berlin Illuminate: A Campaign for College and Conservatory achieved significant fundraising success in Fiscal Year 2013. According to Bill Barlow, vice president for development and alumni affairs, “We added significant gifts and pledges to the campaign this year. Our overall fundraising total was $48.3 million vs. $42.7 million for all of FY ’12. The Annual Fund (a combination of Alumni Fund and Parents Fund) topped $6.6 million vs. $6.2 million last year.”

The campaign total as of September 30, 2013, was $191,617,964—more than 76 percent of the way to our goal. This places us well ahead of schedule, and we continue to be pleased with our progress to date.

Staff members in development and alumni affairs are always looking for new ways to engage alumni—through volunteering or participating in reunion and other events on campus and in regional events and activities. Throughout this newsletter, you will find stories about how our alumni are giving back—financially and with their time and talents—and demonstrating their support to the institution.

“I want to thank each and every one of you for the results we’ve experienced this year and what they mean to the mission of Oberlin College,” says Barlow. “This is not just fundraising success; it reflects the work of the entire Oberlin community. We can all take pride in this accomplishment.”
A S A M P L I N G  O F  N O T A B L E  C A N N A I G N G I F T S

A R E S O N D I N G  L A B E L

Joseph R. Clonick ’57 contributed $5 million to fund the recording studio that bears his name. The Joseph R. Clonick Studio at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music is used to produce projects under the conservatory’s commercial recording label, Oberlin Music, and also serves as a venue for master classes. An impressive roster of musicians has used the state-of-the-art facility, including pianist and composer Hiromi Uehara; baroque cellist Jaap ter Linden; cellist Zuill Bailey; principal hornist of the Cleveland Orchestra Richard King; and Stevie Wonder, who stopped by to play the studio’s Hamburg Steinway during the grand opening celebration of the Bertram and Judith Kohl Building. According to Clonick, “I was interested in creating music even before I could read music.” His gift will benefit musicians that follow in his footsteps for many years to come.

Cross-Cultural Scholarship

Thanks to a generous $250,000 gift from The Liu Foundation, as recommended by Wyna Liu ’05 and Yvonne Liu, the college has established the Liu Endowed Scholarship Fund. This scholarship honors Oberlin’s strong commitment to international education and cross-cultural exchange. Awarded annually, this scholarship provides financial aid to academically and financially deserving Oberlin College students with declared majors in fine arts and art history, foreign languages, or environmental studies.

Latinx Scholarship

The Luis Palacios ’75 Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund was created with a $50,000 gift from Natalia Delgado ’76. Natalia created the scholarship to honor the memory of her dear friend, the late Luis Palacios ’75, one of the first Latinx students to attend Oberlin. The scholarship will be awarded annually to needy students at Oberlin, with a preference for Latinx students. Natalia encourages friends and classmates of Luis Palacios and other alumni to add to Natalia’s contribution in whatever amount they can afford in order to double the size of the fund in the next five years and honor Luis’ leadership in the efforts to increase the numbers of Latinx students at Oberlin.

Enhanced Efficiency

Karen L. Florini ’79 and Neil R. Ericsson have established a $45,000 current use fund to enhance energy efficiency at Oberlin. The fund will allow Oberlin to purchase, install, and maintain energy-efficient systems above and beyond that which would otherwise be undertaken. The fund also supports the maintenance of equipment and materials, training, data management, and analysis.

Entrepreneurial Spirit

Ellen Uhrbrock ’51 pledged $50,000 to the Creativity and Leadership program. The program transforms students through experiences and curriculum and prepares them to start new companies or work effectively in a business endeavor beyond Oberlin. The pledge serves as seed money to prepare, encourage, and enable students to launch high potential projects their first year after graduation from Oberlin.

Athletic Advancements

The Thomas F. ’78 and Evon C. Cooper Fund for Athletic Excellence provides $1.5 million in financial support to advance the strategic priorities of the Division of Athletics and Physical Education. Funds will be used to support a variety of programmatic and capital needs in support of the Health and Wellness priority of the Oberlin Illuminate Campaign.
**Volunteering: Service from a Young Alumnus**

**Mike McCumber ’05**

I am not sure who submitted my name as a potential volunteer,” says Ryan Brazell ’05, an alumnus who began volunteering for Oberlin College in 2007. Six years later, he continues to serve his school in multiple areas.

His first volunteer role was as an interviewer for the Alumni Recruiting Network. ARN volunteers meet with applying students for one-on-one interviews. The goal, as Brazell describes it, is not just to see if the applicant is the right fit for Oberlin, but if Oberlin is the right fit for the student.

“I felt like I learned more about Oberlin as I interviewed each student,” says Brazell. In the handful of interviews he conducted in San Francisco, each applicant found a different aspect of the school—a program, a specific professor or class, an extra-curricular activity—that made Oberlin a top choice. Brazell says this rounded out his own understanding of what Oberlin had to offer.

Still, Brazell says he sees work to be done.

“I volunteer with Oberlin because I’m not satisfied with how it approaches its goals,” he says. “I work hard to get my voice heard.” Since volunteering with the Alumni Recruiting Network, Brazell joined and became co-chair of the Oberlin Lambda Alumni affiliate group, which facilitates the relationship between the college and its lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer alumni. OLA has been hard at work increasing outreach for both alumni and current students. The OLA leadership has been moving toward better reflecting Oberlin’s LGBTQ population and offers two scholarships to current students. The Norm Robertson ’81 Prize and the Andy Cemelli ’85 Grant give awards to projects that advance communal awareness of issues related to LGBTQ persons. Brazell currently represents Oberlin Lambda on the executive board of the Alumni Association.

“I am incredibly grateful for the ongoing support and opportunities for learning the college and members of the Oberlin community have provided,” Brazell says. “Through my labor, I hope to pay that debt forward. I also hope to make heard the voices of my fellow trans*genderqueer community members, as well as those from the LGBTQ community at-large.”

What suggestions does Brazell have for alumni who want to begin volunteering for Oberlin? “The Alumni Recruiting Network is a great place to get started,” he says. “It’s a small commitment and reminds me of the parts of Oberlin I love.” Brazell also encourages alumni to host regional events. With the help of the alumni office and regional alumni club volunteers, throwing a potluck or arranging a happy hour are simple ways to bring alumni together.

Developing Oberlin’s regional groups is on Brazell’s list of projects to tackle during his next five years of service. He sees the regional clubs as an opportunity for providing a safety net for Oberlin entering new spaces. Along with creating city guides and a robust activity calendar for alumni who move to a new city, Brazell would like to create connections between alumni in cities and regions that may not have their own regional alumni clubs.

Until then, the next major project for Brazell and Oberlin Lambda will be a reunion in October 2014. Volunteers, both new and experienced, are welcome. Find out more at http://campaign.oberlin.edu.

**“Throwing a potluck or arranging a happy hour are simple ways to bring alumni together.”**

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**“For every reason, Oberlin was the right choice.”**

When Chip Hauss ’60 came to Oberlin in 1965, there were many reasons behind his choice. What led him to consider the school was a family connection. His mother, Amy Taub Hauss ’43, was a conservatory alumna, but as he was deciding between schools, it was a magazine cover story about protests in Oberlin that finally drew him in. “That whole connection between academia and activism really grew during my time at Oberlin,” Hauss reflects.

While he came to Oberlin to study math, it was the engagement of students and their willingness to work not just on their grades but on making the world a better place that inspired him. “A few professors took me under their wings and made me a good student,” Hauss recalls. He made the switch to political science and never looked back. Recently, at a dinner with friends, Hauss was asked what Oberlin meant to him. His response: “Everything. Everything I am, personally and politically, I owe to Oberlin.”

This statement focused Hauss on what he could do to give back to Oberlin, but it was his experience with a recent student that gave his generosity direction and purpose. Caroline Rogers ’13 interned with Hauss at Alliance for Peace, working to develop database tools to increase and improve the social engagement aspects of data sharing between governmental bodies and the NGO community. “It very quickly became clear that she wasn’t my intern, but that I was hers,” Hauss recalls.

Neither of them would have had the pleasure of working together without such an intern experience. This prompted Hauss to establish the Oberlin Social Capital Fund for Internships.

“I realized I wanted to target my giving to Oberlin in this way: fund projects that increase social capital—the investments we make in society that aren’t necessarily financial but that are directed toward a greater social good; gifts that are focused on social responsibility.”

“It’s my first gift of this magnitude,” he adds. “I was not a major giver for the first 15 years because I didn’t have much. But I’ve been giving at an increasing rate since the mid-2000s. What I hope is that my gift leverages more money from other alumni to host regional events. With the help of the alumni office and regional alumni club volunteers, throwing a potluck or arranging a happy hour are simple ways to bring alumni together.”

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**“EVERYTHING I AM, PERSONALLY AND POLITICALLY, I OWE TO OBERLIN.”**

Founded in 1977, the AMAM houses an encyclopedic collection of more than 14,000 objects selected to provide a comprehensive overview of the history of art from virtually every culture. It is recognized as one of the five best academic museums in the country, and is free to all.
Fred '89 and Misun '89 Cummings exited the plane at Cleveland Hopkins Airport and was greeted by an admissions brochure from Oberlin. Based on nothing but the Coast colleges in the U.S. when her English teacher showed her Misun and her hosts made the drive from Cleveland to Oberlin, Misun Cummings '89, a native of Tokyo, was considering east chance, applied, and was accepted to Oberlin. And when she way were a shock and looked nothing like the pictures of the her host family, she was excited to start a new adventure. As Street Journal initiative. “He went to Mudd Library every day to read the Misun was impressed by Fred’s ambition, passion, and worldly. “I knew almost instantly that this was the woman I had to chase her around for almost nine years, and when I knew I wanted to study something different, I knew Oberlin would be a good fit because it offered music and academics.” Encouraged by his mother to attend, Gabriel felt an instant draw to the school, where he majored in East Asian studies and sat on the Student Honor Committee. Gabriel felt an instant draw to the school, where he majored in East Asian studies and sat on the Student Honor Committee. Gabriel felt an instant draw to the school, where he majored in East Asian studies and sat on the Student Honor Committee. Gabriela Lurain ‘06 and Gabriel Alvarado ‘05 began their Oberlin jour- leagued to the school, where he majored in East Asian studies and sat on the Student Honor Committee. Gabriela Lurain ‘06 and Gabriel Alvarado ‘05 began their Oberlin jour- leagued to the school, where he majored in East Asian studies and sat on the Student Honor Committee. Gabriela Lurain ‘06 and Gabriel Alvarado ‘05 began their Oberlin jour- leagued to the school, where he majored in East Asian studies and sat on the Student Honor Committee. Gabriela Lurain ‘06 and Gabriel Alvarado ‘05 began their Oberlin jour- leagued to the school, where he majored in East Asian studies and sat on the Student Honor Committee. Gabriela Lurain ‘06 and Gabriel Alvarado ‘05 began their Oberlin jour- leagued to the school, where he majored in East Asian studies and sat on the Student Honor Committee. Gabriela Lurain ‘06 and Gabriel Alvarado ‘05 began their Oberlin jour- leagued to the school, where he majored in East Asian studies and sat on the Student Honor Committee. Gabriela Lurain ‘06 and Gabriel Alvarado ‘05 began their Oberlin jour- leagued to the school, where he majored in East Asian studies and sat on the Student Honor Committee. Gabriela Lurain ‘06 and Gabriel Alvarado ‘05 began their Oberlin jour- leagued to the school, where he majored in East Asian studies and sat on the Student Honor Committee. Gabriela Lurain ‘06 and Gabriel Alvarado ‘05 began their Oberlin jour- leagued to the school, where he majored in East Asian studies and sat on the Student Honor Committee. Gabriela Lurain ‘06 and Gabriel Alvarado ‘05 began their Oberlin jour- leagued to the school, where he majored in East Asian studies and sat on the Student Honor Committee. Gabriela Lurain ‘06 and Gabriel Alvarado ‘05 began their Oberlin jour- leagued to the school, where he majored in East Asian studies and sat on the Student Honor Committee. Gabriela Lurain ‘06 and Gabriel Alvarado ‘05 began their Oberlin jour- leagued to the school, where he majored in East Asian studies and sat on the Student Honor Committee. Gabriela Lurain ‘06 and Gabriel Alvarado ‘05 began their Oberlin jour- leagued to the school, where he majored in East Asian studies and sat on the Student Honor Committee. Gabriela Lurain ‘06 and Gabriel Alvarado ‘05 began their Oberlin jour- leagued to the school, where he majored in East Asian studies and sat on the Student Honor Committee. Gabriela Lurain ‘06 and Gabriel Alvarado ‘05 began their Oberlin jour- leagued to the school, where he majored in East Asian studies and sat on the Student Honor Committee. Gabriela Lurain ‘06 and Gabriel Alvarado ‘05 began their Oberlin jour- leagued to the school, where he majored in East Asian studies and sat on the Student Honor Committee. Gabriela Lurain ‘06 and Gabriel Alvarado ‘05 began their Oberlin jour- leagued to the school, where he majored in East Asian studies and sat on the Student Honor Committee. Gabriela Lurain ‘06 and Gabriel Alvarado ‘05 began their Oberlin jour-