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The Observer

Volume 19, Number 17

May 22, 1998

THE OBERLIN COLLEGE FACULTY AND STAFF NEWSPAPER



Laura Slocum

Senior Laura Slocum Wins Regents Graduate/Professional Fellowship to Study at CWRU

Laura Slocum, who will graduate Monday with an English major, has won a Regents Graduate/Professional Fellowship, awarded by the Ohio Board of Regents, for four semesters of graduate study. Slocum will enter the graduate program in speech and language pathology of Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) this fall. There she will serve a graduate assistantship with a faculty member specializing in traumatic brain injury, a special interest of hers.

Last fall semester (1997) Slocum took several courses at CWRU that relate to her graduate program, including Introduction to Audiology, Phonetics, and Language Development.

Slocum's mother is Linda Slocum, library gifts coordinator for the College.

College Establishes Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies

Over the next three years Oberlin will receive \$500,000 from the Clowes Fund and \$250,000 from Edith Clowes '73 to endow the Oberlin Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies (OCREECAS) at the College. The center will be housed in Peters Hall. Tim Scholl, associate professor of Russian, will be the center's first director.

"The region remains of crucial importance to U.S. and international interests as the countries work to establish—with varying success—free market economies and more open societies in the wake of the break up of the Soviet Union," says Arlene Forman, associate professor of Russian, who wrote the center's proposal with Heather Hogan, professor of history, and Pamela Snyder, director of corporate and foundation support at the request of the Russian and East European Studies Curricular Committee.

"The possibilities for artistic, business, nonprofit, scholarly, and other forms of cooperation with the nations of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, unimaginable just a few years ago, are now virtually limitless," says Forman.

"Regional specialists and experts from other disciplines who are knowledgeable about the area," Hogan says, "have a unique opportunity to observe and assist in the historic political, economic, and social changes facing these countries as they forge post-Soviet identities, and the Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies

will play a critical role in preparing Oberlin students to take advantage of these new opportunities and realities."

25 Countries, Many Activities

The countries selected for study and service—including Russia, Ukraine, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan—number more than 25 in all.

The center will sponsor new courses, internships, career-development opportunities, and cultural activities that will help students and the broader College community learn about the historic political, economic, and social changes now challenging the targeted nations.

With career possibilities opening in business, environmental studies, international development, law, education, science, and government in the area, OCREECAS will also prepare Oberlin

undergraduates who combine the study of Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia with other fields.

OCREECAS has seven primary goals:

- develop new internship and community-service opportunities in Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia for Oberlin students and recent Oberlin graduates,
- create a database of potential employers in the region,
- expand study-abroad opportunities,
- coordinate center activities with events made possible through endowments such as the Edith Clowes Lecture Fund,
- develop residencies by artists, scholars, and specialists from the region in conjunction with other departments at Oberlin,

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Who's Who in OCREECAS?

The Russian and East European Studies (REES) Curricular Committee will rotate the directorship of the Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies (OCREECAS—see main story, "College Establishes Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies"). The members of REES are Stephen Crowley, assistant professor of politics; Arlene Forman, associate professor of Russian; Heather Hogan, professor of history; Thomas Newlin, assistant professor of Russian; Tim Scholl, associate professor of Russian; and Veljko Vujacic, assistant professor of sociology.

Crowley specializes in postcommunist transformations in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. His 1997 book, *Hot*

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Two More Oberlin Students Go to Germany as Fulbright Scholars

Seniors David "Alex" Hurd, graduating Monday with double degrees in voice and history, and Jamie Trnka, graduating Monday with majors in comparative literature and German, will travel this summer to spend a year

at German universities. Last year two graduating Oberlin seniors, Amy Durica and Jennifer Novak, took their Fulbright scholarships in Germany, too (see the *Observer* of May 23, 1997).

Ronald DiCenzo, professor of history and East Asian studies and campus advisor for the Fulbright Scholarships, says he is still waiting to hear whether three other Oberlin students recommended this year for Fulbrights will receive them. Senior Siobhan Wilson was awarded a Fulbright this year but turned it down in favor of a Churchill Scholarship (see the *Observer* of April 24).

Hurd will study lieder (German art songs) with Bruce Abel at the Hochschule in Stuttgart. He calls lieder "without a doubt my favorite musical form." In his scholarship-application essay he wrote, "Most people (singers included) tend to look to opera, the largest vocal genre, for drama and

excitement. I find song, the smallest, to be its equal in these terms, and often superior in quality of both words and music."

Hurd has been studying voice since age 16; his voice teacher in the conser-

vatory is Marlene Rosen, associate professor of singing. He intends to pursue a Master in Music degree in voice when he returns from Germany.

Trnka will go to the Institute for

Continued on page 5

John Elder to Give the Baccalaureate

Delivering the baccalaureate address Sunday at 2 P.M. will be John Elder '53, former minister of First Church in Oberlin and honorary College trustee. The event will be held in Finney Chapel. Johnnetta Cole, who was announced earlier as this year's baccalaureate speaker, is unable to appear because of a schedule conflict. See insert.



Alex Hurd



Jamie Trnka

Faculty and Staff Notes

Mary Culhane, emerita associate professor of athletics and physical education, placed second in the 50-yard backstroke and third in the 50-yard breaststroke events at the United States Masters Swimming Short Course National Meet. The meet, held at the Indiana University Natatorium in early May, included 1738 participants whose ages ranged from 20 to 90. Separate awards were given to men and women in five-year age ranges (20 to 24, 25 to 29, etc.). One hundred fifty-four clubs were represented at the meet, including 105 classified as "small." The O*H*I*O (Older Hearts Inspire Others), one of the small clubs, includes Mary and also Sylvia Hill, mother of Ann Hastings, biology lab technician and physical-education instructor. Their women's relay team placed second among small clubs, and their mixed team placed fourth. Three Oberlin alumnae were among the swimmers: Sue Bloomfield '74 from Texas, Sandra Kremer '58 from North Carolina, and Ann Stevens '55 from Illinois. • Prentice Hall has published a textbook, *Vector Calculus*, by **Susan Colley**, professor of mathematics. The book is intended for sophomores or juniors taking a third semester of calculus. "I've used ugly draft versions of the text for the past few years," says Susan, "and **Jim Walsh** [James A., associate professor of mathematics—Ed.] used the published version this spring in Mathematics 231, Multivariable Calculus. **Daniel Steinberg**, visiting assistant professor of mathematics, wrote the (very thorough) 292-page *Instructor's Solutions Manual* that accompanies it." Susan has received partial support to attend two conferences. The first was the Midwest Algebraic Geometry Conference held November 7-9, 1997, at the University of Notre Dame. The second is the Joint Summer Research Conference on Quantum Cohomology, June 28-July 2, at Mt. Holyoke College. The American Mathematical Society will administer the Mt. Holyoke conference. Susan says she expects to give "some sort of talk there" on

joint research—with Gary Kennedy of the Ohio State University, Mansfield, and Lars Ernström of the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm—applying quantum cohomological methods to problems in enumerative algebraic geometry. Her support is from the conferences' National Science Foundation grants. • **Ronald Kahn**, James



Monroe Professor of Politics and Law, delivered an invited paper, "Liberalism, Political Culture, and the Rights of Subordinated Groups," to the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, in Los Angeles March 19-21. This spring Ron was a consultant on curriculum reform to the political science departments at Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa, and Elon College, Elon College, North Carolina, and the honors examiner in Constitutional law and related topics at Swarthmore College. • *Instrumentalist* magazine honored

John Knight, professor of music education, in its March issue. It featured him on the cover and as the subject of the article "The Spiritual Side of Conducting." John, a consulting editor of the *Instrumentalist*, had four articles published in the magazine this year: "A Lamb among Lions: The Conducting Style of Dimitri Mitropoulos" (December 1997), "Learning the Art of Conducting" (January), "Lessons from Hemingway: The Eloquence of Simplicity" (April), and "Refining the Preparatory Beat—A Conducting Analysis of Selected Band Repertoire" (May). John was guest con-



ductor and clinician with the Elkhart (Indiana) High School Orchestra and Wind Ensemble in April. As vice president of District IV of the Ohio Music Education Association he presented a clinic with the Oberlin College Community Winds for area instrumental teachers at Oberlin in January. On May 9 John was guest adjudicator and clinician for Canadian bands at the Classic International Music Festival at Cleveland State University. • **Tim Scholl**, associ-



ate professor of Russian, will return to St. Petersburg this winter to work with the balletmaster in charge of the Maryinsky Ballet's restored production of *Sleeping Beauty*. He will go to learn how the balletmaster is deciphering the original Sergeyev notations and to document at least part of the first attempt to restore a 19th-century ballet authentically. Tim was instrumental in transferring a copy of the original notations from the Harvard Theater Collection to the Maryinsky. (See the *Observer* of November 7, 1997.) After a showing of the restored prologue of the ballet last month, theater administrators decided to reconstruct the complete work from the Sergeyev notations, Tim says, with scenery and costumes based on the original 1890 production. Last week Tim received word that the Maryinsky's restored version of *Sleeping Beauty* will have six performances at the Metropolitan Opera in New York next summer. • **Dennison Smith**, professor of psychology and neuroscience, is co-organizing a workshop to be held at Oberlin June 12-14. Project Kaleidoscope, the Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience, and the College's Neuroscience Program are sponsoring the

workshop, titled Interdisciplinary Connections: Blueprints for Reform in Undergraduate Neuroscience. Four Oberlin faculty members—Denny; **Mark Braford**, professor of biology; **Janice Thornton**, associate professor of neuroscience and biology; and **Albert Porterfield**, associate professor of psychology—will lead discovery-based learning laboratories. **David Love**, associate vice president for research and development, will present a session on



planning laboratory spaces in the sciences. • **Robert Soucy**, professor of history, has been invited to give a talk, "French Fascism and Vichy" at Cassis, France, June 8. • **Carol Spiros**, department assistant for the Oberlin Fund, exhibited and sold her pottery at the Hessler Street Fair in the University Circle area of Cleveland May 16 and 17. Information about the fair is on the web at www.hessler.org. • **David Young**, Longman Professor of English and Creative Writing; **Stuart Friebert**, emeritus professor of creative writing; and **Marci Janas**, Office of College Relations staff writer, have been selected from more than 200 nominees for inclusion on the list of poets and writers honored at the second annual northern Ohio literary gala Writers & Their Friends. This is the second year Marci has been so honored. The event, which is sponsored by the Poets' League of Greater Cleveland, will be held at the Cleveland Playhouse May 30. Among the honorees is poet **Alberta Turner**, emerita professor of English at Cleveland State University, former Oberlin lecturer in English, and cofounder and editor of *Field*.

The Observer (ISSN 0193-368X), the faculty and staff newspaper of Oberlin College, published 17 times a year, is delivered to employees and made available to students on campus. Copies are mailed to retired employees, certain alumni and friends of the College, and paid subscribers. The editor welcomes off-campus readers but does not always provide background information for them: news that has already been reported in the *Review* (the student newspaper) or announced elsewhere may not be reported fully or prominently in the *Observer*.

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Wiring My Reunion Class

By Richard Salter '73

Last fall, as a faculty-alum, I attended the Alumni Council dinner, where plans for this year's 25th reunion of the Class of 1973 began to take shape. The planning group hoped to mount a website for the reunion. I volunteered to design and host the site on the Computer Science Program webserver, and act as webmaster. The site (www.cs.oberlin.edu/73) appeared at the end of March.

We designed the site to stimulate interest in the reunion and provide information about the planned events. One novel idea has been to have class members post 25-year life-journey stories, essays on where they have been and what they have been doing over the last quarter century.

Submissions began arriving as early as January. Most have been sent by E-mail and quickly posted. Also included on the website are a class directory, information about the class gift, and a continually updated list of who has registered to attend. The site has received over 2000 hits so far.

Margaret Erikson, director of alumni association on-campus activities, has served as liaison and clearinghouse for material submitted for the website. The alumni principally responsible for the reunion and the website are class president Ken Kay and class members Laura Breeden, Joan Oliver Goldsmith, and Chuck Spitulnik.

Rich Salter is professor of computer science.



Rich Salter and Margaret Erikson check out the website for the Reunion Class of 1973.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN SEIFRIED

Transitions

New Faculty and Staff

Carol Spiros (Cleveland State University B.A. 1988) is a departmental assistant for the Oberlin Fund office. Previously she was an office manager for the Brandon Wiant Company in Cleveland. At Cleveland State University, where she is working on a master's degree in urban studies, Spiros studied studio art, especially pottery and printmaking. She has since volunteered to teach pottery at community centers and battered women's shelters. Moving here from Cleveland Heights, she says she looks forward to "becoming involved in community service in Oberlin." Her son, Joseph, is 10 years old. **Kelly Viancourt** (Miami University B.A. 1989, Kent State University M.Ed. 1994) is the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine* editor at the Office of College Relations. She worked as alumni-



Viancourt

magazine editor at Kent State and as a feature writer for the *Geauga Times Leader* before coming to Oberlin. Interested in writing and web publishing, she also enjoys music, biking, camping, star gazing, and reading. Viancourt says she looks forward to "meeting Oberlin's many remarkable graduates and showing them off in the alumni magazine." She is married to Michael Viancourt.

Changes in Appointment

Zoe Sherinian, visiting instructor of ethnomusicology, became a visiting assistant professor February 2. **Barbara Fuchsman**, director of federal support, became the director of federal grants in the sponsored-programs office April 1. On May 1 **Liesl Strickler**, assistant director of major gifts, became associate director of major gifts.

Departures

May 19 was the last day for **Tamar Melzer**, language teaching assistant in

the Jewish Studies Program and **Alejandra Acosta**, language-teaching assistant for the Spanish department. Both have worked for the College since summer 1997. **Eva-Maria Renate Steiner** will leave May 25 after a year as language-teaching assistant for the German and Russian department. May 26 is the last day for **Ember Deitz**, assistant director of gift planning in the development office. On May 31 **Karl Hakken**, slide-library intern for the art department, and **John Harshbarger**, predoctoral intern in the counseling center, leave after a year in their positions. **Michael Dwyer**, learning-assistance intern in student services, and **Jennifer Sturges**, cross-country and track intern for the athletics department are leaving after a year on July 14. On June 22 **Sarah Nelson**, educational-technology intern in the Oberlin Center for Technologically Enhanced Teaching (OCTET) will leave the College. June 30 is the last day for **Miguel Curl**, assistant to the dean of students; **Linda Dorff**, visiting instructor in English; **Erik Harvey**, visiting associate professor of geology; **Michael Heller**, language-lab intern; **James Henry**, visiting professor of creative writing; **Julie Lawall**, visiting assistant professor of computer science; **Erika Leppman**, visiting assistant professor of art; **Bryan Melmed**, client-services intern in the computing center; **Matthew Passell**, client-services intern in the computing center; **Rei Okamoto**, visiting instructor in Japanese; **Randy Phelps**, visiting assistant professor of physics; **Laurie Rhodebeck**, visiting assistant professor of politics; **Xiomara Santamarina**, visiting instructor in English; **Tomoko Takeda**, visiting instructor of Japanese; **Dasan Thamattoor**, visiting instructor in chemistry; **Sarah Thompson**, visiting instructor of art and East Asian studies; **Hui-Hsien Wang**, visiting instructor in mathematics; and **Stephen Wong**, visiting assistant professor of physics.

Letter

Emeritus Professor Rues Lack of Institutional Memory

Although I certainly appreciate receiving the *Observer* and what you wrote about Ed Miller's and my friendship in the article about his retirement (*Observer*, February 28), I have been complaining for years about the lack of institutional memory at Oberlin College. I taught at Oberlin 35 years—beginning in 1952 and retiring in 1987.

The March 27 *Observer* reported Houck Professor of Religion Paula Richman's Guggenheim Fellowship and mentioned faculty members who had received Guggenheim Fellowships in the past. I was the second Oberlin faculty member to receive a Guggenheim Fellowship. The first was the late John Lewis, professor of government. I received mine in 1955 after three years as an instructor of music theory, and was one of the youngest people (28 at the time) ever to receive the fellowship. I spent the academic year 1955-56 in

Florence, Italy. I received a second Guggenheim Fellowship in 1973-74.

Walter Aschaffenburg,
Emeritus Professor of Music Theory

The Observer intentionally kept short the list of other Guggenheim recipients in the March 27 article. Other Oberlin faculty members no longer teaching at the College who have received Guggenheim Fellowships include Daniel Asia, former assistant professor of wind ensemble and contemporary music, and Lawrence Buell, former professor of English, information that is indexed to back issues of the Observer. But collected information about Guggenheim Fellowships awarded to Oberlin faculty members before 1979, when the Observer began publication, is, so far, elusive. So, unfortunately, Aschaffenburg may be right; although the information surely exists in individual faculty files, the institutional memory of all Oberlin's Guggenheim winners is not available in easily accessible form—yet.—Ed.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN SEYFRIED

First-Floor-Mudd Display: The Invention of American Literature

This spring students in English 371, The Invention of American Literature, examined innovations in the publishing industry, effects of the marketplace on American literature, and the emergence of the cult of authorship.

Visiting Assistant Professor of English Augusta Rohrbach, who taught the course, had her students prepare an exhibit—up now through May 30 on the first floor of the main library—to show what she and they have been up to. The student projects on display use a cultural-studies approach to materials as varied as advertisements and popular mass print media as well as works commonly considered literature.

Drawing on the resources of the

College archives and library, each display explores an aspect of the making of American literary history. Displayed items illustrate micro-moments such as the publication history of canonical texts, the building of the College library's book collection, and the rise and fall of a turn-of-the-century student literary publication. The projects scrutinize the making of literary history by studying the building blocks of literary culture—publishing venues, reviews, and libraries.

Rohrbach's collaborators in researching and presenting the material were Roland Baumann, archivist; Whitney Pape, special-collections librarian; Alan Boyd, acting director of libraries; and Ray English, Root Director of Libraries.

New Chemistry-Department Equipment Is Exceptional for Undergraduate Instruction

Thanks to a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to the chemistry department, faculty and students will be able to carry out instructional spectroscopic experiments that had not been practical before at Oberlin—and possibly at other undergraduate institutions. The award is from the NSF's Instrumentation and Laboratory Improvement program.

"The acquisition of instrumentation for Fourier-Transform Raman/Infrared spectroscopy is probably a first for an undergraduate college," says Norman Craig, Biggs Professor in the Natural Sciences, who, with Robert Thompson, professor of chemistry, is the project director. "This newly developed method of doing Raman spectroscopy is very likely to contribute to a big upswing in applying Raman spectroscopy in research and in industrial applications. We believe that we are on the front of this wave."

"Our students will have a wider and deeper understanding of the theory and application of vibrational spectroscopy [with the new instrumentation]," says Thompson. "We

also expect that new experiments may attract interest in these applications elsewhere. They will be made known first through the chemistry department's web page."

The amount of the award is \$48,259, which the College will match.

The chemistry department will introduce Fourier-Transform Raman spectroscopic experiments into several laboratories for chemistry and biochemistry majors and other upper-level science students. And the range and sophistication of existing infrared experiments will improve because of the near-infrared range and higher resolution (about 0.1 cm⁻¹) of the new instrument as compared with existing equipment.

Faculty and students will use the new instrumentation in the laboratories for biochemistry, analytical chemistry, physical chemistry, and advanced analytical and physical chemistry.

Craig and Martin Ackermann, professor of chemistry, will also use the equipment for their own research. The new instrumentation should be in place by late fall, says Craig.

Spring R&D Grants Will Help Faculty Learn about Post-Communist Europe, Black Women in the YWCA, and Whether Weather Really Is Chaotic

The General Faculty Research and Development Committee awarded \$34,367 to fund 13 requests for spring grants-in-aid. Twenty-one applications were submitted.

David Benzing, Danforth Professor of Biology, has received a grant to determine whether introductions of a commercially prepared predatory nematode (the roundworm *Steinernema carposcapsae*) can increase the yields of plants such as sweet corn. The object of the research is to see whether the nematode populations can persist long enough in soil to reduce crop losses by eating pests such as northern Ohio's indigenous rootworms and grubs. Success will allow enhanced corn yields without use of the usual chemical controls forbidden in the practice of organic agriculture.

With his grant-in-aid **Stephen Crowley**, assistant professor of politics, will try to answer a puzzling question: Why, given unprecedented political freedoms, coupled with economic conditions that range from the promising to the nearly catastrophic, has labor been so quiescent in post-Communist Europe? "I have investigated this question in some considerable detail in Russia," says Crowley, "and I now propose to attempt to strengthen those findings by conducting research in the rather different case of Hungary."

Yolanda Cruz, professor of biology, will perform cell-ablation experiments on five-day-old embryos of the Brazilian gray opossum to understand how cells differentiate into various lineages in the rapidly growing embryo.

The title of the project that **Leigh Gibson**, assistant professor of religion, will carry out is The Jewish Manumission Inscriptions of the Bosphorus Kingdom.

Adrienne Lash Jones, associate professor of African-American studies, is tracing the history of black women in

the Young Women's Christian Association. Her study examines the nation's oldest and largest women's organization, where black women's actions and demands challenged a predominately white membership to live up to the Christian principles that were articulated in its mission. The study will examine the ways that women negotiated issues of race and class during the 100 years between 1870, when the first black association was founded, and 1970, when the organization voted at its national convention to work toward the elimination of racism.

Part of the grant that **Roger Laushman**, associate professor of biology, has received will cover travel costs to Sydney, Australia, where he will speak at the annual meetings of the Society for Conservation Biology. There he will be an invited participant in a symposium, The Genetic Consequences of Fragmented Populations. He will also present a paper on genetics and habitat fragmentation in the aquatic plant *Vallisneria americana*. He will use the rest of the funds to continue research on *Vallisneria* in rivers of northern Wisconsin and Michigan, where the hydrology has remained undisturbed, relative to rivers of Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Manish Mehta, assistant professor of chemistry, is developing experiments in solid-state nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR). The experiments may someday help engineer the next generation of biomaterials, such as artificial blood, bone, vessels, and implants. This summer Mehta will travel to the University of Washington to collaborate with Professor of Chemistry Gary Drobný in investigating the efficacy of double-quantum NMR spectroscopy for the study of peptide secondary structure in partially hydrated solids and on mineral surfaces, and to the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule in

Zurich to work with Professor of Chemistry Beat Meier in developing software for the numerical simulation of solid-state NMR experiments.

From June 4 to 25 **Randy Phelps**, visiting assistant professor of physics, and a student will observe star clusters at the Carnegie Observatories' facilities north of Santiago, Chile. "The Southern skies remain one of the frontiers for astronomical research," says Phelps. "Among the objects that remain poorly studied are hundreds of star clusters that can be used as laboratories for probing numerous fundamental astrophysical questions of contemporary interest."

The goal of the project that **Oliver Schirokauer**, associate professor of mathematics, will carry out is to improve current methods for computing logarithms in two different types of finite, multiplicative sets. The problem is of interest not only because it concerns the structure of two algebraic objects widely encountered in mathematics but also because the security of many of the cryptographic schemes currently in use depends on the difficulty of these problems. Schirokauer will spend the summer in Seattle, where he will work with a colleague at the University of Washington.

Bruce Simonson, professor of geology, will use his grant-in-aid funds to take two students to help him study a distinctive 2.6 billion-year-old layer in South Africa that formed when a large asteroid or comet collided with the earth. The grant will cover the travel costs for one student, a McNair scholar, to help him in the field, and provide a second student with a stipend to help him analyze the samples in the lab in the fall.

Dennison Smith, professor of psychology and neuroscience, will test whether the reason methamphetamine is neurotoxic is that it induces production of nitric oxide. He will use an elec-

trochemical-detector system able to measure directly the production of nitric oxide in brain tissue. Smith will assess the extent to which single and multiple doses of methamphetamine elicit nitric-oxide production in the dopamine-containing regions of the brain, and assess whether the amount produced is likely to cause neurotoxicity. Establishing a role for nitric oxide in methamphetamine toxicity is a first step toward developing treatments that reduce the neurotoxicity observed in methamphetamine addicts.

James A. Walsh, associate professor of mathematics, will attempt to determine if the weather really is chaotic. "One of the defining characteristics of a chaotic dynamical system," Walsh says, "is that small, initial errors (usually in observations) grow exponentially with time. . . . Does the atmosphere exhibit this exponential error growth (called sensitive dependence on initial conditions)?" Walsh will compare data from climatic observations provided by radioballoon sounding-device launchings with predicted or forecast values, quantify how close the predicted values are to the observational data, and so determine if the weather exhibits sensitive dependence on initial conditions.

Robert Warner, Longman Professor of Natural Science, will work with rising senior Nathan Shaner to adapt the nuclear data analysis system in use at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the University of Notre Dame to run on the Oberlin physics computer network. Warner and Shaner will first use the data capability to finish analyzing recent measurements of total nuclear reaction cross sections (σ_R) at the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory at Michigan State University (MSU). The two will then analyze new measurements from the MSU lab of σ_R for light neutron-halo nuclei on lead nuclei.

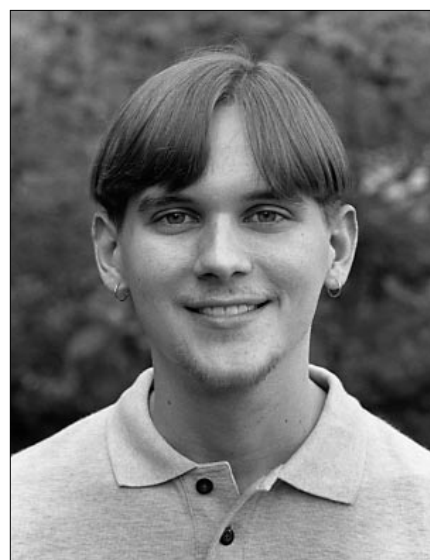
Juniors Nathan Shaner and Catherine Oertel Receive Goldwater Scholarships

Juniors Catherine Oertel, a chemistry major, and Nathan Shaner, a physics major, have won Goldwater Scholarships for their senior year. The award supports undergraduates in the sciences and mathematics who have demonstrated interest in research and who intend to go to graduate school. "The Goldwater Scholarship program is a highly competitive national program," says Norman Craig, Biggs Professor in the Natural Sciences and campus advisor for the award.

The essay that Oertel submitted in the award competition, "Improving Detection Techniques for Capillary Electrophoresis," described adapting an electrical conductivity detector to make the capillary electrophoresis separation

technique more widely useful. It also detailed her participation under a Howard Hughes grant last summer with Neil Danielson, professor of chemistry at Miami University, in experiments that may lead to the improvements.

In his essay, "Investigation of the Crystal Structure of a Solid Compound by Solid State NMR," Shaner described his quest—and final success—in growing a specific large crystal that had never been grown before. He did the work as a summer researcher at American Cyanamid last summer in collaboration with two other company employees. Growing the crystal was a necessary first step in determining the crystal structure of a solid compound that the company was developing.



Nathan Shaner



Catherine Oertel

Who's Who . . .

Continued from page 1
Coal, Cold Steel: Russian and Ukrainian Workers From the End of the Soviet Union to the Post-Communist Transformations, was published by University of Michigan Press and was mentioned by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as one of the books rep-

resenting the new wave of research on the former Soviet Union.

Forman is involved in computer-based cultural instruction.

Hogan, author of *Forging Revolution: Metalworkers, Managers and the State in Saint Petersburg*, focuses on late-imperial labor history and the social history of early modern Russia.

Newlin is completing a book on the pastoral ideal in Russia from 1750 to 1825.

Scholl, author of *From Petipa to Balanchine: Classical Revival and the Modernization of Ballet*, is at work on a book that will examine the role of romanticism in the ballets of George Balanchine.

Vujacic is concerned with social changes in Russia and Eastern Europe, with a particular emphasis on questions of nationalism.

Besides those whose primary

responsibilities are in REES, other faculty members have agreed to serve as resources for OCREECAS. They include Daniel Goulding, professor of film studies and theater arts; Laszlo Scholz, associate professor of Spanish and expert in Magyar culture; and Victoria Skrupskelis, professor of French and expert in Baltic literature.

College Wins Two Awards for Safety

The Lorain County Chamber of Commerce—in conjunction with the Lorain County Safety Council and the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation Division of Safety and Hygiene—has awarded the Environmental Health and Safety Office two safety awards.

The awards were bestowed April 23 at a Safety Awards Banquet. Similar banquets occur each year to honor Lo-

rain County businesses that have compiled outstanding records of achievement in safety.

Oberlin received the Group Award, presented to the business with the lowest incident rate in each employer group, and a Special Award, presented to companies that accumulate at least 500,000 hours and at least six months without a lost-time injury.

Fulbrights . . .

Continued from page 1

Theater-, Film-, and Television Science at the University of Cologne. There she will do media analysis to illustrate the process of the marginalization of the Red Army Faction (RAF) and the political impetus for such marginalization. "Only through serious interrogation of the relationship between media (re)presentation and representative government, between public access to knowledge and political power, can we work toward more democratic methods of accessing knowledge and using it constructively to effect necessary social change," she wrote in her application essay.

Trnka spent spring and summer of 1997 in Germany doing related work at the Institute for Newspaper Research in Dortmund, and started her line of inquiry as a McNair research fellow in 1996. Interested in the relationship between literature and politics, Trnka will enter Cornell University's Ph.D. program in comparative literature when she returns to the U.S.

Env. Internships . . .

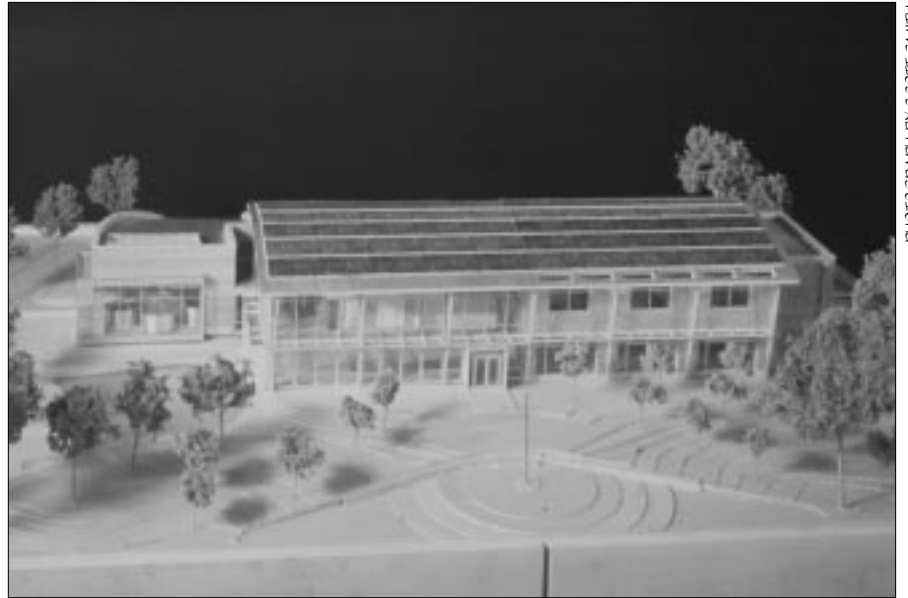
Continued from page 11

Bank, and OSAP. Funding comes from the Nord Family Foundation.

Benjamin Sanders '98, Jonathan Martinez '00, and Sarah Schupbach '00 will conduct research for OSAP, demonstrating methods for producing sweet corn organically. OSAP trustees Yolanda Cruz, professor of biology, and David Benzing, Danforth Professor of Biology, will supervise the projects. Funding comes from a grant-in-aid from the College (see story in this issue) and the McNair Foundation.

Amy Kremen '98 will operate a farm market in a low-income community in South Lorain that recently lost its only grocery store to big-chain consolidation. In its second year of operation the farm market provides important access to fresh food for this largely Puerto Rican community. The student will also research the creation of a full-service, year-round food cooperative. Funding is from the SARE program.

Brad Masi is the project coordinator in the Environmental Studies Program.



Groundbreaking Set for Summer

Groundbreaking for the Adam Joseph Lewis Center for Environmental Studies will occur this summer. "By the time everyone gets back in the fall we should be digging and laying the foundation," says Leo Evans, assistant director of facilities planning and construction. A model of the center is on display near the library circulation desk in Mudd Center.

Yahoo! Oberlin Ranks Again As One of America's Top-100 Wired Campuses

By Mark Graham

Yahoo! Internet Life has ranked Oberlin College the 61st "most wired college" in the U.S. Oberlin has placed in the top-100 list both years that the magazine has compiled it.

The Internet publication ranks the use of educational technology at colleges and universities. It takes into account infrastructure and online social life, but it focuses on academic uses of technology.

According to *Yahoo! Internet Life*, Oberlin has seen the number of classes using educational technology double to 20 percent since last year's ranking. The magazine gave special notice to the Allen Memorial Art Museum's CD-ROM, *Masterworks for Learning: A College Collection Catalogue*.

The list and Oberlin's profile are posted at www.zdnet.com/yil/content/college/colleges98/61.html.

Faculty Meetings

Conservatory Faculty Votes to Establish 3 Discrete Master's Degree Programs, But Their Realization Is Uncertain; General Faculty Passes Legislation on Professional Conduct and Deans, Hears about the Capital Campaign

In a fast-paced one-hour meeting May 12 the Conservatory Faculty passed proposals to establish three discrete (not integrated with undergraduate study) master of music in performance degree programs: in organ, piano, and strings (violin, viola, and cello). The organ and piano programs each passed by written ballot 32 to 14 with two abstentions and the string program passed, also by paper vote, 29 to 17 with two abstentions. Before voting, the faculty discussed an earlier meeting—in which President Nancy Dye told committee members and conservatory dean Karen Wolff that she would oppose the establishment of the degree programs until her concerns about the budget, mission, impact, and process of the programs were met.

If established as proposed, the graduate programs would enroll 20 students, four in organ and eight each in piano and strings. The graduate students' admission would supplant that of an equal number of undergraduates. A brief history of the development of the conservatory's master of music degree proposals, prepared by the conservatory administration, is a link to the electronic version of this issue.

The faculty passed unanimously by voice vote a proposal from the Musicology Division for a conservatory-wide minimum-writing-proficiency requirement. A proposal from the Keyboard

Division for a new course, Graduate Independent Project in Organ, was left on the table and so passed.

The meeting began with a student presentation about the student-run Oberlin Music Coalition, whose mission is to facilitate musical interaction between the conservatory and the wider community, especially community members less likely to be involved in the conservatory in other ways.

Director of Conservatory Admissions Michael Manderen announced that 132 students were enrolled so far in next year's entering class. He said the class was "as good as any class we have enrolled recently" and called the enrollment of five bassoonists "a happy surprise." Selectivity was 27 percent, and when Manderen stopped reading applications at the count of 1086, he said, they amounted to five short of last year's all-time high. He said he expected the yield to be between 44 and 50 percent.

Wolff made a few announcements related to salary increases and personnel, and the faculty approved faculty-committee nominations unanimously without discussion. Gil Miranda, professor of music theory, asked for a minute of silence to remember Raymond Premru, professor of trombone, who died May 8. The faculty adjourned to a farewell party for departing colleagues.

Meeting May 19, the General Facul-

ty (GF) passed legislation on professional conduct and deans that calls for the General Faculty Council to serve in the role of the Professional Conduct Review Committee (PCRC). (The PCRC handles such matters for professional conduct and faculty). The motion had been referred back to the ad hoc Committee on Decanal Malfeasance at the April GF meeting for clarification. Several friendly amendments preceded the unanimous voice vote of approval.

Professor of Organ David Boe, chair of the GF Planning Committee (GFPC), reported that the GFPC had reviewed the reports of the committees that were asked to follow up on topics introduced in the strategic planning report, *Broad Directions for Oberlin's Future*. For further action in the fall, GFPC categorized all the ideas contained in the committee reports that they judged would have the largest expected impact on the College were they implemented. The five categories are enrollment, education, faculty, student life, and other.

A discussion of Oberlin's capital campaign followed Boe's remarks. A discussion of Oberlin's capital campaign followed Boe's remarks. President Nancy Dye talked about the ways that the priorities for the campaign are taking shape, forged in the long-range planning process of last year. She acknowledged the work of the GFPC and many on-campus committees this year,

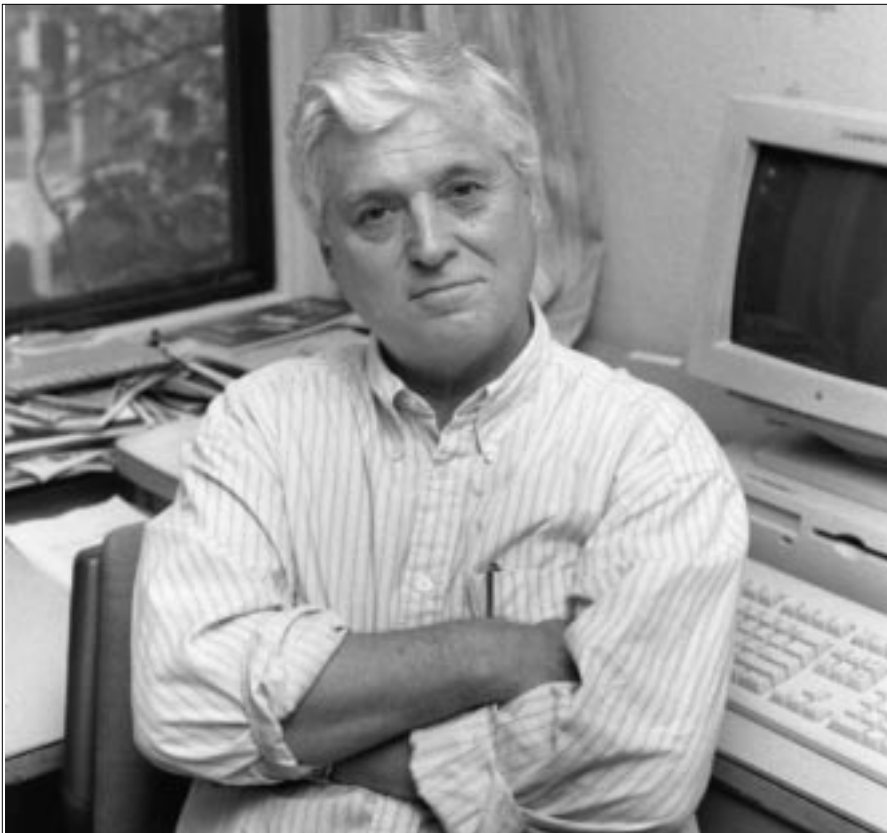
as well as the work of Sasaki Associates, a firm that is helping the College with master planning.

Dye introduced John Hays, associate vice president of development and director of the campaign, who showed with overhead slides how the money raised would be distributed.

"We are blessed to have alumni who recognize our needs," Dye said after telling the faculty that alumni are "most willing" to give money for scholarships and "surprisingly willing" to consider giving for the science center. Alumni are also interested, she said, in giving faculty support, which they tend to think of in terms of named chairs.

Before adjourning to a party for retiring faculty, the GF

- approved with some changes the nominations list for GF committees,
- listened to the GF student-senate liaison, Joshua Kaye, give a report on student senate,
- moved an item relating to the College nondiscriminatory policy from the table to the Affirmative Action Advisory Committee,
- left on the table, after brief discussion, a proposal from the Student Life Committee (SLC) that extends from three to seven days the length of time students living in College housing may have an overnight guest, and
- left on the table an Appearance Code Policy proposed by the SLC.



Robert Soucy

Robert Soucy Retires from the History Department

Robert Soucy, professor of history, will retire this month. He joined the Oberlin faculty in 1966. He has written four books: *Fascism in France: The Case of Maurice Barres* (1972), *Fascist Intellectual: Drieu La Rochelle* (1979), *French Fascism: The First Wave, 1924-1933* (1986), and *French Fascism: The Second Wave, 1933-1939* (1995). He has published journal articles on Marcel Proust, French fascism, and psychohistory. His courses have covered European intellectual history from the 19th century to the present, psychohistory, German Nazism, anti-Semitism from Dreyfus to Vichy, existentialism and politics, and Paris in the 1920s and 1930s.

His research interests include politics and gender in France between 1914 and 1945. He focuses on opinions expressed on gender issues by French newspapers, politicians, and major writers of the left, right, and center of the political spectrum of the period, including the sexist constructions underlying some of the opinions. He is interested in whether there are significant differences, as well as significant similarities, between the French left, center, and right on the issues.

Over the years, the College has awarded Soucy five research-and-development grants and three research-status appointments. His work has received funding from the American Council of Learned Societies and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has been a contributing editor for the University of Massachusetts Press.

And he won the men's doubles competition in the 1981 Oberlin Tennis Classic tournament.

5 Recent Alumni Win Highly Competitive Fellowships

The Howard Hughes Foundation, the Jacob Javitz Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the National Science Foundation have honored five recent Oberlin alumni with fellowships for graduate study beginning in the fall.

James Schummers '95 will use his Howard Hughes Fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Department of Brain and Cognitive Science. He is interested in how the visual system processes information. The visual system, Schummers says, is an "easy model system to study because we already know a lot about it." Since this past fall Schummers has been a research assistant in the pharmacology department at the University of Colorado's medical school, where he has studied how alcohol impairs memory formation in rats. Schummers turned down a National Science Fellowship to accept the Hughes. He was a neuroscience major at Oberlin.

Tanya Lee '94 knew during her last semester at Oberlin that she wanted to study ethnomusicology at the graduate level, but, she says, she "chewed on it for

four years." This fall she will begin her studies at the University of Washington on a Jacob Javitz Fellowship. For two years after leaving Oberlin—where she earned double degrees in East Asian studies and music history—Lee was a Shansi representative in Kunming, Yunnan, China. Then she traveled in India and taught English in Korea before returning to the United States this year. Lee says she has "always wanted to be a teacher," and she is interested in studying Chinese minorities, but is most interested in taking the core curriculum in the ethnomusicology program and seeing where it leads her.

Susan Haskell '95 is doing web design for a company in San Francisco right now, but in the fall she will begin a Ph.D. degree in American history at the



Tanya Lee

Continued on page 9

Ed Hollis Will Miss the People

"I'm a tinkerer," says Ed Hollis, computer-maintenance manager in the computing center. "I'll probably have the cleanest cars on the block." Hollis will have the time, after June 30, to do more than clean his cars: that's when he retires from the College, just nine days shy of 14 years at Oberlin.

"We (his wife, Rosalie, is a tutor for students with learning disabilities) don't have any plans." But the couple does have "ideas," says Hollis. This winter the two will take an extended snowmobile vacation in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, going as far west as Eagle River, Wisconsin, on Lake Superior. Usually they put 1000 miles a year on their snowmobiles, but last year's mild winter allowed them only 400.

They may move south far enough "so you don't have to haul your boat out in the winter," Hollis says. That stipulation would put them in North or South Carolina, maybe Florida's panhandle, he figures. The Hollises now live in a boating condominium in Vermilion, where Ed keeps his 22-foot Sea Ray—and hauls it out every winter.

As the posters in his spacious office show, he likes car racing. And he likes to hunt. About four or five months ago Ed and Rosalie started a to-do list for retirement. Not everything on the list

takes heavy planning, he says. On it, for example, is "take a trip to Little Italy in Cleveland."

Hollis says he'll have no trouble finding enough things to do. It's the people he'll miss. "I may just come back at coffee-break time," he says. "I've been extremely happy working for the College. I think the people are super. I'm leaving for personal reasons, and I want everyone to know that. I've enjoyed working in the Oberlin College community. And if anyone's been mad at me, I haven't known about it."

One of the fun parts of his work at Oberlin has been "watching the progression of computer technology," Hollis says. "It's been fascinating to watch it, but even harder to keep up with it." It's been fun, also, to "see how people are changing in their use of computers." He points to the faculty using computers in teaching and the difference that using the Banner software has made and will make to administrators.

Hollis got into computers in 1961 when he was a 21-year-old, married freshman at Ohio State University. He landed the university computer-operator job—which he kept two years—based on his three years of experience working with desktop calculators.

Most of what he knows about computers has been self-taught, he says, except for training he received as a data-processing manager at American Standard, where he worked five years in the early 1970s. One of the things he taught himself was to program the then-state-of-the-art IBM 1401, which had 8K ("not megas," he emphasizes) of memory. He has worked for other companies—programming computers for Sherwin Williams for a year and managing a fireworks factory for two years, among other jobs—but he has preferred the academic setting. Besides Oberlin, he has worked for the Lorain County Board of Education and Lorain County Community College.

But it's time to leave, he says. Last year a 51-year-old family friend died and changed his outlook on life, he says. He wants to do other things besides work. And if he really gets bored? "I might be looking for a job... I'll go sell boats... But my intent is not to find another job."



Ed Hollis began in 1984 as the computer-operations manager, in charge of the human operators of the College's former mainframe computer, the Sigma 9. He became the computer-maintenance manager three years later.

Oberlin Jazz Ensemble Takes 24 Solo Awards at Two Recent Jazz Festivals

The Oberlin Jazz Ensemble (OJE) — whose director is Wendell Logan, professor of African-American Music—recently swept the 40th Annual Collegiate Jazz Festival, held at Notre Dame University, taking 14 solo awards. The ensemble raked in 10 more solo awards at the recent Tri-C Jazz Fest held at Cuyahoga County Community College.

The first competition's winners were Jonathan Arons '98, Allan Baker '00, Tom Bencivengo '01, Jason Brown '01, Andrew Doolittle '98, Greg Glassman '98,

Andrew Hunter '02, Andrea Lindborg '01, Kevin Louis '99, Farnell Newton '00, Burny Pelsmajer '99, Zackery Pride '99, Kelly Roberge '01, and Ian Young '01.

Tri-C winners were Baker, Nicholas Bartell '01, Bencivengo, Doolittle, Glassman, Hunter, Lindborg, Louis, Tony Melone '00, and Rashida Phillips '99.

OJE recorded a CD May 2-3 at the AudioMation Recording Studios in Pittsburgh. It will be available for purchase when it is completed, says Logan.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN SEYFRIED

Nelson de Jesus, associate professor of French, replenishes the supply of (what else?) French toast.

Second Pancake Breakfast Draws Even Bigger Crowd of Hungry and Appreciative Students

The last shift of kitchen and dining-room workers left Dascomb at 2:30 in the morning of May 13. "It was nice, though," says Bill Stackman, "well worth it."

Stackman, associate dean of students, is speaking for the 28 faculty and staff who volunteered to cook and serve

pancakes, French toast, bacon, eggs, sausage, and fruit at the second Pancake Breakfast, sponsored by his office.

The May event drew 970 customers, 20 more than the December Pancake Breakfast. The purpose of the breakfasts—served from 11:30 at night to 1:30 in the morning at the end

of finals week—is to bring people together, says Stackman. During a traditional time of high anxiety, students have a chance to get together not only with faculty and staff but with each other as well. Although the breakfasts are held in one dining facility, Oberlin students from all over campus—and

from off-campus, too—attend.

Dining Services funds the Pancake Breakfasts, and keeps a skeleton crew on hand to help and guide the faculty and staff in their chores.

And how did the students feel about the breakfast? They gave standing ovations both times, says Stackman.

Here's the Lowdown on the 1998 Commencement at Oberlin College

Nearly 700 students are expected to receive degrees at the College's 1998 commencement ceremony Monday, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Tappan Square. Damon Keith, judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, will give the commencement address.

The College will award him the honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

Three other honorary degrees will be conferred at the ceremony. Mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves '85, will receive an honorary Doctor of Music degree; Jerry Greenfield '73, cofounder and vice

chair of the board of directors of Ben & Jerry's Homemade, Inc., will receive an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree; and noted educator F. Champion Ward '32, will receive an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree.

Francine Toss will receive the Col-

lege's annual Award for Distinguished Service to the Community. Toss will be recognized for her contributions to education and youth advocacy.

Emeritus Professor of Sociology Al-

Continued on page 8

58th Honors Day Celebrates Students

Oberlin's 58th Honors Assembly took place May 5 despite the scheduled speaker's inability to attend. Award-winning author and 1952 alumnus of the College William Goldman would have delivered a talk at the event, but fog prevented his airplane from leaving the East Coast, and he did not make it to Oberlin.

The deans of Oberlin's College of Arts and Sciences and Conservatory of Music awarded student prizes, and new members of honor societies—Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi and Pi Kappa Lambda—and fellowship winners were recognized all the same. And to judge from some of the honorees' faces

(see photo, right), it was still a happy occasion.

The BP America Fellowships in the Sciences went to nine students—Carissa Bennett '98, Nicole Fallen '98, Alexis Goddard '98, Zaman Harris '98, Steven Jackson '99, Christopher Lawinski '98, Christopher Richards '98, Michael Singho '99, and Jessica Taylor '98—judged to be underrepresented minority students of exceptional academic promise whose majors or likely majors are in mathematics or a natural science.

In all, more than a hundred prizes, fellowships, and other honors were announced.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN SEYFRIED

Relative Degrees

Six children of Oberlin College faculty and staff expect to graduate from Oberlin College Monday.

- Alexander Dawe, son of Harry Dawe, international recruiting specialist in the admissions office, expects to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in French and a Bachelor of Music degree with a major in classical guitar performance.
- Oporuichè Miller, son of Albert Miller, assistant professor of religion, and Brenda Grier-Miller, special advisor in the Office of Academic Services, expects to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree with majors in African-American studies and religion
- Laura Slocum, daughter of Linda Slocum, library-gifts coordinator, expects to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in English.
- Rami Vamos, son of Roland Vamos, professor of violin and viola, and Almita Vamos, professor of violin, expects to receive a Bachelor of Music degree with a major in classical guitar performance.
- Caroline Losneck, daughter of Linda Losneck, secretary to the president, expects to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in environmental studies.
- Lauren Podis, daughter of Leonard Podis, professor of expository writing and English, expects to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in English.

John Elder to Give Baccalaureate Speech Sunday

John Elder '53, former minister of First Church, will present the 1998 baccalaureate address in Finney Chapel Sunday at 2:00. The title of his talk is "The Wonder of Being Known."



John Elder

Elder replaces Johnnetta Betsch Cole '57, who is unable to attend baccalaureate due to a scheduling conflict.

Elder is administrator of the Family Counseling Ministry of the Susquehanna Association, United Church of Christ. He served as pastor of the First Church in Oberlin from 1973 to 1991. He also directed the Northeast Ohio Pastoral Counseling Training Program at Oberlin's Allen Memorial Hospital; he was a chaplain there from 1974 to 1985.

After serving two six-year terms as an alumni-elected trustee of Oberlin College, Elder is now an honorary trustee. He was a founding member of the Oberlin Retirement Community Board, Kendal at Oberlin, Lorain County Habitat for Humanity, and the Oberlin Overground Railroad Coalition.

Elder received his Master of Divinity

degree from Harvard Divinity School in 1960; he served on its faculty from 1965 to 1972. He was ordained by the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1960 and received ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ in 1973.

Besides additional studies at the Oberlin Graduate School of Theology and Union Theological Seminary, Elder completed the residency requirements for a Th.D. in the History of Christian Thought at Harvard. He also completed a doctorate in pastoral counseling and psychotherapy at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in 1994. He is a Fellow of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

Elder and his wife, Anne, also a member of Oberlin's Class of 1953, have five children and nine grandchildren. They reside in the Finger Lakes region of New York.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN SEYFRIED

Administrative Assistants Celebrate Their Department Grads with Bulletin Boards

Several departmental secretaries celebrate the graduation of majors in their departments by creating bulletin boards in honor of the graduates. Retha Ball, left, administrative assistant in the German and Russian department, is one of them. The other boards were created by Thelma Roush, administrative assistant in the history and religion departments; Dolorus Nevels, administrative assistant in the African-American studies department; and Edna Christopher, administrative assistant in the athletics and physical education department.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN SEYFRIED

Commencement . . .

Continued from page 7

bert McQueen '52, will receive Oberlin's Alumni Medal.

Some 5000 visitors will converge on Oberlin during the commencement and reunion weekend, which begins today.

Included among the ticketed events this weekend is a concert in honor of John Kander '51. The Kander Revue will feature performances from *Cabaret*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, and the current Broadway smash revival *Chicago*. The Kander Revue is at 8 P.M. Saturday and 7 P.M. Sunday in Hall Auditorium.

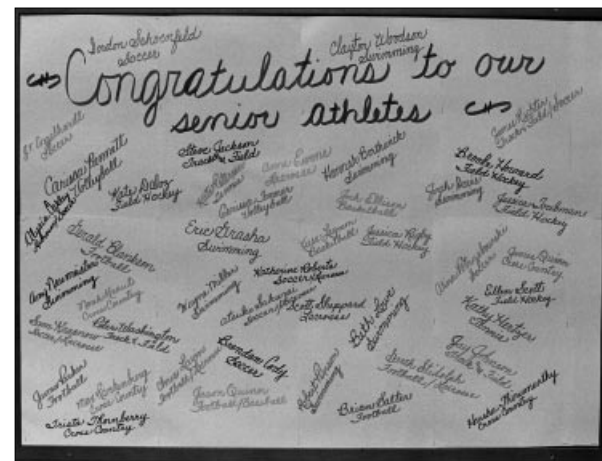
The Grand Piano Extravaganza will take place at 8 P.M. tonight in Warner Concert Hall.

Other commencement highlights include Sunday's baccalaureate address (see story on this page). Baccalaureate will take place in Finney Chapel. The colorful Campus Illumination and gala Band Concert will begin that evening at 9 on Tappan Square.

A complete schedule of other weekend activities—including symposia, campus tours, concerts, recitals, theatrical performances, and tours of Oberlin's perennial gardens and historic homes—is available at commencement headquarters, in the conservatory student lounge.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN SEYFRIED



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN SEYFRIED

Retiring Professor of Biology David Egloff Instrumental in Creating Environmental Studies Program at Oberlin College

By Karen Schaefer

This year the Environmental Studies Program at Oberlin will mark its 18th anniversary. In June the college will celebrate the groundbreaking of the program's most remarkable project to date: the Adam Joseph Lewis Center for Environmental Studies, a building whose environmentally-sustainable design is so cutting-edge, it is making news headlines worldwide.

But for one of the people whose vision and hard work were instrumental in achieving both these accomplishments, 1998 holds an even greater significance. After 32 years' teaching biology and environmental studies at Oberlin, Professor of Biology David Egloff has announced his retirement, to follow a terminal sabbatical next fall. With many of his colleagues in the department in attendance, he taught his last class three weeks ago.

"The creation of the Environmental Studies Program at Oberlin is David's most notable achievement," says David Benzing, Danforth Professor of Biology and another long-time member of the environmental-studies faculty. "And while he hasn't been in on the culmination, in some ways, David Egloff has been the single faculty member most responsible setting into motion the idea that the College needs a physical facility as a focal point for environmental studies."

In the early to mid-1970s, says Benzing, amidst continuing protests against the Vietnam War, students on campuses across America began to develop a new concern for the environment. "A group of Oberlin students established an alternative-lifestyle house on Hamilton Street, including an organic farm," he says. "David got very involved trying to help them expand the project into something they called an Eco-house, but it never really got off the ground."

What did get off the ground, in 1978, was the College's first interdisciplinary course in environmental studies. Responding to strong student interest, Egloff and a group of students organized a Winter Term project, Humankind Tomorrow, which drew on the specializations of other faculty members, including those of many still with the College: Benzing; Ron Kahn, James Monroe Professor of Politics and Law; Harlan Wilson, associate professor of politics; Benjamin Schiff, professor of

politics; David Miller, associate professor of biology; Norman Craig, Biggs Professor in the Natural Sciences; Paul Dawson, professor of politics; William Skinner, professor of geology; and David Love, associate vice president for research and development and associate provost. (All are current titles.—*Ed*) Others were Steven Cutler, former assistant professor of sociology now at the University of Vermont; Lawrence Buell, former professor of English now at Harvard University; the late Robert Tufts, professor of economics; Thomas Sherman, emeritus professor of biology; and George Langler, emeritus dean of students and lecturer in biology. The project was so popular that it was repeated in 1979 and 1980. In 1980 the Environmental Studies Program was born, with Egloff as the first director.

"It was truly a joint effort," says Egloff, a graduate of Amherst College with advanced degrees from Yale and Stanford universities. "I developed the introductory course in 1979 and taught it a year later. I tapped other faculty to come in and lecture on everything from thermodynamics to environmental law. The next course that evolved was Ecology and Environment, which focused on effects of agriculture and water pollution on natural systems.

Throughout the '70s and '80s, Egloff's commitment to teaching environmental sciences deepened, and his new classes became increasingly creative. Courses in population genetics and advanced ecology were joined by seminars on the fishing industries of Lake Erie, the Gulf Coast, and New England. A particular favorite was the 1986 fall field trip with students to the lobster fisheries of Maine.

"We observed the New England lobster fisheries for two years," says Egloff, who recently purchased a house on Cape Cod. "Other fishing industries were collapsing from overuse, but the lobster industry wasn't, even though mature females were being taken the minute they reached legal size, before they could reproduce. We didn't solve the puzzle, but we did learn a lot about the lobster wars, international fishing regulations, and local economics."

Egloff joined the Oberlin faculty in 1966 as a marine biologist with special interests in fresh-water ecology and invertebrate zoology. He quickly became involved in environmental issues of local, national, and international con-

cern. In 1970, after the shootings at Kent State University, Egloff led a workshop and demonstration on the perils of Agent Orange, a defoliant being used in Vietnam.

That same year, he and a group of students conducted a study of the effects of water pollution on the plant and animal life of Plum Creek. "Field trips are magic," says Egloff. "They produce the greatest yield in terms of creating or eliciting career choices for students."

Over the next decade, Egloff continued to focus much of his own research on local environmental issues. In 1975 he initiated a study of water quality at the Lorain water treatment plant. In 1977 he was appointed to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency's Wastewater Management Advisory Committee as coordinator of a Lake Erie water-sampling project whose goal was to create a 20-year regional water-quality plan.

Egloff's research also contributed to a growing international expertise in environmental science. During a sabbatical leave in 1972-73, he made a comparative study of pollution in fresh-water and marine environments in Europe and attended the U.N. Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm. He then joined a consortium of 40 scientists in Oklahoma to develop one of the first computer models of an aquatic ecosystem, completing the analysis of fieldwork at the University of Georgia's Institute of Ecology.

Throughout his career, Egloff has maintained his early interest in the life cycles and behavior of small planktonic invertebrates. In 1982 he received a research grant from the National Science Foundation and began a continuing association as a visiting investigator at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts.

"I'll be working with some colleagues at Woods Hole to digitize some high-speed videotapes of the swimming patterns of a marine protozoan," says Egloff. "My wife, Susan, who is retiring as a music therapist at Community Health Partners Hospital in Lorain, and I will spend most of the warm months in Woods Hole. So the end of my research is definitely not in sight."

Nor has Egloff's association with Oberlin yet come to an end. Next fall he'll put the finishing touches on a project he began five years ago, a new advisory program for students hoping to enter medical school. But as he packed up his books and papers and prepared for his last few lectures, Egloff couldn't help but reflect on this latest watershed in his career.

"It was all fun," he said, gesturing to the sign on the wall of his office that reads, "There's no fun like work." "But it's a little unsettling emptying filing cabinets after all these years. I'll just have to go along with the wisdom of colleagues, family, and friends—that I'm not ending a career, but starting a new one."

Karen Schaefer is a writer and broadcast journalist who lives in Oberlin.



David Egloff

Fellowships. . .

Continued from page 6

University of California at Berkeley. On a Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies, she will concentrate on American intellectual history in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Haskell calls Geoffrey Blodgett, Danforth Professor of History, "my undergraduate mentor in more ways than one." She did her history honors thesis on the emergence of the social sciences at Oberlin College at the beginning of the



Susan Haskell

19th century. At Berkeley, under David Hollinger, her major professor, she expects to do work on the history of missionaries, an interest she developed at Oberlin. When she graduates from Berkeley, she will teach "if the job market allows" it, she says. Her father teaches American History at Rice University, and her brother is in graduate school studying in the same field.



Michael Heithaus

Michael Heithaus '95, a biology major at Oberlin, has won a National Science Foundation Fellowship. He will attend Simon Fraser University in British Co-

lumbia, Canada, to study the behavioral ecology of dolphins, says his father, Raymond Heithaus, a biology professor at Kenyon College. Michael is now in Australia's Shark Bay, where he is doing research that involves fitting cameras on tiger sharks to learn about the intersection between sharks and dolphins. He is interested in dolphins' reaction, while they forage for food, to the risk of predators. The way they react, says his father, depends on the dolphins' habitat. While Heithaus is getting sharks to take pictures of dolphins, the National Geographic Society is filming his operations, and Heithaus has been consulting for the National Geographic film crew.

Anita Stone '96 will attend the University of Illinois this fall on a National Science Foundation Fellowship for four

years and a University of Illinois Distinguished Fellowship for the fifth year. Her interest—in the social development of juvenile monkeys and other primates and how it relates to their ecology—began when she took a trip to Costa Rica after her sophomore year at Oberlin. For a year after graduating from the College—in biology—she studied monkeys in Puerto Rico, observing younger monkeys and how they relate to others in their group. She's now at the University of Rochester, where she is a laboratory technician in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Science. There she works with reptiles indoors and is "dying to go back to field work," she says. "After working with monkeys in the wild, there's nothing really like it—no job is as cool."

Students and Faculty Team Up for Summer Research

More than 65 students and about as many faculty members will be working together on research projects this summer.

Ten pairs will work together under the second year of the four-year McGregor-Oresman Scholar Program (see the *Observer* of May 22, 1998). (Four other pairs, not mentioned here, will work on teaching issues next school

year through the McGregor-Oresman program.)

Fourteen Hughes Student Research assistants will collaborate on projects in the natural sciences. The College has had summer student researchers under Hughes grants since 1988.

The College has awarded 22 internships to Oberlin students under the third year of the three-year Ronald E.

McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, and 11 fellowships to students under the second year of the renewed Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowship Program. Both programs sponsor summer-research collaboration between students and faculty and aim to encourage the students' later enrolling in Ph.D. programs and then entering research, teaching, or other ca-

reers that require the doctorate. (See *Observers* of September 28, 1995, February 2, 1989, and May 10, 1996.)

McNair collaboration emphasizes the student as an intern with a faculty researcher while the Mellons stress student-initiated research with faculty mentors.

See the chart below for who's working with whom this summer.

Faculty-Student Research Projects, Summer 1998

| | <u>Research Title</u> | <u>Faculty Member</u> | <u>Student and Class Year</u> |
|--|--|--|---|
| McGregor-Oresman | Nuclear Data Analysis | Robert Warner | Nathan Shaner '99 |
| | Lab Assistant | William Fuchsmann | Christiana Nwofor '00 |
| | Distribution of the Benefits from Open Space | Stephen Sheppard | Sam Steckley '98 |
| | The Spatial Structure of Residential Rents and Poverty in Victorian London | | |
| | Human Capital, Migration, and Labor Mobility | | |
| | Research Team Member | | |
| | Library Assistant | Michael Loose | Daniel Bourque '98 |
| | Oberlin College Press Intern | Michael Fisher | Rebecca Gang '00 |
| | Folklore Archivist | David Young | Ian Demsky '00 |
| | Start Up the Oberlin Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies | Phyllis Gorfain | Unknown at press time |
| | Tim Scholl | Dolsy Smith '00 | |
| Hughes | Azoimine Complexes of Transition Metals | Martin Ackermann | Kirk Warren '99 |
| | Identification of Neurons That Respond to Lutenizing Hormone Releasing Hormone (LHRH) in Culture | Michael Loose | Catherine Livingston '00 and Brian Donoghue '99 |
| | Patch Clamp Recording of Cultured Hypothalamic Neurons | | |
| | Soil Remineralization | David Miller | Vanya Hollis '00 and Aaron Slodounik '00 |
| | The Function Field Sieve | Oliver Schirokauer | Two students unknown at press time |
| | Analysis of Organic Explosives | Robert Thompson | Jonathan Wilson '00 and Marc Gilmore '01 |
| | Does Leptin Act on the Brain to Affect Reproduction? | Janice Thornton | Thalia Begun '99 |
| | Effect of a Neuropeptide Y (NPY) Antagonist on Reproduction in Guinea Pigs | | Andrea Boehland '99 |
| | Geometry and Origin of Slip Surfaces in Deformation Zones | Steven Wojtal | Matthew Strine '99 |
| | Measurements and Microscopic Calculations of Total Nuclear Reaction Cross Sections | Robert Warner | Megan McKinnon '99 |
| Development of New Lab Experiments for Physics 103/104. | Melinda Keller | Alison Alpert '98 | |
| McNair | Precedential Social Facts and Gender Inequality in Constitutional Theory and Law | Ronald Kahn | Susan Dennehy '99 |
| | Dyslexic Children and Writing | Leonard Podis | Nkem Dike '99 |
| | Fluctuating Facial Asymmetry & Physiological Responses to Emotional Stimuli | Albert Porterfield | Amie Ely '99 |
| | Organic Practices for the Cultivation of Corn | Yolanda Cruz | Jonathan Martinez '00 and Sarah Schupbach '00 |
| | Slavery and Freedom in the Western Hemisphere | James Millette | Adeola Oshodi '99 |
| | Analysis of the Protein Switch Controlling Muscle Contraction | Taylor Allen | Kathryn Roberts '99 |
| | Psychoanalytic Approaches to Classical Literature | T. Van Nortwick | Jason Cunningham '99 |
| | Researching Issues in International Not-for-Profits | Eve Sandberg | Camille Fair '00 |
| | Do Some Couples Sweep to a Different Drummer? Variations in Cohabitation Status and the Impact on Domestic Labor | Daphne John | Christina Greer '00 and Shayla Mitchell '00 |
| | Regionalism and Public Policy in Northern Ghana | Yakubu Saaka | Atif Aziz '00 and Sati Gibson '00 |
| Research of the Pentacostal Movement | Albert Miller | Keymasha Hall '00 | |
| Tracking 2.55 Billion Year Old Impact Spherules Across South Africa | Bruce Simonson | Paul Jambor '00 | |
| Re-Reading Susan Sontag: Or How American Intellectual Life Has Changed Between the 1960s and the 1990s | Roger Copeland | Mike Johnson '00 | |
| Women of Color's Response to Post-Colonial Racism, Sexism, and Heterosexism | Anna Agathangelou | Hoang (Sara) Lam '00 and Maya Porter '00 | |
| Precedential Social Facts and the Rights of Subordinated Groups in Post-Pluralist America | Ronald Kahn | Jibrail Nor '00 | |
| National Traumas and Historical Memory | Wendy Kozol | Raquel Olivo '99 | |
| If I Had Wings: The Female Body and Nature | Sarah Schuster | Chaimia Peterson '00 | |
| French Literary history and Hypertext | Nelson de Jesus | Chantal Ross '00 | |
| Mellon | The Musicality of Literature | Phyllis Gorfain | Rashida Phillips '99 |
| | Latino Identity Formation and Las Gorras Blancas | Steven Volk | Isabella Quintana '99 |
| | African Religion and Spiritism in Puerto Rican Culture | and William Norris | |
| | | James Millette | Richard Santiago '99 |
| | | and Ronald Kahn | |
| | Approaches to ESL Learning | Jan Cooper | Maria Barajas '99 |
| | Black Women Expatriates in Paris | Adrienne Jones | Rashida Bumbray '00 |
| | The Light: Defining the Spiritual Concept/Context in the African and African American Phenomenon | Adenike Sharpley | Sheri Burnett '00 |
| | African American Studies Immigration Laws and the Lives of Female Domestic Workers of African Descent | & Johnny Coleman | |
| | A Comparative Study of Island Traditions and Spiritualities: Trinidad and Tobago; Cuba and the Sea Islands of South Carolina | Anna Agathangelou | Javiela Evangelista '00 |
| Soprano Arias in the Operas of Gioacchino Rossini | James Millette | Camalo Gaskin '00 | |
| The Music of Brazil: A cultural and Historical Study | Daune Mahy | Rhiannon Giddens '00 | |
| The Art of Russian Modernists | C. Jackson Smith | Pyeng Threadgill '99 | |
| | Tim Scholl | Janine McCargo '00 | |

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Eight Oberlin Students to Sample Electoral Politics This Summer

By Mark Graham

Eight students will use Cole scholarships to work in political campaigns this summer from California to Connecticut. The scholarships are one component of the Oberlin College Initiative in Electoral Politics, which has placed between five and eight students in political internships each summer over the past five years.

Richard and Dorothy Cole, both members of the Class of 1956, sponsor the initiative, which the politics department coordinates.

"[The Coles] were unhappy after the Clarence Thomas hearings with America's public servants," says Eve Sandberg, assistant professor of politics. "The program was designed to encourage the right sort of public servants, not just people with ambition, but people who care about solving social problems."

In the program, students interested in social issues gain campaign experience for possible future public-office

quests. The scholarship program is open to politics majors and nonmajors alike.

Students choose internships in states where they might hope to run in the future or with candidates who can serve as important role models for them. Faculty help them make the contact and arrange a contract for their internship. Past Cole scholars have worked in federal, state, and local campaigns and political-party offices; for professional campaign consultants; and in news departments.

The program requires students to combine their experience with scholarly research by taking two academic classes created to go with the internships. The spring-semester class, Studies in Electoral Politics, prepares students for their internships by exposing them to scholarly studies on campaigns, voters, and America's changing political party system and issues. It also gives students practical skills, such as how to write a press release or plan a

political banquet. Students in the class also do a research study of the past voting behavior, important issues, and political activists and leaders in the states where they will be undertaking their internships.

Students use the fall-semester course, Projects in Electoral Politics, to write an independent research paper on an issue raised by the internship that tests some of the hypotheses derived from the literatures they read in the earlier course.

This year's interns will work across the country in campaigns and party offices.

Sophomore Robyn Brazeal will perform community outreach and fieldwork for congressional candidate Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick in Michigan.

Sophomore David Palter will work for the California State Democratic Party in the San Francisco office.

Senior Siobhan Reilley will work in the Sacramento office of the California State Democratic Party.

Junior Scott Remley will do media relations for Representative Barbara Kennelly's campaign for governor of Connecticut.

Sophomore Rebecca Swartz will do media work and other tasks to help Connecticut state senator Miles Rappaport's campaign for the U.S. House of Representatives. Rappaport is running for the seat that Kennelly vacated to run for governor.

Sophomore Samuel Taylor will work for Peter Valone, a candidate running in the New York primary for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination. Taylor will perform outreach to the African-American community around New York City.

Junior Laura Wimberly will intern with Natalie Mosher's campaign for the Ohio State House of Representatives from the 63rd District.

Junior Meagan Willits will work on Representative Sherrod Brown's reelection campaign in Ohio.

Environmental Studies' 19 Summer Internships Include One Supported by the Artist Formerly Known as Prince

By Brad Masi

In cooperation with 10 local agencies and other College Departments, the Environmental Studies Program is backing 19 internships for Oberlin College students this summer. All are in the Oberlin area.

As a community-garden intern Rachel Dannefer '99 will work with the Lorain County Community Garden coordinator to help install and maintain 14 community gardens throughout the county. Most of the gardens are in low-income communities. Eight of the sites include Head Start centers where children can be involved. The Oberlin sites are the Head Start Depot Building, the Head Start Center, and Eastwood Elementary School. The Lorain County Community Garden project will provide free to people in need supplies for a raised garden bed (which enables easier production from Oberlin's unforgiving soils) and basic training. Dannefer will also help put together a training manual. Funding is from the loveforanother

er foundation, which is supported by the Artist Formerly Known as Prince.

James Cochran '00, Audra Abt '01, and Kerry Lowe '99 will work on the organic farm maintained by the Oberlin Sustainable Agriculture Project (OSAP), where they will do farm labor, coordinate volunteers, and help with the OSAP farm market. Funds are from the College's Office of Financial Aid and the Gund Foundation.

Sarah Kotok '98, Manda Gillespie '98, and Chandler York '00 will operate OSAP's Oberlin Farm Market. They will conduct the day-to-day management, including set-up, volunteer coordination, and vendor outreach. Kotok will also research opportunities for local producers to expand markets, including grocery stores and institutional purchasers such as Oberlin College. Gillespie will conduct research and put together a program to secure greater connections between the low-income community of Oberlin and the Oberlin Farm Market. Funds are from the George Gund Foundation, the

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Lorain County Public Service Internship Program, and OSAP.

Gillespie, Jessica Toubman '99, Michael Dwyer '97, and Nicole Palmer '00 will conduct research on the Black River Watershed that will be collected into the "State of the Watershed Report." The report will detail the natural history of the Black River and the challenges it faces—including urban sprawl, agriculture, urban decay, and water pollution. The publication will aim to engage readers with the unique qualities of the local place and challenge them to become involved in solutions to local problems. The publication will be used as a text for the Environmental Studies Program's watershed-education class, distributed to teachers throughout the county, and used to raise general public awareness about issues confronting the Black River. Funding comes from the Gund and Stocker foundations.

Zachary Fried '99 will convert much of the information collected by the watershed team into a half-hour videotape that can be aired on local-access cable and used around the county in forums about development. The video will cover urban sprawl, its threats to local agriculture, and opportunities to preserve farmland and make more connections between the urbanized northern part of the county and the rural southern part of the county. Funding is from the SARE program and the Gund Foundation.

Sadhu Johnston '98, Sasha Pollack '99, and Erin Claffin '99 will do research on creating a county-wide composting-education program, developing a sustainable agriculture curriculum for local schools, and raising local awareness and support for local-food purchasing. The projects are part of a countywide partnership on sustainable agriculture that includes the Ohio State University Extension, Oberlin's Environmental Studies Program, the Second Harvest Food

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Faculty-Student Research Projects, Summer 1998

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| | <u>Research Title</u> | <u>Faculty Member</u> | <u>Student and Class Year</u> |
|--|--|-----------------------|--|
| Mathematics Department | Enumeration of Planar Graphs | Michael Henle | Samuel Greenberg '01 |
| | Dynamics of Circle Homeomorphisms | James A. Walsh | Noah Kraut '99 |
| Individual-Faculty and Other Grants | Arrows of Time in Infancy II (National Science Foundation) | William Friedman | Katherine Bauer '98 |
| | Cognition in the Real World (OCTET, through the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation) | P. deWinstanley | Amie Ely '99 |
| | Oberlin History as American History (National Endowment for the Humanities) | Gary Kornblith | Benjamin Mack '99 |
| | Analysis of the Rotational Structure in Bands in the High-Resolution Infrared Spectra of trans- and cis-cis-1,4-Difluorobutadiene (National Science Foundation) | Norman Craig | Christopher Neese '99 |
| | Synthesis of Isotopic Modifications of 1,1,2,2-Tetrafluoroethane for Use in High-Resolution Spectroscopy (National Science Foundation) | | Christiana Nwofor '00 |
| | Synthesis of Isotopic Modifications of the Isomers of 1,4-Difluorobutadiene and their Vibrational Spectroscopy (American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund) | | Catherine Oertel '99 |
| | Mechanism of Troponin Function in Regulating Muscular Contraction(Templeton Medical Research Foundation) | Taylor Allen | Angela Burkeen '99 |
| | Pulsar Studies of the Interstellar Medium (National Science Foundation) | Daniel Stinebring | Kate Becker '01, Miranda Balkin '01, Mark Kramer '01, and Jim Sheckard '00 |
| | Annotated Bibliography of Mezzo-Soprano Arias in the Operas of Rossini (President's Office and Conservatory Dean's Office Special Research Funds) | Daune Mahy | MaLeata Carson '99, Michael Preacely '00, and John Roger '00 |

More Philosophy for Daniel Merrill

By Marci Janas '91

If, as Wittgenstein believed, the only cure for philosophy is more philosophy, then for Dan Merrill perhaps the only cure for retirement is—more philosophy.

Merrill, professor of philosophy at Oberlin since 1962, might take issue with the spotty logic leading to that conclusion, and he'd enjoy doing so. His retirement this June marks the end of an academic career spent happily grappling with issues of argument and dialectic, logic and paradox—but it doesn't mark the end of thinking.

Long intrigued by the history of logic, "a kind of strange field," he says, in that it's rarely taught, Merrill will focus his post-teaching research on the early history of symbolic logic. His interest arises, he says, from a paradox:

"For 2000 years Euclid's geometry was thought of as the ideal of a rational, demonstrative science—so called because you begin with axioms which are absolutely certain, and then you employ logical inferences that you can be certain will lead you validly to the theorems. Also, for 2000 years, the theory of demonstration—what a valid argument is—was largely Aristotle's with some Stoic logic thrown in.

"Now here's the paradox: if you use only Aristotle's logic and the Stoic logic, you cannot prove even one theorem in Euclid. The logic's too weak. Yet for 2000 years people assumed that you could. In the middle of the 19th century it became apparent that logic would have to be beefed up in order to handle a lot of arguments that are obviously valid but which the old logics simply couldn't handle. To do this logicians introduced mathematical notations."

These notations—the stuff of symbolic logic—and how they came to be are what fascinate Merrill; he's interested in "that early, faltering stage" of their evolution, and has worked particularly on the contributions of the British mathematician and logician Augustus De Morgan. He's published a book on De Morgan's logic of relations. He says he's "kind of fallen in love" with him.

Proof of that statement? A couple of years ago Merrill and his wife, Marlene, a documentary editor and Oberlin College affiliate scholar, got a dog. They

named him Augustus. (The couple has two grown children, neither named for a philosopher.)

Although Dan and Marly will remain in Oberlin, some of Merrill's work will no doubt be done in Wyoming, where the family has a summer home. Soon, Merrill says, he'll get to enjoy September in the Rockies.

For now, the best view he has is the courtyard between Rice Hall and the King Building. Recently, he sat in his spacious, book- and light-filled office and looked back on a career that had its genesis toward the end of his junior year at Princeton.

Merrill planned to be a theoretical physicist, but discovered that "physics was not quite my thing, partially because I was so inept in the lab."

After deciding on a mathematics major, then discovering that he didn't want to be a mathematician—"I enjoyed thinking about more general issues rather than proving theorems"—destiny, or as Merrill calls it, "a lucky break," intervened. The philosopher Hilary Putnam, "for years now one of the great figures at Harvard," began his teaching career at Princeton, giving a course on W. V. Quine's book *Mathematical Logic*. (Merrill calls Quine, who graduated from Oberlin in 1930, "the most influential American philosopher since World War II.")

Putnam's course, with its "mathematical elegance," changed Merrill's life. When Putnam offered a seminar on the philosophy of science the following spring, Merrill was on the class roster. The two developed a mentoring rela-

tionship, and one evening Putnam invited Merrill to his home after class, to discuss Merrill's future. The conversation led Merrill to an epiphany: he wanted to go to graduate school in philosophy and study the philosophy of science. Unfortunately, by that late date, Putnam told him, virtually all the applications and offers of admission had gone out and all the fellowship aid had been divvied up.

Putnam, however, thought he could still get Merrill into the University of Minnesota—an excellent place, Merrill says, to study the philosophy of science.

A call was made, papers and transcript sent, and Merrill was admitted for graduate study.

Within the last two years Putnam published a reminiscence in the journal *Daedalus* of his career as a philosopher, and it included this period. Reading it, Merrill says, "I thought, 'It's time for me to write Putnam a thank-you letter.' My life has a

number of very lucky breaks in it. And Putnam is one of them."

Another, Merrill will tell you, is teaching at Oberlin, where, he says, in the last few years he's had "some of the best students I have ever had—the cream of the crop. I taught two seminars that I think are among the best classes I've ever taught, and this derives solely from the quality of the students."

One of those seminars was on Wittgenstein, whom Merrill cites as among the philosophers he most enjoys working on. Others include Descartes; Locke; Hume; Bertrand Russell—particularly his work relat-

ed to the philosophy of logic and the philosophy of mathematics; Karl Popper, a philosopher of science; Thomas Kuhn, author of *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*; and, of course, Quine.

There's a certain symmetry and poetic justice in what Merrill is teaching this final semester: logic and the philosophy of science—"the two things that got me into philosophy in the first place."

Besides the "academic ethos" of Oberlin that Merrill loves, "interesting and congenial" colleagues in and out of his department have made it difficult to think of retiring; he says that he has been "especially stimulated" by Oberlin's acclaimed philosophy colloquiums. He is also a self-described "organization man"—Merrill has served on nearly 40 committees since 1962. "My life has been so identified with this institution that I have wondered what it would be like when I'm no longer a part of it." That mentality has shifted in the last year, he says, and he is now looking forward to "some psychological distance from the College."

What is a philosophy professor's philosophy of life? The response is carefully considered:

"If one thinks of matters in a sort of global, philosophical way, as a teacher of the history of philosophy, one must have sympathies with a wide variety of philosophical views. For me, that sometimes leads to less assurance than you might find in some philosophers. I do have certain religious beliefs which inform my personal view of the world, although I try not to be heavy handed in cramming those down students' throats.

"Some years ago I taught my regular course in the philosophy of religion. At the end of the course, one of the students came up to me and said, 'Mr. Merrill, I've been wondering all year: are you a believer or not?' And so I said, 'Well, actually I am.' And I wondered, after that question, if it was a kind of compliment to my evenhandedness or whether it showed that I just wasn't revealing enough of myself."

Marci Janas is a staff writer in the Office of College Relations.



Dan Merrill

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN SEYFRIED

Center. . .

Continued from page 1

- develop half-semester, credit-bearing courses on contemporary topics by distinguished visiting scholars, and
- establish a newsletter for students and alumni active and interested in the region.

Following Scholl's initial four-year appointment, the directorship will rotate annually among the six full-time faculty dedicated to the region. The six already serve as the Russian and East European Studies (REES) Curricular Committee. (See box, "Who's Who in OCREECAS?" on page 1.)

The entire \$750,000 from The Clowes Fund and Edith Clowes is designated for the center's endowment. To strengthen the role of the center further, the College will seek additional support from alumni and public and private sources to increase the endow-

ment and expand internship, curricular, and cultural programming.

OCREECAS Internships and Fellowships

One of the most important initiatives of the center, says Scholl, will be the new internship and community-service fellowship program in Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia for upper-level students or recent graduates. "Designed to help efforts to build post-Soviet civil societies, the placements will give fellows invaluable practical experience working with a nonprofit or nongovernmental organization in Eastern Europe or the former Soviet Union during this critical transition period."

Internship and volunteer-service hosts may include organizations addressing environmental pollution, reproductive- and other health-related issues, homelessness, child abuse, human rights, educational reform,

drug abuse and alcoholism, labor issues, and sexual harassment, as well as groups dedicated to promoting independent media, funding for the arts, or grassroots activism.

OCREECAS will fund the fellowships, giving Oberlin students the financial freedom and unique opportunity to work at Russian, Eastern European, or Central Asian nonprofits, which, Snyder says "tend to have extremely limited resources and could not support an American intern on their own." Most importantly, she says, students interning at Russian, Eastern European, or Central Asian nonprofit organizations will be fully immersed in the culture, gaining an understanding of current conditions and local efforts to address social problems in a way not possible through positions at many U.S. or international organizations in the region—which are often headed by foreign staff with no regional expertise, hire locals pri-

marily for translation or administrative support, and use English as the working language of the office.

Initially, all internships and volunteer service placements will last about eight weeks and take place in the summer. The budget will support two summer fellowships annually. Once the fellowship program has become established, the center director and faculty in the Russian and East European Studies (REES) Curricular Committee will seek to expand it to include semester and possibly academic-year positions and identify additional sources of funding.

The project will get under way July 1, with Scholl receiving released time and the services of a half-time intern for the first year of the four-year directorship. (Subsequent years of the directorship will carry release time for one course.) The first focus of the project will be to develop the center and identify other possible sources of support.

Jeanne Bay Says She Is Giving Up Teaching, Again

By Karen Schaefer

She turned nearly a decade of teaching high-school English into a second career in college music education. Now she's thinking about what comes next.

Jeanne Bay is retiring this spring after eight years as coordinator of field-based activities in the conservatory's Music Education Division. She says her impressive job title actually describes a multitude of nonmusical tasks that support conservatory students as they learn about teaching music to children.

"I didn't really know anything about music," says Bay, a former Oberlin High School teacher and a long-time resident of Oberlin. "But we discovered that it actually works better not to have a music background."

Bay may not know a lot about music, but she does know a great deal about education. In the late sixties—as a single mother of five—Bay landed a job in the Oberlin Public Schools teaching high school seniors the elements of literature, composition, and humanities, even acting as advisor to the high-school newspaper. But when an early retirement was offered in 1988, she took it without a backward glance.

"I felt I'd had enough of teaching—and of kids!" says Bay, whose own children are now adults. "It was time

to do something for me. So I just audited some English classes at the College and enjoyed not having to keep a schedule."

But her "retirement" didn't last long. In 1990 Priscilla Smith, professor of music education, recruited Bay as a liaison between the Music Education Division and area public schools. It was a job tailor made for a teacher of Bay's experience.

"In the first year, music-ed students take a practicum course to see if teaching is what they really want to do," she says. "It was my job to scout likely classrooms of area music teachers for Oberlin students to work in. I also assisted in observing and taping classroom sessions for assessment by students and faculty."

But Bay's job didn't stop there. During a sabbatical year for faculty member Katherine Jarjisian, Bay also took on the task of teaching a semester-long class on the principles of education. She also twice taught a seminar on classroom management, helping conservatory students learn the elements of pacing a class and communicating with their young charges.

"I know when I was in school learning to be a teacher, we were very disdainful of methods classes. But once I started teaching, I realized those were some of the most valuable classes I

ever took," Bay recalls.

"Most high schools have a much broader mix of students than a college, and college students need to learn how to 'work' a class, how to handle everything from teen slang to discipline. I was really nervous about teaching at the College, but the students were wonderful. They were thoughtful, inquiring, and really synthesized information well."

As she winds up her final scouting trips this month, Bay is already looking ahead. A member of the Oberlin Public Library Board of Trustees and the 19th Century Club, a local reading group, Bay has plenty to interest her on the literary front.

And she'd like to try her hand at writing more travel pieces for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, capitalizing on travel opportunities through a daughter who lives in Guam. One thing she doesn't want to do is live with schedules, ap-

pointments, and other people's deadlines.

"I want to kick back," says Bay. "I want to read my head off. I want to travel. One thing I cannot imagine is being bored."



Jeanne Bay

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN SEYFRIED

Indonesia . . .

Continued from page 14

they have begun to reconstruct the smaller structures.

The largest Buddhist site we visited, Borobudur, was a sprawling edifice featuring scores of bell-shaped domes made of carved lava rocks, each containing a statue of the Buddha. As at Prambanan, extensive restoration and landscaping has been done since the '80s, and plans are now afoot to build a resort hotel nearby. These sites and several smaller ones we visited date back a thousand years or more and feature walls covered with intricate carvings that tell classic stories such as the Ramayana.

We also toured the Sultan's Palace in Yogyakarta. Besides shadow puppet plays, the palace has extensive displays on the history of the line of sultans who have ruled Yogya, and it is still the cultural hub of central Java. I was intrigued to learn that the Sultan's Palace is known as the

Kraton. To a geologist, the word *cra-ton* means a stable central region—found on every continent—that contains the oldest rocks.

No Hard Rain

Two things we did not see on our trip impressed me. The first was a good hard rain. January is part of the rainy season in Indonesia, yet we saw only a few brief showers during our entire stay. Scott and I laid out a schedule that was fairly open, anticipating some rainouts, but we didn't lose a single day to rain. This was another manifestation of the intense El Niño season in Indonesia, yet we saw only a few brief showers during our entire stay.

The second thing we missed was an active eruption. Despite its reputation, Merapi declined to show us a single, tangible sign of activity during our visit. We even traveled up the flank to the observatory to view Merapi on a moonless night, but we didn't see the telltale reddish glow that would indicate the presence of lava



The whole group gathered on one of the temples on Dieng plateau, site of the oldest Hindu temples in the country. The thousand-year-old temple complex is in the middle of the most active hot springs in central Java.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRUCE SIMONSON



Students examined what was submarine lava, called pillow lava, overlain by grey layers of volcanic ash.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRUCE SIMONSON

near the summit. I suspect the students and I did not heed Eddy's advice to be patient and ask the volcano respectfully for such favors.

I think we achieved our primary aim, to give students a firsthand look at many different geological features and processes that aren't available in Ohio. The trip also reconfirmed two of my long-standing beliefs. The first is in the importance of in-country contacts for this sort of international endeavor. The key to this trip's success was Scott's making contact with the people at Gadjah Mada University, and we are greatly indebted to them for all the help they gave us.

Finally, the trip reconfirmed my faith in Oberlin students. All the students stayed engaged intellectually and soaked up plenty from the geological phenomena we saw. They also had many positive cultural experiences and very few negative ones. The students interacted with the peo-

ple on the streets of Yogya, spent time at the temples, got an up-close look at the workings of the largest academic institution in Indonesia, and developed a taste for the delicious cuisine.

All in all, the students did a good job of adapting to a different culture in a short period of time. I hope the same can be said of me, and I hope we can continue to offer field experiences like this in future Winter Terms. While we were there, no overt signs of the political unrest that was brewing were visible, except the instability of the currency. The social upheaval that is now making headlines did not affect on our trip although it has led to the postponement of a second trip being organized by theater professor Roger Copeland. It is also having a profound effect on the Shansi reps we met while we were there, but that is another story.

Bruce Simonson is professor of geology.

Observations

Oberlin Students on the (Plate) Edge: Indonesian Geology over Winter Term

By Bruce Simonson

A famous earth scientist once said, other things being equal, the best geologist is the one who has seen the most rocks. In the geology department, we see Winter Term as a golden opportunity to show our students many rocks, especially ones that can't possibly be seen in Ohio. During the '90s, I have taken several groups of students on Winter Term field trips to the Bahamian Field Station to study how limestones form in reefs and related tropical environments. My departmental colleagues have taken students to southern California, the land of too much seismic activity and too little water.

A chance meeting with Carl Jacobson, director of the Oberlin Shansi Memorial Association, on the sidewalks of Oberlin led to the biggest project yet—a field trip to the Indonesian island of Java. Shansi had cosponsored a 1995 Winter Term field trip to China focused on land use. I asked Carl if the association might be interested in cosponsoring a Winter Term field trip focused on geology, and he suggested Indonesia. No problem there: Indonesia is a classic field area in geological circles.

Why Indonesia Is Interesting to Geologists

Indonesia first made geological headlines in 1883 when the volcano Krakatau erupted, causing a tsunami that caused an estimated 40,000 deaths locally and three years of cooler temperatures globally. Indonesian volcanoes subsequently became some of the best



Students listened to a geomorphologist from the Research Center for National Disasters explain the formation of caves in Gunung Sewu.

studied in the world, and other geological features of Indonesia are equally renowned.

For example, the well-developed karst terrain of Java is famous among cavers, and the northeastern coast of Sumatra is a classic coal swamp. The effort to predict volcanic eruptions remains a high priority.

Indonesia is the fourth most populous nation on earth, yet harbors the world's most active volcanoes. Gunung Merapi (*Mountain of Red Fire* in English) is widely believed to be the most dangerous volcano on earth, and it is right next to Yogyakarta. The Shansi reps live and work in "Yogya" at Gadjah Mada University. Joining forces with Shansi to cosponsor a Winter Term project seemed natural to me.

My main concern was leading a trip to a place I'd never seen—until fate again intervened. The day Carl and I met to talk about a possible trip to Indonesia, Scott Hassler '82 (one of my former students and my

current collaborator in research on impact spherules) happened to be in town. Scott had visited Indonesia in 1985, so I asked him to join us at the meeting. Carl invited him to participate in the trip, and Scott ultimately became co-leader.

Scott's participation was critical to the success of the trip. Scott was able to travel to Indonesia in July 1997. In just two weeks, he made key contacts and scouted sites from Jakarta at the west end of Java to Bali, the next island to the east. Assured that there was plenty of geology to see, we then decided to limit our field trip to central Java.

The Trip Gets Under Way

While he was on Java, Scott stopped at Gadjah Mada University in search of local geological expertise. Three of the people he met there did the most to make the trip a success: Totok Sudibyakto, director of the Research Center for Natural Disasters, Tono Rahardjo of the Department of Geological Engineering, and Eddy Pursubaryanto of the Department of English.

Totok and Tono escorted Scott to sites where the products of important geological processes were well displayed, then helped with our logistical arrangements for the following January. Eddy was in Oberlin during the 1997 fall semester, got to know many of the students taking the Winter Term trip, and helped make the final arrangements. One or more of these three men accompanied us every single day we were on Java, and we would not have seen a fraction of what we saw without their assistance.

Thanks to generous financial support from Shansi, geology alumni, and the Winter Term Committee, we managed to keep the trip affordable; each of the students paid less than half of what the trip really cost. The applications poured in, and I selected 12 upper-level geomajors as participants.

With Eddy's help, we arranged to stay at a hotel in downtown Yogya and reserved vans for the field trips. Associate Shansi Director Deborah Cocco was also a big help. Having taken many trips to Yogya on Shansi business, she told the students what to expect and made our travel arrangements.

When the day arrived, we met in the Los Angeles airport and flew as a group to Yogya. Winarto, another member of the Gadjah Mada English faculty who spent time in Oberlin in 1997 and helped with our trip, greeted us. He urged us to get a few hours sleep before we went to the all-night *wayang kulit* (shadow puppet show) at the Sultan's Palace.

Because we arrived at the start of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month, only one show took place during our entire trip. Eddy rated this puppeteer a superstar, so we went to the performance, though we were dead tired. We had been on the road continuously for more than 20 hours and were now on the opposite side of the earth. We enjoyed the first part of the performance, but returned to our hotel in a couple of hours.

After using Sunday to acclimate to our new surroundings—paying the first of many visits to the busy street market in Yogya—we spent Monday at Gadjah Mada University. In the morning we toured the facilities—including remote-sensing, seismic-monitoring, and geological laboratories—and the anthropological museum. In the afternoon Totok, Tono, and other faculty who were our guides for the trip gave presentations on the geology of Java and the attendant hazards.

The Field Studies

The following day we began our field studies with a day trip to Merapi volcano to see geological deposits and the societal impacts of volcanic processes. To appreciate the risk to those living on Merapi's flanks, we visited a valley that has been the site of repeated lahars and *nuées ardentes*—glowing avalanches.

Volcanologists have borrowed the word *lahar* from

the Javanese tongue to describe warm slurries of water, mud, and gravel that often flow down volcanic valleys in wet climates such as Indonesia. They damage property in the process; in the valley, we saw people digging out a bridge that cost over a million dollars



The group examined sands that were deposited on the deep sea floor, then uplifted and tilted tectonically.

to build. Debris from a lahar had buried the bridge within two weeks of its opening in 1996.

Nuées ardentes are even more hazardous, and Eddy took us to the house where one claimed the lives of two of his friends in 1994. To counter these ongoing threats the government has surrounded Merapi volcano with a network of volcanological observatories; we visited one of them.

Most of the days that followed fit a similar mold. We got in the van each morning, spent the day visiting interesting sites, and returned to our hotel in Yogya in the evening. Among the many geological wonders we saw were

- hot springs, including craters formed by the explosive interaction of hot magma with groundwater (some as recently as 1996);
- slices of ancient seafloor lifted out of the sea by the active faulting in the Indonesia arc—these varied in character from limestones that accumulated in shallow-water reefs (like those currently at risk off the north coast of Java) to chalky oozes and volcanic sands originally deposited under more than a mile of seawater;
- caves, sinkholes, and related features, formed over many millennia as tropical rains relentlessly seeped into the ground and dissolved away the limestone;
- ancient river sands and gravels that contain hominid bone fragments—the remains of Java Man; they also contain chunks of black glass—known as tektites—that were strewn across the face of the earth when a large meteorite hit Indochina almost a million years ago;
- terraced hillslopes that require careful regulation of the flow of surface water, which is done largely by individual workers wielding shovels; and
- a sandy coastline shaped by high-energy waves that is about as wide as the Oberlin College campus and made of dark volcanic sand rather than the lighter, quartz- and shell-rich sands Americans are used to seeing.

Cultural Sites, Too

We took advantage of our time in central Java to visit several sites of great cultural and historical significance that reflect Java's cosmopolitan religious heritage. The largest temple at the first site we visited, Prambanan, is dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. It also has large temples to Brahma and Vishnu and originally had some 228 smaller structures, according to our guide. Workers have reconstructed the larger temples since Scott visited the site in 1985, and now

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