Admissions Office Update

November 2013

Mea culpa – I fully intended to produce a monthly update. Here we are in November and I completely missed August, September, and October. What in the world happened?

So what’s new here?
• We finally have a full staff in the Admissions Office. Our three new admissions counselors are Jessica Cummings ’10, Brittnei Sherrod ’11, and Tanya Aydelott.
• In addition to these three full-time staff, we have a Graduate Intern from Baldwin-Wallace. Lauren Stokley will be with us this year.
• We’ve seen lots of visitors to campus this summer and fall:
  o On July 12, 19, 26, and August 2 we had a series of Open House programs. Students took tours of campus, were entertained by a Q&A panel with faculty, students, and staff, and some had admissions interviews. All told, 159 students and their families visited on these four days.
  o On August 5, 6, and 7, we participated in the Ohio 6 Visitation Days. Oberlin, Kenyon, Wooster, Denison, Ohio Wesleyan, and Wittenberg all arrange morning and afternoon visit programs on these three days and we encourage students to visit as many of us as they’d like. 211 students came through the Science Center for a visit as part of this program.
  o We had a successful regional fly-in season this year. In addition to the fly-ins from Boston, New York, Washington DC/Baltimore, Chicago, and San Francisco, we also hosted a DIY Fly-In for students from other areas. In these cases, students arrived at Cleveland Hopkins Airport by a certain time, we brought them to campus for a day of events. Total numbers of people on each program were:
    ▪ San Francisco – 16
    ▪ Chicago – 16
    ▪ Washington DC – 20
    ▪ New York 1 – 19
    ▪ New York 2 – 19
    ▪ Boston – 19
    ▪ DIY 1 – 32
  o The October Multicultural Visit Program was a remarkable success. 18 talented students of color spent 2 days on campus, living the life of an Oberlin student.
• While all of this was happening on campus, we were very busy with fall travel.
Internationally, we went to China, Korea, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brazil, Panama, Costa Rica, South Africa, Swaziland, Botswana, Jordan, Turkey, and Switzerland.

We hosted Previews in Ann Arbor, Westchester, Philadelphia, Princeton, Montclair (NJ), Chicago, New York City, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

Oberlin is part of a group of 5 colleges and universities that travel together and make public presentations. Along with Brandeis, Richmond, Bryn Mawr, and Hamilton, we visited Denver, Salt Lake City, Portland, and Seattle.

And what’s new around campus?

- Oberlin’s football team got off to a rousing start by defeating Case Western, 19-2, on September 15. This win snapped a 28-game losing streak against Case.
- In late September, the Conservatory of Music announced a distribution agreement with Naxos of America, providing them with exclusive rights to distribute Oberlin Music recordings in the US. The first recordings to be distributed are “Ravel: Intimate Masterpieces” and “Dr. Seuss’ The Sneetches”.
- You may know that there are two high-profile searches going on at Oberlin: Dean of the College and Dean of the Conservatory. Sean Decatur, former Dean of the College, left Oberlin for Kenyon’s Presidency this past summer; David Stull, former Dean of the Conservatory, assumed the position of President of San Francisco Conservatory of Music at the same time. The current plan is to bring candidates to campus later this semester and have people in each position by January 1, in advance of starting on July 1, 2014.
- Earlier this month, Oberlin’s infamous art rental program was discussed in the Wall Street Journal.
- Mounted atop Mudd Library is a fireball-detecting camera, installed as part of NASA’s All-Sky Fireball Network. The goal of this program is to understand the risk of meteoroids affecting spacecraft and satellites that travel outside of Earth’s orbit.
- Jenny Bower ’13 joined Amanda Schmidt, Assistant Professor of Geology, for a summer of fieldwork in China. They researched what happens to sediment that ends up in rivers from erosion due to agriculture. Jenny is the third student to accompany Professor Schmidt in China since 2010.
- Associate Professor of East Asian Studies Sheila Miyoshi Jager’s book Brothers at War was released in July 2013 to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the Korean War armistice. It is now being hailed as one of the most comprehensive and balanced histories of the Korean War.
- Beginning this fall, Oberlin students are now able to study Portuguese and Brazil on campus. We are offering a four-course sequence in Portuguese and one English-language course on Brazil. The Latin American Studies Program will also offer programming related to Brazil, such as speakers, films, and panel discussions.
- Time to change the number of Obies who have won MacArthur “Genius” Grants. Jeremy Denk ’90 is number 10. Jeremy is a world-renowned pianist who was a Double Degree student at Oberlin, studying piano and chemistry. He will receive $625,000 over the next 5 years to spend as he likes.
- In recognition of the reality that not all Conservatory graduates become solo performers, the Conservatory has launched a Master of Contemporary Chamber
Music. This two-year program will launch chamber music ensembles toward carers of innovative distinction. Two notable contemporary chamber ensembles – eighth blackbird and International Contemporary Ensemble – were formed at Oberlin and have gone on to remarkable careers.

• Building on its success in January 2013, LaunchU is back for a second year. LaunchU, a program within the Creativity & Leadership Program, is a program that offers Oberlin entrepreneurs the opportunity to accelerate the development and launch of their products. In addition to participating in a series of workshops on business model innovation, proving a concept, legal issues, branding, and presentation skills, the participants will compete in a public pitch competition before a panel of investors. The four LaunchU winners from 2013 were:
  o BinStored: affordable summer storage for liberal arts college students. Students drop items off at an off-campus location; BinStored picks up the belongings and keeps them in a storage facility over the summer.
  o Bookalokal: an online marketplace that enables guests seeking a local and social food experience to search for and dine with local hosts.
  o Cnxn: a digital destination for the modern global athletic community.
  o Compology: a company building a low-cost “Smart Dumpster” for food waste that integrates fermentation and sensing technologies to improve disposal process hygiene.