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# The Observer

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THE OBERLIN COLLEGE FACULTY AND STAFF NEWSPAPER

## Mellon Grant to Boost Language Learning at Ohio Five

Oberlin and the other members of the Five Colleges of Ohio Consortium have received a grant of \$750,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to strengthen foreign language learning through the use of technology. The grant for the four-year collaborative project was made to the "Ohio Five," which includes Oberlin and Kenyon colleges, Denison and Ohio Wesleyan universities, and the College of Wooster.

Funding from The Mellon Foundation will support two language-technology specialists who will help faculty at the Ohio Five colleges to reconceptualize the teaching of language and culture in light of educational technology, and to apply innovative technologies with the goal of increasing student proficiency. One of the specialists will be based in Oberlin.

The program will also provide some equipment, a series of training work-

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PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN SEIFRIED

A new Mellon grant will help students and faculty take better advantage of the language lab in Peters.

## Conservatory and College Collaborate to Teach Schubert's Lieder

"There should be some Schubert thing [at Oberlin]," David Breitman says he recalls musing as he began anticipating the 200th anniversary of composer Franz Schubert's birthday, which the music world will celebrate next year. And as Steven Huff puts it, "the timing seemed right from the cosmic vantage point."

Next semester Oberlin's "Schubert thing" will blossom into a course called Text and Music in Schubert's Lieder, cross listed as Historical Performance 202 in the con and German 322 in the college.

Breitman, the Conservatory of Music's assistant professor of historical performance, and Huff, the College of Arts and Sciences' associate professor

of German, will teach the course collaboratively. Together they will help students examine Schubert's art songs from the viewpoints of the music and the poetry. Students will also learn which poets Schubert chose to set, and why. They will read selected poems in translation and relate them to Schubert's settings while they also study the contemporary literary scene. And in-class performances and recordings will help them explore musical interpretation.

### The Attraction

"It is probably neither the music alone, nor the poetry by itself, but rather the interaction between the two that fascinates us the most," says

Huff. "This is the area that has never really been adequately explored, at least not in any genuinely collaborative fashion. Oberlin might be one of the few spots on the planet where something like this could happen."

Ironically, Huff says he has not seen a team-taught college-conservatory course in his 10 years at Oberlin. "The closest we came till now was the Mozart celebration a few years ago for which—thanks to the help and ingenuity of [Vice President for Research and Development] David Love—faculty in both college and con received an NEH [National Endowment for the Humanities] consortial grant to offer a variety of pertinent courses—but still no genuinely collaborative courses."

Several factors led Breitman to suggest the collaboration. The position Breitman holds on the conservatory faculty carries a mandate that he create interdisciplinary courses within the conservatory, though not necessarily involving the college. And in his professional life, as accompanist to baritone Sanford Sylvan, "poetry and music are a vital part of what I think about all the time," says Breitman. In the 1996-97 performance season alone, he and Sylvan will perform about 15 all-Schubert recitals.

### Teaching and Learning

"I've always felt like I don't know enough about poetry," Breitman

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## Planning Report on Campus and on Line, to Be Topic at All December Faculty Meetings

If the question is Where can I find a copy of the planning report? the answer is easy: all dorms and dining halls, many campus buildings, and the World Wide Web.

Last week Elaine Kuttner, Oberlin's long-range-planning consultant, submitted to President Nancy Dye the *Oberlin College Long Range Planning Report on Small Group Discussions*. These are the campus buildings to which the report has been distributed:

- Main Library, in Mudd Center
- Wilder Hall mailroom and front desk
- King Building first-floor lounge

- Conservatory lounge
  - Philips Gym lobby
  - Printing Services, in the Service Building
  - Peters Hall—great hall
  - Carnegie Building lobby
  - Office of the President, in the Cox Administration Building
  - Art Building—art-department office
- World Wide Web access of the document is at [www.oberlin.edu/~wwwcomm/planning/future.html](http://www.oberlin.edu/~wwwcomm/planning/future.html). Or click on the words In the Year 2020 on the Oberlin Online homepage.

Opportunities to discuss the report are still being arranged. Some of the

chances the Oberlin community has had and will have to discuss the report include

- College Faculty Meeting December 3
- Open forum for students December 7
- A&PS breakfast December 9
- Conservatory Faculty Meeting December 10
- General Faculty Meeting December 17

Students will also be able to discuss the planning report in dorm raps and in other student discussion groups. Small meetings with staff and faculty will also take place this month.

Discussions with alumni will occur in January: in Boston January 8, New

York City January 29, and Oberlin on dates to be announced.

The Board of Trustees will discuss the report at its December meeting, which began yesterday and ends tomorrow. In March they will receive a progress report to be prepared by Dye and the Planning Advisory Committee. That report will relate the activities and progress of the Planning Teams. In June trustees will receive a document from Dye and the committee for review and action.



## Faculty and Staff Notes



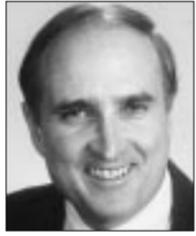
President **Nancy Dye** was quoted in Denver's *Rocky Mountain News* October 29 in Gary Gerhardt's "Nature Watch" column, which was entirely

about Oberlin's Environmental Studies Center (ESC). She had told the columnist, he related, about how Professor of Environmental Studies **David Orr** presented the ESC project to her. "She said Orr sold the concept by arguing that they are dealing with a generation of students who will spend their entire adult lives in the 21st century," Gerhardt wrote. "For them, issues of environmental and economic sustainability will be paramount." • The December issue of the *Instrumentalist* published an article—"An Interpretive Analysis of Verdi's *La Traviata*"—by

**John Knight**, professor of music education. John shows in the article that the three major themes in the pre-



lude to the first act form a superb synthesis of the entire opera. John also wrote the editorial, "Just Like Benny," for the October issue of the publication and contributed to one of the issue's articles, "Music Everyone Enjoys." His contribution covered the symphonic movement of Vaclav Nellybel and the "Chorale" and "Alleluia" of Howard Hanson. • **David Orr**, professor of environmental studies, has received a \$7,500 grant from the Stocker Founda-



tion to help support the first year of a two-year project, Watershed-Based Environmental Education: Linking the Liberal Arts and the Community. In the project the College will join with local grassroots organizations and schools to address pollution issues of the Black River Watershed. The funds will help project-coordinator **Brad Masi**, intern in environmental studies, develop and implement a curriculum on the watershed for local schools; publish a Black River Watershed book to be used by local schools, incoming College students, community organizations, and citizens; and develop demonstration projects and a resource library to support collaborative projects between the Environmental Studies Program and local community organizations. • **Sidney Rosenfeld**, professor of German, was one of 23 American academics who participated this past summer in the 1996 Fulbright German Studies Seminar, Germany and Jewish Studies

Today. The seminar updated participants on political developments in the recently united country, and familiarized them with Jewish community life, including organized religious life, since 1945. Participants also became acquainted with departments of Judaic studies and institutions for the study of German Jewry in seven German cities.



"It was an intense and varied program of visitations, tours, lectures, and discussions. We also had some memorable personal encounters," says Sidney. • **Dennison Smith**, professor of neuroscience and psychology, has become the first elected president of the Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience (FUN). FUN is a national organization that supports the interests of neuroscience teachers and researchers who work with and teach undergraduate students. •

**Richard Spear**, Mildred C. Jay Professor of Art History, has been appointed to the Samuel P. Ham Eminent Scholar Chair in Art History at the University of Florida for the academic year 1997-



98. Persons appointed to the chair are defined by the university as "internationally recognized scholars with a distinguished record of teaching, scholarship, publication and research. Notable practical experience in museum work is essential." Richard will teach a graduate seminar each semester that will lead to an exhibition in the university's museum three years later; he and the graduate students will plan the exhibition. Richard returned to Oberlin's campus this week from Italy, where he moderated one of the two days of Art History in the Age of Bellori, an international conference at the American Academy in Rome. The event commemorated the tercentenary of the death of Giovanni Pietro Bellori, noted antiquarian, author of *Le vite de' pittori, scultori e architetti moderni*, and secretary to Queen Christian of Sweden.

## Transitions

### New Employee

**Miguel Curl** (Oberlin College B.A. 1986) is head men's basketball coach and assistant women's soccer coach. Curl was assistant basketball coach at Triton College from 1985 to 1987. He has also taught



physical education at Hartgrove Academy (1986-1987), Maumee Valley Country Day (1987-1991), and Germantown Academy (1992-1994). Most recently, Curl worked as the intervention assistance coordinator at Oberlin High School and last season was the assistant men's basketball coach for the College. He says he enjoys working with young people and "motivating and mentoring them to reach their goals." A native of Chicago, Curl has three daughters, Ebony, Kara, and Kree.

### Change in Appointment

**Che Gonzalez**, coordinator of undergraduate research, is now also the Science Scholars Program coordinator.

### Departures

**Carole Beard**, secretary in the Conservatory Library for 25 years, will retire December 31. **Chris Jones**, programmer intern in the Development Resources office, will leave Oberlin December 20; he started this October. **Jeanette Mihalis**, resource manager in the biology department, will leave December 10. She began in the chemistry department as lab manager in 1976 and moved to biology with the same title in 1983.

## Language Labs . . .

*Continued from page 1*

shops for faculty, and grants for curriculum development or technology projects carried out collaboratively by faculty at the five colleges.

The project is designed to increase students' language and cultural proficiency, encourage collaboration among faculty at the five participating col-

leges, and explore ways the consortium can use shared resources and technology to offer courses in less-commonly taught languages. Language faculty expect the program to strengthen students' reading, writing, and comprehension skills and exposure to authentic materials (ones not designed specifically to teach a language), and lead to increased enrollments in upper-level courses.

"How technology can and should be used to enhance teaching are important questions for us to answer, and this project will make an important contribution to finding those answers," says David Love, associate vice president for research and development and the principal author of the successful proposal.

Nelson de Jesus, associate professor of French, will direct the first two years of the project. The director for the remaining two years of the program will be chosen by a steering committee of language-faculty members from the five colleges and de Jesus.

"The application of technology to the teaching of language and culture can play an important role in preparing students for immersion settings and meeting their individual learning needs and styles," says de Jesus. "Incorporating authentic materials not only creates a more stimulating learning experience but also exposes students to the kinds of 'real language' they will experience in natural cultural settings. Multimedia technology can present materials in challenging and appropriate formats that guide learners to higher levels of proficiency. It also

enables students to work at their own pace and access information on a variety of topics, making the process of language acquisition more learner centered and responsive to diverse learning styles, goals, and attitudes."

One of the anticipated benefits from the project is that it will allow Oberlin faculty and students to take full advantage of the multimedia equipment and resources available in the Paul and Edith Cooper International Learning Center that opened in September in Peters Hall.

The Five Colleges of Ohio Consortium was established in 1995 with a grant from the Mellon Foundation for collaboration on library resources. The consortium seeks to meet the educational and cultural goals of the participating colleges by fostering closer cooperation, and developing collaborative

programs and resource sharing to expand opportunities and enhance quality in ways the individual institutions alone cannot.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation focuses its efforts on conservation, cultural affairs, the environment, higher education, population, and public affairs. In the past 12 years Oberlin has received 11 institutional grants from the Mellon Foundation, totalling over \$3 million. Among recent grants are awards for the improved integration of the Allen Memorial Art Museum into the curriculum (1993 to 1996) and the Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowships (1988 to the present). The fellowships help encourage minority students to pursue Ph.D. degrees in fields where minorities are underrepresented.

## Schubert . . .

*Continued from page 1*

says, looking forward to learning as much as to teaching. Huff says, "I certainly look forward to the course because (among other reasons) I will doubtless learn more about Schubert's music than would otherwise be likely."

Meanwhile, Huff has been inching over the discipline line as much as Breitman has. He began his college education as a music major and says music is still for him a "wonderful hobby." His occasional piano playing includes accompanying an Oberlin cello student on her junior recital a couple of years ago, and his research tends to-

ward topics that deal with the interrelationship between music and literature.

As he has tried to "push the idea" of conservatory and college faculty collaboration in teaching over the years, Huff says he has found faculty on both sides "for the most part blissfully unaware of anything going on across Professor Street." He contrasts this behavior with that of Oberlin students, who, he says, "have always seemed quite eager to cross disciplines." He notes that "Oberlin tends to attract students in considerable numbers who are equally at home in music and literature" and says he hopes that "there will be more opportunities for this kind of study in the future."

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## Powers Awards Support Trips for 8 Professors to Asia, Europe, and Africa

The General Faculty's Committee on Research and Development recently distributed \$24,340 in H.H. Powers Awards (also known as Powers Travel Grants) to eight members of the faculty. The awards cover transportation and per diem costs "for travel to more than one site outside North America, for the purpose of research or broadening experience," according to the award terms.

Receiving the awards are Jane Armitage, associate professor of theater and dance; Sam Carrier, associate professor of psychology; Michael Fisher, professor of history; Daniel Goulding, professor of theater and dance; Robert Longworth, professor of English; A.G. Miller, assistant professor of religion; Peter Takács, professor of pianoforte; and Clovis White, associate professor of sociology.

**Jane Armitage** traveled to China October 13 and stayed through November 3 with a delegation of American theater professionals. The training of the whole student in the dramatic arts that she observed in China could be a model for training Oberlin's theater and dance students, she says. Oberlin's theater and dance faculty has been discussing the possibility of taking a more global outlook, Armitage says, and she hopes her exposure to Chinese opera—which covers a wider range of performance than western opera does—will help the program "think beyond departmental lines."

Armitage calls her time in China "a life-changing experience" and says she was "blown out of the water not by differences but by similarities" in teaching methods. Expecting to see traditional Chinese stylization in speech and movement, Armitage says she was surprised to see a great deal of naturalization in performance. She brought back a trilogy of plays about women in China and is working on ways to effect more exchange with her Chinese counterparts.

**Sam Carrier** will make a trip to northern and central Italy between June 21 and August 1 to gather still and video images for a CD-ROM. The CD-ROM, which the University of Pennsylvania will produce, will document the location and arrangement of Etruscan settlements.

As the information technologist for the Mugello Valley Archaeological Project, co-led by Associate Professor of Art Susan Kane, Carrier documents the project's activities. The team's excavations have already revealed an Etruscan settlement that dates from the seventh to the third century B.C. (See "Archaeologist Susan Kane and Junior Cisco Brooks-Church Find Ancient Etruscan Settlement Near Florence" in the September 28, 1995, *Observer*.) This summer Kane will begin a broader regional survey of the Mugello Valley. Carrier has produced two other CD-ROMs on the project and maintains a related web site at [www.oberlin.edu/~scarrier/Poggio\\_Colla/Intro.html](http://www.oberlin.edu/~scarrier/Poggio_Colla/Intro.html). The new CD-ROM will place the Poggio Colla site within a broader regional context and focus on the geographic and topological setting of Etruscan settlements.

**Michael Fisher** will be in England December 20 to January 19 to visit several archives and libraries. Material there will help him reconstruct the diverse roles that D.O. Dyce Sombre held in 19th-century British society. Dyce Sombre, a wealthy man of mixed Indi-

an and European ancestry, was an immigrant from India who was elected a member of the British Parliament in 1841. Fisher will analyze the reception of Dyce Sombre in British society by examining the private papers of leading British people with whom he dealt, including the Duke of Wellington and others who met with him socially and politically.

"Analysis of the roles of early Asian immigrants to Britain has become increasingly vital to our understanding of the foundations of British imperialism," says Fisher. The issue is central to Fisher's current research and teaching. Fisher expects his research on Dyce Sombre to form a component in his larger project on early Indian immigrants in Britain and to result in an article published in a scholarly journal.

**Daniel Goulding** will travel to the former Yugoslavia in June, when he will complete on-site archival and interview research for a chapter in a book he is coediting on postcommunist cinema in east-central Europe. His chapter will trace the evolution from 1989 to 1997 of Yugoslavia's mixed federal and republican system of film production, distribution, and exhibition to a system reorganized along national lines. He will view films at several national film archives, interview leading filmmakers, and review the domestic critical reception to the most significant films. He will also investigate some of the pressing economic and practical difficulties in the newly reorganized film industries.

Goulding notes: "The immediate impact on the quantity and quality of filmmaking in east-central Europe following the collapse of communism could not have been more negative. Government subsidies quickly dried up, overall economic conditions created a low priority for reorganizing film and other artistic activities into viable enterprises, and many of the most talented filmmakers simply moved their careers to the west. The mid-'90s, however, have witnessed an increasing number of high-quality films once again coming from east-central Europe."

**Robert Longworth** will go to England in January to retrace the route taken by the fictive Canterbury pilgrims in *Canterbury Tales*, examine manuscripts of the tales, and visit sites mentioned in the text. Longworth has been teaching the works of the tales' author, Geoffrey Chaucer, for 32 years, and the centerpiece of the course has been *Canterbury Tales*, which Longworth calls "without doubt the most widely read, most influential, and best-known text in Middle English."

By retracing the journey from Southwerk to Canterbury Longworth expects to gain a fresh perspective on the scenic setting of the tales. And by visiting the shrine to Becket in Canterbury Cathedral (the goal of the fictive pilgrimage) he expects to deepen his sense of the pilgrimage culture that informs the work.

In the spring **Peter Takács** will go to Vienna, Budapest, and Bucharest to study and perform the 32 Beethoven piano sonatas, consult with experts on recent approaches to Beethoven interpretation, and observe private lessons and classes at leading central European music schools.

Takács says he will travel to Vienna

partly because it is where Beethoven lived; Budapest partly because it is the site of the Franz Liszt Academy, a center of musical research and performance (which Takács will visit) that is considered by some the finest in Europe; and Bucharest partly because it continues to produce "some of Europe's finest musicians despite the ravages of the Ceausescu and Iliescu regimes."

**A.G. Miller** and **Clovis White** will travel with 10 students to South Africa in January on a project called Rebuilding Communities for a New South Africa. (See "Students Will Help Rebuild Community in South Africa" in the May 24 *Observer*.) Miller will focus on the effect the black churches and religious institutions are having on the social, political, educational, and economic transformation in South Africa, particularly in the depressed black townships. White will examine the social, political, economic, and educational policies that post-apartheid South Africa has implemented to transform those townships.

Miller will interview a professor of systematic theology at the University of South Africa about the rise of independent churches and their involvement in the restructuring of South Africa. Independent churches, some of the fastest growing churches in South Africa, are characterized by their support of the masses of people in the black townships. Miller will also interview a professor of religious studies at the University of Cape Town who is an expert in Black Theology, a tradition that

helped fuel the religious movement against the apartheid regime. Miller wants to ask the professor what prophetic role Black Liberation theologians will take now that the government is in the trust of the African National Congress and the Nelson Mandela administration.

Besides helping him rethink his seminar course The Black Theology Movement, Miller expects the research project to be useful as he creates a new course on the growth of independent churches in Africa.

Most critical to rebuilding communities, says White, is "the development of policies that will move South Africa's educational system from one that was segregated and inferior for black students to one that is integrated and equivalent for all students at all educational levels." White will interview community leaders and local officials in the economically depressed townships of Soweto and Khalitshia about the development of education in their area. He will also interview several South African scholars in the field of education who have addressed issues of inequitable education in the country.

White will incorporate the information he gathers on this trip into a course he will develop on South Africa covering race and ethnic relations and focusing on the processes of social change in a racially stratified society. He plans to write one or two articles about educational policy and change in South Africa based on what he learns during this trip.

## Faculty Meeting

### College Faculty Discusses Curriculum Development, Long-Range Planning Report, and Planning Teams

College Faculty had only two items on the agenda for Tuesday, but found much to discuss. Following Professor of Classics Thomas Van Nortwick's report of College Faculty Council action since the September meeting, faculty discussed council's establishment of positions called scholar-in-residence for curricular development and council's reinitiation of current-faculty curriculum fellowships. Faculty members lauded the fellowships, and some raised concern about what they regarded as an inadequate number of leave-replacement appointments.

President Nancy Dye presented

ideas from the Planning Advisory Committee's Sunday meeting about the planning report. She said the report sparked two major questions, which the committee discussed: How do we excite the academic program?, and How do we build community with diversity? She recounted several relevant themes around which planning teams could be formed and invited the faculty to contribute to the list as well as the teams. The audience supported Dye's call for community and pointed out some current barriers to it, including the heavy workload of students, faculty, and administrators.

## Letter

### Dean Search Committee Will Choose Candidates Sunday

The Dean Search committee thanks all the members of the Oberlin community who took time from their busy schedules in the past few weeks to meet with the three finalists in the dean-search process. The committee will hold its wrap-up meeting—in which we will decide which of the finalists to nominate to President Dye—Sunday, December 8. We urge those of you who met with all three finalists to convey your opinions to any member of the committee, orally, in writing, or by E-mail or QuickMail. (Note that some committee members are on one form of electronic mail and not the other and that E-mail addressees can be reached

via QuickMail by using the Special button, specifying QMGATE as the MailCenter and writing the E-mail address in the Address field.) The other committee members are Professor of Chemistry Martin Ackermann, Associate Professor of French Nelson de Jesus, Associate Professor of African American Studies Adrienne Lash Jones, Professor of English Katherine Linehan, Associate Professor of Chemistry Albert Matlin, and Professor of Economics James Zinser. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Marcia L. Colish,**  
**Frederick B. Artz Professor of History**  
**Chair, Dean Search Committee**

## Observations

# Kendal at Oberlin; Oberlin at Kendal

By Carol Ganzel

The October 1993 opening of Kendal at Oberlin culminated years of effort by college- and townspeople to bring a retirement community to Oberlin. Three years later, all indications are that the College's effort was worthwhile. Kendal, a residential complex in the city's northeast section, is a success. *New Choices* (a publication owned by the Readers Digest) lists it among the top 20 continuing-care retirement communities in the country. Kendal has been good not only for its residents but also for the College, bringing benefits to students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Among students, those from the conservatory who give recitals at Kendal are obvious beneficiaries. "To go into the music profession, you need to practice performing," says Professor of Violin Taras Gabora, and Kendal provides "a good stage" and "a knowledgeable audience" because many Kendal residents "have studied music and know the repertoire." Gabora finds recitals at Kendal particularly valuable for preparing his students for international competitions. When a Kendal performance precedes a campus recital, it is more than a warm-up, Gabora says. It requires careful preparation and usually a somewhat different program, since many in the Kendal audience will later attend the recital in Kulas.

Three years ago Gabora organized the inaugural concert for Kendal's Heiser auditorium (named for the late Karl Heiser '27); 13 string students performed on that occasion. Since then there have been about 10 student recitals each semester, according to Kendal resident Mary Louise VanDyke '47 (an associate in the Oberlin College libraries), as well as performances in the lounge for Sunday brunch and other occasions. Last summer conservatory students presented three concerts at Kendal. As described by percussion-major Rhona Campbell '98, they included two "summer gumbos" of both classical and contemporary music—one with five students and the other with nine—and a third featuring two vocalists and a pianist performing Gershwin and other composers. Campbell played both Japanese music and Bach on the marimba; other "gumbo" instruments were saxophone, trumpet, violin, cello, French horn, and clarinet. Students from the Contemporary Music Ensemble played pieces written as late as 1991. Students talked to the audience about some of the unusual music before the performance and stayed for punch, crackers, and conversation afterwards.

Also taking part in the summer concerts was fifth-year double-degree student Anne Howarth, a French-horn-performance and environmental-studies major. She first played at Kendal before her junior recital two years ago and says she always feels welcome there: "Everyone whom I know who has performed a recital at Kendal has had a great time."

Not all performing students are musicians. Eryn Johnson '96 last spring directed *Looking Eye to Eye*, a presentation in Wilder Main Lounge with eight women students, four Kendal residents, slides, videos, and tapes—a "juxtaposition between old and young voices," says Associate Professor of Theater Jane Armitage. The performance culminated Johnson's senior honors project, a project that grew out of her realization that "she didn't know how to talk to her grandmother," Armitage says, "and she believed others her age had the same problem." Paired with Kendal residents, the students first corresponded with them, then interviewed them and engaged in picture-taking, field trips, and other activities. *Looking Eye to Eye* was about the younger women's responses to these interactions. Armitage says; the experiences "greatly affected the young women" and led to a "very moving show." Many Kendal residents came to see it.

Other students and residents interact off stage and more casually, according to Kendal's executive director, Barbara W. Thomas. They have arranged weekly or monthly meetings for discussion or for playing games. "Intergenerational opportunities have just evolved," she says.

Kendal employs about three work-study students a semester, each for a maximum of 15 hours a week, usually in the dining room or health center, Thomas says. Last year one provided computer assistance, entering all the data for a new software program, and several have helped new residents settle into their apartments, unpacking boxes and ar-



Mary Louise VanDyke, far right, introduced the Oberlin College Slavic Choir when they performed at Kendal at Oberlin a week ago Sunday. Associate Professor of Russian and German Arlene Forman sponsors the singing group.

anging cupboards, as they might have helped their own grandparents. (One or two residents have grandchildren who are students at Oberlin.)

It is not necessary to go to Kendal to see its effect on the College. At public events on campus—concerts, plays, and lectures—there are more gray heads in the audiences than there used to be. Anna Hoffmann, assistant to the dean for conservatory outreach programs, estimates that 10 to 15 Kendal residents attended each concert in last summer's programs. "They make a really a good audience for the conservatory," she says. Director of Libraries Ray English says Kendal residents take an "active interest" in the Friends of the Oberlin College Library: "Many of our members are from Kendal, we have several Kendal residents on the Friends Council, and Kendal folks always seem to turn out in good numbers for our programs," he says.

Before Kendal opened, the College anticipated an influx of auditors in classes, but apparently this has not happened. Judging from what professors have told her, Registrar Lori Gumpf believes that the number of class auditors is "not much different than before Kendal."

For local events planned by the alumni office, Kendal provides a "strong nucleus" of participants, says Executive Director of the Alumni Association Midge Brittingham. For example, about a third of the travelers on an October excursion to the Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, were Kendal residents. Kendal is also "a wonderful source for enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers," she says. With Kendal's opening came the revival of the Lorain County alumni club, and among alumni who have reached retirement age about half the class presidents are Kendal residents.

Brittingham is one of many who appreciate volunteers from Kendal. College Trustee George Bent—who is also a trustee for Kendal at Oberlin and its parent organization, the Kendal Corporation—speaks of the many residents who use their professional expertise in volunteer work for both city and College. An outstanding example is Emiko Custer, a former Japanese-language cataloger at the Library of Congress. Since coming to Kendal more than three years ago, she has spent more hours in Mudd than many paid employees. "She sets a steady working schedule, four to five hours a day and



As they did after the Slavic Choir performance, Kendal residents and College students enjoy a good chat together.

four days a week," says East Asian Specialist Librarian Jiann Lin. Associate Director of Libraries Alan Boyd calls her "a delight to have among our staff. With Emiko's help," he says, "we have added many new books that directly support the college curriculum's increased emphasis on Japanese cultural and language study."

Kendal residents also help the College financially. "Many people at Kendal have chosen to direct generous support to the College," says Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs Young Dawkins, noting that not all of them are alumni: the community includes "a good number of new friends as well." Only about 40 percent of Kendal at Oberlin residents had any previous connection with the College, according to Director Thomas, and she includes in that 40 percent not only alumni and retired faculty and staff but also relatives of students and alumni. Some important financial

help is indirect. This fall's choral concert conducted by Robert Shaw, which raised money for the Robert Fountain Memorial Merit Scholarship in Choral Music, came about partly because the late Robert Fountain—who taught choral conducting at Oberlin from 1948 to 1971—was a Kendal resident.

The College perceived a need for a retirement community in Oberlin long before it focused on Kendal specifically. According to Emeritus Senior Trust Officer David W. Clark, some older alumni said they wanted to come back to Oberlin to retire, and some retired faculty and staff members wanted to stay in Oberlin but couldn't because there was no suitable place for them to live in the city or even in Lorain County. The College commissioned an architect to design condominiums for a site near Hollywood and North Prospect streets, Clark says, but the Board of Trustees rejected the design. The consensus at the board meeting was that any successful retirement community would have to provide health care.

"Out of that experience," Clark says, "I jumped in with Fred [former College president S. Frederick] Starr's blessing to see what we could do to find a place, in terms of land, and the most appropriate organization to head up a continuing care center." Clark was a member of the Oberlin Retirement Community Planning Committee, a group of college- and townspeople that considered several organizations but "very quickly latched onto Kendal. [Its] value system and college life fit together nicely," he says.

In the late 1980s, while Bent was chair of the College Board of Trustees, he and President Starr met with members of the Kendal Corporation board to present the advantages of Oberlin. Quaker affiliated, with long-standing communities in the Philadelphia area, the corporation was planning to expand, and the presence of the College made Oberlin an attractive site. (Since then Kendal has established communities not only in Oberlin but also in Hanover, New Hampshire—site of Dartmouth College, and Ithaca, New York—site of Cornell University.)

The college offered more than a congenial neighborhood for future Kendal residents. To start a new community, Kendal needed venture capital, and the college agreed to lend a "significant sum," Bent says. Technically, the loan was a "high-risk investment," Clark says, and Kendal paid "a typical interest rate for venture capital." It has since repaid the principal as well. Kendal also needed land in Oberlin, and the College, with Clark as its agent, purchased adjacent tracts from several landowners, acquiring 92 acres and holding them for Kendal to repurchase.

Although most of its residents are no longer engaged in paid employment, Kendal is not really a retirement community, Bent says. Rather, "it's a place where people come to live the rest of their lives." It has brought to Oberlin some "vigorous" new residents and encouraged others to stay, benefiting the College and in turn drawing benefits from it. The relation between the two "can only get better" as people in the two institutions discover more ways to use each other. Kendal may be, Bent says, "the best thing that has happened to Oberlin in the last 75 years."

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