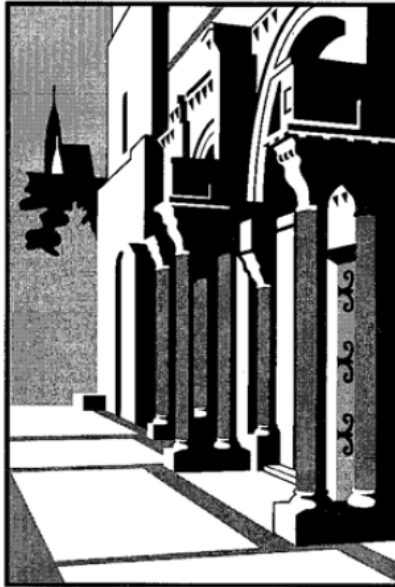


MULTIFAITH BACCALAUREATE
CELEBRATION 2013



*A view from the steps
of Finney Chapel*

*Oberlin College
Sunday, May 26, 2013, 1:30 p.m.
Finney Chapel*

THE PRESIDENT JOHN HENRY BARROWS MEDAL

The President John Henry Barrows Medal for Interfaith Leadership is a commencement award established by the Interfaith Faculty and Staff Council to honor a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding and exemplary leadership in promoting religious and philosophical pluralism and interfaith engagement during their time at Oberlin College.

The medal is named for Oberlin College's fifth president, The Reverend John Henry Barrows (1847-1902), who convened the 1893 World's Parliament of Religions, which is widely regarded as the beginning of the modern interfaith movement.

Like President Barrows, awardees will have demonstrated a significant commitment to their own religious or philosophical tradition as well as a passionate involvement in interfaith engagement. Oberlin College faculty and staff and ORSL Affiliates may nominate graduating students. The Barrows Medal honors Oberlin's ongoing tradition of interfaith leadership.

ABOUT THE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

The Oberlin College Office of Religious and Spiritual Life (ORSL) is a multifaith resource center that supports the exploration and practice of religious and philosophical identities and communities, educates about religious and ethical matters in society and the world, and promotes religious and philosophical pluralism and multifaith engagement.

It provides vital programs and services for a diverse campus community including students, faculty, staff, alumni, families, and friends of the college of all religious and nonreligious identities. It works collaboratively with many academic departments, campus units, and on- and off-campus religious, philosophical, interfaith, and social justice organizations.

ORSL organizes opportunities for individual and group religious observance, study, and growth and promotes multifaith dialogue, understanding, and action within and beyond the college community. To learn more about ORSL or to support our work, please visit www.oberlin.edu/orsl.

ORDER OF THE CELEBRATION

ORGAN PRELUDE

Veni Creator Spiritus en taille

Nicolas de Grigny
(1672–1703)

WORDS OF WELCOME

Presentation of the John Henry Barrows Medal
The Reverend Gregory McGonigle
Director of the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life

INTRODUCTION OF THE BACCALAUREATE SPEAKER

Eric Estes
Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students

THE BACCALAUREATE ADDRESS

“Honoring the Holiness of the Religious Other”
Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia

CLOSING BLESSING

The Reverend Mary Meadows '83

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Te Deum, Opus 51

Max Reger
(1873–1916)

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A RECEPTION WITH DR. BUTALIA FOLLOWING THE CELEBRATION.

Copies of Dr. Butalia's edited volume, Religion in Ohio: Profiles of Faith Communities (Ohio University Press, 2004), will be available for purchase.

.....

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF THE PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING:

Wesley Hall '13, Organist

Adah Hetko '13 and Fajer Saeed '13, Barrows Medal Recipients 2013

Our distinguished greeters, who are members of the faculty and staff
and clergy and leaders of local religious communities

TARUNJIT SINGH BUTALIA

Tarunjit Singh Butalia is past secretary general of the World Sikh Council (America Region) and moderator of Religions for Peace USA.

Butalia is secretary of the board of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions and a member of the board of scholars and practitioners of the *Journal of Inter-Religious Dialogue*. He is a past board member of the North American Interfaith Network and of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

In June 2005, Butalia presented at a conference titled "A Critical Moment in Interreligious Dialogue" organized by the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland. In January 2006, he helped organize the first national gathering of religious leaders in Chicago presented by Religions for Peace. In August 2006, he participated in the 8th World Assembly of Religions for Peace in Kyoto, Japan.

Butalia has helped to facilitate Sikh-Catholic dialogue with the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. In October 2011, he represented the Sikh faith at the 25th anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Peace, hosted by Pope Benedict XVI in Assisi, Italy.

Butalia was a member of the Religious Experience Advisory Council of the Ohio Bicentennial Commission, and he co-edited the book *Religion in Ohio: Profiles of Faith Communities*. He is an invited contributor to the Huffington Post Religion website.

He is secretary of the Sikh Educational and Religious Foundation and president of the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio. He has served as faculty advisor to the Ohio State University Campus Interfaith Council and is a member of the Religious Advisory Council of the mayor of Columbus, Ohio. Butalia has served as secretary of the Columbus-based Interfaith Center for Peace and is co-convenor of Faith Communities Uniting for Peace.

In November 2002, Butalia's interfaith efforts were recognized in a special "Faith in Action" section in the *Columbus Dispatch*. In May 2004, he received the inaugural Living Faith Interfaith Award from the Columbus Metropolitan Area Church Council.

Butalia holds a PhD in civil engineering from Ohio State University and serves on the research faculty of the university. He is a naturalized U.S. citizen and has lived in central Ohio for almost 25 years.

