

HANCE HOUSE

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF OLIVET COLLEGE

FALL 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

2017 VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITS

Ten and New Works

Southwest Michigan Printmakers, 26 artists working in a variety of traditional and non-traditional printmaking media. On display Jan. 19 – Feb. 10, artist's reception, Friday, Jan. 28 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Wavelengths: Paintings by

Danielle C. Wyckoff. On display Feb. 16 - March 24, artist's reception Friday, March 24, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Senior Exhibition: Cassandra Brown, Patrick Donovan, Lacey Risner, Evan Hoshaw, Christopher Sudduth, on display March 30 - May 20.



Olivet College's Cultivating Women Leaders is an annual event designed to inspire and equip women to embrace their inner strength and realize their potential as responsible leaders.

REGISTER TODAY

www.OlivetCollege.edu/CWL2017

OLIVET
1844
COLLEGE

FRIDAY,
MARCH 3, 2017

Dear Friends,

As our eventful summer drew to an end, I was glad to be back home and involved in welcoming our students back to campus. I can't believe how fast the last several months have flown by! It seems just yesterday that we said goodbye to our students for the summer, and now we find ourselves beginning the spring semester. Where did the time go!!! For me, the summer and fall consisted of tearful goodbyes with several of my club volleyball players, Olivet College alumni gatherings, college visits for Karli, helping my mom heal from two falls, surprising Steven on his 50th birthday, and an amazing trip to England and Scotland, welcoming the Class of 2020 to campus and an all-around amazing fall semester.

While in England, we spent time with my brother and his family in Saffron Waldon, which is an amazing, and quaint little town. We just loved walking everywhere and experiencing their hometown. I loved watching the cousins play, and spending some quality time with my brother and his family. It just wasn't long enough! After leaving my brother's, Steven and I traveled to Scotland for our anniversary and had a spectacular time. We stayed in Edinburgh and got to tour Edinburgh Castle, the Scottish Lowlands and Highlands, Loch Ness (sorry, no Nessie sightings), and St. Andrews. A highlight for me was walking on The Old Course in St. Andrews, and doing the famous Jack Nicklaus pose!

After Steven and I left England for Scotland, Karli stayed in England to study for a month at Cambridge. What a transformational experience for her! She had so much fun and I don't believe she wanted to come home. She made new friends, studied hard, and gained an entirely new level of confidence and self-sufficiency. I will be honest, for me it gave me confidence that I could actually deal with her going away to college next year!

I have been coaching a club volleyball team here in Olivet. For the past two years we have trained, traveled to national tournaments, laughed, sweat and cried together. It has been an awesome experience with some pretty amazing young ladies and many of the girls attend our local high school. I have known them for several years but this was the first year we had seniors on the team. I had mixed emotions as I watch them head off to play volleyball at the colleges of their choice. I am very proud of them and their accomplishments thus far as they pursue their college endeavors but I do miss them. It has given me a snapshot into what I will be feeling next year when our daughter heads off to college.

As Karli plays in her last high school volleyball season, takes her senior pictures, participates in her last club volleyball season, applies to college, takes her last high



Posing on the Old Course in St. Andrews



Karli and I at Cambridge University

school class and goes through all of the other “last” high school experiences, I find myself having bittersweet feelings. I am excited for her and the adventures that lay ahead but I will miss her terribly. I am preparing myself for this next life transition but I wonder just how prepared I will actually be.

Steven’s surprise birthday was fun and a bit stressful but I pulled it off. I spent months planning the surprise, which included getting his family here. His parents made the 2,000-plus mile drive from Clovis, Calif., while both of his sisters simultaneously flew in from two separate parts of the country – all converging on Olivet at the same time! We managed to sneak them all into town and pulled off the surprise of the decade! Then we surprised him again with a party that included his senior staff. What fun it was and I don’t know who was more exhausted afterward, my introvert husband or me!

The first week back with the college students was outstanding. We had the Fall Forum, Move-In Day, Night on the Town, Opening Convocation, and the resident advisors over to the house for pizza. We had another very successful Move-In Day, as the entire campus community came together to welcome our new students into their dorm rooms. It was great having so many people here to help! Our dog Roxie even got in on the fun and the students just loved her in her little OC jersey! Then she got to visit them once more at Night on the Town, where the community, local businesses and our college family came together for a gathering.

I also had fun collaborating with Mary Anne McMullen and Laura Barlund-Maas in assisting four of our students prepare for their Opening Convocation speeches: Taylor Thorn, Michael Sherman, Dominique Giroux, and Bruce Baker. We had them over to the Hance House so that each student could practice, and gave them pointers to help them improve their delivery and gain more confidence. Then, we had them complete one more dry run right before the event. Of course all four did a fabulous job – great content and awesome delivery – I was so proud of them! Mike Sherman completely brought the house down! His poem was so profound and impactful; I had tears in my eyes.



Surprise!



Our dog Roxie decked out in OC gear to welcome student back to campus



A quick selfie with a few of our awesome students on Move-In Day

Homecoming was a huge success; it was great seeing all the alumni back to visit us. The campus looked great, the energy was high and we had perfect fall weather. I enjoyed attending all the various events and gatherings on campus including the alumni Art Reception, Phi Alpha dedication, women’s volleyball game, the football game, and the faculty gathering but the best part is just being able to see all the alumni and catching up with old friends. One very special moment was when we honored three amazing men: Tom Nesbitt ’64, Charlie McPhail ’64 and George Pyne III ’65. All three were honored at homecoming for their dedication and extraordinary leadership in the development of the Cutler Athletic Complex. Unfortunately, we lost both Tom and George this year, and they will be sorely missed but their legacy will live forever.



Junior Bruce Baker gives his speech

I am excited to share with you a Presidential Women’s Leadership Initiative that I am honored to be a part of. On March 3, 2017 we are hosting an inaugural, day-long event, Cultivating Women Leaders: Embracing Our Inner Strength. The purpose of this event is to inspire and provide leadership skills to current and prospective female students. They will be given the opportunity to network and receive professional and personal development from Olivet College’s most successful alumnae, as well as Michigan’s finest women business leaders. Attendees will also have the ability to network and learn how to overcome obstacles and challenges that they will face. Our keynote speaker will be Danielle Scott-Arruda, she is a five-time Olympian, back-to-back silver medalist and International Volleyball Hall of Fame inductee. She has played internationally and is the creator of the Believer In You Foundation that gives scholarships to students in education, arts and sports. I am very excited about this event and hope that many of you will be able to join us. There is limited space so register now at www.olivetcollege.edu/cwl2017.



Never a dull moment here at Olivet College! I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable fall.

Best Wishes,

Traci Corey
Olivet College Presidential Spouse

MAKING THE TRANSITION: EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES, EMPOWERING YOUR FUTURE COLLEGE STUDENT

A Personal Account from Presidential Spouse Traci

As Olivet slips into winter, the college is abuzz with preparations for the completion of the 2016 fall semester, final exams, holidays and winter break. The Class of 2020 has settled into their new, four-year home and are now recognizable faces around campus. Faculty and staff have gotten to know these bright, young students over the course of the semester, learning their strengths, weaknesses, challenges and accomplishments. Many of the difficult times these students have faced is due to being away from home for the first time. Last year at this time, these students and their parents were spending the last few months together before beginning the journey of separation. For parents of high school seniors, there's a heightened level of emotion for the academic year ahead as they get ready to send their child away from home for the first time.

As the parent of an independent young lady getting ready to make that same leap in 2017, Traci Corey, mother to Karli and wife of President Steven Corey, knows the feeling. Seventeen-year-old Karli is narrowing down her college decision as she wraps up her summer studying in Cambridge, England. When she returns to the United States, she'll finish her senior year at Olivet High School and finalize her decision to attend one of her top colleges of choice: Cambridge, Dartmouth (Hanover, N.H.), Lewis & Clark (Portland, Ore.), Puget Sound (Tacoma, Wash.), Sewanee (Tenn.) or Transylvania (Lexington, Ky.).

Despite the whirlwind of emotions that often comes with helping a child choose the right fit college, Traci says Karli is an empowered, responsible person who will be prepared to make that decision when the time comes. By encouraging Karli to take advantage of experiences that interest her – whether it's volleyball camp, working in the back country of the Sierra Nevada mountain range, or taking college-level classes right here at Olivet – the Coreys have shown her that exploring opportunities to get involved with academics, work, sports, the arts and more is key to making the right college choice and, ultimately, having a great experience.

“No matter what your child is interested in, supporting

“IT’S IMPORTANT FOR US TO BE SUPPORTIVE, BUT TO ALSO GIVE HER THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPREAD HER WINGS,”



Holding Karli steady on space needle

their need to get involved and discover what they like to do is so important to their growth and development,” Traci said. “It gives them the opportunity to learn life skills, such as being more responsible because they have to make independent decisions, and seeing the consequences of those whether they are good or bad. It also teaches them how to work with others and speak for themselves. All of these skills give them a greater sense of self confidence when they are out on their own. I know it's helped Karli become more independent and focus on the colleges that might be the best fit for her.”

FORGING HER OWN PATH

Traci says that encouraging Karli's independence has always been important in their family, so when Karli expressed interest in attending college far away from home, it came as no surprise. “Since the very beginning, we've always encouraged her to be the one who talks to her teachers, stays on top of her studies and is responsible for her,” Traci said. “This is her life, her decision, and she's got to figure out what's important to her. At Olivet, she's always been ‘the president's daughter’ and not ‘Karli.’ So, no matter where she chooses to go, we support her decision to go out and grow, learn who she is and create her own identity.”

Figuring out who she is as an individual starts with Karli exploring the world on her own – something Traci says her daughter has always looked forward to, but was also nervous about. As parents, the Coreys have been helping Karli embrace this next step all her life by preparing her to be as self-sufficient as possible, talking honestly about her emotions, and having a plan. “It's important for us to be supportive, but to also give her the opportunity to spread her wings,” Traci said. “She is getting her first real taste of this at Cambridge this summer, and will have an idea of what it's going to be like when she's off to college next year.”

CONTINUED ON P. 4

TRANSITION (CONTINUED)

CHOOSING THE RIGHT FIT

For any first-year college student, choosing a school that fits with one's personality, interests, values and educational goals will mean all the difference in their experience. The Coreys have always encouraged prospective OC students to take a close look at what they want out of their experience, and the same is true for their daughter. "The benefits of living on Olivet's campus have been endless," Traci said. "It's given us a bird's eye view about what to look for in an institution. Not to mention the amazing mentors Karli has had here from the start – confident female students on campus, as well as the incredible professors she has had in her dual enrollment courses.

"Karli has led an informed and thoughtful search process for the right college – we're just along for the ride,"

she added. "It has been so much fun for Steven and me as we've traveled around the country visiting other institutions. Especially for Steven – he's really enjoyed going on these campus visits 'incognito.' It has been affirming for us to see these other topnotch colleges – to see all the things they are doing so well and knowing we're doing the same great things here at Olivet, and in many instances, doing things better."

In the coming year, Karli, who plans to major in biology, will make a final decision about the college that's best for her. But in the meantime, she will enjoy her last year of high school, and just being a teenager. "I think she's looking forward to enjoying her last year here, and focusing on class work, volleyball and her friends," Traci said. "Steven and I will be soaking in all the last senior year experiences, and watching her enjoy them!"

STAND-UP: OC'S UNIQUE WELCOME

Stand-Up isn't just another college tradition, it's THE Olivet College tradition. Stand-Up is a welcome, a new beginning and a dawning of not only the new school year, but of student life at OC.

As early the 1870s, and confirmed in 1896, Stand-Up has been a custom of Olivet College. The entire campus participates in the event. A handshake, or more importantly, a first impression, is the basis.

The simplest way to explain this longstanding OC tradition is this: The entire college community gathers in a line that circulates as people shake hands and greet one another. By the time you reach the end of the line, you will have greeted every person on campus, from new freshmen to the college president.

Songs, speeches and refreshments are staples to the ceremony after the greeting. The goal is for students to get acquainted with all of the friendly faces on campus. As quoted from early reports of the event, the intent of Stand-Up is to eliminate the "stiffness of conventional introductions."

"WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL IN THE MID-1960S, IT WAS HELD IN THE KIRK CENTER, WHAT WE THEN CALLED THE CC (COLLEGIATE CENTER), AND IT WAS A 'DRESS-UP' AFFAIR. PRESIDENT AND MRS. RIETHMILLER WORE FORMAL CLOTHES – A TUXEDO AND LONG DRESS."



Senior Xavier Vance enjoys her fourth Stand-Up celebration since attending Olivet College.

Senior Rachel Senople said, "Stand-Up is a great event to ring in the new school year! Meeting the new freshmen, if only briefly, definitely benefits them. When I was a freshman, it was reassuring to start recognizing familiar faces so quickly."

Stand-Up has changed throughout the years, as accounted by Marty (Mason) Jennings '67, director of alumni engagement. "When I was in school in the mid-1960s, it was held in the Kirk Center, what we then called the CC (Collegiate Center), and it was a 'dress-up' affair," Jennings said. "President and Mrs. Riethmiller wore formal clothes – a tuxedo and long dress. The rest of us wore clothes that we would have, at that time, worn to church. It was so much fun getting dressed up and meeting everyone from our new classmates to the college president! Alumni from all decades have fond memories of Stand-Up, and I'm glad we continue the tradition today."

MICHAEL SHERMAN'S OPENING CONVOCATION SPEECH

It's a given that we are all of this earth, but often times we fail to realize we do not live the same realities. My purpose for this poem is to give my audience a chance to step outside of themselves and see with the lenses that I've developed through 21 years of life experience.

Born between a bullet
And a hard place,
A mother's touch
Can only soothe
So much before
Life's ills penetrate a child's psyche
Like a syringe piercing veins
Delivering heaven to the fiends
On the corner.
It's absurd
How much agony
Can be cloaked
With a smile
Painted on the face
Of a 9-year-old who
Witnessed the heavens open up
And God's arm reach down
To elevate one of his brothers because
The sun in the sky needed a break
And only his smile could light the corners of the earth.
Surely putting one's buoyancy
To the test in life's deepest oceans.
Sink with grief
Or float with accepting the fact that
He still lives in memories of
Dairy Queen trips after winning Little League baseball games
And park adventures where his hands
Constructed bow 'n arrows from the appendages
Of the lively maple tree approximately
Thirty-seven steps away
From a tire swing that housed doctor's needles
With no medical practice for miles.
This is my reality.
A beast in the eyes of
Those who cross the street
When they see me approaching,
In fear of my beauty.

My hair, my skin
The clothes that I'm in
It's all eyes on me
When I walk in the grocery store.
I'm tired of sensing fear
Everywhere I go.
I'm drained from the distress on his face
When I tell my pops I'm going out
Because
He knows my chances of making it home alive
Are slim.
Now I ask,
Are you afraid of half of me?
Would it take a catastrophe?
Shattering comfort zones to do something challenging?
See trials and tribulations
Are weights to a body builder?
Formula to an infant
Clientele to a business,
All necessary for growth.
Only the stagnant reject advancement
In one or many aspects.
Ubuntu.
A word an anthropologist heard
From the mouths of children in an African village.
They said,
Don't just hear us when we speak,
You need to listen to me.
Ubuntu is a lifestyle,
It means humanity
To not just you
But to me too.
I am who I am because of you.
Not just because of you,
But because of we,
I am who I am
Because of humanity.
We all bleed red.
We are all one breed.
To coexist in this world,
We need to revive peace.
The sad truth is we are in quicksand,
Let go of fear
And grab a hand,
Together we can turn away from hate
Because unity,
Is something we MUST cultivate.



WATCH MICHAEL PERFORM HIS POEM: [HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/98RS4I_BU-8](https://youtu.be/98RS4I_BU-8)

MORE THAN 400 NEW STUDENTS WELCOMED DURING MOVE-IN DAY



Olivet College welcomed one of its largest entering classes in the last decade, as more than 400 new students arrived to campus for Move-In Day Aug. 26.

“As this year’s incoming class proves, Olivet College is a place where students want to be, live and learn,” said Tim Johnston, vice president for admissions and marketing. “Students and their families value the immersive, relationships-based educational experience Olivet College provides, and this new class is a true reflection of the great college we are. We are excited to have them as the newest members of the OC family!”

Olivet College is known for educating one of the most diverse student bodies in the state of Michigan, and this year’s entering class is no different in their demographics. Thirty percent are students of color, while 60 percent are males and 40 percent are females; 9 percent come from out-of-state, including California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, North Carolina, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin; and 2 percent are international students from Canada, Greece and the United Kingdom. Of the college’s 32 majors, biology with a pre-medical concentration, business administration, criminal justice and exercise science have

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drawn the largest number of incoming students.

True to its historic mission and vision, Olivet College provides an opportunity to students from all walks of life to earn a college degree. Every student, regardless of socioeconomic circumstances, receives some form of internal financial aid, with the average award for the fall 2016 entering class totaling \$25,924.

The college’s Welcome Week kicked off with Move-In Day for the new class, with faculty, staff, administrators, alumni and students taking the day to move boxes, answer questions and greet families as they arrived to the dormitories. After the physical activity was complete, a welcome ceremony was held in the College Square. “Today in our ceremony of transition, we officially welcome you as members of the Olivet College family,” said Maria Davis, Ph.D., provost and dean of the college. “We will rejoice with your families of origin and expand the circle of those who care for you, who will guide you, encourage you, support you and pray for you. You are not leaving your family today, but instead, making it much larger.”

As the celebration continued, second-year students who made the transition to Olivet College last year spoke about the one-on-one relationships they receive from their professors and staff. Jalen Ewing, a sophomore from Detroit, remarked on the challenges that come with being a first-year student, and how Olivet helped him overcome those challenges. “It’s tough having a lot thrown at you at one time,” he said. “There was a point when I thought this wasn’t for me. But I kept my positive energy up and talked to some good people. I used my resources – the tutors, I stayed after class and got to know all my professors – I used the help that was given to me and I doubled my GPA.”

Welcome Week continued with Night on the Town, held in conjunction with the Olivet Chamber of Commerce, Aug. 29. Classes started Aug. 30, and the President’s Opening Convocation and Stand-Up were held Aug. 31.



Sophomore Jalen Ewing shares his freshman year experience with new students and their families



Greek students take a break from helping incoming freshmen unpack on Move-In Day