OBERLIN
COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY

WILDER BOWL



April 2025

Welcome to Wilder Bowl, a monthly glimpse of campus life for families of Oberlin students. Wilder Bowl is produced by the Office of Communications.

Historic Site to Host Oberlin's BFA Program

Oberlin has joined a partnership to redevelop the historic Park Synagogue near Cleveland into "**Park Arts**," an ambitious reclamation project that will provide a first-class home for Oberlin's five-year BA/BFA combined degree program, which launches this fall. Located amid 28 tree-lined acres in Cleveland Heights, Park Arts places Oberlin within arm's reach of Cleveland's University Circle cultural arts hub—a key point of access for students in the BFA program.

Current students may apply for the program starting May 5 and may contact chair Julia Christensen for more info.





The Podcast Hits Broadway this Week

In the new episode of the Oberlin podcast *Running to the Noise*, President **Carmen Twillie Ambar** pulls back the curtain on an Oberlin mentor and her protégé who is lighting up Broadway. She's joined by Associate Professor of Jazz Voice **La Tanya Hall** (pictured right) and alumna **Georgia Heers '21** (center), star of the season's hottest play, George Clooney's *Good Night, and Good Luck*. They discuss their first lessons together, the work of becoming an artist, and the power of staying connected through every transformation.

Listen beginning April 30 on the *Running to the Noise* website or wherever you get your podcasts.

Five Obies Win Guggenheim Fellowships

On April 15, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation announced the 100th class of Guggenheim Fellows. Of the 198 recipients, five are Oberlin alumni: **Josh Faught ’01**, **David Getsy ’95**, **Elizabeth Otto ’94**, **Huang Ruo ’00**, and **Bijal Pravin Trivedi ’92**. The Guggenheim Fellowship is a prestigious annual award that recognizes superior achievements in arts, music, writing, and the sciences. Learn more about the honorees at Oberlin.edu.

Acclaimed Author to Address Graduates



Sonia Shah ’90, an investigative journalist and critically acclaimed author of prize-winning books on migration, disease, and human-animal relations, will deliver the keynote address for Oberlin’s Commencement ceremony honoring the Class of 2025 on Monday, May 26. She will also be awarded an honorary doctor of humanities degree.

Learn more about her award-winning career at Oberlin.edu.

New Course: Sophomore Existential Seminar

Sophomore year is a pivotal time full of important questions: potential majors, Winter Term plans, internships, identity, purpose, and even what happiness looks like. That’s why Oberlin is offering **HUMS 200: Sophomore Existential Seminar**, a unique course co-taught by faculty in the Humanities and staff from the Center for Student Success and Center for Engaged Liberal Arts.

It invites students to slow down, reflect deeply, and explore big questions about life, learning, and the future in a supportive, discussion-based setting. Encourage your rising second-year student to consider it!

New Board Chair Named



Charles S. “Chuck” Birenbaum, a 1979 Oberlin graduate and longtime member of the board of trustees, will assume the role of chair of the board beginning July 1. He brings to this pivotal role decades of legal experience and a profound understanding of Oberlin’s mission, which has been shaped by his years as a student, parent, trustee, and longtime advocate for students.

Birenbaum succeeds Chris Canavan ’84, who has served as chair since 2017. Learn more at Oberlin.edu.

Commencement is Nearing: A Few Tips

We look forward to celebrating the Class of 2025! Commencement happens Monday, May 26. If your student is planning to participate:

- Please confirm that they've applied to graduate and are registered to attend commencement through Tassel.
- Encourage them to check their email regularly for updates from the Registrar's Office.
- Visit the Commencement Weekend page for the full event schedule.

Travel Tip: The Hotel at Oberlin is fully booked. Please explore alternative lodging options soon if you plan to join us in person.

Questions? Email us at commencement@oberlin.edu.

Signs of Big Things: Congratulate Your Grad!

Congratulate your graduating Obie with a yard sign! Take this 18" x 24" file to a local or online print shop (Office Depot, Staples, etc.) and create a sign for your yard. Don't have a yard? Print a poster for your window or door! Find the link on the Commencement website, and scroll to "Congratulatory Yard Sign."

Obie Athletes Shine this Spring

Oberlin dominated in North Coast Athletic Conference action in April:

- Baseball's **Kyle Baxt** broke the single-season home run record against Hiram just days after notching his 100th-career hit. He sits 27th all time for career hits.
- Track and field boasts five All-Ohio Champions.
- Softball's **Sophie Stone** had another career month, tying her own single-game strikeout record with 12 K's against John Carroll.
- Men's lacrosse broke the top 25 for the first time in over a decade, according to the NCAA's inaugural NPI rankings.
- Women's lacrosse clinched its winningest season in seven years, and **Megan Hiller** earned NCAC honors after notching 100-career points.

Follow your favorite teams as they head into the postseason at GoYeo.com!

Celebrate the Class of 2025!

As parents and families of graduating seniors, you can celebrate your student by making a meaningful investment in the future with a contribution honoring their accomplishments.

Cumulative gifts from seniors and their parents help provide life-changing education for the next generation of Oberlin students. Gifts of all sizes and designations are encouraged.

Make a Gift

When making a gift, be sure to include your graduate's name. We look forward to celebrating with you!

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