Sarah Schuster, professor of art, has taught at Oberlin College since 1988. She received her BFA from Boston University in 1979 and her MFA in painting from Yale University in 1982. Sarah has shown her work nationally and internationally and is currently serving as a board member on the Committee for Women, through the College Art Association. In January she received mediation training and certification through OCDC.

Sarah joined OCDC in January 2012.

When I had been teaching at Oberlin College for 18 years, the world seemed to be in such dire circumstances that I needed to know I was doing my best to be part of the solution and not just contributing to the problem. I love making my artwork and teaching painting. The creative process is as close as most of us can get to a spiritual practice in contemporary western life, nonetheless, I went through a three-year period of trying to determine if I should return to school to study religion and theology, or maybe even to go to seminary. Despite the passion I have for my teaching and making artwork, I felt that my studio practice removed me from the world that needed my attention. During this period, Yeworkwha Belachew made it possible for me to attend the opening of the Desmond Tutu Center for Peace and Reconciliation at the General Theological Seminary in New York City. During the opening of the center I heard Desmond Tutu speak and I attended workshops and presentations by individuals and groups who were committed to creating peace and reconciling conflict around the globe. The efforts I heard about that weekend had a profound impact on me and introduced me to a field I never knew existed. I learned that skills and training existed for people who want to work towards peace. I already knew that there was no end to the work to be done. This past January, OCDC made it possible for me to participate in a five-day intensive training program in mediation. This is my very modest first step to further peace, reconciliation, and conflict resolution in the community I live in. This training has helped me bridge the gap between the insular and important work of making painting, and the building of community, that is so much a part of my life here in the college and town. My work with OCDC has allowed me to remain in my job while working, one day at a time, on changing the way we all perceive and resolve conflict.