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At the end of

September, Oberlin College had the unique opportunity of hosting a Translating Science Symposium. The symposium was created in reaction to the March for Science and the problems that it revealed about the general public's perception of science research, as well as

how science affects humanity at basic and more complex levels. Various college departments and groups collaborated to bring together five science communicators—four of them Oberlin College alumni—to talk to students, faculty, and community members alike about their work in science outreach.

This was really exciting for us at *The Synapse*—this is what we're all about!—and we were thrilled to be able to participate in this opportunity to look at scientific inquiry from a communications angle with Oberlin alumni who have actually gone on to work in science journalism and science history. If you'd like to read more about the symposium and the alumni featured therein, check out the interview of Bijal Trivedi '92 and Dyani Sabin '14 by Tara S. and the career panel review by Victoria A. in the latter pages of this issue.

The Translating Science Symposium caused both of us to think deeply about how science and science communication has impacted our lives, and how what we do with science can impact the lives of others. In this issue of *The Synapse*, you can find Oluwadamilare Ogunjimi's article *Tragic Science*, which traces several historical case studies focused on the misuse of science and pseudoscience. If politics is close to your heart, you may be interested in Joanna Zienkiewicz's article *Why Liberals and Conservatives are More Different than You Think*. And if you're interested in a topic that's both

terrifying and captivating, take a look at Eleda Fernald's article *The Curious Case of the Reindeer in the Tundra*, which is about how climate change is melting permafrost and revealing virulent strains of bacteria that have been hidden for years.

To science majors and nonmajors alike—there is more than scientific research available to you as you go through Oberlin. As you spend your years here experimenting and learning and changing your mind again and again, know that there is more to science than diving into a lab and coming out every once in awhile for food and maybe some sunshine.

On that note, we're both excited and a little sad to announce that the majority of *The Synapse's* Oberlin editorial board will be graduating in spring 2018. Therefore, we would like to invite anyone who has interest in the Editors-in-Chief, Art Coordinator, and Chief Layout Editor positions at Oberlin to contact us for more information. As has been proven over and over in the past year, especially through the Translating Science Symposium, science communication is essential for science to stay relevant to greater global communities. *The Synapse* is proud to be a part of that effort, and we'd love to have you join us.

Victoria Albacete and Tara Santora
Editors-in-Chief

Contents



Carson McCann is a junior Biochemistry major with a concentration in Neuroscience at Denison University. From Las Vegas, NV, Carson is the Treasurer of *The Synapse* at Denison. Carson joined the magazine because he loves that he can write about whatever interests him and apply things he learns in the classroom to current topics of interests. This is his second year as a writer for the magazine. Outside of *The Synapse*, Carson is the Vice President of the Denison chapter of Habitat for Humanity, Treasurer of Alpha Epsilon Delta (Denison's pre-med honors society), and Outreach Coordinator for the Denison Chemical Society. Be sure to check out his article *Falling into a State Deeper than Sleep*.



Claire Segura is a second year Physics major at Oberlin College from Greenville, SC hoping to double major in Mathematics and minor in Studio Art. She has contributed art to the past four issues of *The Synapse* and created the striking art featured on the cover of Issue 13 (previous issue). In her free time, Claire likes to draw for fun and go for long walks around campus to stretch her legs and think. She believes the magazine is an important venue for students to choose and share what excites them about science; personally, Claire finds learning about an interesting scientific topic and using it to inform her artistic decisions particularly satisfying.



Leah Treidler is a second year from Berkeley, CA who intends to major in Cinema Studies and/or Creative Writing with a minor in Physics at Oberlin College. Leah became involved with *The Synapse* last semester when she edited and wrote for the magazine. Leah was an editor for this issue and also recently joined *The Synapse* board as an Intercollegiate Coordinator. Leah took an interest in *The Synapse* because of their belief in the importance of making science accessible by combining science with creativity, such as through the artwork that makes this magazine so unique. Outside of science writing, Leah also enjoys writing short stories, drawing, and listening to podcasts. She also works for Live from Studio B as a video producer.



A second year from our very own Oberlin, OH, Steven Mentzer is a Studio Art major and Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies (GSFS) minor at Oberlin College. He's contributed art to several past issues of the magazine and joined the admin board this fall as Treasurer and Intercollegiate Coordinator. After completing his undergraduate degree, Steven plans to study architecture in graduate school, but while he's here, he spends his free time fencing on the club team and keeping busy with artistic projects. Steven believes that by integrating art with scientific inquiry, *The Synapse* contributes to making science engaging and accessible to those who are not professionally involved in the sciences.

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