

FALL 2018 CAMPUS UPDATE

The following campus updates were provided by the Dean of Students office in September 2018.

Resources to Promote Campus Community and Student Success

- **Sustained Dialogue** – After a successful pilot in 2017 – 2018, “Barefoot Dialogue” is now ready to launch as a new College program designed to enhance Oberlin’s campus climate. This program brings together small groups of students who spend a semester meeting weekly to share a meal and respond to discussion prompts. The goal of these conversations is to listen carefully and reach a deep understanding of each other’s perspectives and experiences. Pairs of trained student facilitators will convene 8 barefoot groups this year.
- The [Center for Student Success](#) is delighted to welcome a new **Director of Disability Resources**, [Eric Wagenfeld](#), to campus. Mr. Wagenfeld's distinguished career in promoting educational access is a welcome enhancement to student support at Oberlin. We are also pleased to welcome María Zoraida Maclay '17 to a full-time position as Disability Resources Coordinator. In addition to advising and assistive technologies, María will provide administrative support to the students who are relaunching a peer education and leadership program this fall. This peer support program is made possible through the generosity of Michael and Bettina Klein, parents of Rebecca Klein '18.
- Look for the launch of new **Career Communities** through the [Career Development Center](#) over the course of this year. This structure is designed to help students explore and more effectively identify opportunities in a wide range of professional fields. This fall, the Social Engagement and Business, Finance, and Consulting career communities will begin to offer programming and online resources (please sign up for [Wisr](#) if you haven’t yet done so). This spring, we’ll add Arts and Creative Careers and Health Professions.

College to City (of Oberlin) to Cleveland – Experience the Opportunities of the North Coast

- This year Oberlin College is promoting a **good neighbor strategy** to strengthen the relationship between students and residents of the City of Oberlin. Orientation includes “[Discover Oberlin](#),” an opportunity to explore local businesses, a new required event called “Community 101: An Obie’s Guide to Being a Good Neighbor,” and our longstanding [Day of Service](#). All students have been encouraged to seek opportunities to contribute to the city of Oberlin – by supporting our downtown

business district, working with the [Bonner Center for Service and Learning](#) to volunteer at one of our important community organizations, and holding each other accountable around behaviors including noise, street crossing, shoplifting, and other actions that undermine our local relationships.

- **Cleveland Initiative** – In partnership with Student Senate, Oberlin administrators are seeking to enhance opportunities for students to experience Cleveland – a city considered one of the most exciting redevelopment stories in the United States. President Ambar envisioned an opportunity for all new students to visit Cleveland during Orientation. Thanks to the leadership of Bonner Center director Trecia Pottinger, Connect Cleveland allowed the Class of 2022 to travel in their [PAL cohorts](#) to visit a wide range of organizations and cultural institutions. This is only the beginning of the opportunities to get to know the city this year. The [Cleveland Immersion Program](#) is a great place to learn more. Trips to major sporting and cultural events will be offered and, launching soon, a series of neighborhood crawls designed to introduce students to the hidden gems of “the 216.”

Renewing and Expanding Campus Spaces

- **The Patricia '63 and Merrill '61 Shanks Health and Wellness Center** is ready to welcome the campus community! This [exciting new facility](#) offers Obies a chance to explore the connections between mind and body and gather as a community to promote our shared well-being. A wide range of resources to promote both physical and mental health are available to explore including [YeoFit programming](#).
- The next phase of the **Wilder Lobby** renovation is now complete, providing additional seating space for students to study or share a meal and, very soon, a working fireplace. Help with event tickets, room reservations, or other student programs continues to be available - you can find the Student Union team in Wilder 111 (weekdays during business hours). Coming soon, there will be additional online options to receive these services.
- **Dascomb Dining Hall Redevelopment** – Design and construction planning for the new facility is ongoing. [Student Health](#) and the [Counseling Center](#) will continue to offer full services in their current location at 247 West Lorain St., with plans to open at Dascomb for the spring semester. The [daytime shuttle](#) will continue to operate this fall to assist students in traveling to the current location for Student Health and the Counseling Center. [Campus Safety](#) – please note the new name for this department, which better reflects its commitment to student support – is scheduled to move for Fall 2019.

Housing Updates

- **Included Laundry** is here! The cost of washers and dryers in Oberlin residential facilities is now included in the cost of housing.
- **Improvements to Student Housing** – This summer, the residential facilities team worked very hard to make as many short-term improvements to student housing as possible. Some of these projects include:
 - The restrooms in Langston Hall (North) received a full renovation. Langston student rooms received paint, flooring, and new furniture, and many divided doubles were converted to singles.
 - Baldwin, Barnard, South, and Talcott were painted completely, with additional painting projects in many other buildings.
 - Fairchild had flooring improvements to remove the old carpet from rooms and replace it with an easily cleanable hard surface.
 - Furniture that was worn or damaged has been replaced.
 - A deep cleaning of all residential spaces was conducted to prepare student rooms and common spaces for the start of the year.
 - Many Village houses received substantial repair.