All graduates and former students, currently more than 40,000, who attended the college of Arts and Sciences at Oberlin College, the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, the Oberlin College Graduate School of Theology, or the Kindergarten Primary Training School are members of the Alumni Association. Members of the association meet annually at the alumni luncheon, the day before Commencement.
About the Alumni Association

The Alumni Association’s vision guides alumni activities as diverse as career services and bowling, reunions and regional book clubs, the selection of six members of the Board of Trustees, and picnics for newly enrolled students. These activities and countless others help maintain our partnership with today’s Oberlin and reinforce Oberlin values in us.

Association leaders commit seriously to the vision and strive to realize it through our decisions and actions. Association committees provide an opportunity for alumni to interact with key college and conservatory administrators.

The work of our Trustee Search Committee on the identification and selection of well-qualified candidates to stand for election as Alumni-Elected Trustees is one of the most important areas of alumni involvement in policy making and we are very proud of the excellent candidates whom our process has identified and have served Oberlin on the Board of Trustees.

The Alumni Association facilitates alumni involvement in many college and conservatory activities. Each year, for instance, more than 350 alumni are actively involved in helping the Office of Admissions recruit students to Oberlin, by attending college fairs, conducting interviews, and hosting informational meetings or admitted student receptions. Alumni actively support the career services office, with more than 3,560 alumni registered as career mentors.

DEWY WARD ’34 ALUMNI CENTER

On September 24, 2010, Oberlin alumni and friends of all generations gathered downtown to celebrate the grand opening of the Dewy Ward ’34 Alumni Center (bottom left).

The new home of the Alumni Office is located in the East College Street Project, a sustainable, mixed-use complex developed by three young alumni — Ben Ezinga ’01, Josh Rosen ’01, and Naomi Sabel ’02. It’s a modern, welcoming, and open space where visitors can meet the staff and other alumni, learn more about the Alumni Association and the college, and even check e-mail while enjoying a cup of coffee. Beyond supplying more physical space, the new center also symbolizes the prominent place of alumni in the college community.

The center is named in honor of Dewy Ward ’34, who was the first woman president of the Oberlin Alumni Association, initiator of innovative alumni programming, defender of students during the Vietnam era, and 1996 Alumni Medal recipient.

The Association’s Vision

- Provide a lifelong community for students and alumni of Oberlin College.
- Be an effective partner in supporting Oberlin’s academic and artistic excellence.
- Enhance commitment to Oberlin’s historic values of excellence, justice, and service.
Each year, the Oberlin Alumni Association recognizes alumni whose achievements or contributions to Oberlin and/or society are considered to be exceptional. Ten such alumni were honored during 2010, most of them at the Alumni Council's fall dinner and awards ceremony.

Leanne Cupp Wagner ’76 (above), a pharmaceuticals industry professional and businesswoman from Pennsylvania, was recognized during the 2010 commencement ceremony with our Alumni Medal. An active volunteer, she has served as president of the Alumni Association, president of the Class of 1976, an admissions volunteer and career mentor, and a Philadelphia Alumni Club volunteer. She has also served as a member of the President’s Advisory Council, and led the way in supporting the new Dewy Ward ’34 Alumni Center, especially by involving past presidents of the association.

Sarah Gamble Epstein ’48 (above) was given the Distinguished Service Award for her volunteer work on behalf of women, peace, immigration, civil rights, and art. She serves on the boards of several nonprofit organizations, including Pathfinder International, Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, the Center for Development Activities, the Federation for American Immigrant Reform, and the Population Institute. Sarah has traveled the world to help women have better access to reproductive health options. As a member of the National Society of Women Geographers, she was the first woman to climb Mount Warzmann in the Bavarian Alps.

Wendell Logan (above), the legendary founder of Oberlin’s jazz studies program, was inducted posthumously into the Jazz Education Hall of Fame, and was posthumously bestowed the Alumni Medal at his memorial service in the fall. The award was given to Bettye Logan, his widow, at the 2011 Commencement. Logan died in June 2010.

Thomas A. Balmer ’74 (above) received the Distinguished Achievement Award. A jurist and a sitting justice on the Supreme Court of the State of Oregon, he’s served as a litigator in private practice, as chief deputy attorney general of the Oregon Department of Justice, and as a local trial judge. In addition to his work, Tom is a committed community volunteer. He has coached youth soccer and lacrosse, served as a board member for Chamber Music Northwest, and was a founding committee member of the Portland Parks Foundation. He currently serves as a volunteer for the Goose Hollow Family Shelter.

James Feddeck ’05 (above), assistant
conductor for the Cleveland Orchestra, received the first **Outstanding Young Alumni Award**. He is recognized as one of the most prominent rising musical talents of his generation, and credits Oberlin with helping him on his journey.

**Norman E. Thompson ’54**, a dedicated servant of Oberlin for many years, was posthumously awarded the **Alumni Appreciation Award**. He served as an admissions representative, class president, on the Heisman board, an associate agent, on more than one council committee, and as a career counselor. With a record of service to Oberlin that spanned more than 50 years, Norm was a true son of Oberlin. Fred Shults ’54 accepted the award on behalf of Norm and his family and spoke movingly of their years at Oberlin. Norm died in February 2008.

**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

**Smith Brittingham ’60** (below) was honored for the dedication and the enormous amount of time he volunteered in reconnecting friends with each other and with Oberlin, by creating a comprehensive class reunion directory and memento.

**John Donaldson ’60** (below), chair of his 50th Reunion Gift Committee, was honored for leading the Class of 1960 to a new 50th reunion class participation record of 89.4 percent and successfully exceeding their class gift goal of $6 million. John’s persistence is legendary among his classmates.

The efforts of two class presidents, **José Meléndez ’01** and **Béla Schwartz ’79** (above left and right, respectively), stood out this year, as evidenced by well-attended and successful 10th and 30th reunions.

Also honored in September were retiring members of the Alumni Council’s Executive Board: Bill Hilton ’65, past president of the Alumni Association; Andy Goldner ’56; Rashne Limki ’05; Janet McNeili ’67; Eric Rosenberg ’75; and Dixie Sommers ’70.

Regional Coordinator **Kira McGirr ’06** (right) stepped into her role as coordinator of the Oberlin Club of Cleveland armed with creativity, energy, and ideas for diverse programming. She integrated the Oberlin community into the Cleveland Club by planning events in and around Oberlin, including an Oberlin Cares Day community service event at George Jones Farm, an alumni dinner at Black River Café, and an evening at the Oberlin Summer Theater Festival, and much more.

More information on alumni awards and past recipients is available at [http://new.oberlin.edu/office/alumni/alumni-awards](http://new.oberlin.edu/office/alumni/alumni-awards)
Alumni Association Website and OBIEWeb: Oberlin’s Online Alumni Directory

In the fall of 2010, the Oberlin Alumni Association website (http://new.oberlin.edu/office/alumni) underwent a major redesign. We hope alumni will find the new site easier — and more enjoyable — to navigate.

OBIEWeb, the alumni online directory, continues to grow each year, helping us communicate with alumni and keep them connected and informed. You can use OBIEWeb to find former classmates or other Obies in your region, and Obies who share interests.

As of June 3, 2011, OBIEWeb had 42,917 records with e-mail addresses. Below are some additional statistics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered Users</td>
<td>17,624</td>
<td>20,462</td>
<td>21,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent E-mail</td>
<td>7,590</td>
<td>8,663</td>
<td>8,907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Notes</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>971</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHERE OBIES LIVE

While Obies can be found everywhere in the world, below is a breakdown of the states that have a significant Oberlin alumni population.

ASOC: Alumni in Service to Oberlin College

The Alumni Association established the Alumni in Service to Oberlin College (ASOC) program almost three decades ago to help departments, programs, and student groups bring alumni back to campus to lecture and meet with current students and other community members. While in town, alumni give speeches, lead workshops, answer questions, and participate in informal discussions with faculty, staff, and students. This year, 16 alumni were brought back to campus, including:

- Professional mediator and trainer Leah Wing ‘84
- Opera singer Marco Antonio Labastida ‘95
- Musicology scholar Lorenzo Candelaria ‘95
- Librarian Molly Raphael ‘67
- Economist Daniel Hoskin ‘90
- Epigenetics professor Eric S. Haag ‘90
- Percussionist David Shively ‘94
- Filmmaker Peter Miller ‘84
- Librarian Molly Raphael ‘67
- Cacao scholar Nathaniel Mich ‘10
- Reverend Won-Jae Hur ‘96
- Somatic movement and dance educator Lee Fogel ‘07
- Historian and author Isaac Land ‘92
The association had another very busy and highly productive year of activities in Oberlin, throughout the United States and in foreign countries. Highly visible activities of the alumni office include Commencement/Reunion Weekend, the travel program, regional club events, Oberlin Cares – Alumni Day of Service, and special reunions.

In addition, the Alumni Association announced the launch of its first international alumni club in England, this spring. The Oberlin Club of London, headed by regional coordinator Katie Rowland ’07, has hit the ground running with well-attended kick-off events and more to come.

In September 2010, more than 200 alumni volunteers returned to campus for the Alumni Council Weekend. During that time the Executive Board, each of our eight committees, affiliate group steering committees, regional coordinators, class presidents, and lead class agents held meetings, toured the new Dewy Ward ’34 Alumni Center and the East College Street Project, attended a Q&A with President Marvin Krislov, and enjoyed a roof-raising performance by singer-songwriter Josh Ritter ’99 in Finney Chapel.

In October, hundreds of alumni returned to campus for the Alumni Association of African Ancestry (OA4) Reunion, celebrating 175 years of African American heritage at Oberlin. The weekend included an alumni panel, a memorial and tribute concert in honor of Wendell Logan (the late founder and former chair of the Jazz Studies Program in the conservatory), dinners, banquets, a rendition of *Macbeth*, directed by Justin Emeka ’94, and much more.

In March, the Alumni Association and Conservatory held an organ alumni reunion and announced the first endowed professorship named after a current or emeritus professor — the David Boe Chair in Organ Studies. This professorship has been made possible thanks to a gift of $2 million given by the Wyncote Foundation.

Obies nationwide participated in the second annual Oberlin Cares — Alumni Day of Service, in April. Oberlin alumni, students, parents, faculty, and staff came together to volunteer for service projects in their local communities. This year, 14 Oberlin Alumni Clubs performed more than 40 hours of service nationwide, from sorting provisions at an area food bank, to painting houses for the elderly, to cleaning up local parks.

Other events included the annual Celebration of Obies in D.C., which featured guest speaker Cynthia Hogan ’79, counsel to Vice President Joe Biden; 16 summer picnics; a talk at the Chicago Humanities Festival with Lorraine Manz, associate professor of singing and director of the Otto B. Schoepfle Vocal Arts Center at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music; the 3rd Annual Alumni and Parents Baseball Celebration with the Oberlin baseball team, in Arizona; and a conservatory alumni rooftop reception in New York City, with Dean David H. Stull, hosted by Lee Koonce ’82.

Finally, during Commencement/Reunion Weekend, original alumni members of OSteel (formerly known as the Can Consortium), celebrated the 30th reunion of the group’s founding. Festivities included a pan symposium, a reunion dinner, and the usual OSteel performances before the Alumni-Senior Celebration Luncheon and after Illumination.

**ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT STUDY**

An alumni engagement study is underway to gain an understanding of how to better identify and meet the needs of Oberlin alumni and to develop a plan to evaluate and measure alumni engagement on an ongoing basis. Consultant Steven Roth ’77 has led the study with the assistance of Danielle Young, executive director of the Alumni Association, and John Keller, Director of Alumni Regional Activities. Research for the study consisted of interviews of alumni directors at peer schools, interviews of Oberlin College constituents across campus, and alumni focus group discussions held in New York, Boston, and Washington D.C.

Key takeaways from the research indicate that there are staffing and technology resource issues to be addressed; Oberlin’s efforts in alumni engagement are equivalent to its peers, although there are opportunities for enhancements; and that the major areas of focus should be alumni engagement measurement and communication of engagement opportunities. Next academic year, we will define alumni engagement, establish and test a baseline for measurement, and then develop and evaluate new programs to increase the overall engagement of Oberlin College alumni. We look forward to sharing more information about this exciting initiative.
Commencement/Reunion Weekend, held May 27-30, was another great success with alumni, parents, graduates, and friends converging on campus for the celebration.

More than 1,600 registration forms were processed, many of which were for multiple guests. In addition, 617 graduating seniors were in Oberlin. Needless to say it was a lively weekend. We welcomed the classes of 2005, 2006, and 2007 celebrating their 5th cluster reunion; the classes of 1990, 1991, and 1992 celebrating their 20th reunion; the class of 1986 celebrating its 25th reunion; the classes of 1970, 1971, and 1972 celebrating their 40th reunion; the class of 1961 celebrating its 50th reunion; and the classes of 1955, 1956, and 1957 celebrating their 55th reunion.

The Dewy Ward ’34 Alumni Center served as the Commencement/Reunion Welcome Center for the first time and the staff enjoyed receiving alumni and parents in the lovely space.

Other new facilities on campus were incorporated into the weekend with the Robert Lewis Kahn Hall being used to house the 50th reunion and the Bertram and Judith Kohl Building being utilized for special events.

The Class of 2011 included the first Posse graduates from Oberlin College. A special reception, attended by Posse representatives, President Marvin Krislov, Dean of Studies Kathryn Stuart, and family members, was held on Sunday, May 29, prior to Illumination.
Life and Work After Oberlin

**Occupations of Oberlin College Graduates by Decade**

In 2006, the Office of Institutional Research conducted a study of Oberlin alumni occupations. The most popular career fields, from the 1960s to the 2000s, include education, business and commerce, health professions, music performance, and public service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decade</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education Coll/Univ</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business and Commerce</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Professions</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Performance</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Service</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education K-12</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law, Judicial Professions</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer and Informations Systems</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultant</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological and Life Sciences</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Sciences</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artists and Entertainers (non-music)</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Industry</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trade/Crafts</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counseling</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics -applied</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2010-2011 Alumni Association Travel Program

It’s been a wonderful year of educational travel with our alumni tours. Fourteen alumni and friends explored the Amazon River Basin in a region of remote jungles and black-water rivers and, closer to home, floated the gentle Colorado River currents through spectacular canyon country between Fruita, Colorado, and Westwater, Utah.

A tour of Mediterranean charm and Alpine majesty in the Lake Como region of Italy, in partnership with the Allen Memorial Art Museum, took place in June 2011 with eighteen participants. Andria Derstine, curator of collections and curator of European and American art at the Allen Memorial Art Museum, enhanced the Lake Como tour experience with lectures and her impressive knowledge of art and Italy.

If you have the travel bug and want to experience the world with other Oberlin alumni, faculty and staff, we encourage you to consider our current offerings online at [http://new.oberlin.edu/office/alumni/travel-tours](http://new.oberlin.edu/office/alumni/travel-tours).
Alumni, family, and friends:

We hope that you will consider ways to maintain your contact with Oberlin in between reunions through our regional activities and many volunteer opportunities.

Serving as your president has been a great honor and privilege, and I must give my sincere thanks to the staff in the Alumni Office and my fellow members of the Executive Board of the Alumni Association for their exemplary service and support.

Dwan Vanderpool Robinson ’83
President (2009-2012), Oberlin Alumni Association

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**HOW TO STAY IN TOUCH**

**OBIEWeb**
https://www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/OBL
Find your Oberlin friends and make new connections through the OBIEWeb Alumni Online Community. OBIEWeb includes a searchable directory of Oberlin alumni, class notes, event information, networking opportunities, and a permanent e-mail forwarding address (yourname@world.oberlin.edu), so your friends will always be able to find you.

**Alumni E-Newsletter: Around the Square**
new.oberlin.edu/newsletters/around-the-square
Around the Square is your inside connection to Oberlin stories, news, and events. It is produced by the Office of Communications in cooperation with the Alumni Association for alumni, emeriti, and friends of Oberlin College. Around the Square reports on institutional developments; the achievements of faculty, staff, and students; town-gown news; and events and opportunities for alumni.

**LinkedIn**
www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=50196
Currently about 3,000 Oberlin alumni have joined the LinkedIn Oberlin Alumni Group, making it a vibrant community. To access the network, you must complete a profile and request to join. Matt Paddock ’94 leads the group.

**Facebook**
www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2362432406
The Oberlin Alumni Facebook page boasts nearly 3,500 members. It is a forum to discuss all things Oberlin.

**Twitter**
http://twitter.com/oberlinalumni
The official Twitter account of the Oberlin Alumni Association provides breaking news and information that is of interest to all Obies.