

Campus Connection

OLIVET COLLEGE PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Letter From PAC Chairperson: 'Parents are Partners'

It seems impossible that this academic year is nearly over, yet here we are! It won't be long before graduation is here for some students and summer starts for us all.

We still need more parents to become more actively involved in our PAC. We have several volunteer opportunities coming up through the next few months and we would be happy to provide more details.

As members of the PAC, parents are partners in the successful education of their student. We are:

- Advisors: To faculty and staff on various issues
- Ambassadors: For Olivet College
- Fundraisers: For our students

We meet as a group three times a year. We do most of our communicating through e-mail, teleconference and via the Olivet College Web site (www.olivetcollege.edu), click on "Student Life" and scroll down to "Parent Advisory Council"). You can look there for information about future meetings and newsletters. We will have one more meeting this academic year following the Student Care Package assembly and delivery. Please join us April 21, 2011, 9:30 a.m. in Mott 109 – we have a lot of fun putting the care packages together and delivering them to the students.

We continue to collect recipes for our new fundraiser – the first OC Parent Advisory Council cookbook. We have received several recipes from the staff at OC but not very many from the parents so I encourage you to submit one or two of your "secret" family recipes!



Courtesy photo
Deb Marquette

I look forward to meeting you and working together for our students.

Sincerely,
Deb Marquette, PAC Chairperson

A Great First Year at Olivet for Swimmer Mervenne, Family

Our college search involved looking for a small college where the professors would really get to know their students and Olivet College matched that criteria. We were also looking for a college that had academic support because our son Korey had some assistance in high school and we wanted to know the school he would attend had a program in place to monitor his progress and continue assistance if needed.



Courtesy photo

Korey Mervenne

The support has been wonderful and Korey feels comfortable using it. He is finishing his freshman year with a 3.75 and a successful Division 3 swim

season on the Comet Swim and Dive Team.

Korey was drawn to the school because of the swim program and coaches. He had visited several colleges but felt most comfortable with Olivet. The coaches made personal contacts with us and Korey and his overnight visit was a great experience. Korey had a great swim season and we feel his involvement in athletics has helped with his adjustment to college life as a freshman.

Korey is putting his hand to an Insurance and Risk Management major. Olivet is the only college in Michigan with this degree. He is a strong math student and is looking at a career in Underwriting or as an Actuary. He has enjoyed active membership in the professional fraternity Gamma Iota Sigma. Korey was assigned an academic advisor in his field of interest that assists them with scheduling and we have been pleased with his class load and

selections.

Korey found a great connection with Fellowship of Christian Athletes and attends an evening Bible study set up by an upper classman. He found a church that he attends with OC classmates and enjoys being involved with these faith building activities.

Korey has really "settled in" at Olivet, he enjoys being part of the swim team, his extracurricular activities, his classes and professors and new friends. Korey visited many colleges before making this choice and at the end of this year he would concur that OC was the best choice for him.

Mike and Char Mervenne
Jeninson

Comet Sports: National honors, women's lacrosse first

There was plenty of postseason action and recognition for the Olivet College winter teams during the 2010-11 season.

Senior Kellen Beckwith of Farmington, and junior Caitlin Lohr of Holland, competed at the 2011 NCAA Division III National Swimming Championships March 23-26 at the University of Tennessee. Beckwith competed in the 100 and 200 backstroke and 200 individual medley. With a 16th-place finish in the 100 backstroke, he earned honorable mention All-American honors. Lohr competed in the 50, 100 and 200 freestyle.

At a dinner before the start of the championships, Beckwith received the NCAA Elite 88 award, which is presented to the student-athlete at each of the championships with the highest cumulative grade point average (GPA). Beckwith, who carries a perfect 4.0 GPA in mathematics, also received the award last year.

At the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) Championships, the Comet men and women placed third and sixth, respectively. Six student-athletes were named to the All-MIAA team. Beckwith, a four-time All-MIAA selection, won the 100 and 200 backstroke, and was second in the 200 individual medley.

Senior Rafe Maxwell of Bay City successfully defended his title in the 200 butterfly to earn All-MIAA honors for a second consecutive year. Earning All-MIAA honors for the first time were: Lohr; sophomores Joel Knight of Battle Creek and Crystal Jager, of Hamilton; and freshman Cody Sanders of Battle Creek.

The wrestling team won both the NCAA Division III Midwest Regional and Mid-States Conference Tournament team titles. Brandon Brissette and Jeff Therrian were named the Coach of the Year and Assistant Coach of the Year, respectively, at both tournaments. During the year, Olivet was ranked in the top 10 of the National Wrestling Coaches Association poll.

Individually, sophomore James Myers of Wintersville, Ohio; and junior Trevor Tyler of Roscommon, won regional titles and competed at the 2011 NCAA Division III National Wrestling Championships March 11-12 at the University of Wis.-LaCrosse. Myers secured All-American honors with a sixth-place finish in the 165-pound bracket.

Senior men's basketball player Michael McClary of Bellaire was named the MIAA's Most Valuable Player and earned first-team All-MIAA honors for the second straight year. He broke Olivet's career (1,834), single-season (676) and single-game (43) scoring marks during the 2010-11 season.

Other postseason honors for McClary included first-team National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) All-America honors, first-team DIII News All-American, second-team D3hoops.com All-America, and

first-team NABC and D3hoops.com All-Great Lakes Region. To top the year off, he played in 2011 Reese's Division III All-Star game, which was played prior to the DIII National Championship game in Salem, Va. In the game, he led his team to a 92-81 win, scoring 18 points and grabbing eight rebounds.

Spring sports are in the final month of their seasons.

The softball team has posted a 10-8 overall record, including a 9-3 mark during its spring break trip to the Gene Cusic Classic in Fort Myers, Fla. Freshman Terri Hurosky of Nashville, leads Olivet with a .379 batting average. Junior Brooke Coshov of Niles has posted team-highs in runs scored (17), home runs (four) and RBI (17).

The baseball team has a 6-10 record, with four of the wins coming against MIAA competition. Junior Austin Clark of Ossineke is hitting a team-best .348. Senior Braydon LaFramboise of Flushing, tops the team with 12 runs scored. He has also made eight relief appearances on

the mound, has not allowed a run in nine and one-third innings and recorded two saves.

The women's tennis has an 8-5 record. Junior Kelsey Singer of Brooklyn, leads the team with nine wins in singles play, while sophomore Caitlin LaValley of Battle Creek, has posted an 8-5 record at the No. 1 singles position. Singer and LaValley have teamed together for a 9-3 doubles record.

The women's lacrosse team is in its first season as a varsity sport at Olivet. The Comets celebrated the first win in school history March 19 when they defeated Davenport University, 12-10. Twelve days later, Olivet beat the Panthers, 13-12, for the first victory on its home field. Senior Veronica Maidens of Arcadia, has scored a team-high 20 goals.

The track and field teams have competed at two invitationals this spring, as well as a couple indoor meets this winter. Olivet will host the 2011 MIAA Field Day May 5-6 on the Kolassa Track and Cutler Athletic Complex.

FYI: Campus Safety & Wellness Services

Safety is Olivet's top priority. To help your student be safe while being a responsible member of the campus community, you can remind them of these resources:

Student Handbook: The student handbook describes the rights and responsibilities of all students to ensure safety, and a positive campus experience. The handbook is available at http://www.olivetcollege.edu/student_life/student_handbook.php.

AlcoholEdu: Prior to the start of classes, your student was asked to complete the alcohol on-line educational program called AlcoholEdu. We believe alcohol education prevention intervention is important and essential to students making informed, healthy choices about drinking.

Wellness Services: All medical services are provided by Oaklawn Medical Group (269-749-2131), and all mental health services are provided by Abbott Road Center for the Family (517-351-2590). Oaklawn is located three blocks north of campus on Main Street, and Abbott Road Center for the Family has an office on campus in the lower level of the Burrage Library.

AlertNow! is the emergency notification system designed to notify students by phone and e-mail in the event of a campus emergency. Students may sign up one additional person to receive alerts. Your student may sign up for AlertNow! at my.olivetcollege.edu.

Campus Safety Services - Campus Safety provides a full range of campus services, including:

- Crime prevention and safety programs
- Parking and traffic enforcement
- Criminal and non-criminal investigation

- Securing of campus buildings
- Arranging student medical transportation
- 24-hour Campus Safety escorts on campus.
- Assistance with minor motor vehicle problems
- After-hour admittance to campus buildings for authorized students
- Event security

If using a campus phone, call 7911. If using a cell phone or non-campus phone, call 269-231-6804.

Off-Campus Emergency Contact Information
Olivet City Police Department (269) 749-9961
Eaton County Sheriff (517) 543-3510
Eaton County Dispatcher On-campus extension 8911
Olivet Fire Department (269) 749-2371

Women's Resource Center: The mission of the Betsy Dole Women's Resource Center is to:

- Support, educate and empower women of all cultures, races, sexual orientations and ages
- Provide a safe environment while respecting all facets of women's abilities, spirituality and differences
- Celebrate women's achievements
- Engage men as allies
- Advocate for a climate that promotes social justice free of all barriers and discrimination
- Educate men on women's issues and the complexities of healthy masculinity
- Provide a supportive atmosphere that helps eradicate gender-based inequities and encourages and facilitates the evolution and development of personal and academic potential.

Women's Board of Olivet College Works for Students

The Women's Board of Olivet College was formed shortly after the founding of Olivet College in 1844. A group of like-minded local women joined together to help the college in any way they could.

At one point in our history, when funds were low, the Women's Board made a loan to the College to tide it over.

Since those early days the Women's Board has granted in the neighborhood of a quarter of a million dollars in the form of scholarships to Olivet College students.

The Women's Board operates the Oak Chest, a resale shop in the center of downtown Olivet. It is staffed 100 percent by volunteers, and is always welcoming shelf and clothing items, gently used or new.. All proceeds are returned to Olivet mainly in the form of scholarships, but we also do some special projects both on campus and in the community.

Membership is open to any woman interested in supporting Olivet College and its students. Our annual dues are a nominal \$20, and we also have \$30 per year sustaining memberships.

The general membership meets three times per year in conjunction with Homecoming, Commencement and Founder's Day when we have a luncheon to honor our scholarship recipients. We award our scholarships for the coming year each spring at the Honors Convocation. We sponsor events such as Boho



Photo by Echo

Many of the he 2010-2011 student scholarship recipients joined Women's Board members for lunch at a February meeting honoring them and their achievements at Olivet and in the community.

Teas, Cards/Games Afternoons, and Theatre Dress Rehearsal Nights.

We welcome inquiries about membership, and donations of clean, gently worn or gently used items for the Oak Chest.

Ponja Vahs '03
Chairperson,
Women's Board Scholarship Committee
Administrative Assistant,
Institutional Advancement

Calling All Cooks!



The Parent Advisory Council is adding to our fund-raising campaign by attempting to publish a cookbook.

In order to be successful, we need a lot of recipes. If you have some tried and true family recipes you would be willing to share, please send them via e-mail to Suzanne Colvin, scolvin@olivetcollege.edu or to Deb Marquette djmarquette1@charter.net. Thank you for your help!

This edition of the Olivet College PAC Newsletter was produced by Journalism and Mass Communication program student Kristen Sharpley, sophomore. Kristen comes from Trinity International University in Deerfield, Ill. Her hometown is Marshall. This newsletter also has contributions from Geoff Henson, Sports Information Director, the staff of Student Life, the Women's Board of Olivet College and parents.

The PAC Newsletter comes out twice a year online through the Olivet College's Web site. Comments and contributions may be directed to Linda Logan, Vice President and Dean for Student Life.

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Office of Student Life • Olivet, Michigan • (269) 749-7607 • Fax (269) 749-7588

TO: Parents or Guardians of Olivet College Students
FROM: Olivet College Parent Advisory Council
SUBJ: Final Exam Care Package

As final exams approach, wouldn't it be nice to give your student some support and encouragement? One easy way for you to do this is with a "Comet Care Package" filled with food and fun!

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) of Olivet College would be happy to deliver a Comet Care Package to your student during final exam week. Each will include snacks such as microwave popcorn, granola bars, crackers, hot chocolate and candy, as well as other fun items to help get them through the week. Receiving a package sent by someone from home will provide comfort and reassure your student that you are thinking of him or her.

While ordering a Comet Care Package will benefit your student, doing so also supports the work of the PAC. We strive to keep parents connected to the college and to each other to ensure the best possible experience for all of our students. All monies raised by the PAC go directly back to the students as evidenced by the new Blair Hall Pavilion. If you are interested in helping assemble and deliver care packages, please call the Office of Student Life at (269) 749-7607. We would love to have you join us Monday, Dec., 6, 2010 and/or Thursday, April 21, 2011.

Comet Care Packages are \$25 each or \$40 when you order for both semesters at once. To order a care package, please fill out, detach and return the form below with your payment. You can also include a personal message with your package. The deadline to place an order is Nov. 29 for the fall semester or the entire year, or April 14 for the spring semester.

I wish to purchase a care package for the: _____ fall semester (\$25) _____ spring semester (\$25) _____ both semesters (\$40)

Enclosed please find my check, payable to Olivet College Check No. _____

Mail to: Olivet College Office of Student Life, 320 S. Main St., Olivet, MI 49076



COMET CARE PACKAGE

Your name: _____ Student name: _____

Dorm/room number: _____

Message: _____



PAC Meeting Minutes: Volunteers sought

Olivet College
Parent Advisory Council
December 6, 2010

Present: Debra Marquette, chair; Becky Sharp, Judy Fales, Holly Dirkmaat and Kristin Kramer assembled and passed out care packages. Judy Fales could not stay for the meeting.

- Discussed sending out an e-mail to everyone telling them that the Fall newsletter is now posted on the Web site and providing the link: http://www.olivetcollege.edu/student_life/parent_advisory.php

- Discussed passing out more information in writing during orientation instead of just speaking to the groups

- We are all going to put the word out about gathering recipes for our cookbook fundraiser. The question was asked if we could sell them at freshmen move-in day where we pass out water.

- It was suggested that we ask our friends and family to see if anyone could provide donations of money/time/or talent for either the care packages or pavilions

- Kristin volunteered to contact Firekeeper's Casino to get an application for a donation for our pavilions.

- It was suggested that we request water donations from Sam's Club early in the calendar year for our August freshmen move-in day. Deb Marquette will take care of that.

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is designed to promote meaningful and active parent and guardian involvement in the college. All parents and guardians of Olivet students automatically become members of the PAC.

We urge you to take an active role in your student's Olivet experience by encouraging and sharing participation in activities such as athletic, cultural and social events, guest speakers and more.

Upcoming Events

- April 14 PAC Care Package Order deadline
- April 19 Wind Ensemble Concert
- April 20 Student Life Awards
- April 20 Honors Convocation
- April 21 Care Package Assembly and Delivery
- April 21 Last Day of Classes
- April 22 Good Friday, no Classes, Offices Closed
- April 25 Final Exams Begin
- April 28 Final Exams End
- May 2 ILT Begins
- May 19 Leadership Dinner
- May 20 ILT Ends
- May 21 Commencement

Parent Advisory Council Goals and Objectives

- To assist parents/guardians with support and tools as they adjust to their child's college transition.
 - To build stronger communication between parents/guardians and the college.
 - To identify and address college related needs and concerns involving their son/daughter.
 - To inform parents/guardians of the college's programs and events and encourage participation.
 - To involve parents/guardians in the Olivet College community and serve as a resource to the college and its students.
- Involvement focuses on three different areas:
- Advisory: Parents/guardians give input to college faculty and staff on various issues and explore internship, job shadow, and career preparation options from other parents or guardians.
 - Ambassadorship: Parents/guardians are asked to serve as ambassadors for the college and support Olivet in strategic and development initiatives in their local areas.
 - Fund-raising: Parents/guardians assist with various Olivet College fund-raising programs and campaigns.