

ENVIRO ALUMS REPORT

Alumni Council Weekend – September 2008

Carl McDaniel '64, Chair

Andrew deCoriolis '07, Vice-Chair

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

Finances: Balance forwarded: \$9,329.90

Income: \$505.00

Expenses: \$2,475.50

Current balance: \$7,359.40 (Includes \$1,707.45 in Student Activity Fund)

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

I. Steering Committee met in the Lewis Center from 4:00 PM until 6:30 PM on 29 September 2007.

Present:

In Lewis Center: Andy Barnett, Walt Galloway, Peter Lavigne, Michael Lythcott, Carl McDaniel, John Petersen, John Schaefer, Robert Stenger, Pat Cobb Tarnow.

By Teleconference: Susan Bernat, Andy deCoriolis, Meredith Dowling, Erik Jansson, Bonnie Yelverton.

Absent: Rachel Cohn, Lewis Gilbert, Mira Inbar, Michael Murray, Gavin Platt, Naomi Sabel.

Guests: Nathan Engstrom (Sustainability Coordinator), Karen Florini (E member, Trustee), Kofi Lomotey (alum, Executive Vice President/Provost, Fisk University), Brad Masi (alum, Director, New Agrarian Center).

Steering Committee members and terms: Lewis Gilbert, Carl McDaniel, John Petersen, Naomi Sabel, John Schaefer, Bonnie Yelverton (expire in 2008); Susan Bernat, Chris Brown, Meredith Dowling, Mira Inbar, Peter Lavigne, Michael J. Lythcott, Gavin Platt, (expire in 2009); Andy Barnett, Michael Bobker, Andrew deCoriolis, Walter Galloway, Erik Jansson (deceased, 2008), Robert Stenger, Pat Cobb Tarnow (expire in 2010).

II. Steering Committee met in the Lewis Center from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM on 1 March 2008.

Present:

In Lewis Center: Susan Bernat, Walt Galloway, Carl McDaniel, John Petersen

Teleconference: Michael Bobker, Andrew deCoriolis, Meredith Dowling, Erik Jansson, John Schaefer, Rob Stenger, Bonnie Yelverton

Absent: Andy Barnett, Chris Brown, Lewis Gilbert, Mira Inbar, Peter Lavigne, Michael Lythcott, Michael Murray, Gavin Platt, Naomi Sabel, Pat Cobb Tarnow

Guests: Nathan Engstrom (Sustainability Coordinator), Claire Jahns (past SC member), Paul Wolansky (Alumni Office, Director of Alumni Outreach and Education)

Oberlin and EnviroAlums loss: We are saddened to report the untimely death of Erik Jansson on June 27, 2008, class of 1962 and a member of EnviroAlums Steering Committee from its inception in September 2002. Erik was founder and director of Department of Planet Earth, an NGO that advocated for appropriate environmental policies in the United States and Canada (<http://www.deptplanetearth.com/index.html>). Erik's wisdom, inspiration, and good work will be sorely missed by the Oberlin community.

Activities for EnviroAlums September 2007 to September 2008:

1. The establishment of an endowment for EnviroAlums was enthusiastically and unanimously supported by E SC in December 2007. An EnviroAlums Endowment Fund was approved by Laura Gobbi, Ernie Iseminger, and President Marvin Krislov in February 2008. In February 2008, E SC members were asked to make 5-year pledges to the EnviroAlums Endowment Support Fund. All SC members made pledges. In March a request for 5-year pledges was made to all E members on E's email list. As of June 30, 2008, \$72,419 had been received by the College thereby making the fund an endowment. In addition to the money received, \$35,690 is pledged, to be given over the coming 5 years.
2. E provided partial funding for the following student projects or activities:
 - a. Oberlin College's Environmental Careers Seminar Program.
 - b. A documentary film on the ecology and conservation of redwood trees.
 - c. A delegation of students to attend Ohio Area Student Environmental Summit at Ohio State University in Columbus, OH, 9-11 February 2008.
 - d. SUDS project, a student learning/teaching initiative to make soaps from local resources.
 - e. An internship for a 2008 graduate interning with a not-for-profit, environmental advocacy organization.
 - f. A bike trip across the country by about a dozen students who will stop in a number of places to present educational programs on environmental sustainability.
 - g. An Eco-Films series during Oberlin's Ecolympics in April 2008.
 - h. A delegation of students to attend a conference entitled The Dream Reborn that concerns creating communities that are green and sustainable.
3. Andrew deCoriolis and Meredith Dowling interacted with Nathan Engstrom, Danielle Young, and others on campus to make Reunion and Commencement 2008 greener than in 2007. It had all of the "green" features of 2007 in addition to car pooling/sharing, more efficient airport transportation, hybrid cars for guests, a low carbon meal, and more education including several tours and activities.
4. Walt Galloway and John Petersen, who had 40th and 20th reunions respectively, coordinated at Reunion and Commencement 2008 a seminar presented by half a dozen students involved in various programs and activities that are moving Oberlin toward sustainability.
5. Susan Bernat coordinated E SC members to assess and rank the various sustainability initiatives proposed in the working brochure on Environmental Sustainability Initiatives. This activity enabled the SC to understand better the role E's endowment income might play in stimulating creative initiatives that promote sustainability.
6. Andrew deCoriolis, Meredith Dowling, Nathan Engstrom, and Carl McDaniel drafted formal Request for Proposals (RFPs) for E's Student Sustainability and the EnviroAlums Endowment funds.
7. On behalf of the SC, Erik Jansson sent a letter to President Krislov encouraging the College to manage its turf grass by an integrated pest management approach similar to that adopted by our National Parks more than a decade ago.
7. The *Environmental Studies Program Annual Newsletter* (Spring 2008) published a terse "EnviroAlums Update" by Carl McDaniel.
8. 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