



## UO Alumni Newsletter

November 2023



**That's a wrap on Homecoming 2023!**

Thank you to everyone who attended the homecoming festivities! Please take a moment to complete the brief survey to let us know how it went.



**Last Chance to Register for the Alumni Family Event at Potter Park Zoo!**

**Event Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023, 5-8 pm**

**Registration Closes: Monday, November 13, 2023**

Please join us for our next alumni gathering at Potter Park Zoo in Lansing, MI, for their Wonderland of Lights. Stop by the Savannah Room for a hot cocoa and coffee bar, a smore's bar, and assorted treats! Then, walk through the zoo, where thousands of lights create an extraordinary holiday display and holiday music plays. Registration is \$5/person (kids 2 and under are free). You must pre-register to attend this event, and registration is non-refundable. We hope to see you there!



### Comets are Cruising the Coasts! February 2024

Join us in Florida as we cruise the coasts in February 2024. Our first stop is the Daytona Dinner Cruise (Halifax Harbor Marina, 125 Basin St, Daytona Beach) on **Wednesday, February 14, 2024**, with a sailing time of 5:00 p.m. and a return time of 6:30 p.m. Registration includes a discounted ticket for the cruise, dinner, dessert, unlimited soft drinks, music, sightseeing, free parking, raffle prizes, and one drink ticket per person. A cash bar will also be available. Between cruises, we will stop at the Hilton Ocala (3600 SW 36<sup>th</sup> Ave, Ocala) for our annual Walt '58 & Teri Parker alumni dinner on **Thursday, February 15, 2024**, at 6:00 p.m. Registration includes dinner and complimentary wine and soft drinks. Other beverages will be available for purchase at the cash bar. Our final stop is the Naples Princess Cruise (550 Port-O-Call Way, Naples) on **Saturday, February 17, 2024**, with a departure time of 5:45 p.m. and a return time of 7:45 p.m. Registration includes a discounted ticket rate and a voucher for one appetizer per person. A cash bar will be available. Register for one or register for all! Invite a friend, and we will see you when we set sail in February!



### Photographs of Mackay Gymnasium Needed

Do you have photographs of Mackay Gymnasium? We would like to use them on a feature wall in our new Student Center! Please submit photos digitally to Lori Otto ([lotto@uolivet.edu](mailto:lotto@uolivet.edu)) or mail them to the Alumni Office, Dole Hall, 320 S Main St., Olivet, MI 49076, by **Friday, December 1**. If you send in hard copies, your photos will be returned to you.



### Comet Career Closet Donation Drive

The Comet Career Closet is seeking donations of business professional attire for students to wear to interviews, presentations, internships, etc. Donated items should be new/gently used and clean with no stains or odors. All sizes are needed! We will host a donation drive from **November 15-November 21, 2023**. Donations can be dropped off at the Burrage Library between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Please contact Dr. Kordilia Noble ([knoble@uolivet.edu](mailto:knoble@uolivet.edu)) or Courtney Wirt ([cwirt@uolivet.edu](mailto:cwirt@uolivet.edu)) for more information.



### Comet Commentary Podcast

Do you want to share an interesting story or experience with the Olivet community? We would love to hear your stories based on the following themes: reflections on your experiences with WOCR, giving thanks (November), traveling home for the holidays (December), celebrating the new year around the world (January), and more. MPC students will contact you and arrange an interview via Zoom. The audio file will then be edited and shared on our podcast. Thank you to everyone who recorded a story in person at Homecoming! Please use the Signup Genius link to let us know if you would like to participate.



**Council Comments** *from Alumni Council Chair Barron Evans '77*

Greetings Alumni.

Excited to share my second column with you, published by the Alumni Office, reflecting the goings-on of your Alumni Council.

I write this fresh from a great Homecoming weekend despite the inclement weather and unfortunate football loss. One of the several experiences that made it special was holding the first in-person Alumni Council meeting as the University of Olivet, which included nine returning and four new members! Another interesting factoid: this year's Council includes six non-Michigan-based alums. This exciting dynamic underscores the Council's primary goal for this year:

**Increasing engagement:** identifying and inspiring more of our alumni to be involved in diverse opportunities.

Engagement examples for alumni include, but aren't limited to:

- Attending/planning/hosting on and off-campus events, e.g., Homecoming experiences, local tours, venue/restaurant visits
- Supporting student activities, e.g., enrollment, student success programs, mock interviews, internships
- Partnering with faculty/administration on projects, e.g., speaking to classes, podcasts, newsletter/web content
- Affinity group activation
- Council or Ambassador participation
- Financial contribution

As we move through the scholastic year, you'll learn how to get involved. For right now, take that first step by registering on our robust alumni platform, Comet2Comet. This will help the Council and Alumni Office tailor relevant and meaningful opportunities you might engage in.

As you'll recall from October's Council Comments, our other two focus areas are 'Enrollment' and 'Mentorship.' To activate those Council imperatives, we'll host two newly hired Olivet leaders at our upcoming Council meetings: Dr. Kordilia Noble, Director of Career Development, and Cornelius 'Kip' Darcy, V.P. of Enrollment Management. I had the opportunity to engage with these esteemed leaders, and I'm inspired by the leadership they'll bring to Olivet – and the direction they'll set for our Alumni Council.

You're invited to contact the Alumni Office Director Lori Otto [LOtto@uolivet.edu](mailto:LOtto@uolivet.edu) -- or myself [evansbarron@gmail.com](mailto:evansbarron@gmail.com) at any time to discuss how you can be more engaged with the University of Olivet!

## **Alumni Events 2023/2024**

November 18, 2023 - Potter Park Zoo Winter Wonderland of Lights, Lansing, MI

December 8-18, 2023 - Alumni Learning Experience in Dubai

January 28, 2024 - K-Wings Hockey Game, Kalamazoo, MI

February 14, 2024- Cruising the Coast Dinner Cruise, Daytona, FL

February 15, 2024 - Walt Parker '58 Dinner, Ocala, FL

February 17, 2024 - Cruising the Coast Dinner Cruise, Naples, FL

March 9, 2024 - Meijer Gardens Butterfly Exhibit, Grand Rapids, MI

April 2024 - Cocktail Reception, Chicago, IL

May 2024 - Cocktail Reception, Detroit Athletic Club, Detroit, MI

June 2024 – Alumni Event in Northern MI, TBD

July 19, 2024 - Lansing Lugnuts Baseball Game, Lansing, MI