Sophomore Opportunities & Academic Resources Retreat

WINTER TERM 2021 | JANUARY 5–29
Dear Students,

Welcome to the Sophomore Practicum. This is a program designed by experienced and devoted staff at Oberlin eager to engage with you, who spent months debating and discussing what the sophomore experience should look like in these extraordinary times. None of us had done this before. We each proposed our own approach. We made room for fresh perspectives. We learned. In the process we discovered a way to what we have now, beginning with the Sophomore Opportunities and Academic Resources (SOAR) retreat — the first component of the Sophomore Practicum, and the focus of this booklet.

We also lived out an ethos, one that is at the heart of a liberal arts education. It is an ethos of collaboration, an ethos for negotiating among different perspectives and different lived experiences, an ethos for contending with new and daunting challenges. It was hard work. But solving hard problems requires hard work and an openness to new ideas.

Now, we want you to do the same. We want you to encounter challenging situations and grapple with complex problems. We want you to explore new ways of thinking about and addressing them. And we want you to collaborate with each other to generate ideas and make decisions based on facts, perspective and experience, intuition, and values and beliefs.

We also want to equip you with tools and resources to document and share your process of rising to these complicated moments and arriving at this significant stage in your Oberlin journey: declaring your academic major(s). To that end, we have designed a series of workshops that will help you reflect on the experiences that have brought you here, represent these in the form of a digital portfolio, and develop a narrative of your journey that you can use to enter your next five semesters with a clear direction and sense of purpose.

During the SOAR retreat, you will collaborate with your peers within your Academic Houses. You will explore your identities — as a group and in identity-based workshop spaces — and how these identities impact academic and professional experiences. You will work in interdisciplinary teams to investigate solutions to complex problems like public health and refugee resettlement.

What binds these experiences together is that you will not go through them alone. The team at Oberlin came together to create this program and launch you on this academic and personal journey. It is you and your peers who will define that journey, and take up the ethos of collaboration, compassion, and curiosity that lies at the heart of Oberlin.

Dana Hamdan, Associate Dean & Executive Director, Career Development Center
Tania Boster, Director of Experiential Learning Curricular Initiatives, College of Arts & Sciences; Executive Director, Bonner Center for Community-Engaged Learning, Teaching, & Research
General Information

The Sophomore Opportunities and Academic Resources (SOAR) retreat will take place virtually, Monday–Friday, from January 5–29. The retreat is part of Oberlin’s new Sophomore Practicum program, designed to ensure that students stay on track during their spring semester away from campus as part of Oberlin’s three-semester academic calendar developed in response to COVID-19.

Throughout the month, students will participate in a range of workshops, presentations, and facilitated discussions designed to support their continued personal, academic, and professional growth. These sessions will comprise three primary programming dimensions, outlined below.

- **Academic & Co-Curricular Exploration:** Sophomore year represents a critical moment in every student’s academic journey, as they near the halfway point of their time at Oberlin. Throughout the retreat, students will engage in a series of workshops designed to help them reflect on their previous experiences and plan for the future. Using the framing of a “River Journey,” these sessions will help students identify the previous “bends” in their river — significant experiences, challenges, and accomplishments — that can help shape where they’re headed in the future. Students will document their personal River Narratives in the form of a digital learning portfolio: a place to convey why what they are doing is personally meaningful, academically rigorous, experientially significant, and how it will help them over the next five semesters and as they go on to launch from Oberlin.

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** This retreat is taking place in a moment when deep national and global injustices are being thrust into the spotlight. From the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Black and Indigenous communities and communities of color, to calls for racial justice in protests throughout the summer and fall, our current context reminds us that advocating for equitable futures must be a core piece of our work. Retreat sessions will engage students directly on questions of diversity, equity, and inclusion, grappling with how social power dynamics impact academic and professional experiences, and how we can all take part in efforts to envision and enact more equitable, mutually-supportive environments.

- **Investigating Alternatives to Complex Problems:** From climate change to gentrification, the most urgent challenges of our time will require multifaceted, interdisciplinary approaches. Students will attend a range of keynotes, panels, and workshops designed to illuminate how different academic disciplines and professional industries can all collaborate to address these challenges. Sessions will also focus on the basics of entrepreneurship and how to translate an idea into action. Students will conclude this track by working together in teams to craft a pitch for an idea that would address one of the complex problems, which they will present to a panel of experienced entrepreneurs.

Students will be supported by faculty and professional staff from across the College and Conservatory, as well as peers with shared or similar academic interests. Students will choose to join one of four Academic Houses, depending on their interests and anticipated pathway through their remaining semesters at Oberlin. Each house will meet regularly throughout the month to reflect on retreat programming and collaboratively develop academic and co-curricular plans. Students will also learn about key experiential learning areas and how opportunities in these areas can connect to their academic and professional goals.

The four Academic Houses are listed below, and outlined in greater depth on the next page:

1. Humanities House
2. Natural Sciences, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics House
3. Practicing & Performing Arts House
4. Social Sciences House

Students who successfully complete the retreat will receive Winter Term credit and the option to participate in a remote experiential opportunity throughout the spring semester. Throughout the month, students should be sure to monitor the retreat calendar, available through the Digication platform, and their email for program updates and announcements.
Academic Houses

Students participating in the SOAR retreat will meet regularly in Academic Houses. Each house comprises a collection of related academic disciplines. Throughout the month, members of each Academic House will together discuss the complex problems, build five-semester plans, and craft digital portfolios.

Broadly, students will spend time learning about these disciplines and their approaches to generating knowledge, forming the foundation for interdisciplinary explorations of the most urgent challenges of our time. Throughout the retreat, students should consider not only what their own academic house can contribute to tackling complex problems, but how their academic house can collaborate with others.

SOCIAL SCIENCES
Encompassing disciplines concerned with the functions and interconnections of human society

HUMANITIES
Encompassing fields and disciplines concerned with the study of human culture and experience

PRACTICING & PERFORMING ARTS
Encompassing object- and process-based artistic practice and production

NATURAL SCIENCES, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, & MATHEMATICS
Encompassing formal, applied, and natural scientific disciplines and methods
Throughout the first half of the SOAR retreat, students will explore a range of “complex problems” — sweeping, global challenges that will require interdisciplinary solutions. Each complex problem will be introduced by an expert in the field, who will deliver a keynote giving insight into the key ideas, challenges, and debates motivating both the existence of the complex problem as well as efforts to address it. Each keynote will be followed by a panel discussion featuring professionals working to address the same complex problem from within different industries. Throughout, students will have an opportunity to discuss these complex problems in their Academic Houses.

Also throughout the month, a series of interactive workshops will introduce students to the foundations of entrepreneurial thinking, and provide tools for developing and pitching an idea. Following the final keynote, students will form small teams — each team focusing on one complex problem — and spend the remainder of the retreat collaborating to develop an idea that would in some way address their chosen complex problem.

Complex problem programming will conclude with Pitch Day, taking place Tuesday, Jan. 26. Each team will have the opportunity to pitch their idea to the experienced entrepreneurs on Oberlin’s LaunchU Advisory Board for feedback. The panel of judges will select the most outstanding project from each complex problem, and the students on that pitching team will receive an award.
The Complex Problems

Students will explore the following complex problems through a series of keynotes and panels:

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

**KEYNOTE**
- Helene Gayle | President and CEO, The Chicago Community Trust
- Jacob Gayle '79 | Retired Vice President of Social Impact, Medtronic Foundation; Trustee, Oberlin College Board of Trustees

**PANEL**
- Assiatou Diallo '08 | Senior Technical Analyst, American Immunization Registry Association
- Adam Myers | Chief of Population Health and Director, Cleveland Clinic Community Care
- Monique Norfus | Dean of Health and Wellness Sciences, Lorain County Community College

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

**KEYNOTE**
- Roy Torbert | Principal, Islands Energy Program, Rocky Mountain Institute
- Chris Canavan '84 | Partner, Lion's Head Group; Chair, Oberlin College Board of Trustees

**PANEL**
- M’Lis Bartlett ’88 | Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability
- Mary Heglar ’06 | Co-Host & Co-Creator, Hot Take Podcast & Newsletter
- Claire Jahns ’03 | Senior Advisor, U.S. Climate Alliance
- Amanda Kolker ’00 | Researcher, Thermal Energy Science & Technologies Group, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

**REFUGEE PROTECTIONS & RESETTLEMENT**

**KEYNOTE**
- Eric Tang | Associate Professor and Associate Chair of African and African Diaspora Studies, University of Texas at Austin

**PANEL**
- Diya Abdo | Founder and President, Every Campus a Refuge
- Eva Sandis ’49 | Professor Emerita of Sociology, Fordham University
- Alyssa Yeip-Lewerenz | Associate, Fisher & Phillips LLP
- Eszter Zimanyi | PhD Candidate, University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts

**GENTRIFICATION**

**KEYNOTE**
- Andrea Batista Schlesinger | Partner, HR&A Advisors

**PANEL**
- Aaron Foley | Founding Director, Black Media Initiative, Center for Community Media, Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY
- Terry Schwarz | Director, Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, Kent State University
- Matt Slepin ’78 | Managing Partner, Terra Search Partners
- Cali Slepin ’16 | Master of City Planning Candidate, University of California, Berkeley
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

PUBLIC HEALTH
Tuesday, January 5

Helene Gayle
President and CEO, The Chicago Community Trust

Helene D. Gayle has been president and CEO of The Chicago Community Trust, one of the nation’s oldest and largest community foundations, since October 2017. Under her leadership, the Trust has adopted a new strategic focus on closing the racial and ethnic wealth gap in the Chicago region.

For almost a decade, she was president and CEO of CARE, a leading international humanitarian organization. An expert on global development, humanitarian, and health issues, Gayle spent 20 years with the Centers for Disease Control, working primarily on HIV/AIDS. She worked at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, directing programs on HIV/AIDS and other global health issues. She also launched the McKinsey Social Initiative (now McKinsey.org), a nonprofit that builds partnerships for social impact.

Gayle was born and raised in Buffalo, NY. She earned a BA in psychology at Barnard College, an MD at the University of Pennsylvania, and an MPH at Johns Hopkins University. She has received 18 honorary degrees and holds faculty appointments at the University of Washington and Emory University. She serves on public company and nonprofit boards, including The Coca-Cola Company, Colgate-Palmolive Company, Brookings Institution, Center for Strategic and International Studies, New America, ONE Campaign, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, and Economic Club of Chicago. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Council on Foreign Relations, American Public Health Association, National Academy of Medicine, National Medical Association, and American Academy of Pediatrics. She has authored numerous articles on global and domestic public health issues, poverty alleviation, gender equality, and social justice.

Jacob Gayle ’79
Retired Vice President of Social Impact, Medtronic Foundation; Trustee, Oberlin College Board of Trustees

Jacob A. Gayle is a 1979 psychobiology graduate of Oberlin College and has served on its Board of Trustees for several years. Gayle has recently retired from a distinguished career in global public health and diplomacy that spanned over three decades and several of the world’s leading health, development, and philanthropic institutions, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Agency for International Development, United Nations, World Bank, and Carter Center; and led key global health philanthropic programs through the Ford Foundation and the Medtronic Foundation. While serving at Medtronic plc until his retirement in 2020, Gayle began as vice president of community affairs/global philanthropy and president of Medtronic Foundation, and later transitioned to his final role as vice president of social impact.

A United States citizen by birth, Gayle celebrates his global citizenship overall, and has served on six continents and completed long-term residential assignments across Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean, North America, and Europe. And to complete the continental bucket list, he recently traveled to Antarctica for pure pleasure and adventure!

A lifelong devotee to academia, Gayle completed his PhD in international/community health (health education) at The Ohio State University, where he also earned his MA in community health education and MSc in preventive medicine. Gayle received tenure as associate professor of community health at Kent State University before joining the CDC in 1989, and has since served as adjunct associate professor at Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. His scholarship has been published in key professional journals and his leadership contributions within numerous professional conferences and deliberations. Currently, along with his trustee service to Oberlin College, Gayle is a member of the advisory board of the Fogarty International Center of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, dean’s advisory committee of The Ohio State University College of Public Health, and board director of Hennepin Health Services in Minnesota.

Yet none of these accomplishments overshadow Gayle’s love for family: his wife and Oberlin alumna, Joyce Lee Gayle ’80; two accomplished sons and daughters-in-law; and four globe-trekking grandchildren.

CLIMATE CHANGE
Thursday, January 7

Roy Torbert
Principal, Islands Energy Program, Rocky Mountain Institute

Roy Torbert is a principal on the Rocky Mountain Institute’s Empowering Clean Economies program. He focuses on the urgent decarbonization of global energy systems, with an emphasis on integrated energy planning, infrastructure resilience, and renewable and efficiency finance to expand and accelerate the transition to a global clean energy economy. Torbert leads the RMI Islands team and helps the governments and utilities of island nations reduce their dependence on imported fossil fuels. He oversees RMI’s work in Puerto Rico and the Philippines, and has worked in Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and others. His focus has been building diverse coalitions to create new energy policy and then implement the needed clean energy solutions.

Torbert has worked with leading universities (including Arizona State University) and global multinationals (including McDonald’s
Investigating Alternatives to Complex Problems: Keynote Speakers

Corporation) to analyze net-zero opportunities and deliver roadmaps to reaching carbon reduction goals. Torbert’s research efforts include autonomous vehicles, exploring ways to reduce the soft costs of solar (specifically financing costs), utility transformation, and valuing all the benefits of highly efficient buildings. In 2011, Torbert led analysis for RMI’s Reinventing Fire initiative and book which showed a roadmap to reducing emissions in the United States, led by business for profit.

Prior to RMI, Torbert was a consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton in Washington, D.C., leading strategic management projects for the Army, with a focus on classified software deployment. Torbert worked with General Electric in Dubai and with the U.S. Mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels. Torbert speaks French, Spanish, and Arabic. Torbert graduated from the College of William and Mary with a BA in international relations and business finance.

Chris Canavan ’84
Partner, Lion’s Head Group; Chair, Oberlin College Board of Trustees

Prior to joining Lion’s Head, Chris Canavan spent nine years as director of global policy development for George Soros, based at Soros Fund Management. Before that he worked for Goldman Sachs for thirteen years. His last position at Goldman was chief risk officer of Goldman’s commercial bank. Before that he ran a credit trading desk in the commodities business, headed the Latin America Debt Capital Markets team, and was responsible for managing the firm’s Latin America sovereign and credit risk.

Prior to joining Goldman, Canavan taught economics at Boston College and Columbia University.

Canavan has a PhD in economics and a Master’s of International Affairs from Columbia University, and a BA from Oberlin College. He chairs the boards of Oberlin’s Board of Trustees, the Fund for Global Human Rights, and the Institute for New Economic Thinking. He is a lifetime member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He spent his childhood living in Latin America and Spain.

REFUGEE PROTECTIONS & RESETTLEMENT
Monday, January 11

Eric Tang
Associate Professor and Associate Chair, African and African Diaspora Studies, University of Texas at Austin

Eric Tang is an associate professor in the African and African diaspora studies department and director of the Center for Asian American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. He also directs the university’s undergraduate major in Race, Indigeneity, and Migration. His first book, titled Unsettled: Cambodian Refugees in the

NYC Hyperghetto (Temple University Press, 2015), is an ethnographic account of refugee life in some of New York City’s most impoverished and socially marginalized neighborhoods. Tang’s research on refugees shows how their resettlement to the United States is not the end but the continuation of a long interval of displacement, dispossession, and violence. A former community organizer, Tang has published several articles on race and urban social movements, including award-winning writing on post-Katrina New Orleans. He has written for The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Nation, and other news outlets. Tang is at work on a second book, Fire In the Streets, which revisits the urban rebellions of the late 1960s. Locally, Tang’s research focuses on the past and present of racial segregation in Austin, TX, paying particular attention to the gentrification-driven displacements of the city’s longstanding African American residents. He co-authored the report “Outlier: The Case of Austin’s Declining African American population” which revealed that Austin was the only major growing city in the United States to experience an absolute numerical decline in African Americans.

GENTRIFICATION
Thursday, January 14

Andrea Batista Schlesinger
Partner, HR&A Advisors

Andrea Batista Schlesinger leads the Inclusive Cities practice at HR&A Advisors, where she is a partner. As a former leader in government, think tanks, philanthropy, and political campaigns, Schlesinger uniquely understands the capacity and role of government, advocacy, and philanthropy in making cities just and dynamic places.

Her current work focuses on supporting equitable economic development and removing barriers to opportunity for all communities in cities, by working to affect change in workforce development, education, criminal justice, racial equity, and other fields. Prior to joining HR&A, Schlesinger was deputy director of U.S. programs at the Open Society Foundation, George Soros’ global philanthropy. Previously, Schlesinger served as a special advisor to New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and as executive director of the Drum Major Institute for Public Policy, originally founded by an advisor to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Schlesinger began her career in public policy at age 16 as the student advisory member on the New York City Board of Education, for which she was the subject of an award-winning documentary, Hear Us Now. She is the author of the book The Death of Why: The Decline of Questioning and the Future of Democracy (Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2009). Schlesinger received her BA in public policy from the University of Chicago and holds master’s degrees in history from Columbia University and the London School of Economics, where she focused her studies on how global cities have constructed their responses to inequality during the latter half of the 20th century.
Assiatou (Assi) Diallo is a senior technical analyst at the American Immunization Registry Association. Prior to this role, Diallo worked for six years as an epidemiologist in the Tennessee Department of Health Immunization program. Diallo's work for TDH included serving as a lead immunization information system epidemiologist, program improvement and evaluation manager, and COVID-19 data steward. Prior to TDH, Diallo worked as a research assistant in the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School and as a project coordinator at Partners in Health in Boston. Diallo served as a class-elected Oberlin College Board of Trustees member from 2008–2011. She graduated from Oberlin College in 2008 with a BA and received her MPH from Boston University School of Public Health in 2011.

Adam Myers is the chief of population health and director of Cleveland Clinic Community Care. Adam Myers started at the Cleveland Clinic in June of 2018. His role is new to the clinic and encompasses leadership of the ambulatory practices spanning from pediatrics to geriatrics, the hospitalists, the urgent/express cares, the post-acute physicians, value-based operations, wellness, executive health, the Center for Personalized Genomic Health, the Center for Value Based research, the Center for Functional Medicine, Medical Care @ Home, the ACO structure, the 7,400 member clinically integrated network, three residency programs, the geriatrics fellowship, and community relations for the enterprise. In addition, he leads the care model design efforts and the community health strategy for the Cleveland Clinic.

Prior to joining the clinic, Myers served as chief medical officer and chief operating officer of Texas Health Physicians Group, a 1,000-member multispecialty group affiliated with Texas Health Resources. Myers also served as chair of clinical integration for a 3,000-member joint venture CIN with UTSW called Southwestern Health Resources.

A New York City native, Myers is board-certified in family medicine and fellowship trained in advanced obstetrics. Myers was in private practice in Oklahoma for more than 10 years before moving to Dallas in 2010 to serve as chief medical officer and senior vice president for Methodist Health System. He is the past chair of the American Hospital Association board level Committee for Clinical Leadership and is currently a commissioner on the Board of the Joint Commission.

Myers is an accomplished clinician, leader, speaker, and humanitarian. He has earned numerous professional credentials including the status of fellow with the American College of Healthcare Executives, The American Institute of Healthcare Quality, and the American Association of Family Physicians. He holds additional board certification in health care quality management and patient safety, and he’s a certified professional in health care risk management.

Myers received his undergraduate degree from Centenary College of Louisiana in Shreveport, where he graduated from Louisiana State University Medical Center. He completed his residency with In His Image Family Practice Residency at Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa, OK, and has completed a fellowship at the University of Oklahoma Obstetrics and Gynecology Department. He also holds a master's in health care management from Harvard University.

Monique Norfus is the dean of health and wellness sciences at Lorain County Community College. Monique Norfus is an impetus for change with decades of experience working in both higher learning and health care sectors. She is passionate about infusing fundamental values around diversity, equity, and inclusion. Norfus is an Elyria, OH native with a shared decision making leadership style. Involving the voice of the learners is among her top priorities. Fostering community partnerships and improving overall life experience has positioned her to serve in a wealth of cross-functional academic roles.

Norfus' higher learning journey includes:

- Designed and implemented health equity learning materials for higher learning institutions.
- Provides programmatic leadership and assistance to learning affinity groups.
- Assists with cultural competence engagement.
- Connects civic learning and ethics curriculum through collaboration, education, training, and dialogue.
- Provides equity analysis towards institutional decision making in areas towards student recruitment, retention, and course planning.

Norfus currently serves as dean of health and wellness sciences for Lorain County Community College. Through an intersectional lens she provides strategic oversight and direction to support student engagement and inclusive learning environments. She supports the design and implementation of health equity learning by evaluating institutional policies and protocols to build a more culturally inclusive and interconnected learning environment.
CLIMATE CHANGE
Thursday, January 7

M’Lis Bartlett ’88
Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability

M’Lis Bartlett is the program manager for the Environmental Fellows Program, a nationally competitive graduate fellowship at the University of Michigan. In this role and as the former executive director of the Friends of the High School for Environmental Studies, NYC, she has built extensive experience creating pathway programs for students traditionally underrepresented in the environmental field that draws on over 30 years of experience as an urban environmental educator in communities located in New York City, Detroit, and Flint. Her teaching, research, art and activism weave together theories and practices of educational environment, environmental justice and participatory design to support the engagement of young people in future environmental stewardship activities. She is currently working on a collaborative study that explores teaching climate justice from the perspective of movement building and hope. She is passionate about using community-based participatory facilitation, research, and design principles to support communities working for social and environmental change. Bartlett currently lives on a farm in southeast Michigan with her husband and a variety of other two- and four-legged creatures.

Mary Heglar ’06
Co-Host & Co-Creator, Hot Take Podcast & Newsletter

Mary Annaïse Heglar is a climate justice writer and co-host and co-creator of the Hot Take newsletter and podcast. She graduated from Oberlin College in 2006 with a BA in English.

Claire Jahns ’03
Senior Advisor, U.S. Climate Alliance

Claire Jahns is a climate change strategy consultant who partners with state and local governments, nonprofits, and industry to advance deep decarbonization strategies in land use, forestry, and agriculture that will secure brighter futures for people and nature. Jahns serves as senior advisor to U.S. Climate Alliance, with a focus on advancing the Natural and Working Lands Initiative and supporting states in achieving the goals of the Natural and Working Lands Challenge. Jahns served as assistant secretary for climate issues at the California Natural Resources Agency under Governor Edmund G. Brown. In this role, she led development of California’s Natural and Working Lands strategy and adoption of California’s first statewide quantitative targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions derived from natural climate solutions. Prior to her work with the State of California, Jahns served as a project director at The Nature Conservancy, where she worked with landowners, public officials, and other partners to develop solutions at the intersection of agriculture and biodiversity conservation in California and the American West. Jahns was an economist and business development associate at the Chicago Climate Exchange from the Exchange’s opening in 2003 and contributed to the world’s first exchange-based carbon trading and offsets market. She holds an MEM from the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, an MBA from the Yale School of Management, and a BA from Oberlin College.

Amanda Kolker ’00
Researcher, Thermal Energy Science & Technologies Research Group, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Amanda Kolker graduated from Oberlin in the year 2000 with degrees in geology and religion. She went on to complete a PhD in geology at the University of Alaska and has built her career on geothermal resource exploration and sustainable utilization of geothermal energy. While specialized in volcanology and geochemistry, Kolker takes an interdisciplinary approach to renewable energy research. She has worked in academia, industry, and government and is currently a researcher in the Thermal Energy Science & Technologies research group at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

REFUGEE PROTECTIONS & RESETTLEMENT
Tuesday, January 12

Diya Abdo
Founder and President, Every Campus a Refugee

Diya Abdo is a professor of English at Guilford College and the director of the Center for New North Carolinians at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. A second-generation Palestinian refugee, born and raised in Jordan, Abdo’s teaching, research, and scholarship focus on Arab women writers and Arab and Islamic feminisms. She has also published poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. Her public essays focus on the intersection of gender, political identity, and vocation. Her book American Refugee: True Stories of the Refugee Experience is forthcoming (Steerforth Press, 2022). In 2015, Abdo founded the Every Campus A Refugee (ECAR) initiative which advocates for housing refugee families on college and university
Investigating Alternatives to Complex Problems: Panelists

campus grounds and assisting them in resettlement. The flagship chapter at Guilford College, now one of several ECAR campuses, has hosted 60 refugees so far — 29 of them children — from Syria, Iraq, Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, the DRC, Venezuela, and Colombia. Abdo is the recipient of Campus Compact and Brown University’s Swearer Center’s 2019 Thomas Ehrlich Civically Engaged Faculty Award. She was named a finalist in the Arab Hope Makers Award (2018) and, along with ECAR, has received the Gulf South Summit’s 2017 Outstanding Service-Learning Collaboration in Higher Education Award and The Washington Center’s 2017 Civic Engagement in Higher Education Award. She has been making presentations about ECAR far and wide, including at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

Eva Sandis ’49
Professor Emerita of Sociology, Fordham University

Eva E. Sandis is professor emerita of sociology at Fordham University. She received her BA from Oberlin College and her PhD from Columbia University. Her teaching, research and publication, and advocacy activities have focused on global migration and the migrant experience. At the United Nations, Sandis represents the International Council of Psychologists as an NGO representative. She is a founding member of the NGO Committee on Migration, its past chair, and now, as chair emerita, serves on its executive committee. She also serves as an expert at the Permanent Mission of the Holy See at the United Nations, covering the annual sessions of the UN General Assembly’s Third Committee on the agenda item The Human Rights of Migrants.

Alyssa Yeip-Lewerenz
Associate, Fisher & Phillips LLP

Alyssa Yeip-Lewerenz is an immigration attorney in the Detroit office of Fisher & Phillips. She works on employment-based and family-based immigrant and non-immigrant petitions. Yeip-Lewerenz also has experience with naturalization, defense from removal in the Detroit Immigration Court, and waivers of grounds of inadmissibility. She has handled appeals before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Administrative Appeals Office, and the United States Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit.

Eszter Zimanyi
PhD Candidate, University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts

Eszter Zimanyi is a PhD candidate and Annenberg Fellow in Cinema and Media Studies at the University of Southern California. Her work is published or forthcoming in Journal of Cinema and Media Studies (JCMS), Transnational Cinemas, Visual Anthropology, Feminist Media Studies, Media Fields Journal, Intermedialities, and Docalogue, among others. She is a former co-programmer of USC’s Middle East Film Screening Series and served as a consultant for the Wende Museum’s 2019 exhibit, “Watching Socialism: The Television Revolution in Eastern Europe.” Zimanyi also served as a curatorial assistant for the 2014 exhibit “Histories Absolved: Revolutionary Cuban Poster Art and the Muslim International,” which showcased rare posters from Cuba’s OSPAAAL collective.

Zimanyi’s dissertation, “Unsettled Media: Documenting Refugees and Europe’s Shifting Borders,” examines contemporary nonfiction media to demonstrate how multiple state actors and migrant-refugee communities use media to unsettle post-Cold War Europe’s material and conceptual borders. She is currently co-editing a collection of essays for JCMS on immersive nonfiction media and humanitarianism. Zimanyi has been invited to speak about her work in courses at Brown University, University of Texas at Dallas, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Washington, and University of California, Irvine. Her research interests include migration, diaspora, and refugee studies, global and transnational media, postcolonial and postsocialist studies, militarism, documentary, and digital media.

GENTRIFICATION

Thursday, January 14

Aaron Foley
Founding Director, Black Media Initiative, Center for Community Media, Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY

Aaron Foley is the founding director of the Black Media Initiative at the Center for Community Media at the Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at the City University of New York. Previously, he was a John S. Knight journalism fellow at Stanford University, chief storyteller for the City of Detroit, and editor of BLAC Detroit Magazine. He is also an author and veteran freelance journalist, having contributed to “This American Life,” The Atlantic, Columbia Journalism Review, and more.
**Terry Schwarz**  
*Director, Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, Kent State University*

Terry Schwarz, FAICP, is the director of Kent State University’s Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative. Her work at the CUDC includes neighborhood and campus planning, commercial and residential design guidelines, and ecological strategies for vacant land reuse. Schwarz launched the CUDC’s Shrinking Cities Institute in 2005 in an effort to understand and address the implications of population decline and large-scale urban vacancy in Northeast Ohio. As an outgrowth of the Shrinking Cities Institute, she established Pop Up City, a temporary use initiative for vacant and underutilized sites in Cleveland. In 2009, Schwarz received the Cleveland Arts Prize for Design. She teaches in the graduate design curriculum for the KSU College of Architecture and Environmental Design. She has a master’s degree in city and regional planning from Cornell University.

The Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative is a community service organization with a professional staff of designers committed to improving the quality of urban places through technical design assistance, research, and advocacy. Supported by the College of Architecture and Environmental Design at Kent State University, the CUDC offers architectural and urban design expertise in the service of urban communities, design professionals, and Ohio’s public universities.

**Matt Slepin ’78**  
*Managing Partner, Terra Search Partners*

Matt Slepin founded Terra Search Partners in 2006 around the concept that retained executive search has the power to help clients beyond the job placement. The Terra Search approach is to use search as a journey through which our team and our clients are able to look deeply at the structure of a client’s organization, its place in the competitive landscape, and how strategic hiring can improve their business well into the future.

Slepin is passionate about real estate and its role in our economy. Since 2017, Slepin has been the host of the podcast series, “Leading Voices in Real Estate,” where he has had conversations with leaders from throughout the real estate industry about their career journeys and the businesses that they run. The series offers insights into pathways to success and the difference that the real estate industry can make in the way that we live, work, and play, and can be found at [www.leadingvoicespodcast.com](http://www.leadingvoicespodcast.com).

Prior to forming Terra Search, Slepin was a senior associate for the Urban Land Institute’s Advisory Services program, where she worked with ULI members on week-long study trips to promote creative, practical solutions for the most challenging issues facing today’s urban, suburban, and rural communities. She began her career with ULI’s San Francisco District Council working with local members. Slepin is originally from the Bay Area and graduated with highest honors from Oberlin College with a BA in Africana studies and anthropology.

**Cali Slepin ’16**  
*Master of City Planning Candidate, University of California, Berkeley*

Cali Slepin is a Master of City Planning candidate at University of California, Berkeley, focusing on affordable housing development with an emphasis on the intersection of real estate and planning. While in school, she also works as a development intern for Harvest Properties with a focus on community engagement and as a project contractor for the Housing Land Trust of Sonoma County. Slepin serves as the vice president of the Berkeley Real Estate Club and alumni chair of the Planning Students Association. She is a Falik Family Fellow in Affordable Housing and led her Berkeley team to the national finals for HUD’s Innovation in Affordable Housing Challenge 2020. She is also an ULI Graduate Student Chamberlin Fellow and is a member of the organization’s Responsible Property Investment Product Council.

Prior to UC Berkeley, Slepin was a senior associate for the Urban Land Institute’s Advisory Services program, where she worked with ULI members on week-long study trips to promote creative, practical solutions for the most challenging issues facing today’s urban, suburban, and rural communities. She began her career with ULI’s San Francisco District Council working with local members. Slepin is originally from the Bay Area and graduated with highest honors from Oberlin College with a BA in Africana studies and anthropology.
Entrepreneurship

Running concurrently to the complex problem keynotes and panels will be a series of sessions focusing on entrepreneurship, what it is, and how to engage in it. These workshops — led by the experienced facilitators at right — will introduce students to key skills and competencies in defining a problem, developing an idea to address that problem, working effectively in teams, producing a compelling presentation of your work, and more.

After the final complex problem session, students will be sorted into interdisciplinary teams. These teams will work together throughout the final two weeks of the retreat to conceptualize and design a project that in some way addresses one of the four complex problems. Then, in the final week of the retreat, teams will pitch their ideas to a panel of experienced entrepreneurs on Oberlin’s LaunchU board.

Entrepreneurship Facilitators

Merle Sprinzen Tessier ’76
Managing Director, Golden Seeds

Merle Sprinzen Tessier is a private investor and managing director of Golden Seeds, an early-stage investment firm focused on women-led companies, with one of the largest and most active angel investor networks in the United States. She has served on the advisory board of Chromis Technologies, which engineers fluoropolymers to do exactly what its clients want; Salsa Labs, a developer of management software for nonprofits; and Salax, a diagnostics company developing dosage tests that enable personalized cancer and psychotherapeutic treatments.

Tessier has spent more than 30 years developing global business-to-business marketing and sales strategies for premier, global corporations and consulting firms as well as start-ups. While bringing special expertise in the business services sector (technology, e-commerce, and accounting/tax), she has also worked with media, publishing, and telecommunications companies seeking growth.

Tessier was an executive director at KPMG, where she revitalized its business development processes and more than doubled its success rate of winning new business. Prior to KPMG, Tessier was the first chief marketing officer of Sapient, an IT consulting firm. She also served in many global marketing roles at Accenture, including creating the business case and global marketing strategy for Accenture’s entry into the e-commerce marketplace, a focus that now accounts for more than 80 percent of revenue. Earlier in her career, Tessier held marketing positions with Time Warner and Cap Cities/ABC, positioning and launching new publications and increasing advertising sales and circulation. Tessier also launched her own marketing strategy firm, with global clients in the publishing, media, and petroleum industries. She began her career as a management consultant with Bell Labs.

Tessier earned her PhD from Harvard University in sociology and social psychology while a National Science Foundation Fellow. She holds a bachelor’s degree in sociology/anthropology, highest honors, from Oberlin College. She lives and works in New York City.
Investigating Alternatives to Complex Problems: Entrepreneurship

**Tim Hurson ’67**
*Disruptor in Residence, Courage Co-Lab*

Tim Hurson is disruptor in residence at Courage Co-Lab, a social purpose innovation firm. His first public act of disruption was spreading pasted sheets of paper, sticky-side up, on his third-grade classroom floor — and watching the ensuing chaos. He now focuses on more productive activities as an innovation consultant and facilitator for businesses and start-ups.

Hurson has guest lectured on critical thinking and creative problem solving in business schools on six continents and has keynoted in over 40 countries. He is the founder of Mindcamp, a creative thinking forum with annual retreats in the U.S., Canada, and Chile.

His book on productive thinking, *Think Better*, is published in 12 languages and was recently included in McGraw-Hill’s Business Classics series. His second book, *Never Be Closing*, on ethical selling, was selected by Oprah Winfrey as one of the 15 best self-improvement books of 2015. His new book, *The Accidental Salesperson: sales skills for people who hate selling*, will be released in early 2021. Hurson is a senior faculty member of the Creativity Europe Association, South African Creativity Association, and Creative Education Foundation (U.S.), where he is honored with its Distinguished Leader Award. Hurson serves on numerous boards in the U.S., Canada, Chile, and Denmark, including the executive advisory board of LaunchU, Oberlin’s business incubator. He is also a member of Oberlin’s Alumni Leadership Council. Hurson thinks the phrase “out of the box” should be put back in the box and buried in a deep hole.

**Nicole Connolly**
*Head of ESG Investing/Portfolio Manager, Fidelity Investments*

Nicole Connolly is head of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) investing and a portfolio manager in the Equity division at Fidelity Investments. Fidelity Investments is a leading provider of investment management, retirement planning, portfolio guidance, brokerage, benefits outsourcing, and other financial products and services to institutions, financial intermediaries, and individuals.

In this role, Connolly leads the ESG investment efforts across asset management, including helping to direct Fidelity’s ESG product roadmap, facilitating greater education about ESG in the investment process, and helping to coordinate the cross-asset class ESG efforts. Additionally, she manages the Women’s Leadership Fund.

Prior to assuming her current responsibilities, Connolly served as managing director of research and managed the Energy, Technology, Utilities and Emerging Markets teams. Previously, she served as head of Fidelity’s research associate program, which included the management, recruitment, and promotion process for undergraduates hired into Fidelity to cover small to mid-cap stocks. Connolly’s additional areas of management focus included thought leadership around women’s initiatives and incorporating proprietary research into the investment process.

Prior to that, Connolly was a research analyst for the Small Cap Equity group, where she was responsible for the consumer, health care, and energy sectors. Additionally, she worked in Fidelity’s High Income group and covered the energy, paper, and packaging sectors. Prior to joining Equity and High Income Research, Connolly spent two years focused on private equity in Fidelity’s Devonshire Investors group.

Before joining Fidelity in 2000, Connolly was a financial analyst focused on global project finance while attending the Financial Analyst Investment Banking Training Program at Citibank from 1998 to 2000. Connolly has been in the investments industry since 1998.

Connolly earned her bachelor of science degree in finance from Boston College.
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Students will attend a range of sessions focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion in academic and professional spaces. As we seek to grapple with complex problems, map out academic plans, and learn how to apply knowledge in real-world settings, we must also have a shared commitment to building a better and more just world. This commitment has been at the forefront of campus dialogue this year, particularly following the launch of President Ambar’s presidential initiative on racial justice this fall.

Throughout the retreat, diversity, equity, and inclusion will form the lenses through which many of the workshops and discussions are focused. Students will have the opportunity to learn from the experienced educators listed at right, who will facilitate a series of sessions designed to engage students in critical conversations about the ways in which our identities intersect with and shape our academic and professional experiences. Students will also explore concepts like code-meshing and how to approach academic and professional skills, including writing, using a DEI lens.

Some sessions will be organized based on students’ racial identit(ies). For these sessions, students will join the group that most closely aligns with their own racial identit(ies). The professional facilitators and the Oberlin team acknowledge that the complicated history of race and ethnicity in the United States may make choosing one identity-based workshop space over the other complex for some students, and are available to answer questions or concerns that may arise.
WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

Zuleka Henderson
Lecturer in Discipline, Columbia University School of Social Work

Zuleka Henderson is a licensed social worker and antiracism trainer. She has designed and implemented courses and workshops examining power, racism, positionality, white supremacy, oppression, and anti-Blackness for high schools, colleges, media-industry professionals, community-based organizations, and professional and academic conferences.

Using strategies grounded in theories of historical trauma and cultural and radical healing, Henderson guides participants and organizations through workshop experiences that facilitate deep critical self-reflection and action-oriented approaches to dismantling racism at personal and institutional levels.

Henderson serves as a lecturer at the Columbia University School of Social Work. She received her BA in sociology from Wesleyan University, her MSW from Fordham University, her PhD from Howard University, and has received antiracism training from the People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond.

Ovita Williams
Executive Director, CSSW Action Lab for Social Justice, Columbia University School of Social Work

Ovita Williams is the executive director of the CSSW Action Lab for Social Justice at Columbia School of Social Work. She also serves as associate director of field education, and acted as interim dean and director of the department for two years.

Williams has taught the Social Work Practice and Domestic Violence course at CSSW and the Social Work Practice Lab for Liberation and Social Justice at Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter CUNY. Williams is a licensed clinical social worker specializing in intimate partner violence and forensic social work practice with ten years of experience as the director of clinical services in the counseling services unit at the Kings County District Attorney’s office. Prior to this position, Williams was a therapist at the Children’s Aid Society.

During her time at CSSW, Williams has facilitated the Seminar in Field Instruction (SIFI) for new field instructors and expanded the advanced SIFI around holding critical conversations in the supervisory relationship.

Williams has developed and facilitated interactive workshops for social workers, managers, and various practitioners on facilitating challenging dialogues around racism, class, gender, sexual orientation, and intersecting identities. At Columbia, Williams has worked with students, alumni, faculty, and administrators on the development of the foundations course, Decolonizing Social Work, through a power, race, oppression, and privilege framework. The course centers undoing anti-Black racism and dismantling white supremacy culture.

A graduate of Vassar College (’90) and Columbia University (’93), Williams received her PhD from the City University of New York Graduate Center, Silberman School of Social Welfare. Her dissertation addresses the impact of stress, vicarious trauma, and structural racism on social workers practicing in district attorney offices while supporting intimate partner violence survivors.


Vershawn Ashanti Young
Chair, Conference on College Communication and Composition; Professor, Black Studies, Communication Arts, English Language and Literature, University of Waterloo

Vershawn Ashanti Young, who goes by dr. vay, is the current chair of the Conference on College Communication and Composition, the world’s largest organization devoted to developing pedagogies and theories about college reading, writing, speaking, and visually representing. dr. vay is the author or co-author of ten books, including the forthcoming reader: *This Ain’t Yesterday’s Literacy: Culture and Education After George Floyd* (1973-2020). dr. vay is a professor of Black studies, communication arts, and English language and literature at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. In addition to his academic profile, dr. vay is also a solo-performance artist, and regularly writes for newspapers and magazines.
The River Journey

Over the course of this month, you will be reflecting on all of the experiences — academic and otherwise — that have brought you to this point and informed your thinking as you prepare to declare your major and plan the rest of your time at Oberlin. While hearing from a range of influential speakers and discussing some of the defining challenges of our time, you will also learn about the many ways you can connect your academic journey with experiential learning opportunities at Oberlin. Weekly workshops hosted by the Office of Winter Term are designed to guide you along that path, introducing you to a set of tools that will help you to articulate your story in the form of a digital learning portfolio that will chart what we call your River Journey.

A “River Journey,” otherwise known as “critical incident charting,” (Burnard, 2004; Kerchner, 2006) is a tool for reflecting on and organizing those key moments — the metaphoric "bends in the river" — that provoke changes in your thinking and/or ways of being. The river is a metaphor for the continuously developing and fluid nature of the process of navigating your Oberlin experience and the ways in which you represent and reflect upon that experience. Each bend in that winding waterway signifies your reflection on a significant moment in your learning that takes your understanding of a topic or concept in a new or altered direction.

Throughout January you will work to develop your “River Narrative” and represent it via your learning portfolio through a four-step, recursive process that moves from reflection to curation, narration, and action. The core components of your narrative for the purpose of this retreat — the “bends” we are prompting you to document — are your resume and five-semester plan; additional bends are up to you to define for yourself. The first draft of your portfolio will be due on January 15, and you will present your complete SOAR portfolio to the faculty major advisor you meet with at the end of the program through your prepared “Launch Narrative.”

The Digication Portfolio Platform

Jeffrey Yan
Co-Founder & CEO, Digication

Jeffrey Yan co-founded Digication in 2002, and as CEO of the company, he is the co-creator of Digication’s award winning e-Portfolio and Assessment Management System for educational institutions. Digication is used by students at over 6,000 K–12 and higher educational institutions nationally, including Brown University, Cornell University, Columbia University, and Stanford University.

Digication has been featured in Forbes, Christian Science Monitor, Campus Technology C-Level View, Inside the Net, Campus Technology Campus Briefs, Education Week, T.H.E. Journal, and numerous other publications. Yan taught undergraduate and graduate level courses at Rhode Island School of Design. His expertise focuses upon practical implementation of web and mobile technology, with particular emphasis upon enhancing integrative pedagogy and experiential learning.

Yan is a regular speaker at industry events, including the American Association of College & University, Campus Technology, and Educause, drawing upon his experience as an early pioneer developing web technologies and their applications to next-generation education systems. In 2006, Yan was recognized by Rhode Island School of Design, with the prestigious Alumni Award in the Art of Education. Yan is a former Trustee Member of RISD and president of the RISD Alumni Council. Yan holds BFA and BArch (Bachelor of Architecture) degrees from Rhode Island School of Design.
Schedule at a Glance*

All sessions are listed in Eastern Standard Time (EST). To view the most updated schedule, please access the retreat calendar, available via the retreat syllabus on the Digication platform (https://oberlin.digication.com/soar-syllabus/home).

How to Access Zoom Sessions
Zoom links for every session are included in the event descriptions on the retreat calendar, and should be accessed using your Oberlin credentials, not a personal account.

*Please note that this schedule is subject to change. Any changes to the schedule will be made with advance notice and updated on the online retreat calendar.
WEEK 1 | JANUARY 4–8

MONDAY, JAN. 4

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE ASYNCHRONOUS PROGRAMMING IN ADVANCE OF THE FIRST DAY OF THE RETREAT

TUESDAY, JAN. 5

12:00–1:00 pm
RETREAT OPENING & WELCOME
Presenters: President Ambar & Office of the Dean of Arts & Sciences
Meeting Type: Full Group

2:00–3:00 pm
KEYNOTE: PUBLIC HEALTH
Presenters: Helene Gayle & Jacob Gayle ’79
Meeting Type: Full Group

3:00–4:30 pm
ACADEMIC HOUSE EXPLORATION
Presenters: Experiential Program Directors
Meeting Type: Academic Houses

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6

12:00–1:00 pm
PANEL: PUBLIC HEALTH
Facilitator: Career Development Center
Meeting Type: Full Group

1:30–2:30 pm
INTRODUCTION TO ENTREPRENEURIAL THINKING
Presenter: Merle Sprinzen Tessier ’76
Meeting Type: Full Group

2:40–3:50 pm
BUILDING YOUR RESUME
Facilitator: Career Development Center
Meeting Type: Full Group

4:00–5:00 pm
ENTREPRENEURSHIP MASTER CLASS I
Presenter: Merle Sprinzen Tessier ’76
Meeting Type: Full Group

THURSDAY, JAN. 7

12:30–1:30 pm
ACROSS-HOUSE RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE: KNOWLEDGE GENERATION IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
Facilitator: Office of Undergraduate Research
Meeting Type: Full Group

2:00–3:00 pm
KEYNOTE: CLIMATE CHANGE
Presenters: Roy Torbert & Chris Canavan ’84
Meeting Type: Full Group

3:00–4:15 pm
ACADEMIC HOUSE EXPLORATION
Presenters: Experiential Program Directors
Meeting Type: Academic Houses

4:30–5:30 pm
PANEL: CLIMATE CHANGE
Facilitator: Career Development Center
Meeting Type: Full Group

FRIDAY, JAN. 8

12:20–1:20 pm
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH MENTORING PANEL
Facilitator: Office of Undergraduate Research
Meeting Type: Full Group

1:30–3:00 pm
BRINGING OUR WHOLE SELVES: HONORING OUR BIPOC IDENTITIES IN ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SPACES
Presenters: Zuleka Henderson & Ovita Williams
Meeting Type: Workshop space for students who identify as Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC)

3:30–5:00 pm
RIVER JOURNEY: LEARNING PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT
Facilitators: Office of Winter Term & Academic Advising
Meeting Type: Full Group
WEEK 2 | JANUARY 11–15

MONDAY, JAN. 11

12:00–12:30 pm
EPORTFOLIO OFFICE HOURS
Facilitators: Office of Winter Term & Academic Advising Resource Center
Meeting Type: Optional, Drop-In

1:00–2:00 pm
KEYNOTE: RACE, REFUGEES, AND THE CURRENT CRISIS
Presenter: Eric Tang
Meeting Type: Full Group

2:00–3:15 pm
ACADEMIC HOUSE EXPLORATION
Presenters: Experiential Program Directors
Meeting Type: Academic Houses

3:30–5:30 pm
YOUR VOICE MATTERS: INTRODUCTION TO CODE-MESHING IN PUBLIC, PROFESSIONAL, AND ACADEMIC SPACES
Presenter: Vershawn Ashanti Young
Meeting Type: Full Group

TUESDAY, JAN. 12

12:20–1:20 pm
ACADEMIC MAJOR INFO SESSIONS
Presenters: Arts & Sciences Faculty
Meeting Type: Students will pick the academic department/program that most interests them

1:30–2:30 pm
PANEL: REFUGEE PROTECTIONS & RESETTLEMENT
Facilitator: Career Development Center
Meeting Type: Full Group

2:45–3:45 pm
WHAT DOES UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH LOOK LIKE IN MY ACADEMIC HOUSE?
Facilitator: Office of Undergraduate Research
Meeting Type: Academic Houses

4:00–5:00 pm
ENTREPRENEURSHIP MASTER CLASS II
Presenter: Merle Sprinzen Tessier ’76
Meeting Type: Full Group

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13

1:30–3:00 pm
RIVER JOURNEY: COLLABORATIVE CONVERSATIONS
Facilitator: Office of Winter Term
Meeting Type: Full Group Into Academic Houses

3:00–3:30 pm
PEER MENTOR WORKSHOPS
Facilitators: SOAR Peer Mentors
Meeting Type: Provided by Peer Mentors

3:45–5:00 pm
FOURSIGHT: NAVIGATE COMPLEXITY AND DEVELOP INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO COMPLEX PROBLEMS
Presenter: Tim Hurson ’67
Meeting Type: Full Group

THURSDAY, JAN. 14

12:30–1:20 pm
ACROSS-HOUSE LIBRARY SESSION: EFFECTIVELY SEARCHING FOR RESEARCH LITERATURE
Facilitator: Office of Undergraduate Research
Meeting Type: Full Group

1:30–2:30 pm
KEYNOTE: GENTRIFICATION
Presenter: Andrea Batista Schlesinger
Meeting Type: Full Group

2:30–3:45 pm
ACADEMIC HOUSE EXPLORATION
Presenters: Experiential Program Directors
Meeting Type: Academic Houses

4:00–5:00 pm
PANEL: GENTRIFICATION
Facilitator: Career Development Center
Meeting Type: Full Group
WEEK 2 | CONTINUED

FRIDAY, JAN. 15

12:00–12:45 pm
PEER MENTOR WORKSHOPS
Facilitators: SOAR Peer Mentors
Meeting Type: Provided by Peer Mentors

1:00–2:30 pm
HOLDING UP THE MIRROR: EXPLORING WHITENESS IN ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SPACES
Presenters: Zuleka Henderson & Ovita Williams
Meeting Type: Workshop space for students who identify as white

2:45–3:45 pm
MOVING A PROJECT FORWARD
Presenter: Merle Sprinzen Tessier ’76
Meeting Type: Full Group

4:00–5:00 pm
PITCH COMPETITION TEAM TIME
Meeting Type: Pitch Competition Teams

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20

INAUGURATION DAY PROGRAMMING TO BE ANNOUNCED

THURSDAY, JAN. 21

12:30–1:20 pm
MAKING RESEARCH A PART OF YOUR ACADEMIC JOURNEY: INCORPORATING RESEARCH INTO YOUR FIVE-SEMESTER PLAN
Facilitator: Office of Undergraduate Research
Meeting Type: Full Group

1:30–2:30 pm
REIMAGINING AN ANTI-RACIST AND INCLUSIVE OBERLIN COLLEGE COMMUNITY
Presenters: Zuleka Henderson & Ovita Williams
Meeting Type: Full Group

3:15–4:30 pm
RIVER JOURNEY: PREPARING FOR LAUNCH CONVERSATIONS
Facilitator: Office of Winter Term
Meeting Type: Full Group Into Academic Houses

FRIDAY, JAN. 22

1:30–3:30 pm
YOU MEAN I CAN CODEMESH? HOW? WHEN?
Presenter: Vershawn Ashanti Young
Meeting Type: Full Group

3:45–4:45 pm
PITCHING YOUR PROJECT
Presenter: Merle Sprinzen Tessier ’76
Meeting Type: Full Group

WEEK 3 | JANUARY 18–22

MONDAY, JAN. 18

NO SESSIONS IN OBSERVANCE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

TUESDAY, JAN. 19

1:00–2:00 pm
INTEGRATIVE CONCENTRATIONS OVERVIEW
Facilitator: Office of the Dean of Arts & Sciences
Meeting Type: Full Group

2:15–3:15 pm
CULTIVATING YOUR INNER PEER MENTOR
Facilitator: Center for Learning, Education, and Research in the Sciences
Meeting Type: Full Group

3:30–4:30 pm
HOW CAN I INCORPORATE RESEARCH INTO MY ACADEMIC JOURNEY?
Facilitator: Office of Undergraduate Research
Meeting Type: Academic Houses
WEEK 4 | JANUARY 25–29

MONDAY, JAN. 25

1:30–2:30 pm
**EFFECTIVELY READING, UNDERSTANDING, AND CRITIQUING QUANTITATIVE/QUALITATIVE RESEARCH LITERATURE**
Facilitator: Office of Undergraduate Research
Meeting Type: Students will choose between sessions focusing on quantitative or qualitative research

3:00–4:00 pm
**GPS EVALUATION TOOL**
Presenter: Tim Hurson ’67
Meeting Type: Full Group

4:00–5:00 pm
**ESG INVESTING OVERVIEW**
Presenter: Nicole Connolly
Meeting Type: Full Group

TUESDAY, JAN. 26

1:00–5:30 pm
**PITCH DAY!**
Presenters: Pitch Teams will deliver their pitches to members of the LaunchU Advisory Board

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27

1:30–3:30 pm
**CODE-MESHING IN PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION**
Presenter: Vershawn Ashanti Young
Meeting Type: Full Group

4:00–5:00 pm
**PEER MENTOR WORKSHOPS**
Facilitators: SOAR Peer Mentors
Meeting Type: Provided by Peer Mentors

THURSDAY, JAN. 28

1:00–2:30 pm
**CONTINUING OUR RIVER JOURNEY**
Presenters: Jeffrey Yan, DigiCation Co-Founder, & Office of Winter Term
Meeting Type: Full Group Into Academic Houses

2:45–3:45 pm
**KNOW/WONDER**
Presenter: Tim Hurson ’67
Meeting Type: Full Group

4:00–5:00 pm
**MAKING THE PITCH TO YOUR PROSPECTIVE RESEARCH MENTOR**
Presenters: David Kamitsuka & Gunnar Kwakye
Meeting Type: Full Group

FRIDAY, JAN. 29

12:00–1:00 pm
**CPT WORKSHOP**
Facilitator: International Student Resource Center
Meeting Type: International Students

1:30–3:00 pm
**LAUNCHING YOUR PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE**
Facilitator: Career Development Center
Meeting Type: Students continuing with the Practicum into the spring semester

4:00–5:00 pm
**RETREAT CLOSING AND SEND-OFF**
Facilitators: Experiential Learning Offices
Meeting Type: Full Group