

Campus Connection

OLIVET COLLEGE PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Letter from Olivet President Corey to the parents

October 2011

Dear OC Parents,

The semester is well underway and, in fact, most students are now fully engaged in mid-term projects and exams. The newness and excitement that comes with the beginning of the new academic year is transitioning to the focus that comes with full engagement in learning and a busy campus community. Greek Week, Homecoming and Service Day just ended, fall athletics are in full swing, and the choral concert was held this weekend, just to name a few of the things going on around campus. Whether it's over dinner, at a ball game, or just walking across campus, I'm hearing positive things from students about their studies and social life on campus; hopefully you are too.

What we know about success in college is that students who are actively involved and feel connected to other students, their dormmates, and

their faculty are the ones that do better in class, are happier, and are most likely to graduate. We work to help students to build these relationships and to recognize the array of opportunities that they have to get involved on campus. By doing so, students are able to combine their classroom learning with their life on campus as part of a full and integrated experience that helps them to grow and mature into the able and successful young adults that both you and they want them to become.



ECHO

Steven Corey

Another factor that's connected to student success, particularly their probability of

graduating, is the degree of positive influence and encouragement they receive from those around them. The faculty, staff, and I work to provide them with this support and encouragement. We know you do too. If through your conversations with your son or daughter you find they're having a hard time in class, feel disconnected or discouraged, not getting along with their dormmates, or otherwise having trouble, encourage them to speak with their faculty, the Student Resource Center staff, or the Student Life staff. We're all here to support them.

Thank you for your interest and support of Olivet College, but thanks especially for having your daughter or son join our college community. We're pleased to work with you, and especially them, in this endeavor together.

With best regards,

Steven M Corey, Ph.D.

President

Letter from PAC chairperson: 'Cookbook completed'

Hello parents and welcome to a new year at Olivet College! We are always looking for parents to become more actively involved in our Parent Advisory Council (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. Our first meeting this year was prior to the Homecoming Game on Oct. 15 from 11 a.m. to noon in Mott 208. Additionally we will have a meeting



Courtesy photo
Deb Marquette

following the Student Care Package assembly and delivery on Monday, Dec. 5.

The biggest news I have to share with you is that our cookbook has been completed and sent to the publisher. We expect to have the cookbooks available for sale around Thanksgiving so look for more details to follow. We are very excited about this fundraiser and think it will be one of our most successful events ever!

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

Sincerely,

Deb Marquette, PAC Chairperson

Fall sports winding down and winter sports getting started!

By **Geoff Henson, Sports Information Director**

With a first-place finish at the two-day Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) Tournament Oct. 7-8 at the Bedford Valley Country Club in Battle Creek, the Olivet College women's golf team captured the 2011 MIAA Championship! The title is the fourth in school history for the Comets and the first since 2006-2008 when they won three consecutive league championships.

In addition, senior **Lauren Campbell**, of Fenton, earned 2011 MIAA Most Valuable Golfer honors and was named the recipient of the MIAA Sportsmanship Award. She is an All-MIAA selection for a fourth straight season, including a first-team pick for a second straight year. Joining her on the 2011 All-MIAA first-team were sophomores **Theresa Damico**, of White Lake, and **Adrienne Jones**, of Redford.

Entering the final round, Olivet trailed Hope College by six strokes. The aforementioned trio shot scores in the 70s, while the top three Hope golfers shot in the 80s. With that difference, Olivet was able to overcome the deficit, posting a 315 team score to rally past the Flying Dutch.

Campbell posted a tournament best, two-round total of 150 strokes, followed by **Damico** and **Jones** at 155 and 158, respectively. With those scores, they were 1-2-3 in the player standings and earned All-Tournament honors.

The men's golf team placed fourth in the final MIAA standings. The Comets posted an eight-round total of 2,472 strokes, which was only one stroke behind third-place Alma and 10 behind runner-up Trine.

Freshman **Kory Roberts**, of Battle Creek, earned first-team All-MIAA honors, while junior **Justin Ardelean**, of Owosso, was a second-team All-MIAA selection.

As of Oct. 20, the men's soccer team sits in second-

place in the MIAA standings with a 6-3 record. The top four teams in the regular season will advance to the 2011 MIAA Tournament in early November.



Jaime Devenney/ECHO

Mike Martin, senior, scored both Comet touchdowns in the second half of the Homecoming game that helped lead Olivet to its win

will play their first game Tuesday, Nov. 15, with the men hosting Aquinas College and the women traveling down to Ohio to play Defiance College. The wrestling team will host its annual Comet Duals Nov. 19 inside The Cutler Event Center.

Olivet has announced the addition of men's and women's indoor track & field, and men's lacrosse as varsity sports, bringing up the number of NCAA Division III sports offered at Olivet up to 22, 11 for each gender. Track and field will begin effective immediately with the 2011-12 season, while men's lacrosse will start in 2012-13.

Fans are reminded that all of the latest news, statistics and other information can now be found on the new athletics website, www.olivetcomets.com. On the website, you can find links to the Olivet twitter and Facebook pages, and sign-up to receive free sports updates.

Hull named vice president for advancement at Olivet College

October 2011 Press Release

William "B.J." Hull has been named vice president for advancement at Olivet College, according to an announcement by President Steven M. Corey, Ph.D.

Hull, of Lansing, is responsible for managing all operations within the college's Office of Institutional Advancement. He will lead fundraising and development efforts, as well as oversee alumni and college relations.

Prior to his new position, Hull served as regional director of gift planning at Michigan State University, where he led planned giving efforts in the Midwest region and raised \$29.3 million in cash and planned gifts. He has also served as associate director of development major and planned gifts for MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine and as director of development with the Lansing Symphony Orchestra. In addition, Hull has worked with the March of Dimes in Lansing and the Boy Scouts of America in Flint and Pontiac.

"B.J. brings an array of experiences and expertise in fundraising that will greatly enhance our team," said President Corey. "Olivet has a history of strong donor support from a diverse array of alumni and friends. I'm confident that B.J. will do a fabulous job in connecting their passions and interests to the work and needs of our students and faculty as we work to build the Olivet College of the future."

Hull earned a Master in Business Administration from MSU and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Alma College. He has served as president of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Capital Area Chapter; president elect of the Partnership for Philanthropic Planning, Mid-Michigan Chapter; and member of the Greater Lansing Estate Planning Council and Rotary International.



Courtesy photo
William "B.J." Hull

Help your student's financial picture through the Women's Board of Olivet College

-Judy Fales, PAC member and President of the Women's Board of Olivet College

Long ago, the constitution of Olivet College's Board of Trustees stated that the board was made up of 31 men. A decade into the history of OC, the Board of Trustees commissioned the formation of the Women's Board to assist the Dean of Women with "providing for the needs of the coeds".

The present-day mission of the Women's Board is to fund scholarships for Olivet students. One of the ways we fund these scholarships is through the Oak Chest, a resale shop in downtown Olivet. The Oak Chest turns 40 years old next fall and has contributed, since 1993, \$222,400.00. Pretty impressive for a group of volunteers with donated goods that sell mostly for under \$5 on any item.

The Oak Chest is known for great clothing, books, house wares, costume clothing and vintage items. Many young people have furnished their first kitchens out of the Oak Chest. Our fall meeting at Homecoming featured some of our recipients dressed in fashions from the store, some for Halloween and some for an evening out.

When you come to see your student—or when your student returns to campus from a break- pack along some lightly used clothing or "table top" items like dishes or cooking utensils as a donation. Your donation funds text book purchases, tuition, board and any number of needs. Our winter meeting is February 18th, Saturday, noon at the Olivet Congregational Church fellowship hall and is a luncheon featuring our scholarship

recipients. Many reveal that they could not have finished college without the help of the Women's Board.

Consider joining, please. We enjoy wonderful

friendships and a shared interest in the college and the students—your student. Tell your student to watch for our scholarship application announcement!



Courtesy Photo

Women's Board members, including President Judy Fales (standing left), listen to Olivet College President Steven Corey at their recent Homecoming meeting held in the Oaks Dining Room

Women's Board Annual Membership Dues Form

Active member (participates in the Oak Chest and other projects) - \$20

Sustaining member (unable to join us in projects) - \$30

Name _____ email _____

Address _____ City _____ St _____ zip _____

Please mail to: Women's Board, OC, 320 S. Main St., Olivet, MI 49076

This edition of the Olivet College PAC Newsletter was produced by Journalism and Mass Communication program student Sarah Phillips, junior. Her hometown is Hastings and she is working at the *Echo* newspaper for the third year in a row. 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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STUDENT'S PARENTS PLEASED, 'OLIVET COLLEGE DELIVERS!'

By Laurie Kort

When the college search began with our son Tom, it was difficult to see the end of the road. Tom had set his sights on playing collegiate baseball while he was a young boy, and we hoped that finding the perfect fit for him would be an easy task. Only those who have walked this road before us could possibly know how many tough decisions lay ahead.

A few factors in the college search were key and others were only part of a long wish list. While visiting many campuses, and talking with coaching staffs and administrators, it was most important to Tom to receive a good education, have a fair shot at playing time and be offered an adequate financial package. The secondary things were less critical but still important to him. Could freshmen have a car on campus? Was the cafeteria food edible? Do the dorm rooms get good cable channels? Each of the schools we visited made promises, so the question was how do we choose?

Our introduction to Olivet College happened while Tom was a sophomore in high school. He attended a baseball camp directed by Coach Mahan and his staff and Tom was immediately drawn to Coach Mahan's method

of teaching and coaching. It was clear that Tom was comfortable in the Olivet surroundings. He attended a second camp his junior year, and it was following this camp that the recruiting process began.

One day, on a whim, Tom and I made an impromptu visit to Olivet, on our own. We hoped to get a feel for the campus as everyday citizens and not as prospects. The most noticeable thing was how friendly everyone was. We wandered around campus, checked out the library, stopped at the bookstore and had lunch at the cafeteria. At each location, we were amazed at how open and welcoming everyone was. We took a chance and decided to stop in and try to talk with an admissions officer to see if Tom met the criteria for acceptance. We were approached immediately, were invited to speak with a financial advisor right away, and even had the opportunity to sit down with Ms. Casarez, the Director of Admissions. I defy anyone to receive that kind of immediate attention at a larger school! We left feeling very good about Olivet.

Coach Mahan made contact with Tom in his junior year. After a personal visit with the coaching staff and comprehensive tour of the campus, Olivet went into the list of Tom's top three schools. Coach Mahan and Coach Heppard were very gracious and easy going, and the coaches and the players truly seemed to enjoy being together. We had the opportunity to have lunch with some of the team and the camaraderie was apparent. The list was narrowing.

Academically, we are certain we made the right decision in choosing Olivet. Academics didn't always come easy for Tom, but his work ethic and drive always paid off. Tom was self aware enough to know that the school he chose needed to have a strong academic support system and professors who cared whether he was successful. He needed to have a face within the classroom and he is the type of student who always enjoyed forging relationships with his teachers. He will major in Sports Marketing and Management and is excited about his future.

A welcoming and friendly atmosphere, small class sizes, one on one teaching methods, peer study tables, free tutoring, and an administration that measures its

ECHO students receive MPA honors

Press Release October 2011

The Echo, Olivet College's student newspaper, recently earned two new awards to add to its name in 2011.

The publication won second place honors for news reporting and third place honors for editorial writing in its Division III category at the 2011 College Better Newspaper Awards, coordinated by the Michigan Press Association.

Christine Moulton, a 2011 Olivet graduate, earned the reporting honor for her story about a local youth assaulting college students. "The reporting is enough to make a community want to change. Excellent coverage," wrote the judges. Moulton, of Royal Oak, is now a producer at WCAR Radio in Detroit.

Sarah Phillips, a junior from Hastings, earned the editorial honor for her piece, "Minutes to Remember," written in the shadow of Japan's earthquake. "Timely and makes a good point," wrote judges. Phillips, who was Echo editor last semester, is layout designer this semester.

The Olivet College Echo has been a student voice since 1888, and regularly enters and earns honors in the annual newspaper contest. The Echo is a member of the Michigan Collegiate Press Association, as well as the Associated Collegiate Press and the Society of Professional Journalists. The Echo has won 18 awards in the past five years from the MPA, not including this year's honors.

success by the success of its students, has allowed my Freshman son to thrive in the college setting. From admissions, to housing, to athletics - each and every department has left us with an indelible impression of the mission of this college; to oversee and assist in the success of each student. Tom has settled in nicely at Olivet and enjoys college life so much that (much to our dismay) he sometimes has to be persuaded to visit us at home. He is currently holding a 3.7 GPA, has made many new friends and is taking giant steps in becoming independent and well educated. The close knit student-athlete community is something Tom has mentioned to us numerous times and he is thoroughly enjoying his sport and teammates. As parents, we are thrilled to witness such a seamless transition for our son; something we believe that Olivet College played a large part in. We look forward to sharing in Tom's college experience over the next four years. Olivet made us many promises during the recruiting process and we can personally testify to the fact that Olivet College delivers!





COMET CARE PACKAGE

As the semester ends, support your student with a COMET CARE PACKAGE, filled with food and fun.

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

While ordering the 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 ensure the best possible experience for all of our students. All monies raised by the PAC go directly to the students, as evidenced by the Blair Hall Pavilion.

If you are interested in helping to assemble and deliver the packages, call the Office of Student Life at (269) 749-7607. The packages will be assembled Monday, Dec. 5.

Comet Care Packages are \$25 each or \$40 if you order for both semesters at once. To order, send the information below with your payment. You can also send a personal message with your package. Deadline for orders is November 30.

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 # _____

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



Your Name: _____ Student Name: _____

Dorm/room number: _____

Message (optional):

GREEK LIFE ON CAMPUS CONT.

Based upon the campus compact the Greek society system at Olivet College dedicates itself to the following goals:

1. To promote intellectual development

The responsible quest for knowledge and truth is at the core of Olivet College's Vision. It is a fundamental premise that all members of the community must constantly strive to achieve. As societies dedicated to the vision of the college and the Olivet College Compact, we stand against anti-intellectual practices that injure our learning community. Each society is responsible for putting on one open literature program per semester.

2. To promote responsible citizenship and community service

The goal for undergraduate education is not only preparation for their career, but it is the development of character. Knowledge is an important foundation, but ideally knowledge must be channeled to humane ends. Each society is responsible for putting on one community service project per semester.

3. To understand alcohol drug abuse and its connection to our culture

Alcohol abuse is one of the most significant problems facing college campuses around the nation. It is essential that ISC take the initiative and remain a part of the changing attitudes regarding alcohol use and abuse. While it is not necessary for the Greeks to advocate abstinence, it is crucial that societies promote responsible use.

4. To understand the significance of gender

Gender issues are important to Olivet's Greek system. Where sexism goes unchallenged and where it is permitted to flourish, the goals of liberal education are undermined. Because so much social learning is initiated in societies, it is imperative that societies at Olivet provide a powerful and effective vehicle for significant education regarding equity and personal responsibility. As responsible citizens concerned about the development of positive role models, societies can furnish the campus with great leadership in addressing this problem.

5. To understand the value of difference in our lives

The true strength of a society rests in its diversity. It is the expectation at Olivet College that each society will commit itself to attract diverse individuals across ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic boundaries. A society that does not actively advocate these goals is not welcome in this community. Olivet College does not exclude anyone from participation in any activity or employment based on race, color, religion, gender, marital status, origin, age, disability, or sexual orientation.

6. To actively involve our alumni in the life of Olivet College

While societies need to grow and develop, there is also the need to hold onto traditions of the past. These traditions are appropriate as long as they are consistent with the Olivet College Compact. When alumni return to campus they love to see their societies the same as when they left.

The Office of Student Life assists Inter-Society Council members as they strive to reach these goals in a value based community

Your Role as a Parent:

As your student gathers information and decides whether to join a fraternity or sorority your guidance is appreciated. Ask questions about the chapter your student is considering. Encourage your student to learn as much as possible about the Greek community and his or her society of interest. They can do this by visiting the OC web page, by checking a judicial summary of the society, by talking with members/advisors, and by going to the invitational teas (sororities), smokers (fraternities) and tokers (co-ed society).

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns. I can be reached at (269)749-6669 or at llogan@olivetcollege.edu. The entire Student Life staff and chapter advisors are available to answer any questions or concerns you may have and to provide you with additional information. If you need assistance connecting with an advisor, call the Student Life Office at 269-749-7607. We are here to help you and your student have a great Olivet College experience.

The new Cookbook is here, the new Cookbook is here!

The Parent Advisory Council has completed its first ever COOKBOOK! The book is at the publisher right now, and will be out before THANKSGIVING. Cost will be \$12, plus tax, and the book will be available in the Olivet College Bookstore.



What a great holiday gift! Thanks, again, to everyone, for their submissions and support. Once again, all funds go to our students.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 23-25	Thanksgiving Holiday-No Classes
Nov. 28	Deadline for Fall Care Package
Dec. 5	Care Package assembly and delivery
Dec. 6	Last day of Classes
Dec. 7	Final Exams Begin
Dec. 10	Final Exams End
Jan. 11, 2012	Classes Begin
March 10	Spring Break Begins
March 19	Classes Resume
March 28	Spring Service Day
April 6	Good Friday, no Classes, Offices Closed
April 13	Deadline for Spring Care Package
April 18	Honors Convocation
April 20	Care Package assembly and delivery
April 20	Last Day of Classes
April 26	Final Exams Ends
April 30	ILT Begins
May 18	ILT Ends
May 19	Commencement

PAC MEETING MINUTES

*Olivet College
Parent Advisory Council
October 15, 2011
Mott 208, 11 a.m. to noon*

Present: Marquette, PAC Chairperson, new member Laurie Kort, Suzanne Colvin

Cookbook discussion: It was mentioned that Deb was finally able to finish typing the recipes for the cookbook, and it is currently at the publishers and should be sent to us for selling around the end of November. The cost will be \$12 plus tax, and it will be sold in the school bookstore. The point was raised that we need to find someone with artistic talent to make a poster for the table in the bookstore. Suzanne was going to see about that.

Care package discussion: It was mentioned that we had only received a few care package orders so far and we talked about ways to increase sales. Laurie thought that maybe not enough people were reading the e-mails that we send or looking on the college website to read our electronic newsletter so perhaps they didn't know about the care packages. We talked

about the possibility of going back to sending out hard copies of the newsletter if we could afford it and Suzanne was going to find out how much money we spent in the past on hard copy mailings. Laurie volunteered to put the care package order information on her Facebook page in hopes of getting the word out.

New fundraising ideas: It was mentioned that we might try a letter writing campaign asking for donations from parents/families/alumni to raise the funds we need to build the other two pavilions (total cost of approximately \$7,200). Laurie has previous booster club experience where this worked very well. We will discuss this further with Dr. Logan, who was unable to attend this meeting.

Parent involvement: We discussed the lack of parent involvement in the PAC and what we might be able to do to get more people involved. Laurie said she would try and get some of the freshmen "baseball moms" to come to the next meeting after the care package assembly in December. Deb said she would mention it to the freshmen parents at the first swim meet.

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.