

ENVIRO ALUMS REPORT

Alumni Council Weekend – September 2007

Carl McDaniel '64, Chair

Robert Stenger '05, Vice-chair

Membership

EnviroAlums has an email list of about 150 members and about 50 of these paid dues over the past year.

Finances

Balance forwarded: \$4,192.61

Income: \$7,538.20 (Dues/donations: \$4,622.20; Student Fund: \$3,066.00)

Expenses: \$2,540.91

Current balance: \$9,329.90

Current balance includes \$3,906.95 in the Student Activities Fund for supporting student initiatives that promote environmental education and the implementation of Oberlin's Environmental Policy.

Steering Committee Meeting

The Steering Committee met in the Lewis Center from 4:00 PM until 7:30 PM on 16 September 2006.

Present:

In Lewis Center: Susan Bernat, Meredith Dowling, Walt Galloway, Michael Lythcott, Carl McDaniel, John Petersen, Naomi Sabel, Pat Cobb Tarnow, Bonnie Yelverton.

By Teleconference: Michael Bobker, Chris Brown, Erik Jansson, Claire Jahns, Peter Lavigne, Michael Murray, Robert Stenger.

Absent: Rachel Cohn, Lewis Gilbert, Mira Inbar, Peter Racher, John Schaefer, Paul Treuhart.

Guests: Molly Danielsson (Eco-Purchasing Committee intern), Andy deCoriolis (student), Karen Florini (E member, Trustee), and several students who came just for dinner.

Steering Committee members and terms: Michael Bobker, Rachel Cohn, Walter Galloway, Michael Murray, Erik Jansson, Robert Stenger, Pat Cobb Tarnow, Paul Treuhart who resigned in October 2006 (expire in 2007); 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).

Full meeting report is in the Alumni Office and on E's website (www.oberlin.edu/envs/oeaaa).

Activities:

1. E's Steering Committee organized a mock Climate Justice Challenge Campaign (CJCC) in fall 2006 based upon the believe that it is time for Oberlin's core mission and values of human rights, social justice, and worldly awareness to be fully viewed through the lens of the greatest challenge of the 21st century: climate stabilization and environmental sustainability. The CJCC was used as an alumni poll to gauge the level of new internal financial support that could be expected if Oberlin were to commit to placing environmental sustainability front and center in both the upcoming capital fundraising campaign and the new presidential search.

CJCC was unanimously supported by E's Steering Committee with total pledges of \$35,905. In November 2006, the CJCC statement was sent to all EnviroAlums and other alums with stated environmental interests. Twenty-seven alumni responded in the three-week

campaign with an additional total pledge of \$22,075 for a grand total of \$57,980. The CJCC statement and the campaign results were provided to President Nancy Dye and Trustees at their December meeting. Oberlin has a grand tradition in leading the way to a more fair, just world. We can make this one of Oberlin's finest hours, if together we seize this opportunity to create a more just world through visionary environmental leadership.

2. Over the last year, EnviroAlums (E) has taken steps to encourage climate change awareness within the Oberlin community. As a follow-up to giving 30 copies of Tim Flannery's book, *The Weather Makers: How Man Is Changing the Climate and What It Means for Life on Earth* to selected Oberlin administrators, faculty, and staff, Carl McDaniel and Rob Stenger contacted the 30 recipients encouraging them to engage colleagues and students in discussions of climate change and in other ways promote awareness of the dire consequences of human-forced climate change.
3. Susan Bernat coordinated sending DVDs of Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* to all Oberlin Trustees in November 2006.
4. John Petersen initiated an environmental careers seminar series last fall. E, the Alumni Office, and the ENVIS program all provided funds to bring to campus in academic year 2006-2007 five Oberlin alums with environmental careers. Each alum gave a seminar on his/her particular expertise and had lunch or dinner with interested students. The alums and talk titles were as follows:
 - Susan Ubbelohde ('75), Architecture, Energy & Light
 - Claire Jahns ('03), Chicago Climate Exchange: Building a U.S. Carbon Market from the Bottom Up
 - Sylvia Hood Washington ('80), Ball of Confusion: African Americans and Environmental Engagement in Modern and Postmodern America
 - Chris Brown ('79), Managing Water as if People and Science Mattered
 - Karen Florini ('79), Tales from the Trenches: Twenty Years as an Environmental Advocacy Lawyer in Washington DC.
5. EnviroAlums co-sponsored and helped EnviroAlum member Rev. Robert Loesch (1963, cluster reunion) organize a panel entitled, *Environmental Sustainability and the Social Fabric of Oberlin*, at the May 2007 reunion weekend.
6. The *Environmental Studies Program Annual Newsletter* (Spring 2007) published a terse "EnviroAlums Update" by Carl McDaniel.
7. The Spring *Alumni Magazine* published "Positive Energy: A true understanding of energy use comes only with hand-on experience" by Carl McDaniel, an article that advocates energy conservation in conjunction with renewable sources.
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

