunities are broad. It can sometimes be difficult to see your destination when it's far in the future. Getting there will be a lot of hard work. If my dad were up here, what would he say to us? You've got to plow to the end of your row.

But I just told you your own history. I just told you who we are. And I just told you what we're capable of. The truth is, that we're not only capable of it, we have some distinctive advantages in seizing the opportunities that we seek. The first is that we have this community. This community is a group of the finest minds on the planet. Steeped in knowledge, practiced in rigor, and blessed with abundant creativity. We have this unique

constellation of an outstanding liberal arts college, a great conservatory, and a world class museum, and this combination offers a wealth of opportunities. We have our own liberal arts training that's prepared us for the rigor. We just have to apply the basic tenets: research, inquiry, critical analysis, interdisciplinary thinking, looking at the challenges from multiple viewpoints. Yes, our resources are constrained, but let's be honest—relative to others, they're substantial. And then we have the power and arc and momentum of Oberlin's history. We have this moment. So yes, we're at a decision point, that's true. Higher education is. Small, private liberal arts colleges are. But I expect Oberlin to embrace it, because that's what we've done throughout our history. Amidst uncertainty, we figure out how to capture our future and advance our mission. And we can't reject innovation because it doesn't feel like Oberlin. The Oberlin way of doing things is to determine the right thing to do, and then do it in the Oberlin way.

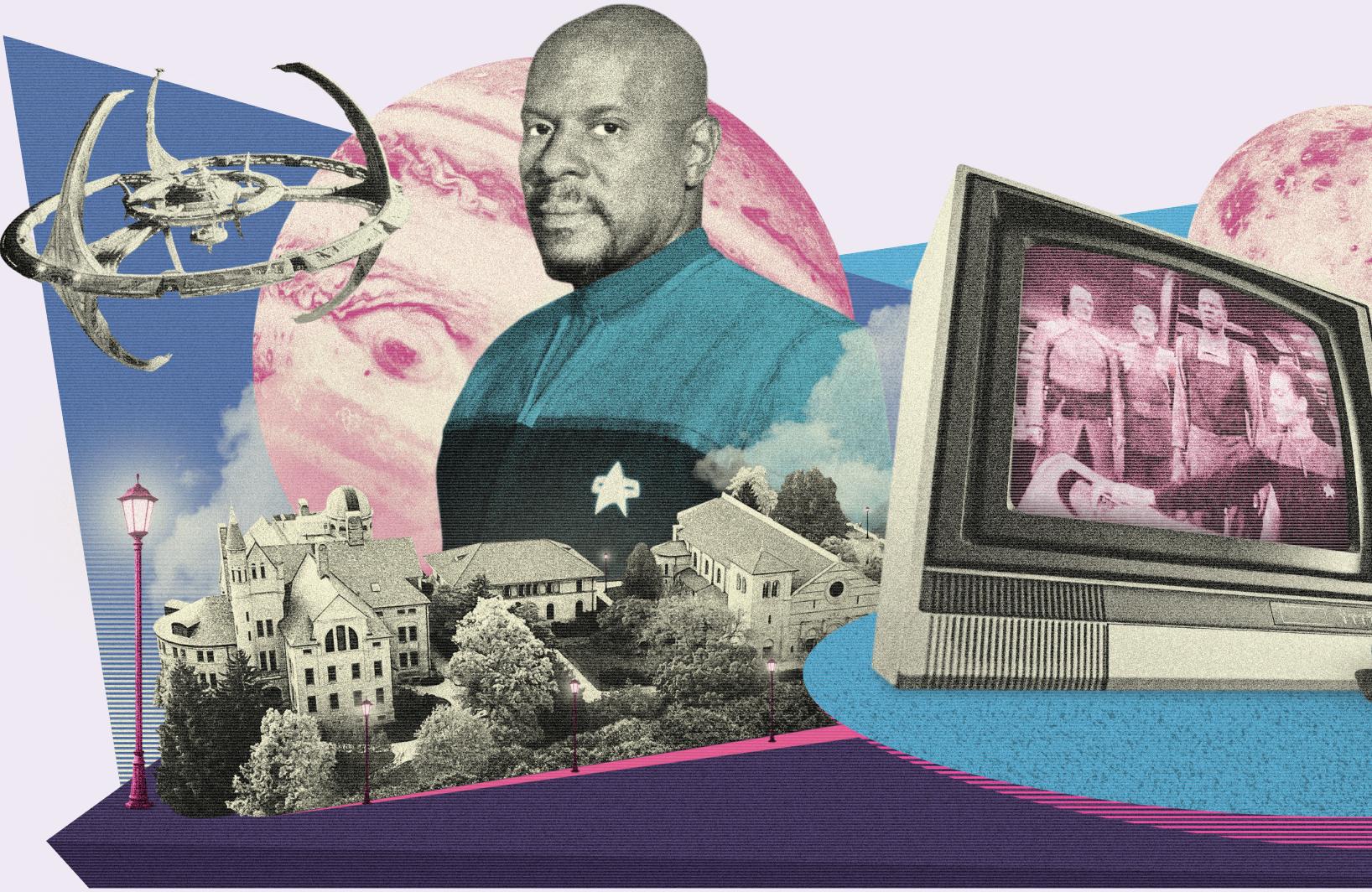
I know we're not going to choose not to change. I absolutely know that we're not going to let some other institution lead the way, because if we were to do that, we would be abandoning who we are. I know we're going to seize this opportunity and ask ourselves the hard questions. We've already started to do that here at Oberlin. Yes, in part because of necessity, but it's fueled by the possibility of reimagining how the college and conservatory can best live out its mission in the next century. No, we've never done this before, but we have to do it because the moment demands it. Just the way the moment demanded it of John Keep. We're the stewards of this legacy, and this is another moment. This is our stake in the history of this place. The history of this place changing the world. The transformational nature and power of the Oberlin education. We have an obligation to carry it forward.

So, this weekend we're going to enjoy each other. We're going to sample from Oberlin's offerings—the music, the art, and ideas. But let's not forget what made this possible. Let's not look back through the compressed, brightly lit lens of history and think it was all easy. Yes, we're going to return to our rhythms, but I'm hopeful that we will reflect on our role in this ongoing challenge of reimagining the liberal arts. Here's our task in a single sentence: Our task is to make the not-so-inevitable inevitable. If we do that together, with optimism, then we will lead the future. Not any one of us has the full answer, but we do know our history. We know that our innovations and our firsts were born out of the initial decision to be bold. If we're willing to do that, despite the challenge and the complexity and the disagreements, our future will be more than we've ever dreamed, and we will ensure that Oberlin, this great institution, will continue to lead for years and years and years to come.

Thank you so much. ■

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Amidst uncertainty, we figure out how to capture our future and advance our mission. And we can't reject innovation because it doesn't feel like Oberlin. The Oberlin way of doing things is to determine the right thing to do and then do it in the Oberlin way.



FIRST CONTACT

I LET STAR TREK PICK MY COLLEGE

BY KENDRA JAMES '10
ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN OLBRYS FOR OAM

MY SELF-PERCEIVED “WEIRDNESS” PLAYED heavily in my college application process. I wrote essays about my “edgy” love of comic books (it was 2005, and I was still “not like other girls”); my second-grade obsession with World War II; and the harrowing customer service adventure I had with eBay after the bootleg, regionless *Star Trek: Deep Space 9* DVDs I’d special ordered from Singapore failed to arrive in my high school’s mail room. *Deep Space 9* was my favorite *Star Trek* series, and at that point, full season DVDs still cost upwards of \$55—the approximate price of a college application fee.

I perceived my lost shipment as a tragedy worthy of a school-requested supplemental essay detailing a “challenge I had overcome in life.” And so the schools that refused to just take my Common Application essay about attempting to read *Mein Kampf* as an 8-year-old also had the pleasure of receiving a detailed explanation of my *Star Trek* fandom.

Star Trek was a constant in my house, something both of my parents enjoyed. And four months after Captain Picard’s crew had their encounter with Q at Farpoint in 1987 on *The Next Generation*, I joined in on the obsession. But it wasn’t until 1993’s *Star Trek: Deep Space 9*

that I found my home in the *Trek* franchise. It was my point of first contact.

The quick attachment I formed with *DS9* hinted at the things that would be essential to my enjoyment of television later in life. It was my first taste of a fully fleshed out, multiseries story arc; the seven-season show spends five seasons taking viewers through the complicated politics that eventually lead to war between the Federation and the Dominion. While I didn’t understand it then, the women of this *Trek* series were also fleshed out to a degree that was unusual for the time—especially in science fiction—and there were many of them, allowing the show to offer broad spectrums of womanhood. And, of course, there was the show’s diversity, showcased in its lead protagonist: Commander Benjamin Sisko. The character, played by Avery Brooks, was many things throughout *DS9*’s run: a captain, a war hero, a 1950’s science fiction writer, a baseball enthusiast, even a god. But before any of that, we learn one thing: Sisko is a single black father.

In my college essays, I waxed poetic about how much Ben Sisko and, by proxy, Brooks, meant to me as a sci-fi loving black kid. He and his teenage son, Jake, were some of the very few



College page looking for dirt. What I wasn't prepared to see was a familiar name under the section marked "Notable Alumni": Avery Brooks '70.

It wasn't more than 10 minutes after that that I alerted both my parents and my college counselor that I would be attending Oberlin College for my undergraduate degree, the first from my high school to do so in over a decade. If Commander Benjamin Sisko went there, then it was surely good enough for me—winters be damned. I would freeze for Avery Brooks. *Besides*, I reasoned with myself with all the logic of a teenager ingratuated in fandom, *maybe if I go to Oberlin, he'll come back and do something on campus and I'll get to meet him*.

Yes: The possibility of meeting Brooks was how I decided where I would spend the next four years of my life. Luckily, I liked Oberlin, and why I'd ended up there was quickly forgotten as I made friends, became very involved in anthropology, and helped my freshman year boyfriend care for his pet caiman. Even better, my original logic ultimately paid off.

Avery Brooks returned to campus my junior year to do a staged reading of *Death of a Salesman*. The raw sadness of Brooks' Willy Loman left an open wound that each member of the audience had to care for long after we'd left the makeshift science center theater. His performance has stayed with me for years. Some students attended for the love of live theater, some came simply to see Avery Brooks, but all of us were moved. The *Star Trek* fans were obvious—a number of us waited in line to meet him after the show. Seeing so many of my fellow students clutching scripts, DVDs, commemorative plates, and other bits of memorabilia, I remember second-guessing my decision not to bring anything with me. My friend Dan, a fellow Trekkie, stood next to me in line, and we kept nervously assuring each other that we just needed to talk to him.

The student in front of us (holding a binder that seemed to contain every *Star Trek* DVD and insert ever made) walked away, and we found ourselves standing in front of Benjamin Sisko. I immediately burst into tears.

It quickly became one of those terrible moments that everyone fears having with someone they've admired for so long. You're overcome by emotion, sobs, and a phlegmy substance that seems to coat your throat from out of nowhere. Every speech you've considered making immediately flies from your head. You can't form words, and what is at most a 45-second interaction feels like it's lasted for three hours.

I don't remember what I said. I'm sure I began trying to explain how my family had loved *DS9* so much that we would break the "no TV at dinner" rule on Saturday nights and watch it

together as a family in the kitchen. That my parents were so invested in the ongoing Dominion War, that even if I'd lost my TV privileges that week, they'd make me eat dinner backwards from the table so that they could still watch the newest episode (peak black parenting). I know I began trying to explain what seeing Commander Sisko on television meant to me, as a black kid. How amazing it was to have *Deep Space 9* be the first science fiction show I ever really glommed onto, because it meant that from a young age, seeing black people as main protagonists in sci-fi and fantasy was normal to me. There was no question that these were the characters I should demand, and that these were the stories I should be writing, because *Deep Space 9* laid the groundwork for me at age 5. *Deep Space 9* was my first contact with myself in the science fiction genre, and so it gave my imagination permission to blossom. It gave me permission to center myself and others who looked like me.

Brooks was patient as I explained some version of this through snot and tears. The only reason I know I was somewhat coherent was because of his eventual response.

"I know," he said. "That's why I did it. So that you could watch."

I cried some more and headed back to the dorm. The entire interaction likely lasted less than a minute.

In a conversation with a theater and film professor at Oberlin, Brooks would later elaborate on what he'd said. Why had the idea of doing *Star Trek* intrigued him? "Because brown children must be able to participate in contemporary mythology," he said. In other words, all kids need to see themselves in popular media, have action figures to buy that look like them, characters to argue over on the recess playground when it comes time to choose who gets to be who in a game of pretend. Brooks did that for me. There are so many more characters for brown children to look up to now—so many more points of first contact for a nerdy brown kid who dreams in the language of warp cores and stardust. But for me, he was the first—and when someone has that much of a profound effect on you at a young age, it stays with you. My college choice process was impulsive, yes, but I doubt I'm alone, and I doubt I'll be the last one. So, when your now 9-year-old tells you, seemingly out of nowhere, that they are going to the University of Alabama in 2027, just accept it. They probably just want the chance to meet "notable alum" Sonequa Martin-Green and thank her for *Star Trek: Discovery*, their own point of first contact.

bits of representation I had in the genre I loved and are still the best examples of fleshed out black characters from that time. They meant the world to me. When I couldn't afford the official, licensed DVDs of my favorite seasons (five and seven, FYI), I turned to Singapore via eBay. Not receiving them wasn't an option.

Despite hinging my chances at an adequate secondary education on being a Trekkie, I was accepted to most of the 15 schools I applied to. Over time, I narrowed my choice to two: Pitzer and Oberlin.

Both colleges had the slightly wacky, liberal arts feel I wanted after three years at a gated, New England prep school. I'd been offered two excellent financial aid packages—but neither covered travel costs, and so my parents were pushing for Oberlin. The small school was only an eight-hour drive from our home in New Jersey, but I was tired of dealing with harsh winters and thought I heard Los Angeles calling my name. I decided to throw together a decent list of Pitzer's pros to stand against Oberlin's obvious cons ("Oberlin," I noted, "is in Ohio") in order to secure my college of choice.

I visited Wikipedia for the first time in the spring of 2006, scrolling through the Oberlin

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A

OBERLIN COLLEGE NAMES ITS MAIN LIBRARY AFTER CIVIL

BANNER

RIGHTS LEADER MARY CHURCH TERRELL, CLASS OF 1884

HELD

BY REBEKKAH RUBIN '13

HIGH



In 1952, 88-year-old Mary Church Terrell stood on the picket line in front of Murphy's Dime Store in Washington, D.C., protesting its segregated lunch counter.

This picket line was a component of a campaign she had launched two years earlier that led to the desegregation of dining establishments in D.C. and paved the way for lunch counter sit-ins throughout the South. But 70 years earlier, Mary Church Terrell was more likely to be in the Ladies' Hall at Oberlin College than holding picket signs. The dormitory stood on the corner of Professor and College streets, just yards away from the present-day Mary Church Terrell Main Library in Wilder Bowl. After dinner, Terrell would slip down from her room to the gymnasium. There, she and a friend would glide across the floor, trying out the latest dance moves—despite the college's edicts against women dancing at college functions. When Terrell wasn't illicitly dancing, she immersed herself in the academic and social worlds of Oberlin. She founded clubs, served as president of a literary society, sang in the Musical Union, and edited the *Oberlin Review*. She received her bachelor's degree from Oberlin in 1884—becoming the fifth black woman in the United States to earn a college degree. (Her four predecessors were also Oberlin graduates.) She wrote in her memoir, *A Colored Woman in a White World*, that "all during my college course I dreamed of the day when I could promote the welfare of my race." Some 70 years later, when picketing in front of Murphy's Dime Store, Terrell had accomplished a lifetime of activism stemming from her experiences as a student at Oberlin.

In October 2018, 134 years after Terrell's graduation and coinciding with President Carmen Twillie Ambar's inauguration as Oberlin's first black female president, Oberlin's main library was named the Mary Church Terrell Main Library.

"I was just elated!" says Alexia Hudson-Ward, director of libraries, when learning that the Board of Trustees was considering naming the main library after Terrell. "For us to be able to claim this powerful woman who typifies our tag line of one person changing the world...I was just beaming. For decades, ever since the Mudd Center opened and was dedicated in the early 1970s, people thought that because it was Mudd

Center, it was Mudd Library, but there is no official record of that."

Hudson-Ward credits a 2016 symposium held at Oberlin titled "Complicated Relationships: Mary Church Terrell's Legacy for 21st Century Activists" with reintroducing Terrell into academic and popular discourse, particularly at Oberlin. Carol Lasser, now emerita professor of history, and Pam Brooks, the Jane and Eric Nord Associate Professor of Africana Studies, organized the symposium, which included work presented by Oberlin students and alumni, as well as scholars of Terrell's life. The symposium coincided with the donation of a collection of Terrell's papers to the Oberlin College Archives by her descendants, Ray and Jean Langston.

"We think Terrell is a fascinating character and someone who really demonstrates how intricately tied gender and race are," Lasser says. "We felt that [the symposium] was an opportunity to work together to 'think with' Mary Church Terrell."

To continue the conversation, Hudson-Ward, College Archivist Ken Grossi, and the library staff created an exhibit on Terrell that debuted in the Main Library during Commencement/Reunion Weekend 2018. Since then, Hudson-Ward and her team have created a digital initiative as well as a traveling exhibition. Hudson-Ward hopes the traveling exhibition will spark interest in Terrell and point people of all ages to the online space, and perhaps even lead them to the Terrell collections in the Oberlin College Archives.

"[Naming the Main Library after Terrell] is a perfect opportunity at the moment when we're celebrating the first African American woman president at Oberlin—we're really good at black firsts—but hopefully we can celebrate those firsts and use them as ways to engender continuing work and a liberated, progressive understanding of how to be educated in this present world," says Brooks.

The Mary Church Terrell Main Library, housed in Mudd Center, encompasses the first through fourth floors, as well as the Moffat Auditorium on the lower level, or A-Level. The Houck Center for Information Technology, or



Mary Church Terrell, fourth from left, at a protest against a segregated Washington, D.C., lunch counter.



CIT, located on A-Level, remains part of Mudd Center but not part of the Terrell Main Library. To coincide with the naming, Hudson-Ward said there was some “refreshing” of the Main Library, including new paint and furniture.

“We wanted students, in particular, to be inspired by her story. Sometimes people see leaders and think a leader emerges fully formed, not realizing that they, at one time, were a student too—that they negotiated some of the exact same challenges that our current students have and will continue to negotiate, but they were successful in it and went on and did amazing work in the arena of social justice and cultural diversity and civil rights,” Hudson-Ward says.

Mary Church Terrell did just that. Mary Church, known as Mollie, was born in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1863, the year of the Emancipation Proclamation. Her parents decided to send her to Ohio for school, first to the town of Yellow Springs, and then to Oberlin. Her father was one of the wealthiest black men in the South, having invested in real estate, and her mother owned a Memphis hair salon when it was uncommon for women to own businesses. It was in Yellow Springs when Mollie Church first realized she was “descended from the very slaves who the Emancipation Proclamation set free.” She was the only black girl in her class, and as a result, felt she “must hold high the banner of [her] race.”

Mollie Church continued to “hold high the banner of her race” at Oberlin High School,

where she was one of three black students out of 12 in total. She prepared to enroll in the Classical Course at the college, rather than the Literary Course that was generally pursued by women and did not confer a degree. Her friends protested that no black man would want to marry her if she held a bachelor’s degree, but she remained undeterred.

“I could not see how any student could have enjoyed the activities of college life more than I did,” Terrell wrote in her memoir. She considered her studies an “indoor sport” and excelled in them, particularly in Latin and Greek. Her education enabled her later work as an activist, but her college years were instrumental in another way: Oberlin cultivated her strength of character and sense of justice. At Oberlin, she learned, “one could secure permission to do almost anything within reason,” and she took advantage of that; she visited Cleveland to see Shakespeare productions, although the college prohibited theatergoing, and she obtained permission to study until midnight when the curfew was 10 p.m. Just as she danced in the gymnasium in Ladies’ Hall, she ensured that the college’s strict rules did not prohibit her from what she believed to be fair.

Terrell’s time in the Aelioian Society, a women’s literary society where members engaged in public debates, was also crucial in training her for her future work. In the Aelioian, she honed her highly acclaimed public speaking skills. She held most of the elected positions in

the society, preparing her for her later work in the women’s club movement, including serving as the first president of the National Association of Colored Women, an organization that fought for social and political equality, and as founder of the College Alumnae Club, an organization for black female college graduates.

Terrell’s interest in poetry flourished at Oberlin, and she maintained an interest in writing poetry and literature throughout her life. Her peers recognized her talent as a freshman, and she hoped to be elected to deliver a poem at the Junior Exhibition in 1883. Chosen instead was a white male student who was not known for his literary prowess. She wrote in her memoir: “there is no doubt whatever that...the fact that I am colored prevented me from receiving the honor which many members of my class thought I deserved.”

After graduating, Terrell was determined to put her education to good use. She traveled throughout Europe, making connections with Oberlin alumni wherever she went. She taught at Wilberforce College in Ohio and M Street Colored High School in Washington, D.C., where she met her future husband, Robert Terrell.

Forced to leave her teaching post after marriage, Terrell grappled with reconciling her Oberlin education with becoming a housewife. She wrote in her diary: “house-keeping is a regular sepulcher in which a woman who wants to accomplish something buries her talent and time.” Instead, she poured her energy into her

A Day to Honor—and Make—History

The official ceremony to name the main library after Mary Church Terrell took place October 6, 2018, during a weekend brimming with celebration: the inauguration of Carmen Twillie Ambar as Oberlin’s 15th president and the reunion of Oberlin Alumni of African Ancestry (OA4). Two faculty members instrumental in the renaming—Pamela Brooks, the Jane and Eric Nord Associate Professor of Africana Studies, and Carol Lasser, emerita professor of history—joined Oberlin College Trustee Lillie Edwards ’75, OA4 Cochair Carolyn Cunningham Ash ’91, Azariah Smith Root Director of Libraries Alexia Hudson-Ward, and President Ambar in marking the occasion, which included the

presentation of original letters belonging to Terrell by Raymond Langston, a Terrell descendant, to Oberlin College Archivist Ken Grossi.

“Again, Oberlin makes history, serving as a progenitor by placing ourselves at the center of an important national conversation regarding who is deserving of the honor of a named space on college campuses,” proclaimed Hudson-Ward. “We assert our leadership position by recognizing the extraordinary accomplishments of this legendary alumna of African descent who typified how one person can change the world.”

Lasser thanked, among others, her students over the years who have

been inspired by Terrell. “May this renaming mark our rededication and our determination to reframe our references and our history.”

After acknowledging her predecessor, Adrienne Lash Jones, emerita professor of African American studies, who died on August 28, 2018, Brooks said she hoped the day’s events would be an inspiration for social change. “In this historical context of today, when all around us this country is tearing itself apart in vicious, partisan battles over the air we breathe, the water we drink, whether we can respect the lives of young black people and the bodies of women, our reason for coming together today can bring renewed hope of a certain kind.

“We recognize that certain worn-out tropes and monuments to white supremacy must come down and that celebrations of this sort

must take their place,” she added.

Edwards also pointed to the importance of place-naming in signaling the values held by those doing the naming.

“There is power in claiming space and place, claiming a location, claiming ownership, and claiming a name,” said Edwards. “Today, Mary Church Terrell, on behalf of all people who believe that intelligence is the torch of wisdom, on behalf of all people who believe in learning and labor, on behalf of all people who are bold enough to specialize in the wholly impossible, on behalf of all people who believe in social justice and human rights, Mary Church Terrell claims and names this space and this place on the campus of Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio.”

Edwards said she envisions visitors passing by Terrell’s name while entering the library and viewing

At Oberlin, she learned, “one could secure permission to do almost anything within reason,” and she took advantage of that.

political work: she chartered the Colored Women’s League with her Oberlin classmate, Anna Julia Cooper; traveled the lecture circuit, first as president of the National Association of Colored Women and later as an esteemed orator in her own right; and served on the board of education for the District of Columbia, the first black woman to do so. Between 1910 and 1920, she was involved in at least 29 different clubs and regularly attended their meetings. She was also integral to the formation of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People.

“She never gave up—she was always scanning the environment to see where to make useful coalitions on behalf of racial and gender justice,” Lasser says.

In 1911, she sought to return to Oberlin to give a lecture on Harriet Beecher Stowe. College President Henry Churchill King wrote that

although an address by Terrell “would certainly not fail to be of special interest,” he rebuffed her by saying that the Lecture Committee felt there had already been a sufficient number of lectures on “the race problem” at that time. It wouldn’t be the last time King heard from Terrell.

Two years later, Terrell’s daughters, Mary Louise and Phyllis—then attending Oberlin—were assigned to segregated housing. Terrell renewed her correspondence with King, writing of her concerns regarding the treatment of black students. She wrote: “Altho [sic] I try to be optimistic in this wicked and cruel country...nothing has come so near forcing me to give up hope...than the heart-breaking back-sliding of Oberlin College. If there had not been brave and generous-hearted men who believed in opening the door of opportunity and hope to Colored people, there would have been no Oberlin College at all.”

When King did not adequately address her concerns, Terrell turned to poetry, once the cause of disappointment when she was an Oberlin student:

*Too many colored Students', the secretary said,
'Why three percent is far too large',
And then he shook his head.
It grieves the secretary
That Oberlin should force
White students to associate
With Colored ones, of course."*

Although Terrell ultimately withdrew her

daughters from Oberlin, her relationship with King remained cordial. The college considered her for an honorary degree in 1935, the centennial of the college’s decision to admit black students, but ultimately passed her over. She was discouraged, believing that conferring an honorary degree on a black woman on the centennial would be a “vindication or justification of the faith which the founders of the college reposed in the race while it was still enslaved.” However, 15 years later, Oberlin conferred on Terrell an honorary degree, the first awarded to a black woman in Oberlin’s history.

“From everything I’ve read and heard from her family, she loved Oberlin,” Ken Grossi says. “She had these complicated relationships with the college, but I think it was because she cared about the place.”

For years, Terrell meticulously detailed the activities of her days in her journals. In 1953, the last year of her life, she had just won the historic fight to integrate eating establishments in Washington, D.C., but she continued to write regular accounts. However, instead of recording her doings in an unremarkable journal, she used a day-planner gifted to her by Oberlin President William Stevenson, filled with scenes of Oberlin.

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the library as “a space where the life of the mind is tied to the quality of life; a space where the life of the mind is inextricably linked to the struggle for human rights; a place

where tradition looks back and vision looks forward to transform the world.”

Ash, an educator who introduced herself as “such a proud alum,

especially today,” said, “there is no greater honor than to teach the next generation and also to have an epicenter of learning—a library—named after you. We hope that Mary Church Terrell is smiling on all of us and this institution right now. We owe her so much.”

Langston presented a box of Terrell’s original letters, which he hoped would allow for a more intimate look at Terrell’s life beyond her civil rights work. Noting that the library’s exhibit on Terrell contained no photographs of Terrell’s husband, Judge Robert Terrell, Langston pledged to donate one to the Oberlin College Archives.

“Through these letters, we have learned an aspect of her life that is not widely known. She had a marvelous sense of humor, and it comes out in these letters. In one letter she wrote, ‘I thought you had

died because I had not received a letter from you in two weeks.’”

Before making the naming official by proclamation, Ambar pointed out that Terrell continued to support Oberlin, even during times of conflict with Oberlin and its president, Henry Churchill King. “You will see in her engagement with Oberlin that she never wavered,” Ambar said. “She still was connected to the institution. She still was engaged with the institution. She still donated to the institution. Because she loved the place and wanted to be involved in the remaking of the institution, even when there were times when she wasn’t happy about particular things.”

Ambar said she hoped that today’s Oberlin alumni would be inspired by that example. “We need you to find the one thing we can agree on, and work on that.” —The Editor

CHOCOLATE

CHOCOLATE



Bitter

De-Colonializing One of the World's Most Popular Foods
By Tom Neuhaus '74 | Illustrations by Danielle Evans for OAM



1 cent on the retail dollar (2 cents under Fair Trade), stand to earn far more. The farmers' children will have jobs in their own villages instead of attempting to seek their fortunes in Europe, only to end up in refugee camps, such as the French camp at Pas de Calais, where disease and despair dominate.

HISTORY OF CHOCOLATE COLONIALISM

Beginning in the early 15th century, Europeans worked hard to colonize Africa. Much of the impetus for this was competition among European city-states such as the Byzantines, the Venetians, the Genoese, the Portuguese, and the Dutch to increase control over land and trade routes. During the colonial period, foodstuffs with long shelf lives that could be stored in the holds of wooden ships or packed onto camels—salt, sugar, molasses, rum, spices, tea, coffee, and cacao—were traded in the great commercial capitals throughout the Middle East, Europe, India, and China.

Cacao lent itself to long transport with minimal spoilage. Unlike coffee, tea, and sugar, which originated in the Middle East and Far East, cacao was a New World commodity. The Amazon River basin features the greatest number of genetic variants of cacao—strong evidence that the Amazon was its botanical birthplace. The fruit, resembling a diminished American football and containing bitter-tasting seeds but sweet-tasting flesh, was greatly appreciated by hunter-gatherers living in the basin. As the plant moved north into Central America, it gained in status. Its inner seeds became the most valuable part and, when fermented, dried, and roasted, lost their bitterness, and doubled as an enticing beverage (*chokolatl*) and as currency for civilizations throughout Central America.

Not only did cacao store well, it was also easy to grow on plantations and fit the Spanish *encomienda* system. It was developed in the early 16th century by the Spanish crown to create haciendas, or plantations, where Christianized Native Americans and later African slaves could produce items whose sales would enrich both the encomenderos and the king.

The Spanish colonial chocolate system consisted of a value chain that began at the plantation, where beans were grown,

WE ALL LOVE CHOCOLATE. IF YOU DON'T, chances are you are either allergic or have mistakenly linked pleasure with guilt. As sweet as chocolate is, however, it does have its bitter notes. And one of them is the intense human suffering that began with Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortéz and which quickly metastasized to Portuguese colonies in West Africa. The legacy of suffering continues to this day; the average West African cocoa farmer earns \$200 per year. Brutal labor practices, including child labor and even child slavery, dominate the industry.

Twenty years ago, consumers woke up to the ugly realities of the chocolate industry, which include what is termed the "worst forms of child labor." This is defined by the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention as "work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety, or morals of children." The result has been a significant investment in the Fair Trade logo and an important penetration of the chocolate market. Fair Trade certification is intended to ensure

that farmers, fisherman, and workers "work in safe conditions, protect the environment, build sustainable livelihoods, and earn additional money to empower and uplift their communities." However, Fair Trade still remains a minor part of the chocolate industry. And even with Fair Trade's small market share, Big Chocolate has taken aim at it, labeling as anti-competitive and socialist in nature Fair Trade's premium (a fixed amount of money earned by the community for every ton of cocoa produced, usually used to purchase items of use to the community) and price floors (a guaranteed minimum price designed to insulate farmers from the impact of dramatic market fluctuations).

Since 2006, Project Hope and Fairness, the nonprofit I founded, has investigated ways to de-colonialize chocolate. One factory, established in Depa, Côte d'Ivoire, is producing chocolate both for local sale and export. The hope is to establish seven chocolate factories in villages near Issia, Côte d'Ivoire, by 2020. By selling their beans to such factories, farmers who previously earned

fermented, and dried. The next link was transport to the Old World, followed by the production and consumption of hot chocolate. Solid chocolate as we know it today was developed in the early 19th century by British chocolate manufacturer Joseph Fry.

Hot chocolate is thought to have originated with the Olmecs more than 3,500 years ago. Roasted, ground beans were mixed with cornmeal and boiling water, then flavored with hot chilies. For commoners, hot chocolate was made thick and frothy; for the aristocracy, it was thin and foamy.

Consumption of this beverage provided fat calories that lasted for hours, and when coupled with a caffeine derivative called theobromine, had strong pharmacological effects. The Spanish, recognizing the drink's value both for sustenance and pleasure, added milk, sugar, and vanilla and subtracted the corn and chilies—resembling the hot cocoa we enjoy today.

Pope Alexander VII, in 1662, boosted the commercial acceptance of hot chocolate by proclaiming, "Liquidum non frangit jejunum," meaning "liquid does not break the fast." Thanks to that edict, hot cocoa became a more genteel form of suffering for wealthy Spanish Christians.

The aristocracy's custom of drinking hot chocolate expanded rapidly throughout Europe, with the best families having servants trained to make the beverage. The practice trickled down to the Spanish and Portuguese middle classes, and soon hot chocolatiers plied the streets with tools for roasting and grinding cocoa and whisking it into a foam. In the more democratic England and Holland, where a large middle class thrived and competed with the aristocracy, hot chocolate joined tea and coffee on the menus of coffeehouses frequented by the burgeoning bourgeoisie. By the end of the 18th century, all three beverages were prepared from the beans or leaves of plants grown on enormous plantations tended by Third World labor.

Beginning in the late 18th century, three sociocultural events shook the chocolate industry, beginning with the French revolution. The principles of *liberté*, *égalité*, and *fraternité* trickled across Europe, helping to create an ever-expanding market for hot chocolate and eventually leading to the second event: the abolition of slavery in England and subsequently in the global sugar and chocolate industries.

But abolition couldn't have happened without the third event: the industrial revolution. The harnessing of water, then steam,

and eventually oil and electricity made it possible to design and manufacture machines that would increase production efficiencies to the point that slavery and other abusive labor practices were no longer needed. Even paid labor was greatly decreased. Today, just one person can run a chocolate bar line that transforms molten chocolate at one end into wrapped bars nestled in retail boxes and set into shipping boxes at the other. A single well-paid worker can produce tens of thousands of dollars worth of chocolate bars—ready to ship and sell—in one eight-hour day.



CURRENT COCOA GROWING REALITIES

Such is not the case with the cocoa beans upon which chocolate is based. The producers of cacao—while not usually slaves—often do work for wages that cannot support a family. Cocoa trees demand huge labor in terms of trimming, weeding, harvesting, fermenting, and drying, and much of that work involves the farmer, his wife, and their children. (Traditionally, husbands raise cash crops such as cacao and coffee, while wives tend to crops like yams, sweet potatoes, plantains, and bananas, selling products at the local market or roadside.) West African cocoa farmers produce well over 65 percent of the world's cacao, most of it belonging to the Forastero variety, also called the "bulk bean." The bean is grown by 2.5 million smallholders, or farmers with less than 10 acres of land, and mostly in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, which produce 61 percent of the world's cacao. When you bite into an inexpensive bar of chocolate purchased at your local movie theater or supermarket, you are consuming the labor of 2.5 million farmers and their children.

West African farmers plant their trees 1.5 to 2 meters apart, ideally yielding between 400 and 485 trees per acre. A single tree produces 40 pods on average, each containing about 40 beans. A dried cocoa bean weighs close to 1 gram, therefore a single tree yields about 1.6 kilograms of dried beans annually; per acre, that's between 640 and 776 kilograms, or 0.64 and 0.776 metric tons. Cocoa currently sells for \$2,135 per metric ton, so a single acre of West African cocoa grosses between \$1,366 and \$1,656 annually.

That \$1,500 or so is money that must pay for chemicals applied to the plants, plus labor if



Love Chocolate? Here are Tom's tips on what you can do to de-colonialize your chocolate today:

Avoid Big Chocolate.

**Purchase Fair Trade Certified
chocolate as much as possible.**

Do business with local bean-to-bar chocolate makers who care about their sources.

Give small parties and show the movie *The Dark Side of Chocolate* (available on YouTube).

Give talks in schools and churches.

Encourage pen pal relationships between American and Ivoirian schoolchildren.

Encourage large organizations, such as corporations, to use village-made chocolate.

Volunteer your expertise and business contacts to help Project Hope & Fairness.

Accompany Tom on one of his trips to witness reality and see how you can help.

HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT ANY OF THESE SUGGESTIONS? CONTACT TOM NEUHAUS AT TWNEUHAUS@GMAIL.COM.

hired. The rest is income for the farmer's family. This explains why the average Ivoirian family has eight children and why children who do poorly in school are pulled out to help with the crops. In Côte d'Ivoire, the average farmer grows one or two cash crops (usually cacao and coffee) and six to eight crops for personal consumption or sale in local markets. On top of this, the average family farms about 10 acres of land. Given the poor yields and high expenses, a cocoa-growing family that focuses solely on producing and selling cocoa beans will not thrive.

Until the year 2000, the chocolate industry largely ignored the poverty of the West African cocoa farmer. That began to change when exposés such as the 2010 documentary film *The Dark Side of Chocolate* revealed the prevalence of Worst Forms of Child Labor (WFCL) and child slavery in the cocoa growing industry. To head off the profit-damaging negative publicity, large chocolate corporations such as Hershey, Mars, Barry-Callebaut, and Nestlé formed several nonprofits, the most important being the World Cocoa Foundation.

More recently, some members of the chocolate community have attempted to deflect attention from family poverty and child labor issues by focusing instead on biodiversity and environmental preservation. They blame cocoa farmers for deforestation, ignoring the poverty of cocoa-farming families. Other members of the chocolate community recognize it is in everyone's interest to work together to improve crop yields, fight environmental degradation, and provide excellent resources so that cocoa farming becomes economically viable.

Blaming deforestation and loss of biodiversity on the cocoa farmer is especially hard to swallow when you've seen the ships that leave San Pedro, the Ivoirian port that exports almost 40 percent of the world's cocoa. On those ships, cocoa-containing containers stacked four layers high rim the sides of the deck, where they encircle giant logs from the rainforest. Those logs have nothing to do with cocoa farmers. They are harvested by forestry corporations and have everything to do with furniture and flooring manufacturers located in Europe, the U.S., and the Far East.

Meanwhile, the largest chocolate producers, such as Hershey—in an effort to be good global citizens—are purchasing cocoa that is

UTZ-certified, a sustainable agriculture classification that certifies cocoa farmers based on positive labor and environmental criteria. It guarantees no price floor or premium but does attempt to provide clarity as far as sourcing. Fair Trade certification, which has stagnated at 15 percent of total cocoa traded, is much more ambitious. It sets a price floor and pays a social premium, used to improve the lives of everyone in a cocoa-farming village.

But despite such certifications and their pretty, feel-good logos that decorate chocolate packaging, the African cocoa farmer remains in the bottom quintile of global wage earners, unable, for example, to purchase anti-malarial medication to save their children from a painful death. Genevieve LeBaron, in her 2018 study, "The Global Business of Forced Labor," concludes: "Ethical certification schemes are largely ineffective in combatting labour exploitation and forced labour in tea and cocoa supply chains."



WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

What to do? How can we bring the African cocoa farmer out of poverty?

Before attempting an answer, it's important to state that many world leaders behave as if they see no future for small farms in Africa—or anywhere else, for that matter. "The Unholy Alliance," a report issued by the Oakland Institute, an independent policy think tank that "brings fresh ideas and bold action to the most pressing social, economic, and environmental issues of our time," contends that major donors (countries and corporations) pattern their contributions to make Africa more friendly to large corporations and more hostile to small farmers.

The current and most popular approach to attacking the cocoa farmer's poverty is to assume that he or she will remain a commodity producer, bound to the vagaries of the international cocoa market and suffering from a host of deficiencies: no capital to purchase fertilizers and other agricultural inputs, poor knowledge on how to convert to organic; insufficient access to the market; roads that are more potholes than

pavement; zero planning skills for maintaining tree vitality; and no knowledge about the relationship between cocoa bean fermentation and flavor quality. To name a few.

Since 2006, Project Hope and Fairness (PH&F) has been striving to find other answers to the question of how to alleviate poverty in cocoa-growing villages.

I have learned much during my 12 years of travel to 12 villages in Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and Cameroon. Most of my acquired knowledge has centered around a single truth: development must occur at the local level and must not trickle down from on high. Oxford-educated economist Dambisa Moya argues in her book *Dead Aid* that most development does more harm than good because it often focuses on the benefits to the giver rather than the recipient. To be effective, rural development must target the individual farmer. Instead of giant chocolate factories in the urban areas, why not create a network of village factories?

To try to turn the farmer into a chocolate producer, PH&F purchased \$11,000 of chocolate-making machinery for the village of Frami, Ghana, in 2014. I spent the better part of a week setting up the factory and meeting with the chief and village officials. But once I was back in the U.S., the entire project quickly collapsed. Why?

To listen to the village officials, it was because PH&F didn't leave enough cash to run the thing. But anyone who has done such projects knows that successful development involves 90 percent cooperation and 10 percent cash (apologies to Thomas Edison). We had driven back and forth, purchasing machinery and solving production problems, such as electricity generation with a Honda diesel generator. The village supplied their best house—one with an actual concrete floor. We had met with village officials, including the chiefs of five villages, who agreed to work together to make a little chocolate factory and shop on the side of the Cape Coast-Kakum road that would cater to busloads of young tourists. Lots of cash and cooperation. But not enough of the latter.

My takeaway from that failure is that much more than a personal commitment of one, two, or three persons is required to ensure success. While the vice chief of Frami had committed to the project, that was not enough. While the big chief said, "We'll make you proud," that turned

out to be mere words. It is possible that petty jealousies between the villages led to ultimate failure. There simply was no governing structure to ensure that the project would survive. Without structure, chaos reigns.

Since then, we have had much better luck in Côte d'Ivoire. This is due to one person: David Logbo Zigro, with whom we have successfully communicated since the beginning of the project. Zigro is well-suited for the project. He is the chief's cousin and the richest man in the village of 400, which

in the jungle where water accumulates. Therefore millions of women throughout the forested regions of West Africa spend hours each day tending rice fields, drying the rice, or pounding it in mortars and winnowing to remove the hulls. A village rice mill would save thousands of hours associated with these time-consuming tasks. And the fact that rice farmers from miles around would spend money at a mill would add important cash flow to the village coffers.

Built in 2013, that rice mill now doubles as a coffee mill—adding yet more cash to the village's coffers. Côte d'Ivoire is the world's fourth-largest producer of coffee; virtually all powdered Nescafé sold in supermarkets from Hong Kong to New York comes from Ivoirian cocoa farmers.

The chocolate-producing portions of the two factories house machines—designed and manufactured in Abidjan—that process cocoa beans and manufacture chocolate that can be formed into disks or bars sold locally or exported. While these machines are crude in appearance (e.g., doors that barely fit), they work well. And commissioning them from an Ivoirian engineer in Abidjan, rather than purchasing a slick German or Italian machine, added even more money to the local economy.

Each factory costs about \$53,000 to build: \$15,000 for the 900-square-foot building, \$10,000 for the Chinese-made rice huller, \$25,000 for five chocolate machines, and \$3,000 to link to the electrical grid.

Our long-term plan is to build factories in seven villages and to brand their products as *Seven Villages Chocolate* or *Chocolat des Villages*. We hope to obtain an air-conditioned store in nearby Issia (population 40,000) to sell chocolate, including truffles with fillings made of African ingredients. We hope also to introduce a line of African cocoa mixes and challenge Nestle's monopoly, which sells its Milo drink mix to 1.2 billion Africans. Finally, we hope to sell *Seven Villages Chocolate* wholesale to American and European retailers. ●

Blaming deforestation and loss of biodiversity on the cocoa farmer is especially hard to swallow.

means he knows how to manage money and has other skills that contribute to success.

In 2012, after seven years of visiting the villages but before meeting Zigro, I asked the chiefs and elders of Depa and Pezoan, Côte d'Ivoire, to submit plans for a small factory in each town. Each factory would be split in half—half for hulling rice and half for manufacturing chocolate. Rice hulling represented a direct cash benefit to the villages. The forest peoples of southern Côte d'Ivoire all grow rice; it's planted in low spots

TOM NEUHAUS IS THE PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER OF PROJECT HOPE & FAIRNESS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.PROJECTHOPEANDFAIRNESS.ORG.

DANIELLE EVANS IS AN ART DIRECTOR AND LETTERING ARTIST FROM COLUMBUS, OHIO. SHE USED COCOA POWDER AND FUDGE TO CREATE THE ARTWORK FOR THIS ARTICLE. FOR MORE OF HER WORK, VISIT WWW.MARMALADEBLEUE.COM.

“OBERLIN HAD EVERYTHING I WANTED.”

—Mark W. Smith ’90



SCOTT SUCHMAN

Mark Smith '90 chose to attend Oberlin because he wanted to combine a strong liberal arts curriculum with advanced training in music. Today, he is a consultant with IBM Watson Health in Washington, DC. But when he first entered college, he wasn't sure what he wanted to do.

“Oberlin had everything I wanted,” he says. “Economics professor Hirschel Kasper became my advisor and mentor and later a professional colleague. A first-year course in Asian art led to a minor in art history and a lifelong passion for Chinese and Japanese painting. And for three years, I studied organ with Haskell Thomson, a nationally known professor.”

After Oberlin, Mark worked in Washington and earned a PhD in economics at Yale.

Like many Obies, he devotes his time to local nonprofit organizations,

and music continues to be a significant part of his life. He chairs the board of directors of the Washington Master Chorale, whose artistic director is Thomas Colohan '92. He also chairs the board of El Porvenir, which addresses the need for clean drinking water in rural Nicaraguan communities.

Mark follows happenings at Oberlin and is pleased by many recent developments, including the addition of the Kohl Building for jazz studies and the LaunchU initiative to support innovation and entrepreneurship.

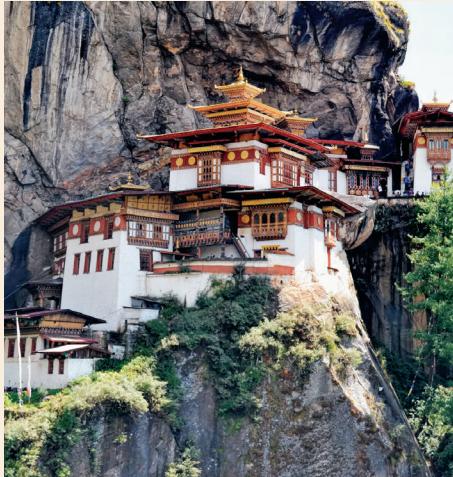
A few years ago, Mark decided to name Oberlin as a beneficiary of his retirement plan as a way to demonstrate his appreciation for the opportunities he had here. Mark's vision and generosity will make similar opportunities possible for future generations of Oberlin students.

Beneficiary designations like Mark's are a simple way to provide a legacy gift that honors your own Oberlin experience. Many retirement and other accounts allow you to update your beneficiaries online or through a simple form provided by the account manager. Our Gift Planning staff would be happy to answer any questions you might have about beneficiary designations or other planned gifts. Please reach out to us at (440) 775-5899 or gift.planning@oberlin.edu or see go.oberlin.edu/Planned-Gifts

OBERLIN
COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY



ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM



BHUTAN: AN INTIMATE JOURNEY THROUGH THE LAST REMAINING HIMALAYAN KINGDOM

October 18-27, 2019

Escorted by Associate Professor of Anthropology Erika Hoffmann-Dillaway

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



GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS, WITH AN OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO PERU

January 4-13, 2020

Escorted by Associate Professor of Environmental Studies Roger Laushman

Located 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador and bisected by the equator lies one of nature's most enchanting destinations—the Galápagos Islands. The Galápagos originally found notoriety in the mid-1800s, when Charles Darwin formulated his theories of evolution from his observations on the unique and plentiful fauna of the region. Journey with us as we embark on an eco-adventure to explore this archipelago and discover wildlife unlike any other on earth! We will have the unique opportunity for extraordinarily close encounters with sea lions, penguins, tortoises, fur seals, and many kinds of seabirds. We will travel aboard Lindblad Expeditions' 24-cabin *National Geographic Islander*. Add an extension to Machu Picchu and Peru's Land of the Inca for an exploration of the Sacred Valley, Cusco, and the majesty of Machu Picchu. Brochure soon available.



ENGLAND'S MAGNIFICENT CATHEDRAL CITIES

June 5-19, 2020

Escorted by Professor of Musicology Charles McGuire '92

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

Losses

Faculty, staff, and friends

Dr. Daniel J. Goulding taught at Oberlin College for 40 years, serving as chair of three departments: communications, theater, and art. A respected film critic and world-renowned expert on Eastern European cinema, he was a pivotal figure in what would become Oberlin's cinema studies program. Dr. Goulding died June 16, 2018, leaving two sons. A Memorial Minute will be published in the next issue of this magazine. ■ **Dr. Patricia Mathews**, a professor of art and architecture for more than two decades at Oberlin, earned a BA from the University of Houston and a PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Mathews' published work focuses primarily on gender, cultural theory, symbolist theory, and 19th- and 20th-century women artists and includes several influential books and dozens of articles. Her second book, *Passionate Discontent: Creativity and Gender in French Symbolist Art*, was nominated in 2001 for the Charles Rufus Morey Award for the most distinguished book in art history that year. She served on a number of national committees, including the National Endowment for the Humanities Awards Committee and the Fulbright Senior Scholar Awards Committee, which honored her with a "Recognition of Outstanding Service" for her tenure as chair. After Oberlin, she taught at Hobart and William Smith Colleges until retiring in 2015. She was a Seneca Lake defender against gas storage and fracking, protested the Sampson Depot Incinerator proposal, and marched in the Women's Rights parade in Seneca Falls. Dr. Mathews died April 2, 2018, leaving her husband, two daughters, and a granddaughter. ■ **Dr. Joseph N. Palmieri**, emeritus professor of physics, graduated summa cum laude from Brown University and earned a PhD in physics at Harvard University. Dr. Palmieri began teaching physics at Oberlin in 1961 and continued until his retirement in 2001. With his wife, Susan, he enjoyed bridge, train trips, and exploring national parks. He was active at Sacred Heart parish and in the Cleveland charismatic renewal for many years. Since 2003, he had been an AARP volunteer tax aide and served as district director of that program for Lorain County for the past seven years. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, two sons, and two grandchildren. He died June 21, 2018.

1935

Jean Humphrey Herbert was a devoted wife and mother who met her eventual husband, Robert W. Herbert '35, at an Oberlin mixer. She enjoyed playing Sudoku and bridge and remained in close contact via Skype with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren across America and in England. Ms. Herbert died March 4, 2016, following the death of her husband.

1940

Imogene Boyle was a teacher of English and French in the Louisville and Marlington (Ohio) school districts. She was active in the Christ Presbyterian Church in Canton, the Alliance Area Retired Teachers Association, and the Stark County Retired Teachers Association, and she was a charter member and past president of the Louisville Women's Club. Among her many interests, she loved to travel the world with her sister. Ms. Boyle died July 15, 2018, leaving two daughters, a son, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Francis.

1942

Pauline Maris Mayo was an avid supporter of progressive causes who campaigned door-to-door for candidates from Stevenson to Obama. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Oberlin, she earned an MA in public administration from the University of Minnesota and married WWII veteran Robert D. Mayo '32, with whom she moved to Illinois. In 1974, she became the first female president of the District 202 Evanston School Board, and in 1981 she helped develop a code of ethics for the City of Evanston. Ms. Mayo died May 14, 2018, leaving a daughter and other loved ones.

1943

Frederick W. Trezise's career in the shoe industry included working for George O. Jenkins and Beebe Rubber, writing a monthly column for *Shoe Service* magazine, and consulting with numerous European manufacturers. He served on the U.S.S. *Hinsdale* in the U.S. Navy during WWII and returned home to graduate from Harvard Law School in 1949. He enjoyed sailing, music, dancing, and traveling the world with his wife of 68 years, Priscilla. Mr. Trezise died May 16, 2018, leaving five children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. ■ After helping his

father deliver groceries from a flatbed truck as a young boy during the Depression, **James R. Youtz** went on to a 33-year career as a CPA with Price Waterhouse in New York. During his senior year at Oberlin, he joined the U.S. Navy and served in WWII as a harbor pilot in the South Pacific. He returned to marry classmate Marilyn Lynn Jenkins '43 and earned a BS in accounting from Ohio State University. For more than 60 years, the family enjoyed summers at their cottage on Lake Kanasatka in New Hampshire. Mr. Youtz died August 14, 2017, leaving his wife of 71 years, a son, two daughters, six grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

1944

Mary Brohl MacConnachie was valedictorian of her high school class in Sandusky, Ohio. She married Gordon Donald MacConnachie '43, with whom she had five daughters. Ms. MacConnachie died April 7, 2018, leaving her daughters, nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

1946

Dr. Roberta Street Knapp served for 38 years as an intelligence analyst and historian for the Central Intelligence Agency. She earned an MA and PhD in history from Bryn Mawr College. Dr. Knapp died June 26, 2018.

1947

A U.S. Army veteran, **Dr. George Richard DeMuth** had an active and varied career at the University of Michigan, where he was a faculty member in pediatrics and founding director of the pulmonary function laboratory. He later served as associate dean of medical affairs for the University of Michigan Medical School and played roles in the creation of the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, the A. Alfred Taubman Medical Library, the Medical Science Research Buildings, and the new University Hospital. In 1978 he led the development of the Michigan Medical Scientist Training Program and served as its director. He studied at the University of Cincinnati and Michigan, where he earned an MD and completed a residency in pediatrics. Dr. DeMuth died October 15, 2017, leaving two children and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret, and two children. ■ **Chandler Gilbert** served for 13 years as minister of the First Congregational Church UCC in Westfield, Mass., and

18 years at the Trinitarian Congregational Church UCC in Concord, following stints at two churches in Ohio. Later in his career, he focused on leading marriage-enrichment workshops with his wife, Barbara Groth Gilbert '53, and serving as a consultant to other churches. He died May 15, 2018, leaving his wife and two daughters. ■ **Roy W. Knipper Jr.** was a native of Hudson, Ohio, who served in the U.S. Navy. He was married to Elizabeth Bruschi Chapman and the late Ann B. Knipper. He had three children and six grandchildren. Mr. Knipper died October 14, 2017. ■ **Charles Richard Andrews** graduated from Colgate Rochester Divinity School in 1950 and became minister first in Oaklawn, R.I., but spent the bulk of his career at the First Baptist Church of Chicago, where he was a leading voice for civil rights. He also headed up an urban renewal effort in Philadelphia before returning to the ministry, often as a substitute during summers in New York state. Mr. Andrews died November 27, 2017, leaving his wife, Stephanie; two children; 11 grandchildren, including Erik Schwartz '02; and five great grandchildren. Two children and his first wife, Mary Louise Wykle '48, preceded him in death.

1948

A native of Switzerland, **Madeleine Rosmarie Liepe** was a professional painter and teacher of painting whose works were featured at the Portland Art Museum in Oregon, among numerous other venues. She earned a BA in Zurich and studied literature and French at the University of Geneva before arriving at Oberlin on a student visa. She earned an MA at the University of Chicago, where she met her eventual husband, fellow graduate student Winfrid Liepe. She taught art at local community centers and later became a clinic coordinator at Michael Reese Hospital. Ms. Liepe died September 7, 2017. She leaves three children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. ■ **Roland H. Siebens** served in the U.S. Navy during WWII and went on to fly for United Airlines. A French major at Oberlin, he later recounted to friends having heard French writer Simone de Beauvoir during a visit to campus. Mr. Siebens died August 15, 2016. ■ **Dr. Leland Bennett Yeager** was the Ludwig von Mises Distinguished Professor of Economics at Auburn University and previously served for 30 years on the faculty of the University of Virginia. His writing for scholarly

articles and books focused on the crucial role of money in the business cycle. Dr. Yeager's Oberlin studies were interrupted by service as a Japanese cryptanalytic translator during WWII. He earned an MA and PhD in economics from Columbia University and had wide-ranging interests, from languages to history to philosophy. He died April 23, 2018.

1949

Emil Abramovic is remembered by his two sons as a proud Oberlin graduate who shared many memorable experiences about his time on campus. He died January 14, 2018, leaving his sons. ■ **David A. Langner** was married to Eunice Kunze for 62 years. He was the father of four children, grandfather of nine, and great-grandfather of two. Mr. Langner died in March 2018 in Northeast Ohio. ■ **Elizabeth Doolittle Peckham** was a Girl Scout leader for more than 20 years and held a leadership role on the board of directors for the Thousand Islands Girl Scout Council in New York. She was an avid bicyclist, backpacker, and mountain climber. She remained close to Oberlin, serving as class president from 1974 to 1980, and she was a member of several reunion committees. Ms. Peckham died January 22, 2018, following the death of her husband, Donald Peckham '45. She is survived by six children, 13 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

1950

Frances Annie Nichols Hendrickson taught kindergarten for 29 years in Montgomery County, Md., schools. She earned a master's degree in education from the University of Maryland and was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa, an international honor society for educators. She was a lifelong member of the Society of Friends. Ms. Hendrickson died July 20, 2018. She leaves her husband of 67 years, Bartlett R. Hendrickson; two children; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. ■ **Mary J. Bechtel Moffett** was a physical education teacher for 35 years, retiring in 1990 from Lancaster High School in New York. She is remembered as the spirit of the school, encouraging all kids to be active and nurturing their self-esteem, regardless of athletic ability. She held a master's degree in education from the University of Buffalo. She sang in the choir of the Unitarian Universalist Church, performed in Aurora Children's Theater, and volunteered for numerous local

groups. Ms. Moffett died July 18, 2018, leaving her husband of 66 years, two daughters, and four grandsons.

1951

The son of an Oberlin College faculty member, **Dr. Douglass Marcel Rogers** began teaching Romance languages at the University of Texas at Austin in 1958—the same year he married Shirley Anne Vogt, whom he had met as a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin. His areas of focus included the 19th-century novelist Benito Perez Galdos and poets of the post-Spanish Civil War period. Dr. Rogers served as a sonar man on convoy duty with the U.S. Navy during WWII, then took up studies at Oberlin after the war. He earned a master's degree in Spanish from Wisconsin in 1954 and added a PhD a decade later. He died August 11, 2016, leaving his wife and son. ■ **Dr. Allan B. Weingold** was a professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at George Washington University. In 1992 he transitioned to the role of VP for medical affairs and executive dean of the GW Medical Center until his retirement in 1997. Dr. Weingold died January 27, 2018. He was married for 65 years to Marjorie, with whom he had four children. He leaves them, plus 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

1952

William Goldman, the Oscar-winning screenwriter who won Academy Awards for *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and *All the President's Men* as well as the novelist and screenwriter behind *The Princess Bride* and *Marathon Man*, died November 16, 2018, at home in Manhattan. At Oberlin, Mr. Goldman was a classmate of future legendary Broadway composer John Kander; he went on to earn a master's degree in English at Columbia University and launch a successful literary career before penning a litany of box-office hits and coining such famous phrases as "Follow the money" and "As you wish." When his two daughters were young, Mr. Goldman asked them what they wanted him to write about next; one said "princesses" and the other said "brides." Both went on to graduate from Oberlin. Mr. Goldman is survived by his daughter Jenny Goldman '84, longtime partner Susan Burden, and a grandson. His daughter Susanna '87 preceded him in death.

MEMORIAL MINUTE

Adrienne Lash Jones, 1935-2018



Dr. Adrienne Lash Jones, the third African American woman to earn tenure at Oberlin College, passed away on August 28, 2018, in Cary, North Carolina, at the age of 83. She is a shining example of an ever-evolving life of creativity, scholarly excellence, passion, commitment to service, and engagement in the fight for social justice. We remember her as a force within the Oberlin College community, where she taught for many years, somehow fusing a fierce commitment to institutional growth and change with elegance, wit, sophistication, political savvy, collegiality, and civility. She was instrumental in building Oberlin's Black Studies Department (now Africana Studies) into one of the oldest and most distinguished among liberal arts colleges, while also laying the groundwork for the current Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies Institute and the Comparative American Studies Program, always working in close partnership with the history department, as well. She helped to define intersectionality as a curricular practice at Oberlin. She mentored students and faculty members and touched the lives of many more in the Cleveland, Oberlin College, and city communities. She exemplified the activist-intellectual tradition.

After growing up in Salisbury, North Carolina, the daughter of Wiley I. Lash and Thelma Spalding Lash, Adrienne earned her BA with honors in 1956 from her beloved Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. She noted, "My family had a history of operating small businesses. I thought it would be a challenge to involve myself in an area of

study that was a male-dominated field—and to succeed." Coming from a long tradition of scholars and trailblazers—her mother also earned a PhD, and other family members earned degrees dating back to the 19th century—succeed she did.

After marrying Morris L. Jones, a physician, Adrienne moved to Cleveland. While raising three sons, she began her lifelong commitment to community service and the struggle for civil and human rights. As her family has said, "Adrienne's journey from Jim Crow South toward community service and the fight for racial justice was born of this crucible. As the struggle for equal rights for all people wore on, Adrienne became more involved." While her husband built his medical practice in the Hough neighborhood, which became the site of notable events in Black resistance movements and the battle for equality in Cleveland, their home became a gathering place for local and national leaders, including Mayor Carl Stokes and Malcolm X.

Adrienne's passion for community-building and institutional change was reflected in her work as a board member for the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Cleveland Foundation, the Women's Community Fund, the executive board of the World YWCA, and Karamu House. She also upheld a long tradition of Black women's centrality in supporting uplift in Black communities through her membership in Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and The Links. Participation in these clubs laid the groundwork for her later scholarship and teaching. One of her most enduring legacies was as a long-term board member at Fisk University, seeing them through some of their most trying times. Because of her role as a Fisk trustee, she later created partnerships between Fisk and Case Western University, as well as with Oberlin, which sent a number of students on an exchange program with the historically Black university.

In the late 1970s, Adrienne entered graduate school, earning an MA in 1979 and a PhD in 1983, both in American studies, from Case Western University. She

designed her own course of study, which prepared her for all the curricular innovations she later brought to Oberlin, especially in the establishment of Black Women's Studies. However, continuing her original interest in business, she began at the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western. Throughout her career, these interlocking interests in business and scholarship continued to shape her ability to excel in multiple settings.

Adrienne's dissertation, *Jane Edna Hunter: A Case Study of Black Leadership, 1915-1950* was published in 1983 and again in 1990 as part of the 16-volume series *Black Women in the United States Volume 12* (Carlson Publishing, Inc.). She later researched and wrote about African American philanthropy and the history of Black women in the YWCA. Her love of primary and archival research, as well as oral histories, influenced her teaching at Oberlin, where she created courses based in our archives and afforded students opportunities to interview Black women leaders and activists. She would be so proud to see our main library renamed for Mary Church Terrell.

Black Studies began at Oberlin in 1969. When Adrienne came to teach at Oberlin in the mid-1980s, she came first as a visiting adjunct professor with the express purpose of developing Black Women's Studies with the history department. She later replaced an earlier founding faculty member, redefining the way we teach African American history, shifting from a traditional masculinist approach and putting the lives of women at the center. Joining founders Booker Peek, Yakubu Saaka, and Calvin Hernton, Adrienne helped to pave the way for our current African Diasporan-focused department, serving as chair for many years.

Please join me in celebrating the life and accomplishments of Dr. Adrienne Lash Jones. Oberlin College lives more closely to its mission and dreams for itself because of her spirit and dedication. —Caroline Jackson Smith, Professor, Theater and Africana Studies

1953

A double-degree student at Oberlin, **Ruth Bierhoff** enjoyed a long and varied career as a conductor, music director, vocal coach, and accompanist. In 1977, she founded the Opera-in-Progress workshop and later cofounded the Opera Ensemble of New York. For eight years, she was director of music in the opera program at the State University of New York at Purchase, and she later worked as office manager for her daughter's design firm. She pursued graduate studies in musicology at Columbia University. Ms. Bierhoff died February 22, 2017. She is survived by a daughter and son and was preceded in death by her husband, Fred. ■ **Irvin Edward Gilman** was cofounder and flutist/saxophonist with Capitol Chamber Artists for more than 40 years. He was a member of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for 12 years, a professor of music at the University of Albany, and principal flutist with the Albany Symphony Orchestra for 15 years. His orchestral and jazz music can be heard on recordings for Albany, Motown, RCA Victor, and Mercury Records, among other labels. He wrote for music publications and was a published poet whose works were memorialized in the collection *Imagine a Flute*. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII and continued his music studies at the Manhattan School of Music. Mr. Gilman died February 2, 2017, leaving his wife of 35 years, Mary Lou Saetta, and a daughter.

1954

Helen Steere Horn was a teacher and poet who traveled to Europe and Africa. An activist for peace and justice, she was a lifelong member of the Religious Society of Friends and helped found an Ohio Quaker group. She held an MA in education from Radcliffe College and an MA in counseling from Ohio University. She was a prolific poet whose work often connected the natural world with her inner experience. With her husband David, she donated their farm, which became the Woodcock Nature Preserve. Ms. Horn died April 29, 2018, leaving a daughter and two grandchildren. ■ **Annis Duff Kildow** earned a degree from Johns Hopkins University and worked for the Baltimore County school system. Known to friends as Deirdre, she was active with the Garrett Choral Society and Our Town Theatre and was a longtime volunteer at the Garrett Regional Medical Center. Ms. Kildow died May 7, 2018, leaving two children

and two grandchildren; she was predeceased by her husband of 54 years, William Patrick Kildow. ■ **William McIlrath Jr.** was a college admissions officer who began his career in higher education at Oberlin before rising to director of admissions at Knox College and later director of college counseling at the Cranbrook/Kingswood schools in Michigan. After Oberlin, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and trained with the Army Security Agency; after his discharge in 1956, he returned to Oberlin and earned a master's degree in English. Mr. McIlrath died October 4, 2017, leaving his wife, Pauline Roylance '67. ■ **Charles Nitschke** was a longtime resident of Twinsburg, Ohio, and active in his local Masonic Lodge. He died April 14, 2018, leaving his wife of 69 years, Frances; four daughters; nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

1955

Nancy Smith was a multitalented artist with a long career as manager of the jewelry department at Tiffany & Co. on Chicago's Magnificent Mile. She relocated to New Buffalo, Ill., where she raised her family and continued to share her artistic talents. She was a leading member of the community's harbor commission and a champion for marine safety and channel-dredging initiatives. She held an MFA from the University of Minnesota. Ms. Smith died June 24, 2018, leaving three children and four grandchildren. ■ **Mary Jeannette Whiteman** was an Oberlin violin student before transferring to the University of Pennsylvania. She continued to play throughout her life, raised a family, and was a member of numerous musical groups, including the Philadelphia Singers. Ms. Whiteman died June 7, 2018, leaving her husband. ■ **Nancy Coe Wixom** was a curator at the Cleveland Museum of Art from 1949 to 1979, a founding member of the Cleveland Landmarks Commission, and a visiting committee member of the Allen Memorial Art Museum. She earned a BA from Skidmore College and an MA in art history from Oberlin. Among her numerous published works was the book *The Cleveland Institute of Art 1882-1982: The First Hundred Years*. Ms. Wixom died April 28, 2018, leaving her husband, William; three children; and two grandchildren.

1957

A former composition student at Oberlin, **Joseph Clonick** was a gifted improviser who

enjoyed a long career as a cabaret pianist in New York and his native Chicago. Born into some measure of wealth—Clonick's father owned a successful industrial wrecking business—he was fortunate to be able to follow his muse throughout life. Invariably, that meant following the music: He began his career playing in various short-lived Chicago cabarets, then for three decades forged a life in New York City. There, he toiled at the theater workshop of Broadway composer Lehman Engel and played countless parties, his world intersecting with no shortage of legendary performers. Clonick remained a robust supporter of Oberlin, funding scholarships for composition students for many years. He was also instrumental in the construction of the Bertram and Judith Kohl Building: His \$5 million pledge led to the creation of the recording studio that bears his name. Mr. Clonick died March 31, 2018.

1958

Eleanor Busick earned a master's degree in economics from Yale and authored numerous publications during her career at the Brookings Institution and as an expert on non-nuclear proliferation at the U.S. Department of State. She died February 19, 2018, leaving two sons, four stepchildren, and 11 grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Walter Simonson. ■ **Dr. Harvey V. Culbert** was a medical physicist, working with medical teams in administering radiation therapy to patients served by Chicago's Michael Reese Hospital and the University of Chicago's Department of Radiation & Cellular Oncology. He earned an MS and PhD in physics from Western Reserve University and began his career as a solid-state experimental physicist at Argonne National Laboratory. He died February 25, 2018, in Oberlin, leaving four children and six grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Alice Summerbell '58, after whose passing he married Louise Luckenbill '58.

1959

Robert Cetina earned a master's in divinity from the University of Chicago Theological Seminary and served as a minister for the United Church of Christ in Ohio and Illinois. With his wife, Marty, he hosted two Muslim exchange students from Bosnia during the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, ultimately helping them gain refugee status and attend

Losses

college in America. Mr. Cetina died August 22, 2018. He is survived by his wife, two children, and four grandchildren. ■ **Thomas Clayton Pexton** was ordained by the United Church of Christ in 1958 and served at churches in Cleveland and Dayton, Ohio, and Springfield, Mo. He earned a degree from Kent State University and later returned to school to become a board-certified chaplain, devoting the next two decades to spiritual care for hospitals in Milwaukee. In Springfield in the 1960s, he cofounded and was vice president of the local chapter of the NAACP, leading the creation of the city's first integrated vacation Bible school. Mr. Pexton died March 28, 2018, following the death of his wife of more than 50 years, Constance Pexton. He is survived by three children and a granddaughter.

1960

For 30 years, Dr. Kenneth D. Coutts was a professor of exercise physiology and kinesiology at the University of British Columbia, where much of his research focused on wheelchair athletes. He earned master's and doctoral degrees in exercise physiology from Michigan State University. A lifelong athlete, he participated in soccer, lacrosse, and diving in college and continued to enjoy boating and golf in retirement. Dr. Coutts died July 11, 2018, leaving his wife, Nancy; three children; and six grandchildren.

1962

Denis Baum served as a priest and chaplain in the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. He held a bachelor's degree from Episcopal Theological School in Massachusetts and a master's in religion and medicine from George Washington University. He was married for 20 years to Judith Reitz '61 and for 30 years to Judith Holloway. Mr. Baum died April 2, 2018, leaving his wife, three children, and many grandchildren.

1963

Janet Turbyne Ahern was a voice professor for many years at the University of Minnesota, Morris, where her husband, Bert Ahern '63, also taught. She soloed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and was active with the National Association of Teachers of Singing. She was a member of Pi Kappa Lambda and the National Opera Association and played a key role in improving working conditions for

female faculty at her institution. Ms. Ahern and her husband were active with Oberlin, serving on alumni committees and as Class of '63 agents. She died May 23, 2018, leaving two children, including Alyson Ahern Knop '92, and three grandchildren, including Abijah Ahern '22.

1964

Stanley E. Ornstein followed his Phi Beta Kappa career at Oberlin with a degree from the University of Chicago Law School. A lifelong resident of Cleveland, Mr. Ornstein died June 4, 2018, leaving many loved ones.

1965

A double-degree student in German and organ who continued his keyboard studies at the famed Mozarteum in Salzburg, Dr. David Culbert had a long and distinguished career on the history faculty of Louisiana State University. His early research on radio newsmen of the 1930s resulted in his first book, *News for Everyman: Radio and Foreign Affairs in Thirties America*, and he became a noted expert on propaganda films of WWII. An activist for the preservation of film, Dr. Culbert was the longtime editor of *The Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television* and was later honored by the International Association for Media and History. He earned a PhD in American history at Northwestern University and began his teaching career at Yale. He also served as organist and choirmaster of his church for 30 years. Dr. Culbert died May 20, 2017, leaving his wife, Lubna, and many loved ones. ■ Marjory Edson Perrine Lewis grew up in the Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company founded by her parents and went on to a career as an actress, singer, and dancer on Broadway. With a gift for musical comedy, she crisscrossed the country with the touring companies of such hits as *Hello, Dolly!* and *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*. She landed her first Broadway role in 1970 with a production of *Minnie's Boys*. Later, she became a secretary at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Ridgewood, N.J., and remained active with the Ridgewood Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company. She earned a master's degree in liberal studies from Ramapo State in 2007. Years after the death of her first husband, Dave, she married Jason Lewis, with whom she enjoyed a renewed life of stage performance. Ms.

Lewis died August 10, 2018. She leaves her husband, two sons, a stepdaughter, and two grandsons.

1966

Dr. Craig Stephen Harbison was a professor of art history who taught at the University of California, Davis; Oberlin; and the University of Massachusetts, from which he retired in 2003. He held a PhD from Princeton University. His books include *Jan van Eyck: The Play of Realism* (1991) and *The Mirror of the Artist: Northern Renaissance Art in Its Historical Context* (1995). Dr. Harbison died May 17, 2018. He is survived by his former wife, Sherrill Rood Harbison, as well as two children and three grandsons. ■ Dr. Percy Ricardo Moore was a professor at Wayne State University and served as an ecumenical minister at his church. He died April 14, 2018, leaving a son, two grandchildren, and other loved ones.

1967

Dr. William Clinton Saunders was a Unitarian Universalist minister and community leader who served churches in Maine, Illinois, and New Hampshire. He held a divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary and a PhD in American religious thought from Columbia. In Illinois, he served on the Chancellor's Task Force on Discrimination at the University of Illinois. He taught at Bangor Theological Seminary and was a chaplain with Planned Parenthood of Northern New England. Dr. Saunders died June 26, 2018, leaving his wife, Julie; two sons and two stepsons; and three grandchildren.

1969

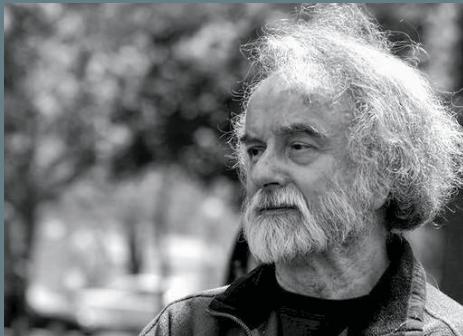
A native of New York City, Maria Waite Nied followed her brother Bill '60 and sister-in-law Jo '60 to Oberlin. She was a licensed clinical social worker before becoming director of family services at the Connecticut Junior Republic, a resident school for teenage boys. She held an MSW from Smith College of Social Work and an MPA from Columbia University. Ms. Nied died January 7, 2018, leaving her husband, Dennis; a son and daughter; and a granddaughter.

1974

Dr. Joseph Gordon Hylton was a law professor at the University of Virginia who studied legal history, sports law, and the civil rights era. His research delved into popular culture,

MEMORIAL MINUTE

Ronald J. DiCenzo, 1939-2017



Ron DiCenzo was a member of the Oberlin College faculty from 1972 until 2005, serving as professor of Japanese history. During that time, he published almost nothing, but read almost everything. Two generations of students came to recognize him as a spellbinding, dynamic, warm, approachable, and inspiring teacher.

There is no reason that DiCenzo should have ended up in academics, much less Japanese history. He was born into a multigenerational immigrant family in Lackawanna, New York, where his father and grandfather, and briefly he himself, worked in the Bethlehem steel plant, one of the largest steel mills in the country at the time. He excelled as a student and won a New York State Regents Scholarship to attend Canisius College in Buffalo, a Jesuit institution. Afterward he undertook graduate studies at the University of Kansas, where he shifted his interest from East European history to Japan, and then at the University of Hawai'i, where he won a prestigious fellowship at the newly established, federally funded East-West Center. In conjunction with this affiliation, DiCenzo spent two years in Japan in the

mid-1960s for advanced language training. Upon his return, he attended Princeton University and subsequently returned to Japan on a Fulbright scholarship for dissertation research at the end of the 1960s. He received his PhD in 1978.

DiCenzo joined the Oberlin faculty in 1972 to teach Japanese history (and also sub-Saharan African history) and soon afterward began to offer Japanese language classes, too. This was precisely the period of burgeoning interest in Japan as an economic and cultural superpower. In the mid-1970s, DiCenzo helped Oberlin affiliate with the newly formed Associated Kyoto Program, a consortium of elite small colleges in the U.S. and through which he sent scores of students for study abroad in Japan. Over the next decade, he built up considerable interest at Oberlin as a one-person academic and cultural resource on Japan. He also became well-known on campus for his signature look and style: wearing lumberjack shirts, fully bearded, outgoing and garrulous, and clearing his throat every two minutes. What made DiCenzo compelling as a teacher and colleague was his spontaneity, his energy, his friendliness, and his wide-ranging knowledge and interests.

In the course of DiCenzo's career, he became a legend on campus. He annually taught a two-semester survey of Japanese history whose enrollments always ranged from 75 to 150 each. Amazingly, he would learn the names of all the students quickly and would conduct small extra discussion sessions each week throughout the semester. He also offered an array of lower- and upper-level seminars on both

premodern and modern Japan topics, including Japanese literature. In addition, he sponsored a parade of honors students throughout his career. And he continued to teach Japanese language for almost two decades until the college could regularize the curriculum in the early 1990s. He was so committed and engaged in his teaching, that he waited 21 years to take his first official sabbatical leave. When the college first launched a teaching award in 1990, presented to only one faculty member then, DiCenzo was its inaugural recipient. Throughout it all, he loved the company of students and would regularly round up three or four or five of them to treat to a Chinese meal every few weeks. Many students were so inspired that they went on to establish careers related to Japan or Asia; some currently occupy prestigious academic positions at top universities.

During his last year of teaching, approximately 10 percent of the college's student body enrolled in one of his courses. When he finally retired in 2005, more than 100 former students returned to campus for his farewell reception.

In retirement, DiCenzo continued to be a voracious reader until his eyesight began to fail. He continued his earlier interests in Japanese gardening and antiques. Living in Oberlin was a great joy to him, and he made friends widely inside and outside the college. During his last decade, he dealt with health problems and other troubles that weighed heavily on him. DiCenzo had no immediate family in his later years and left no survivors. He lived for his students.

—James Dobbins, Fairchild Professor of Religion and East Asian Studies

including articles about Prince dying without a will and how Milwaukee lost its Braves baseball franchise. Early in his career, he was named professor of the year three times at the Chicago-Kent Law School and twice won the Illinois Institute of Technology's award for superior teaching. He was the only visiting professor named professor of the year at Washington University Law School. He was

also among the first graduates of the University of Virginia's joint JD-MA program, and he earned a PhD in history from Harvard. Dr. Hylton died May 2, 2018, leaving a son and three daughters.

1982

Michael Willms was a popular Southern California wedding planner whose company

catered high-profile gatherings for a range of celebrities. He was featured in publications ranging from *Wedding Style* to the *Wall Street Journal* to the *New Yorker* for his expertise and advocacy of same-sex marriages. In recent years, he relocated to Santa Fe, N.M., where he worked in several retail stores. He was the victim of a homicide in his apartment on June 21, 2018.

“Are we going to acknowledge that the question is not how do we get diversity into bluegrass, but how do we get diversity back into bluegrass?”

Musician, songwriter, and podcaster (*Aria Code*) Rhiannon Giddens '99

“The work influences the science as opposed to the science influencing the work. I might be interested in magnetism, so I’m going to design this experiment that’s hopefully going to be visually beautiful and hopefully it will reveal something that you wouldn’t get from doing calculations. I still think there’s mystery surrounding even the most basic principles. A lot of times profound discoveries come from the simplest things and just playing around with materials and the environment.”

Cleveland-based artist Matthew Gallagher '13

“What’s more, whites’ good intentions—their impulse to use ‘Uncle Tom’ to castigate internal foes of black progress—blind them to the fact that they are using a term of derision applied almost exclusively to black people, which puts it in the same league as another word.”

From “Dear white people: Stop using the term Uncle Tom,” a November 16 op-ed in the *Washington Post* written by Cliff Thompson '85

“To me, Oberlin was a place where people went to give themselves over fully to whatever weird, bizarre, brilliant thing it was they wanted to do with their lives. And that was seriously beautiful to me. I feel a great honor in belonging to that community of Obies in the world.”

Thisbe Nissen '94, author of, among other books, *Our Lady of the Prairie* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018), during a fall visit to campus

“If you think of psychology as the individual, sociology as society, and social psychology as the study of small group dynamics, I was already identifying the opinion leader, the emotional leader, early on in my career. I was breaking down every group into the categories I studied while I was in college, and it actually was really helpful.”

Ian Siegel '95, cofounder and CEO of the Santa Monica-based ZipRecruiter

“Losing Bill Goldman made me cry. My favorite book of all time is *The Princess Bride*. I was honored he allowed me to make it into a movie. I visited with him last Saturday. He was very weak but his mind still had the Goldman edge. I told him I loved him. He smiled & said f--- you.”

Tweet from Rob Reiner after the death of William Goldman '52

Retired professors
Phyllis Gorfain and
Bruce Richards on the
Oberlin College campus.



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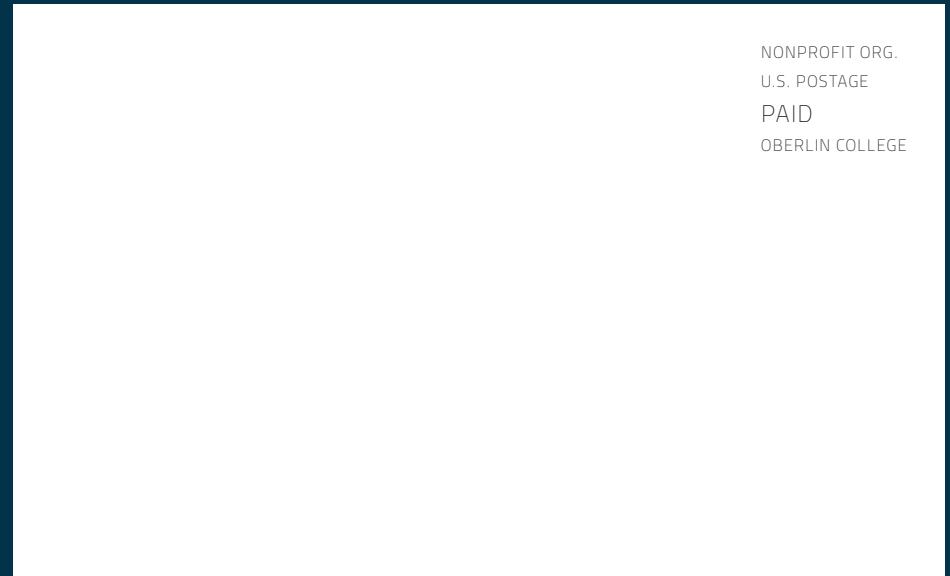
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“Again, Oberlin makes history, serving as a progenitor by placing ourselves at the center of an important national conversation regarding who is deserving of the honor of a named space on college campuses.”

—ALEXIA HUDSON-WARD, AZARIAH SMITH ROOT DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES