



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

UO Alumni Newsletter

January 2024



Events Recap:

Gandy Dancer in Ann Arbor, September; Homecoming, October; Wonderland of Lights at Potter Park Zoo Lansing, November; Dubai Alumni Learning Experience, December.

What our alums are saying about events:

“Lovely time, lovely location, and we enjoyed the alumni and people present!”

“I think your events are wonderful! It was nice to see former professors.”

“This was so much fun! We had our kids join, and it was great meeting other alums. It was the best!”



We want to see you in Kalamazoo!

Don't miss out on your chance to register for the Alumni K-Wings Hockey Game!

Event Date: Sunday, January 28, 2024, 3:00 pm

Registration Closes: Thursday, January 18, 2024 (or when capacity is reached)

Join event champion Melissa Doubleday '96 for an afternoon of hockey and fun! Registration includes a ticket to the game, a \$10 concessions voucher, a free game of bowling at the Airway Fun Center, and a K-Wings knit cap. Family and friends are welcome! [Register today!](#)

Comets are Cruising both Coasts!
February 2024

Event 1 ▶ Daytona, FL
Daytona Dinner Cruise
Wednesday, February 14
5:00 p.m. sailing time • 6:30 p.m. return time

Event 2 ▶ Ocala, FL
Walt '58 & Teri Parker Alumni Dinner
Thursday, February 15
6:00 p.m.

Event 3 ▶ Naples, FL
Naples Princess Cruise
Saturday, February 17
5:45 p.m. departure time • 7:45 p.m. return time

 **THE UNIVERSITY of OLIVET**

Comets are Cruising both Coasts! February 2024

Join us in Florida as we cruise the coasts in February 2024. Our first event 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. [Register Here.](#)

Between cruises, we will be at the Hilton Ocala (3600 SW 36th 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. [Register Here](#).

Our final event 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 Here](#). Invite a friend, and we will see you when we set sail in February!



Comet Commentary, New Episode Released

Our podcast, Comet Commentary: Highlighting Olivet Voices from Past to Present, is streaming now. Tune in to hear December's episode about holiday traditions on and off campus. You can find the podcast on Spotify, Amazon Music, Google Podcasts, Deezer, and more. Just search Comet Commentary or [listen here](#).



Welcome New Alumni!

In December, we celebrated our newest graduates and welcomed them to the Alumni Association with some UO swag. Graduating senior Charles (Jake) Dickinson '23, shared these thoughts: "What I found to be true at

Olivet is that professors truly care for their students. I believe that is helped by the small class sizes as well as the faculty's desire to see their students succeed. I have had the pleasure of forming close relationships with my professors, specifically Laura Barlund-Maas, Nikki Magie, and Cynthia Noyes. These three women have changed my life so much that sometimes I am moved to tears thinking about it. They challenged me, pushed me, provided me counsel, picked me up when I was down, and even hugged me when I felt like I wasn't doing as well as I should be. All three of them have become valuable mentors to me." Congratulations to all of the graduates!



Council Comments from Alumni Council Chair Barron Evans '77

Happy 2024 Alumni!

Welcome to January, a new year and a new beginning for us all. I'm delighted to share the fourth Alumni Council update - kindly published by the Alumni Office.

Following our holiday break in December, the Council will reunite on January 9 to gauge progress on our three priorities of engagement, mentorship, and enrollment and will explore new 2024 endeavors. We will welcome guest speaker Dr. Cornelius 'Kip' Darcy, VP for enrollment management. He joined the University in September 2023, bringing with

him 40 years in the admissions field. In addition to his focus on increasing Olivet's admissions, Dr. Darcy is collaborating with multiple stakeholders to increase the access and affordability of private, liberal arts education. We will discuss approaches to partner with Dr. Darcy as he helps Olivet navigate enrollment trends. Look for additional ways you can participate in upcoming newsletters.

One way you can engage right now is by joining our alumni platform [Comet2Comet](#). Completing your profile will help the Council tailor relevant engagement opportunities based on the following:

- ***On & Off-Campus Events** (Homecoming experiences, local tours, venue/restaurant visits)
- ***Student Activities** (enrollment, student success programs, mock interviews, internships, job shadowing)
- ***Faculty & Staff Partnerships** (guest speakers, podcast participants, newsletter/web content)
- ***Affinity Group Get-togethers** (sports, Greek life, organizations, hobbies)
- ***Council or Alumni Ambassador Participation**
- ***Philanthropy**
- ***Connect with other Alumni!**

In closing, I want to underscore the importance of philanthropy. The University's fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. Financial support is appreciated throughout the year; however, Olivet recognizes gifts within its fiscal window. Because it bridges two calendar years, and tax deductions are based on calendar year, please be aware of the giving structure.

Contact Alumni Director [Lori Otto](#) or [myself](#) at any time with questions!

Alumni Events 2023/2024

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 12, 2024 - Cocktail Reception, Chicago, IL

May 10, 2024 - Cocktail Reception, Detroit Athletic Club, Detroit, MI

June 2024 – Cruising the Coast Sunset Cruise, Petoskey, MI

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