

# ENVIROALUMS ANNUAL REPORT

Alumni Council Weekend – 24-26 September 2010

Carl McDaniel '64, Chair

Andrew deCoriolis '07, Vice-Chair

Membership: EnviroAlums has an email list of about 150 members.

Finances: Balance forwarded: \$6,538.72

Income: \$8,180.00 (this was mostly from fees and support for October Reunion)

Expenses: \$10,963.22 (this was mostly the cost of October Reunion)

Current balance: \$3,655.50

Endowment: Current balance: \$90,168

Gifts FY 2009: \$9,259

Earnings available on 1 July 2010: \$8,743

Steering Committee members and terms: Andy Barnett, Michael Bobker, Andrew deCoriolis, Walter Galloway, Robert Stenger, Pat Cobb Tarnow (expire in 2010); Kristin Braziunas, Lewis Gilbert, Carl McDaniel, John Petersen, and John Schaefer (expire in 2011); Susan Bernat, Meredith Dowling, Anders Ferguson (expire 2012); Maggie Zimmer (student representative, expires 2010)

Steering Committee Meetings: Full meeting reports are in the Alumni Office and on E's website [[www.oberlin.edu/envs/oeaa](http://www.oberlin.edu/envs/oeaa)].

1. Steering Committee met in the Lewis Center from 4:00 to 5:30 PM on 12 September 2009.

Present: Walt Galloway, Carl McDaniel, Pat Cobb Tarnow, Maggie Zimmer [Lewis Center] and Susan Bernat, Michael Bobker, Meredith Dowling, Karen Florini (Board Liaison), John Petersen [teleconference].

Absent: Andrew Barnett, Kristin Braziunas, Chris Brown, Andrew deCoriolis, Lewis Gilbert, Mira Inbar, Michael Lythcott, Michael Murray, Gavin Platt, Naomi Sabel, John Schaefer, Rob Stenger

Guest: Nathan Engstrom (Sustainability Coordinator)

2. Steering Committee met in the Lewis Center from 10:00 AM to Noon on 24 April 2010.

Present: Carl McDaniel, Maggie Zimmer [in Lewis Center] and Michael Bobker, Andrew deCoriolis, Meredith Dowling, Anders Ferguson, Walt Galloway, John Petersen, Pat Cobb Tarnow [via teleconference].

Absent: Andrew Barnett, Susan Bernat, Kristin Braziunas, Lewis Gilbert, John Schaefer, Rob Stenger, and Karen Florini (Board Liaison).

Guest: Bill Barlow (Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs)

Activities for EnviroAlums September 2009 to September 2010:

1. **E Affiliate Group Reunion:** The E Reunion Committee of Michael Bobker, Kristin Braziunas, Walt Galloway, Michael Lythcott, and Carl McDaniel worked with Ruth Mercer to create a community wide reunion—alumni; students, faculty, and staff; and Oberlin area citizens—titled *A Crisis Is a Terrible Thing to Waste: Creating a Durable Future* and held October 9-11, 2009.

Meredith Dowling '06, Walter Galloway '69, Carl McDaniel '64, and Margaret Zimmer '11 drafted an article that appeared in the Alumni Magazine, Winter 2009-10, pg 29, with the title of *Waste Nothing—Not Even a Crisis*. The reunion brought together 150 people to consider turning “the

current economic and climate destabilization crises into opportunities to foster environmental sustainability.”

Many positive comments were given during and after the weekend. Several Steering Committee members were impressed with the session on Saturday morning that showed city, college, and local citizens were united in addressing together sustainability, both economic and environmental. Anders Ferguson and Walt Galloway noted positive networking outcomes—initiating together an Oberlin-Cleveland project titled “Sustainable Northeast Ohio 2019” and Anders Ferguson joined E’s Steering Committee, and with David Orr events bookending the weekend, the weekend foreshadowed the Oberlin Project and Oberlin being formally designated on 4 March 2010 the 18<sup>th</sup> city in the Clinton Foundation/United States Green Building Council Climate Positive Development Program.

2. **Financial Support for Student and Community Environmental Initiatives:** E funds supported five student and community projects:
  - a. 4,000 More Bikes in Oberlin, a student organized program to promote the use of bicycles in Oberlin.
  - b. The first publication of *Headwaters Magazine*, a student environmental publication (<http://www.youwillneverfind.us/creative2010/erika/Headwaters.html>).
  - c. Student presentations at International Association for Environmental Philosophy on role of art in shaping our understanding of climate change and ecological limits.
  - d. Student participation in a two day workshop on community-based social marketing given by Dr. Doug McKenzie-Mohr.
  - e. Commencement/Reunion Bike Co-op program of bike rentals and educational events.
3. **Environmental Careers Speaker Program:** E supported four speakers during the spring semester: 27 Oct 09, Steve Bollens ’82, *The Role of Plankton in Estuaries and Coastal Ecosystems: Integrated Basic and Applied Science*; 22 Feb 10, Corienne Alexander ’93, *The Food vs. Fuel Debate: Insights for an Extension Economist*; 4 Mar 10, Karen Florini ’79, *Climate Change Policy, Politics, and Personnel: A View from Washington*; 15 April 10; Charles Newcomb ’87, *Wind: Our Future, Its Future*. Talks had attendance ranging from 25 to 45. Each speaker also met with from 5 to 8 students for a meal and discussion of life after Oberlin and paths into environmental careers.
4. **Affiliate Group Representative on Alumni Council Executive Board:** E nominated E Steering Committee members Andy Barnett or Lewis Gilbert as possible E representative on Executive Board. The Executive Board filled open seat with a representative from OLAA.
5. **A Proposal to Create Broad Based Support for the Oberlin Project:** Anders Ferguson at the April 2010 Steering Committee meeting presented the Oberlin Project as a vision dynamic and powerful enough to attract major interest and substantial support in college and town sufficient to consider forming a group, Friends of the Oberlin Project. This presentation led to several meetings among college faculty and staff and Oberlin city officials and the establishment of a committee to consider how best to create Friends of the Oberlin Project.
8. **Other contributions:** Many EnviroAlums have environmentally oriented professions and others have strong interests in environmental topics. Their many activities are important and support Oberlin’s effort to effectively address environmental issues.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carl N. McDaniel ’64  
Chair, EnviroAlums