



**OBERLIN HISTORICAL  
AND IMPROVEMENT  
ORGANIZATION**

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For Immediate Release – Nov. 11, 2003

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***Biking Tour of Historic Oberlin and Electronic Oberlin Group Website***  
win Statewide Awards

Pat Murphy, Executive Director of the Oberlin Heritage Center/O.H.I.O. accepted a History Outreach Excellence Award for the organization's *Biking Tour of Historic Oberlin* on behalf of the organization's board, staff, interns, volunteers and members. The award was presented by the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums (OAHSM) at their annual awards program in Columbus on Saturday, November 8 which was attended by 170 history museum professionals and volunteers and was part of the statewide Buildings Connections conference which drew over 700 people from throughout the state.

The *Biking Tour of Historic Oberlin* is a self-guided 4.5 mile route through Oberlin and it can be enjoyed on a bike, by pedestrians, by car, or from your arm chair. The tour is available in several formats: 1) a 22 page brochure available at the Oberlin Heritage Center at 73 ½ S. Professor Street (call 440-771-1700), 2) a laminated handle-bar mountable version that can be checked out from the Oberlin Public library, and 3) a downloadable version at [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) (go to Oberlin History Resources). The biking tour is designed to encourage heritage tourism in Oberlin and to entice bicyclists on the North Coast Inland Trail to get off the bikepath and explore the town and its rich history and to visit the Oberlin Heritage Center. The bike tour was developed by former O.H.I.O. intern and museum fellow Morgan Franck who is now a graduate student in history in New York City. The tour was prepared with a mini-grant from the Grassroots Leadership Development Program of Lorain County.

Oberlin College History professor Gary Kornblith and the Electronic Oberlin Group website: "Oberlin Through History" ([www.oberlin.edu/EOG](http://www.oberlin.edu/EOG)) also received a History Outreach Award at the ceremony. This website is a collaborative community effort to collect and post the Oberlin community's history on the web for audiences of all ages. It went online in the fall of 1996 and is a voluntary organization without a steady revenue stream, but which has benefited from the kind of grassroots energy for which Oberlin is famous. As founder Gary Kornblith stated in his acceptance remarks, "When we launched the EOG website, the World Wide Web was just beginning to gain public attention, and in the early years we spent a good deal of time and energy educating teachers and students about how to use this exciting new medium. Now the Web is a venerable institution in American life—almost as well established as the telephone and TV. Although a digital divide remains to be bridged, I am proud that our site makes Oberlin's rich heritage accessible to a broad and diverse audience, and I hope that we will be able to expand and enhance the site for many years to come. I guess the lesson we have learned is really quite simple: 'Think Locally, Act Globally! Post your community's history on the Web!'"