

VOTE

2021 OBERLIN ALUMNI TRUSTEE BALLOT

DEAR ALUMNI,

One of our many privileges as Oberlin graduates is our annual election of a trustee, a tradition that goes back a century and a half. The time has come to elect the trustee who will serve from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2025. (Each alumni-elected trustee serves a four-year term, with the terms staggered so that at least one election occurs each year.)

Oberlin would not prosper without the work of dedicated, hard-working volunteers who support the college and conservatory in many different ways. Trustees are among these volunteers. As one of my predecessors, Robert Lemle '75, has written, "It is important that the college be guided by board members who understand the educational, social, financial, and administrative issues facing American higher education and who are willing to work hard to address them."

This brochure provides information about the board, the election process, and this year's candidates. Please take a few minutes to absorb the information and cast your vote.

If you would like more information on the candidates and the board, please see the election link at www.oberlin.edu/alumni-relations.

Thank you for all you do for Oberlin.

Chris Canavan '84

Chair

Oberlin College Board of Trustees

2021 ELECTION PROCEDURES

The candidate receiving the most votes will be declared elected for a term of four years beginning July 1, 2021. The candidates have been selected in accordance with Article I, Section 4 of the Bylaws of Oberlin College. The Trustee Search Committee of the Alumni Association certifies that each candidate has agreed to serve if elected. Biographical information and statements from each candidate appear on the following pages. The election results will be announced in the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine* and on the Alumni Association's website at www.oberlin.edu/alumni-relations. The candidates, listed alphabetically, are:

MENNA DEMESSIE '02

JULIA STEYN '96

VOTING PROCEDURE

The self-mailing ballot is located on the last full flap of this brochure. To vote, detach the flap from the rest of the brochure. Complete the information on the page, being sure to write your name or ID number legibly. (Your ID number appears above your name on the mailing label.) Failure to do so will invalidate your vote. Vote for the candidate of your choice by placing an "X" in the box next to the candidate's name. Vote for one candidate only. No postage is necessary.

For more candidate and election information, visit www.oberlin.edu/alumni-relations. Any person upon whom the college has conferred a degree is eligible to participate in this election.

To be counted, your ballot must be received no later than **5:00 p.m. EDT, Friday, April 30, 2021**. The Board of Canvassers (the secretary of the college and the director of libraries) certifies the results of the election.

Donica Thomas Varner

Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary of Oberlin College

MENNA DEMESSIE '02

- Senior vice president, executive director, Taskforce for Meaningful Change, Universal Music Group (2020-present)
- Senior vice president of policy analysis and research, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (2011-20) and adjunct professor at the University of California Washington Center (2011-present)
- Joint PhD in public policy and political science from University of Michigan (2010)

What elements of your personal and professional life would be helpful to you in your service as a trustee?

During my nine years at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, I worked closely with legislators, civil rights leaders, and business executives to create programs and advance more equitable policies for African Americans and the global Black community. I learned to work across racial and political lines and how to get the right people in the room to “make things happen” in Washington, DC. This included promoting dialogue between people of varying views and respecting differences. I believe my experience with strategic decision-making and a mission-driven focus would serve me well on the Board of Trustees. I also have a working perspective on academic governance gained through my work on other boards, including the board of the University of Michigan’s Ford School of Policy and the board at Western Reserve Academy.



What do you spend your time working on and thinking about?

Like with many Obies, my work is my life. Inside and outside the office, I spend my time strategizing on public policies to advance equity and social justice for minorities, immigrants, and other marginalized groups. As an academic, I think about diversity and college affordability in the broader context of higher education, as well as about how to motivate and inspire my students, including teaching classes on Black Lives Matter and race and ethnic politics. Nothing makes me more thrilled than to get a letter from a student telling me how discussions in my class changed their perspective! In my new job, I am also thinking about how music and technology can be a tool to advance social justice and connect and mobilize different groups of people to promote access and opportunity.

What else do you want your fellow alumni to know about you?

I am deeply committed to Oberlin College. I was born in Cleveland to immigrants from Ethiopia who came to the United States for a better education, and Oberlin gave me the tools to understand education as an empowering tool for positive change. If I am elected, I pledge to work to support Oberlin—its academic excellence as well as its historic social justice mission. As someone who depended on financial aid to go to Oberlin, I understand the importance of the college providing an affordable education to a diverse student body. I believe that diversity recognizes and appreciates differences in race and ethnic identity, as well as in religion and sexual orientation. I also believe an equity framework for understanding different outcomes for students can help us better identify pathways, programs, and policies that promote sustainable opportunities for the next generation of future leaders.

JULIA STEYN '96

- Currently serves as chief commercial officer of VectoIQ LLC, a special investments company focused on the future of transportation
- Previously served as CEO of Bolt Mobility, a pioneer start-up in business-to-business micromobility technology
- Served as vice president of urban mobility and CEO of Maven at General Motors from 2015-19. Joined General Motors in 2012 as vice president of corporate development and global mergers and acquisitions, managing a diverse portfolio of GM's global automotive and third-party partnerships as well as mergers and acquisitions
- Held key positions with Alcoa's Corporate Development Group and Goldman Sachs at A.T. Kearney
- Currently serves as an independent director of First Group PLC and non-executive chairperson of Bolt Mobility LLC

What elements of your personal and professional life would be helpful to you in your service as a trustee?

As a concert pianist and economist, both disciplines require focus, creativity, and an ability to anticipate “what’s next.” Over my professional career, I come back to key elements of true leadership. To me, true leadership is leading with the heart, listening to diverse points of view, and taking risks. Oberlin taught me these qualities, and I would love to be able to support these principles institutionally as a trustee.



What do you spend your time working on and thinking about?

My time is mostly spent focusing on encouraging and amplifying innovation. I think and worry about what kind of planet I will pass to my 13-year-old son. What will our generation's legacy be? How will our investments work towards higher good for the next seven generations? What knowledge do we pass in the current information age that is so fast? I feel that Oberlin has taught me to take a holistic higher gestalt/perspective that is a core value and skill that I hope current students organically develop.

What else do you want your fellow alumni to know about you?

It would be my privilege to support and protect the progressive ideals, dedication to excellence, and commitment to creativity Oberlin embodies. I would like to give back to the community that has made such a difference in my career and personal life. I have never thought that as a concert pianist and an immigrant I would be able to lead innovation at iconic American companies like Alcoa and GM. I am confident that Oberlin as an institution will continue to unlock one's potential to change the world.

GENERAL VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

To vote, carefully detach this panel from the rest of the brochure. Fill out the voter information section, complete the ballot, and mail the entire card.

Deadline: Friday, April 30, 2021

2021 ALUMNI TRUSTEE ELECTION BALLOT

Please select one (1) option.

- MENNA DEMESSIE '02
- JULIA STEYN '96
- I BELIEVE OBERLIN WOULD BE WELL SERVED BY EITHER CANDIDATE

PLEASE VALIDATE YOUR VOTE:

Name _____ Class _____

ID # _____

(Your ID# appears above your name on this brochure's mailing panel.)

Be sure to print or write legibly, or your ballot will be deemed invalid.

Mailing Address (if **different** from the address on mailing panel):

Telephone _____ Email _____

If you have feedback or comments about the candidates, please contact us at alumni@oberlin.edu with the subject line "Trustee Search" or call (440) 775-8692.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Trustee Search Committee of the Alumni Association welcomes suggestions for future nominees for Alumni-Elected Trustee. Candidates must hold an Oberlin degree and comply with the requirements set by the Bylaws of Oberlin College. If you wish to suggest a candidate, please send a letter of nomination, including a description of the assets the candidate would bring to the board, to Terry Kurtz, Assistant Vice President for Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving, 65 East College Street, Suite 4, Oberlin, Ohio 44074. There is no limit to the number of candidates you may suggest. In addition, the Nominations and Governance Committee of the Board of Trustees is interested in suggestions for non-alumni trustee members. Please forward names in the same manner as above.

CURRENT ALUMNI-ELECTED TRUSTEES



DAVID E. SHIPLEY '72

(2015–2021)

Georgia Athletic Association
Professor in Law
University of Georgia School of Law
Athens, GA



GEORGIA YUAN '75

(2017–2021)

Executive Coach
Metamorphosis Partners, LLC
Washington, DC



FRANCISCO X. DOMINGUEZ '89

(2018–2022)

District Judge
205th Judicial District
El Paso, TX



JAY WHITACRE '94

(2018–2022)

Professor & Director of the Scott
Institute for Energy Innovation
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA



HOZEFA LOKHANDWALA '97

(2019–2023)

Chief Strategy Officer
VICE Media
Brooklyn, NY



LISA WALLER '87

(2020–2024)

Head of School
The Berkeley Carroll School
Brooklyn, NY

OBERLIN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CARMEN AMBAR (EX-OFFICIO)
CHARLES S. BIRENBAUM '79
ROBIN S. BLACK '72
RICHARD T. BRANDT '84
BRIAN CABRAL '18
CHRISTOPHER CANAVAN '84
AMY CHEN '79
MOTOKO T. DEANE '71
STEVEN J. DOLCEMASCHIO P'16
FRANCISCO X. DOMINGUEZ '89
LILLIE EDWARDS '75
IFY EZIMORA '19
KEVIN FLANIGAN
SEAN P. GAVIN '98
JACOB A. GAYLE '79
FREDERICK R. HAAS '83
EDWARD P. HELMS '96
CYNTHIA HOGAN '79
CHARLENE DREW JARVIS '62
MICHAEL E. KAMARCK '73
ERIC R. KATZMAN '86
LEE KOONCE '82

DAVID S. KRISCHER '78
HOZEFA LOKHANDWALA '97
CHESLEY MADDOX-DORSEY '81
NAEISHA McCLAIN '20
MINSOK PAK '91
MOLLY HORST RAPHAEL '67
PATRICIA SHANKS '63
DAVID E. SHIPLEY '72
LEANNE WAGNER '76
LISA WALLER '87
JAY WHITACRE '94
GEORGIA YUAN '75

HONORARY TRUSTEES

THOMAS F. COOPER '78
JOAN DANFORTH
REV. JOHN ELDER '53
JOSEPH W. ELDER '51
LEE FISHER '73
KAREN GEBHART FLINT '64
KAREN L. FLORINI '79
AMY J. GITTLER '72

PHILIP C. HANAWALT '54
PRISCILLA S. HUNT '51
VICTOR HYMES '79
STEWART A. KOHL '77
THOMAS KUTZEN '76
ROBERT S. LEMLE '75
ROBERTA S. MANEKER '57
JOSEPH I. MARKOFF '65
EMILY McCLINTOCK '76
CLYDE S. MCGREGOR '74
LLOYD N. MORRISSETT '51
DELIA C. PITTS '72
WILLIAM L. ROBINSON '63
ROBERT I. ROTBERG '55
HARRY R. STANG '59
SUSAN J. TROY '76
ALLISON B. VULGAMORE '80
ELIZABETH WELCH '80
DANETTE WINEBERG '68
ALAN L. WURTZEL '55
DIANE C. YU '73

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD: The Board of Trustees consists of 29 to 37 members: 20 to 28 are elected by the board itself; six elected by the alumni for four-year terms; three recent graduates, called class trustees, each serving for three-year terms; and the president of the college, who is a member *ex officio*. A chair of the board is elected from the membership for no more than two successive three-year terms, but any member of the board is eligible to be elected chair even though the three-year term as chair would extend beyond the member's term as trustee. The current chair is Chris Canavan '84.



Office of the Vice President,
General Counsel and Secretary
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Oberlin, OH 44074-1090

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