

**CLASS OF 1965
REUNION
COMMITTEE**

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Spring 2013

Dear Classmates,

I am writing to get you excited about our 50th reunion, which is a little more than two years away—**May 22-25, 2015**. The first of a number of meetings leading up to that event was held in Oberlin in Mid-April when our Reunion Committee met on campus. This first get-together was intended to help us re-connect with each other and with the college. Both objectives were easily and enjoyably achieved. We also set a five-year gift goal of \$8 million. (You probably now fear that a major request is coming for you to ante up. But you would be wrong. I will end this note with a small request, nothing more. The big push is still months away.)

The real purpose of this communication is to share with you the enjoyment and excitement 21 of us experienced at our meeting. (Eight others were unable to make the trip but they participated by phone in our discussions on gift and reunion planning.) We were able to attend classes, given a tour of the Allen Memorial Art Museum (great when we were there, extraordinary now), visited Kahn Dorm where most of us will be housed during our reunion (energy efficient—Platinum LEED rated—for those who know about such things), met with President Marvin Krislov (“please call me Marvin”) a far different personality than President Carr, talked with other administration officials, met with students, and attended a presentation by five winners of a new initiative called LaunchU which awards small grants to alumni who are developing exciting new products and building new businesses. We were impressed and pleased with most of what we saw. Our group also had questions, comments, and some criticisms about a whole host of things, but hey, we might be older but are no less engaged and committed to an institution that still matters to us.

This meeting provided a wonderful opportunity for old friends to get together and acquaintances to reconnect. (Two of our group were actually back for the first time since graduation.) What did we learn about each other and ourselves? Most significantly, we followed many paths, as you would expect, but shared some common themes:

a) We all, at one level or another, became and stayed actively involved in our communities. A commitment to social justice was a recurring theme though it played out in many different ways.

b) We did not lose our strong opinions, nor our desire to express them across a broad spectrum of issues—politics, education, Oberlin, etc.

- c) We thought Oberlin had been meaningful in our lives, even for those who expressed some disappointments and difficulties while we were there.
- d) Many spoke of the close friendships they have maintained with classmates and of relationships they have developed over the years with other Oberlin alums.
- e) Many commented, and all felt, that the ease and speed with which we were able to feel at home with each other was remarkable. Attending reunions can be a daunting experience for anyone, especially the first time one returns; however, it takes but a very short while once back on campus to feel comfortable and welcomed. Nobody should hesitate to attend a class reunion. Try it; you are going to like it!

Finally, I have to say that we—as old farts—were bitten by the nostalgia bug. We all remembered friends, professors, events, and activities that made us feel warm and fuzzy. I have listed some of the many comments heard and written on an attached sheet. They brought smiles to many faces and some angst, and I share them in hopes that they re-kindle some warm feelings within you about our alma mater. Anybody who would like to add his or her own memories to this list, just drop me a line.

As we looked back on our time at Oberlin, we drew inspiration from the experience itself. We were able to laugh and joke and, in general, we had a blast. We will have a number of other meetings as the planning process proceeds. I expect that the reunion we put together will excite you and hope you will join us for this wonderful event. **Mark your calendar. The date again is May 22-25, 2015.**

Now, lastly, my pitch. If you have not donated to the annual fund this year please consider doing so before June 30, the end of the fiscal year. More than anything, at this point we would like as many people as possible to contribute, whatever the size of your gift. If you have given already and are inspired to give a little more, that too would be wonderful. We also hope that you will start thinking about making a special gift in honor of our 50th Reunion. Any gift to the college or conservatory made between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2015 will count towards our \$8 million reunion gift goal. Oberlin's secure giving website: **<https://new.oberlin.edu/office/development/donate/>**.

Best regards and stay in touch,



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P.S. One last thought. A number of committee members spoke about how wonderful it has been to reach out to old friends. Some started a dialogue that they hope and expect will continue. If you would like to initiate contact with somebody from the college or conservatory, they make it easy. A link below gets you directly to the Obie Web page where you can register and then send a note to anybody in the Oberlin community. Give it a try; you might connect with someone who really is excited that you reached out to them.

[http://www.alumniconnections.com/olc/membersonly/OBL/old/old.cgi?FNC=SIMPLESEARCH__Aindex
_html](http://www.alumniconnections.com/olc/membersonly/OBL/old/old.cgi?FNC=SIMPLESEARCH__Aindex_html)

This list contains some interesting and significant memories of our time at Oberlin that Reunion Committee members recalled. Hopefully, some of them will resonate with other '65 classmates.

- 1) Jackets and ties and assigned boy/girl seating in the dining rooms
- 2) Saturday afternoon in the library, “wasted” hours in the snack bar
- 3) Riding to classes in the snow. Riding back from Presti’s in the snow
- 4) Some fabulous professors that moved us and changed our lives
- 5) Endless hours of practicing in the Con
- 6) Fabulous concerts at Finney Chapel (performances by Stravinsky, Rostropovich, Rubenstein, Pete Seeger, Josh White, and many others)
- 7) Panty raids, soapy dorm corridors, and other inane social behavior
- 8) “I did not give or receive aid in this exam”—an honor code that worked
- 9) Sneaking a peek at a graded blue book that made you realize why some people deserved an A and you didn’t
- 10) Dascomb Hall’s concrete cellblock style rooms
- 11) Woman’s hours and required house mother’s approval for extended external visits
- 12) Freshman Beanies
- 13) Big sisters, big brothers, JRs, and JCs
- 14) Warm bread at the Co-ops
- 15) Jocks (we did have a few) jumping over pews at Finney Chapel to insure a spot in Musical Union
- 16) College Choir concert after their trip to the Soviet Union
- 17) 3 feet, 6 inches (if this means nothing to you, you studied too much)
- 18) Body Mechanics at the Women’s gym
- 19) Maids for men and not for women (so un-PC)
- 20) Finding privacy in the most unlikely places
- 21) WOBC Friday night shows with Schwartz, Kuttner, Rubinow, and Gundersheimer
- 22) Martin Luther King’s early version of “I Have a Dream” speech at Finney Chapel
- 23) Plum Creek Boys
- 24) Tearing down the goal posts after the upset of Denison
- 25) Junior year in Salzburg
- 26) 1964 Mock Republican convention (we nominated William Scranton and Thruston Morton—who? Huh?)
- 27) Oberlin Mountain, the reservoir, the quarry, and sand traps (see [20] above)
- 28) Learning that it was important to act, not just to think
- 29) Anti-war protests, civil rights actions
- 30) Trips to rebuild burnt-out churches in the south
- 31) That “aha” moment when a subject or concept finally made sense
- 32) Women on Saturday night waiting in their dorms for men to come calling; men in the pool hall or out on the town talking about sports
- 33) Party trains going home at Thanksgiving and Christmas
- 34) Parties at the Masonic Temple (with actual beer)
- 35) Senior year all-campus computer date (how many marriages resulted? At least one!)
- 36) Student Congress senior year—everyone debating in loco parentis and other vital issues
- 37) Feeling of relief in spring 1965 when you knew you were going to graduate
- 38) Martin Luther King’s graduation address (“Staying Awake During a Revolution”)