Multifaith Baccalaureate Celebration
1:30 P.M. | SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2015
FINNEY CHAPEL
The tradition of Baccalaureate is an ancient one, reaching back at least to medieval times when, at the great universities of Europe, the candidates for the degree of bachelor were presented with laurels of oration to inspire and bless them as they crossed the threshold into the lives and vocations awaiting them in the world beyond.

There was a recognition, in their time as in ours, that education is something more than the transmission of information. It is connected to our beliefs about what is ultimately true and good, and it is about shaping lives and shaping a world. In this sense it is, for many people, a sacred practice, and so it is fitting that we pause for a sacred moment during Commencement/Reunion Weekend to honor the connections between what we do, what we are celebrating, and the ultimate.

We recognize the profound religious, spiritual, and philosophical diversity that composes the Oberlin family, and so we gather for a diverse celebration drawing upon many of the great wisdom traditions that have come down to us from the past. From our many backgrounds we gather together to share a common moment of reflection, thanksgiving, and inspiration to bless our graduates and all of us involved in the learning and labor that are the hallmarks of this place.

Probably few of us will find this time to be a worship service in the traditional sense of the religious tradition to which we belong, if we belong to one. And so we call it a “celebration,” an opportunity to come together in our great diversity to honor in various ways some things we might call “sacred” that we hold in common.

And so, welcome all to this sacred time, set apart from the busy rhythms of the academic and artistic year, of the end of the year, and of this weekend. Come into this time to hear sacred music, to join in prayer or witness the prayers of others, to be moved by ancient texts and fresh words of inspiration for our time, as we all celebrate the mysteries, joys, and meanings of this moment.

The 2015 Baccalaureate is of particular significance in our community as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Commencement Address, given to the Class of 1965, at Oberlin College in Finney Chapel. The Reverend King titled his 1965 address, Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution, an address that is timeless in the lessons it teaches. By Dr. King’s words and in today’s conversation, we deepen our own resolve to keep vigilant always in the pursuit of justice and mercy, truth and compassion.
PRE-SERVICE CELEBRATION

GREETING OF THE DRUMS
Dance Diaspora
Adenike Sharpley, Artist in Residence
Cassandra Brown ’16, Zaire Darden ’16, Kendra Farrakhan ’16, Aaron Henry ’18, Kara Mahon ’15, Sophie Mvurya ’16, Lindsey Milaku Nwabueze ’16, Racheal Pillot ’17, Niya Smith-Wilson ’18, Daniel Spearman ’17

ORGAN PRELUDE
Jillian Gardner ’15
Prelude & Fugue in E Major Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
BWV 566
Introduction and Passacaglia in D Minor Max Reger (1873-1916)

ENSEMBLE PRELUDE
Voices for Christ
Ambre Dromgoole ’15, Director
This Little Light of Mine African American Traditional
Church Medley Donnie McClurkin (b. 1959)
Andre Cardine ’18, Victoria Davis ’15, Victoria Ellington ’18, Evan Hines ’16, Gloria Lewis ’18, Amber Monroe ’17, Lindsey Milaku Nwabueze ’16, Niya Smith-Wilson ’18, Daniel Spearman ’17 (pianist), Khalid Taylor ’17

Chaplains, affiliates, and members of the staff in the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life extend gratitude to all of the participants in this celebration, our distinguished greeters, who are members of the faculty and staff, clergy, and leaders of local religious communities. We also thank the ASL interpreters for today's celebration, Dwana Crawford and Patricia Bettis Eddie.
ORDER OF SERVICE

CALL TO GATHER*
Venkata Shiva Mandala ’15

LEADER: We, who have gathered, are a people holding many different beliefs, perspectives, creeds, and understandings. On this day, we choose to gather as one.

PEOPLE: We have come from many places, near and far, to this sanctuary, Finney Chapel. We have come to celebrate community, to receive blessings, and to respond in gratitude.

LEADER: Free us, now, to view this world and our many achievements not from the standpoint of wealth gained or ambition achieved, but from the perspective of justice lived, relationships offered, and human love shared.

PEOPLE: Expand our sense of wonder, our capacity for reverent awe.

LEADER: Expand the horizons of our thinking, the scope of our simple affections,

PEOPLE: That we might live generously into a more courageous and hopeful future, wisely informed by our shared past.

OPENING SONG*
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

INVOCATION
David F.H. Dorsey
Director of Religious and Spiritual Life

WORDS OF WELCOME
Marvin Krislov
President, Oberlin College

JOHN HENRY BARROWS MEDAL AND TRIBUTE TO THE CLASS OF 2015

*please rise in body or in spirit.
ORDER OF SERVICE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON
Amos 5: 21-24
Alyssa K. Phelps ’15

INTERLUDE
Woke Up This Morning | African American Traditional

INTRODUCTION OF PANELISTS
Albert (A.G.) Miller
Associate Professor of Religion and Africana Studies

REMAINING AWAKE: A CONVERSATION FIFTY YEARS LATER
Johnnetta Betsch Cole ’57
Marian Wright Edelman
Alan B. Wachtel ’68
Harris L. Wofford

MUSICAL POSTLUDES

Letters to Martin | David Maslanka ’65
composer and narrator

Davis Erickson ’16, tuba
Andrew Jeng ’15, trumpet
Matthew Marchand ’15, trombone
Luke Spence ’15, trumpet
Marika Yasuda ’15, piano

Sonata No. 1 in D minor, Op. 42
III. Final: Allegro assai | Alexandre Guilmant
(1837-1911)
Jillian Gardner ’15, organist
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Ps. 145:10; Isa. 49:13

Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt.

1 Joy-ful, joy-ful, we a-dore you, God of glo-ry, God of love;
2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re-flect your rays,
3 You are giv-ing and for-giv-ing, ev-er bless-ing, ev-er blessed,
4 Mor-tals, join the might-y cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan;

Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore you, open-ing to the sun a-bove.
Stars and an-gels sing a-round you, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv-ing, o-cean depth of hap-py rest!
Bound-less love is reign-ing o’er us, re-con-cil-ing race and clan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, drive the storms of doubt a-way;
Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Lov-ing Spir-it, Fa-ther, Moth-er, all who love be-long to you;
Ev-er sing-ing, move we for-ward, faith-ful in the midst of strife,

Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.
Teach us how to love each oth-er, by that love our joy re-new.
Joy-ful mu-sic leads us on-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

Henry van Dyke was a noted church leader, U.S. ambassador, Navy chaplain, and prolific writer. Many people associate this hymn with Beethoven’s ninth symphony, but few are aware of the original poem by the German classicist F. Schiller (1759–1805) that inspired Beethoven.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.
Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
Adapt. and harm. Edward Hodges, 1846
JOHNNETTA BETSCH COLE ’57 is director of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of African Art. She made history in 1987 when becoming the first African American woman to serve as president of Spelman College; she also served as president of Bennett College. Dr. Cole is the only person to have served as the president of our nation’s two historically Black colleges for women. Her long and distinguished career as an educator and humanitarian is seen throughout her work as a college president, university professor, and in her published works, speeches, and community service, where she has consistently confronted racial, gender, and other forms of inequality.

Born in Jacksonville, Florida, Dr. Cole earned a Bachelor of Arts in sociology at Oberlin in 1957. She earned a Master of Arts in anthropology and a Doctor of Philosophy in anthropology with a focus on African studies, both at Northwestern University. Dr. Cole is also professor emerita of Emory University, from where she retired as Presidential Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, Women’s Studies, and African American Studies. Among her writings are Gender Talk: The Struggle for Women’s Equality in African American Communities, coauthored by Beverly Guy-Sheftall, and I am Your Sister: Collected and Unpublished Writings of Audre Lord, a book she coedited with Rudolph Byrd and Beverly Guy-Sheftall.

Dr. Cole has been awarded more than 60 honorary degrees and is the recipient of numerous awards, including the TransAfrica Forum Global Public Service Award, the Radcliffe Medal, the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal, the Alexis de Tocqueville Award for Community Service from United Way of America, the Joseph Prize for Human Rights presented by the Anti-Defamation League, the Uncommon Height Award from the National Council of Negro Women, the John W. Gardner Leadership Award from Independent Sector, the Lenore and George W. Romney Citizen Volunteer Award from Points of Light Foundation, the Alston-Jones International Civil and Human Rights Award, and the 2015 BET Award for Excellence in Education.

MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN is founder and president of the Children’s Defense Fund (CDF). She has been an advocate for children and families her entire professional life. Under her leadership, the CDF has become one of the nation’s strongest voices to address child and family poverty.

Originally from Bennettsville, South Carolina, Marian Wright Edelman earned a Bachelor of Arts at Spelman College. While still an undergraduate, she spent a year abroad studying and traveling in Europe as a Merrill Scholar and six weeks in the Soviet Union as a Lisle Fellow. In 1963, she received her Juris Doctor at Yale Law School and began her career as the first black woman admitted to
the Mississippi Bar. Dr. Edelman also directed the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund office in Jackson, Mississippi, where she worked on issues of racial injustice connected with the civil rights movement and represented activists during the Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964. In 1968, she moved to Washington, D.C., as counsel for the Poor People’s Campaign that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. began organizing before his death. She founded the Washington Research Project, a public interest law firm and the parent body of the Children’s Defense Fund.

Dr. Edelman served on the board of trustees of Spelman College and was the first woman elected by the alumni as a member of the Yale University Corporation. She has received more than 100 honorary degrees and many awards, including the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Prize, the Heinz Award, a MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship, the Presidential Medal of Freedom (the nation’s highest civilian award), and the Robert F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award for her long list of writings, including *Families in Peril: An Agenda for Social Change; The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours; and The Sea Is So Wide and My Boat Is So Small: Charting a Course for the Next Generation.*

**ALAN B. WACHTEL ’68** is the founder and medical director of Familyhealth Associates, a multidisciplinary private group practice specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of attention, behavior, learning, and mood disorders. He is the president of the Foundation for Family Health Studies, a nonprofit foundation dedicated to public education and research. Dr. Wachtel’s son, Jonathan Wachtel, is an Oberlin alumnus, Class of 2011.

Dr. Wachtel is the son of the late Harry H. Wachtel, New York attorney, legal advisor, and confidant of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Alan’s father worked with Dr. King over a period of nine years on political, legal, and strategic matters, including marches and the Voting Rights Acts. He joined the King family in Oslo for Dr. King’s acceptance of the Nobel Prize.

Dr. King, watching Harry’s son grow through the college years, wrote a letter of recommendation for Alan to attend graduate school, wherein he described Alan’s “significant participation in the direct support of the struggle of human dignity and true equality.” First, the young Alan Wachtel organized and led a vitally important conference on “Southern Justice,” and second, when the “Selma campaign for voting rights involved Hammermill Paper Co., Alan bore witness with his body at the gates of that company at Erie, Pennsylvania,” wrote Dr. King.
Dr. Wachtel earned a Doctor of Medicine degree at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine and served on the faculty at NYU School of Medicine as clinical associate professor of psychiatry for over 25 years. He is a distinguished life fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. Dr. Wachtel has been designated “Best Physician” by the New York Times and one of “America’s Top Doctors” in the area of pharmacology of mood and attention disorders. Dr. Wachtel is the author of The Attention Deficit Answer Book.

HARRIS L. WOFFORD, a former U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania, earned a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Chicago in 1949, after which he and his wife, Clare, traveled to India on a fellowship to study Gandhi a year after the Mahatma’s assassination. Returning home, they together wrote the book India Afire. Intending to join the civil rights movement, Sen. Wofford enrolled at Howard University Law School in 1950, later becoming the first white student to graduate from that center of civil rights law. He went on to earn a second law degree at Yale Law School.

Sen. Wofford became an active proponent of adding Gandhi’s non-violent strategy as an integral part of the civil rights movement. He became a friend and adviser of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who joked that Wofford was the one volunteer lawyer on his team that would help him go to jail when it seemed necessary, and not use all the tricks of the trade to keep him out. In 1960, when Dr. King was jailed for participating in an Atlanta student-led sit-in, Sen. Wofford had the idea of President John F. Kennedy calling Coretta Scott King to convey his concern and support. That call became famous and led to King’s release and was a key factor in Kennedy’s election.

In 1961, Sen. Wofford served as President Kennedy’s special assistant for civil rights. In 1966, he became the founding president of the State University of New York’s new College at Old Westbury. From 1970 to 1978, he was the fifth president of Bryn Mawr College. In 1991, he was elected to Senate in a special election from Pennsylvania. In the general election of 1994, he was defeated by Representative Rick Santorum. In 2008, then-Senator Barack Obama asked Sen. Wofford to deliver the introduction for his famous “A More Perfect Union” speech on race.

In the Senate and since, Sen. Wofford has been a constant advocate for large-scale national service, from the Peace Corps to AmeriCorps and now the Franklin Project of the Aspen Institute, for which he serves as a senior advisor—a campaign to make it a common opportunity for all young Americans to serve full-time for a year or more.
Letter to Martin, written by David Maslanka ’65, is a memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s commencement address to the Oberlin College Class of 1965. This musical gift was commissioned for Oberlin by Betty Beer Franklin ’65 as a tribute to Dr. King, who profoundly affected the lives of those who heard him speak on Oberlin’s campus in 1965, as well as the lives of so many others.

Dr. Maslanka stated that he found writing this piece daunting: for what more could possibly be said about this great man, Dr. King? Upon reflection, Maslanka decided to speak to MLK as a friend, as one who cared for him and others he addressed, and as one whose life, words, and personhood were a beacon for Maslanka’s own life. Through narrative, he hopes to connect the listener to the core of Dr. King, which was his heart of love. This composition and narrative is a remembrance of episodes in Dr. King’s life in which he passed through fear to deepest calling, through grief to committed love, through life to the contemplation of his death and legacy.

African-American folk songs, called the Sorrow Songs, are at the heart of the composition. These are songs that carried Dr. King through the darkest times. You will hear Amazing Grace, Steal Away to Jesus, Deep River, There is a Balm in Gilead, and Swing Low, Sweet Chariot.

David Maslanka ’65 earned a PhD at Michigan State University and taught at the State University of New York at Geneseo, Sarah Lawrence College, and Kingsborough Community College of the City University of New York. He has been a freelance composer for many years. His works, especially for winds, are widely performed.
**THE PRESIDENT JOHN HENRY BARROWS MEDAL**

The President John Henry Barrows Medal for Interfaith Leadership is a commencement award established by the Interfaith Faculty and Staff Council to honor a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding and exemplary leadership in promoting religious and philosophical pluralism and interfaith engagement during their time at Oberlin College.

The medal is named for Oberlin College’s fifth president, The Reverend John Henry Barrows (1847-1902), who convened the 1893 World’s Parliament of Religions, which is widely regarded as the beginning of the modern interfaith movement. Like President Barrows, awardees will have demonstrated a significant commitment to their own religious or philosophical tradition as well as a passionate involvement in interfaith engagement. Oberlin College faculty and staff and ORSL Affiliates may nominate graduating students. The Barrows Medal honors Oberlin’s ongoing tradition of interfaith leadership.

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**THE FINNEY WINDOW**

*After the Baccalaureate Ceremony and upon the departure of candidates for graduation in the Class of 2015, the Finney Window will be lighted and remain lit through Campus Illumination, providing a spectacular view from Tappan Square.*

Robert Mangold’s Oberlin Window is a lucid composition of geometric forms in four colors of stained glass; ultramarine, vermillion, and two tones of gray. The window can be read as a stack of geometrical solids constructed out of colored glass; a red square sandwiched between a blue circle and a tilted gray parallelogram. The leading, which supports the weight of the glass, creates a linear composition, adding a square lozenge, an ellipse tilted to the right and, in heavier leading, an X-shape that composes a rectilinear hourglass, tilted to the left. Seen at night from Tappan Square, the composition is reversed to dramatic effect.

The Oberlin Window is some 35 feet off the ground and nearly 10 feet in diameter: each of the elements is thus considerably larger than the view and seems to take on its own kinesthetic force. Mangold’s Window is designed to exploit the metamorphic power of light; it is a receptor of the drama of illumination. It is concerned with achieving the utmost range of affect from the fewest elements or the least interventions. Each apperception of the window yields a new experience, related but distinguished from earlier viewing. In this way, it reinforces the viewer’s sensitivity to gradations of impact or meaning, to varieties of viewpoint, to nuances of interpretation. It complements the use of Finney Chapel as a sanctuary of the intellect.

—Adapted, Robert Mangold: The Oberlin Window, by Elizabeth A. Brown