



The Reed

KENDAL® at Oberlin
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Summer/Fall Newsletter 2010



Marvin Krislov, President,
Oberlin College

A Perfect Partnership: Oberlin and Kendal

by Marvin Krislov, President of Oberlin College



Barbara Thomas, CEO,
Kendal at Oberlin

It seems as if every year or so, some group or organization publishes a survey ranking Oberlin as one of the most—pick your adjectives—vibrant, charming, diverse, historic, beautiful, musically rich, environmentally minded, intellectually stimulating, culturally exciting communities in the State of Ohio and the nation. The most recent came this past spring when MSN.com named Oberlin one of “eight great American towns with an authentic college vibe.”

MSN.com’s assessment reads in part: “Residents and visitors in this city of 8,195 reap the aesthetic benefits from a steady stream of cultural events including The Artist Recital Series and a variety of student competitions and performances. Home to the abolitionist movement, Oberlin takes its progressive legacy seriously, presenting many exhibitions at the Oberlin Heritage Center that celebrate the city’s pivotal role in the Underground Railroad, temperance, co-education and integrated education.....”

Such praise is well-deserved, and much-appreciated. Oberlin is home to Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music. It is indeed a terrific place to live, work, visit or study. Town and gown are very proud of our history and contemporary quality of life. In Oberlin, we enjoy a big-city level of cultural life in a lovely, small town setting.

But I have seen no ranking that does justice to the dynamism, the diversity, and the unique fusion of academic, artistic and musical excellence and social responsibility that are the driving factors in Oberlin life.

Nor do such lists capture the remarkable partnership between Oberlin College, the City of Oberlin, and Kendal at Oberlin that is working to make this community a global model for sustainable economic development driven by education and the arts. That partnership is reinvigorating Oberlin’s public schools, revitalizing our historic downtown business district, and creating a brighter future for all 8,200 Oberlin residents.

To get a sense of Oberlin’s vitality, consider these recent highlights. On May 1, we opened the Bertram & Judith Kohl Building, new home to our jazz studies

(continued inside)

This special edition of The Reed features an article written by Marvin Krislov that describes the relationships among Kendal, Oberlin College and the town. Oberlin is a vibrant and diverse community that appeals to all ages. See for yourself - call 1-800-548-9469 to arrange a visit today.

What makes Oberlin a great place to live?

program. It is a one-of-a-kind facility, combining high-level sustainability with open, free-flowing architecture inspired by jazz. The Kohl Building will soon be recognized as the first music building in the world to receive the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—or LEED—Gold rating. Drs. William and Camille Cosby, and Stevie Wonder headlined the gala opening celebration and received honorary degrees from the college.

Those developments are just the beginning. Thanks to the efforts of Oberlin's citizens and the College's students, faculty and staff, Oberlin is receiving recognition from media around the world. The news reports spotlight the excellence of our programs, our people, our art, and our contributions to the cultural and intellectual life of this nation and the world.

Presentation of the National Medal of Arts at the White House on May 21, 2010: President Marvin Krislov, conservatory dean David Stull, associate conservatory dean Andrea Kalyn, President Barack Obama, trustee chair Robert Lemle '75, and trustee Stewart Kohl '77. Photograph by Richard Frazier.



The biggest news came at the White House in February when President Barack Obama awarded the National Medal of Arts—our nation's highest arts honor—to the Conservatory of Music. That award is a tribute to the superb quality of the Conservatory's faculty, students and leadership—past and present. Simply put, hearing first-rate live music is part of daily life here.

Oberlin also made news for our leadership in combating climate change and promoting sustainability. In March, Oberlin was selected as one of 18 projects to be a partner in the Climate Positive Development Program with the Clinton Foundation and the U.S. Green Building Council. The other projects are in cities such as London, Johannesburg, Stockholm and San Francisco.

The goal of this program is to reduce the impact of urban areas on global warming. Oberlin was selected because of the unique partnership that has evolved between the College and the City of Oberlin. The Climate Positive program showcases Oberlin as a global model for sustainable economic development and environmental education.

Our Allen Memorial Art Museum—regarded as one of our nation's five best college art museums—is making news even though it is closed until spring 2011 for a renovation that is lowering its carbon footprint while upgrading its heating, cooling and storage. While we are renovating the museum, some of the collection is traveling. Twenty of our pieces are currently on display in New York in Side by Side: Oberlin's Masterworks at the Met. The New York Times raved about that exhibition, writing—“almost every Oberlin piece is something the Met would probably love to own.”



Music, Art, Theater...

During summer 2010, some of the original art works which are rented for a nominal fee to Oberlin College students during the academic year through the Allen Museum's acclaimed Art Rental program are hanging in Kendal at Oberlin's dining room.

The historic Apollo Theater, Oberlin's single-screen movie house built in 1914, is also garnering media attention. This past October we reopened the renovated Apollo with help from television's super star writer and producer Jim Burrows, from our Class of 1962, his wife Debbie, and Oberlin parents Danny DeVito and Rhea Perlman.



Ribbon cutting ceremony for the reopening of the Apollo Theatre. Pictured are President Marvin Krislov, James Burrows '62, Debbie Burrows, Rhea Perlman, Danny DeVito, and trustee chair Robert Lemle '75. Photograph by John Seyfried.

The College purchased the Apollo in 2009 because we knew how much it meant to this community, and wanted to ensure its survival as a movie house. We also saw its educational potential. Now we are working to create a media education center at the Apollo where Oberlin school children and community members can learn to tell their stories in film and video. On June 14th, the Apollo Outreach Initiative launched its first annual summer media workshop for teens.

As if that weren't enough excitement, we are currently celebrating the opening of the East College Street project. This mixed-use residential and commercial development—located just east of the Apollo in the heart of Oberlin—was the brainchild of three Oberlin environmental studies graduates—Naomi Sabel, Class of 2002, Josh Rosen, Class of 2001, and Ben Ezinga, Class of 2001.

The College and the community are also striving to build Oberlin's future. To make Oberlin an even more attractive destination for prospective students, faculty, and residents, we are working to create a Green Arts District on the east side of Tappan Square. This district will showcase Oberlin's excellence

*From Barbara Thomas
CEO, Kendal at Oberlin*

It only gets better in Oberlin! Oberlin College's President Marvin Krislov captures beautifully the many gems of living and retiring today in this very special town. From before our opening in 1993, Kendal and the College have always prided ourselves in working closely together to maximize the experiences of those we serve including residents, students and those we employ. The relationship benefits have come from the passion of many who serve and plan together whenever the situation calls for it. Stay tuned for a continuing bright future and a place to thrive.



Barbara Thomas (above) and Marvin Krislov (right) speak at a Kendal Priority List gathering at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music in 2009.



...Life-long learning!

in education, music and the arts, while serving as a living laboratory for sustainability, creativity and innovation.

Renovating the Allen Art Museum and the Apollo Theatre are first steps towards this goal. In the years ahead we hope to renovate and build new visual & performing arts facilities and a new Oberlin Inn & conference center. The district eventually may include new student residences and academic space. It will support new, interdisciplinary curricular development built around sustainability themes.

The Green Arts District is part of a broader effort called The Oberlin Project that is the centerpiece of our partnership with the Clinton Climate Initiative and the Green Building Council. This vision will guide the long-range planning for Oberlin College, the City of Oberlin, the local schools, and the surrounding region. Its goal is to make Oberlin an internationally recognized model of a community that has built a prosperous, post-fossil fuel economy driven by education and the arts. Both projects will be implemented in phases over a period of years.

These recent achievements were created by our community's greatest asset: its people. The positive effect that Oberlin's students, faculty, alumni and citizens have had on the lives of people around the world is the thread that connects our distinguished history and our dynamic present. Over the years, our values, vision, and actions have improved the education, the health and the lives of millions of men, women and children on every continent.

Oberlin's people build on that legacy every day. Oberlin teaches men and women to nurture their minds, to nourish their souls, to learn from their differences, and to engage with the most difficult issues. Our students, our faculty, our staff and our graduates lead meaningful lives that make the world better.

Those same values are the driving force at Kendal at Oberlin. Its residents and staff provide a great deal of knowledge, expertise, vitality, service and support for the College and the community. Kendal's residents and staff are activists in the most positive sense of the word.

*Don '47 & Mary Louise '47 ride their bicycles from Kendal to the Oberlin College campus.
Photograph by Al Fuchs.*

Julie Taymor, the great film and stage director and producer, graduated from Oberlin College in 1974. She returned in May to give this year's Commencement address in Tappan Square, the green heart of Oberlin. At a dinner at my home, Ms. Taymor spoke about her Oberlin experience. "Oberlin set me on a course. Oberlin kept me grounded," she said. "I had really delved into the origins of theater, history, language and culture by the time I left here. This really is a place of the soul. People here really do care. Its history is important. At Oberlin, we find our way to help, to add just a little bit to make the world better."

That is the essence of Oberlin. I am proud to be part of it, and I hope you will be, too.

From Kendal founders and long-time residents of Oberlin - Don & Mary Louise VanDyke:

We've found that moving in to Kendal at Oberlin adds yet one more colorful thread to the rich tapestry of college and community life here. As new friends, neighbors and activities seamlessly blend with the old and familiar, it's obvious that stagnation and dullness simply have no place here. For both new and old Oberlinians, Kendal adds new colors and patterns to our lives.



ROAD SCHOLAR at Kendal...

A KENDAL Exclusive!

Road Scholar, previously known as Elderhostel, partners with Kendal at Oberlin and Kendal at Home to offer two special Days of Discovery. Both programs take place in Kendal's Heiser Auditorium. The cost for each program is \$25 per person, including lunch.



September 25 – 9:15 am to 12:45 pm

The Art of Political Cartooning

Dan Wasserman, editorial cartoonist with the Boston Globe, will talk about political cartooning throughout the centuries. Enjoy a detailed look into the political cartoons of the 2008 presidential election, and review how past elections and politicians have been reflected in the medium.

October 7 –
9:15 am to 12:45 pm

The American Songbook

Utilizing recorded music and video footage, explore the sounds and history of some of America's favorite songs and composers. Highlighted musicians include Johnny Mercer, Rodgers & Hart and Ella Fitzgerald.



To register for one or both programs

Visit www.road scholar.org/programs/dod.asp or click on the Kendal events calendar on the Kendal web site, www.kao.kendal.org, for links to program details. Or call Road Scholar toll-free at 1-877-426-8056.

Check our events calendar at www.kao.kendal.org regularly. Visitors are welcome at programs listed on the calendar.

To learn about resident life at Kendal, visit the web site of our Kendal at Oberlin Residents Association: www.kaores.kendal.org

LOOKING FOR A SPEAKER FOR YOUR GROUP OR ORGANIZATION?

Kendal at Oberlin provides informational programming about our community and services to local nonprofit groups and organizations. If you are interested in a speaker for your group or organization, please contact Maggie Stark, Director of Marketing and Admissions, at 1-800-548-9469 or email: mstark@kao.kendal.org.

The Reed provides news and information about Kendal at Oberlin, a Quaker-related nonprofit continuing care retirement community. If you would like to share this newsletter with a friend, please let us know and we'll add them to our mailing list.

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* denotes Kendal resident
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Change Service Requested



Barbara W. Thomas
Chief Executive Officer

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