Class of 1993

60 Ainsworth St
Roslindale, MA 02131-1941
melmaisel@gmail.com
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Dear classmates,

Around the time we graduated from college, I overheard a pair of reunioning alumni saying goodbye to each other. “Well, I guess I’ll see you in another 5 years.” I thought that was the saddest thing ever, and vowed to stay in touch with everyone forever. Of course that’s impossible, but that’s why we have reunions! This coming May 23-26, you’ll have the opportunity to reconnect with classmates you haven’t seen in years and years. This is what I hear from people all the time: “Oh, Oberlin! I’d love to go back there.” Well, here’s your chance. It’s your last chance with our current cluster ('93, '94, '95) so if you don’t come to this one you may never see some of those people again! I’m working with the other classes to make our reunion awesome, but I need your help getting people there. Think of the five people you most want to see, and reach out to them. Having trouble convincing them? Here are some reasons Oberlin is the best:

- Where else can someone double major in chemistry and organ performance and work with a professor on research that combines both fields? Professor Katie Oertel ’99 is part of an international research effort to combat corrosion in historic pipe organs in Europe. She and a student (whose name I have unfortunately forgotten) gave an interesting presentation to alumni on campus in September.
- This winter will be Oberlin’s last season using coal for heat. A new solar array and other developments will allow Oberlin to get its electricity almost entirely from renewable sources in less than two years. Everyone on campus really cares about this stuff, which is a welcome change from the real world.
- Pianist Jeremy Denk ’90 won a MacArthur Genius award this year – the second Obie in two years! I’m sure some of you hate hearing that kind of stuff because it makes you feel bad for not being nationally recognized as a genius. I understand, but what if you decided to look at it a different way? I’m proud to have gone to a school with so many distinguished alumni. They make us all look good!
Here are some interesting tidbits that you probably don’t know:

- Oberlin’s course credit system has changed, effective for all current and future students. Each basic regular course is worth 1 credit (science with lab is the same as English), everyone takes the same number of credits every semester (for the most part), and there’s less cobbling together of random stuff to get up to the right number of credits. Apparently it’s in line with what other schools are already doing.

- The Conservatory has a new graduate degree program: Master of Contemporary Chamber Music.

- A new program called LaunchU brings students and alumni together to accelerate the development of Obie entrepreneurs.

I’ll keep this short because you’ll be hearing from me again before May. Please reach out to your long-lost friends (speaking of, a list of “lost” classmates is included – if you have current contact information for any of those listed, please either let me or the Alumni Office know!) and let’s have a kickass reunion then. If you have ideas, let me know! You can also join us on our Facebook Group – search for “Oberlin College Classes of 1993, 1994, 1995.”

Best wishes for the New Year,

Mel Maisel
1993 Class President