

ENVIROALUMS ANNUAL REPORT

Alumni Council Weekend – 11-13 September 2009

Carl McDaniel '64, Chair

Andrew deCoriolis '07, Vice-Chair

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

Finances: Balance forwarded: \$7,359.40

Income: \$1,515.00

Expenses: \$2,681.44

Current balance: \$6,192.96

Endowment: Current balance: \$80,909

Gifts FY 2009: \$13,940

Interest FV 2009: \$4,512

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

1. Steering Committee met in the Lewis Center from 4:00 to 6:30 PM on 20 September 2008.

Present: In Lewis Center—Andrew Barnett, Kristin Braziunas, Walt Galloway, Michael Lythcott, Carl McDaniel, John Petersen, Pat Cobb Tarnow; *By Teleconference:* Susan Bernat, Michael Bobker, Chris Brown, Andrew deCoriolis, Karen Florini (Board Liaison), Lewis Gilbert, Peter Lavigne, Rob Stenger

Absent: Meredith Dowling, Mira Inbar, Gavin Platt, John Schaefer, Naomi Sabel, Bonnie Yelverton

Guest: Nathan Engstrom (Sustainability Coordinator)

Steering Committee members and terms: Susan Bernat, Chris Brown, Meredith Dowling, Mira Inbar, Peter Lavigne (deceased 2008), Michael J. Lythcott, Gavin Platt, (expire in 2009); 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).

2. Steering Committee met in the Lewis Center from 2:30 to 5:20 PM on 7 March 2009.

Present: Kristin Braziunas, Michael Lythcott, Carl McDaniel, Pat Cobb Tarnow; *By Teleconference:* Susan Bernat, Michael Bobker, Chris Brown, Lewis Gilbert, Walt Galloway, John Petersen

Absent: Andrew Barnett, Andrew deCoriolis, Meredith Dowling, Mira Inbar, Michael Murry, Gavin Platt, Naomi Sabel, John Schaefer, Rob Stenger

Guests: Nathan Engstrom (Sustainability Coordinator), Ruth Mercer (Assistant Director, Alumni Association), Jane Miller (EnviroAlums member)

Oberlin and EnviroAlums loss: In March 2009 we paid respect to Pete Lavigne '79 who died on 23 November 2008. Pete championed environmental causes all of his life especially for maintaining and restoring biodiversity of the nation's rivers. He advocated for environmental education at Oberlin and was on E's first Steering Committee and a Steering Committee member when he died. Pete made the first alumni gift in support of the Lewis Center and was instrumental in the establishment of E Endowment in spring 2008. The Oberlin community will miss his positive enthusiastic spirit.

Activities for EnviroAlums September 2008 to September 2009:

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 over the past year on the E and ENVS Department Environmental Reunion titled *A Crisis Is a Terrible Thing to Waste: Creating a Durable Future* for the weekend of October 9-11, 2009.
2. **Financial Support for Student and Community Environmental Initiatives:** E funds have supported half a dozen student and community projects including:
 - a. funds for five students to attend in the fall a statewide conference held on campus entitled “Ohio: Green and Growing”
 - b. support to help students attend during January term "Creative Activism: Toward Social, Cultural and Environmental Sustainability" in Amsterdam to study with the well-known architect Carolyn Strauss, one of the founders of the Slow Design movement
 - c. support for an on campus National Teach-in on Global Warming, February 5-7, 2009
 - d. support for attendance of several of Oberlin’s 100+ students who went to the POWER SHIFT conference on climate change in Washington DC in late February 2009
 - e. funds to help purchase and plant 175 trees by college and town in celebration of the 175th anniversary of the town and college
 - f. initial support for the “4,000 More Bikes” program.
3. **Environmental Careers Speaker Program:** E sponsored and with students organized a day’s program around Peter Mayer’s ’86 visit and talk on *The National Water Crisis*.
4. **Use of Toxic Chemicals:** Jane Miller (E member and Oberlin resident) discussed with Oberlin College grounds people the use of toxic chemicals for grounds maintenance. Oberlin’s Grounds Manager has a letter as well as a proposal from Chip Osborne of Osborne Organics on ways to reduce the use of toxic chemicals for grounds maintenance.
5. **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 voted to fill the seat vacated by E’s Carl McDaniel with a representative from Oberlin Alumni Association of African Ancestry.
6. **Short articles:** The Fall 2008 *Alumni Magazine* was devoted to environmental activities and Carl McDaniel was a contributing editor and had a short piece titled “What You Can Do.” The *Environmental Studies Program Annual Newsletter* (Spring 2009) had a short article, “First ENVS Department and EnviroAlums Reunion” by Carl McDaniel.
7. **E Endowment:** The recession has curtailed aggressive efforts to raise funds for E Endowment although E Steering Committee pledges and other donations have increased the endowment by \$13,940 over the past year. E is in conversation with the Development Office on how to use the Reunion to promote giving and on longer term approaches to increasing the endowment.
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