



UO Alumni Newsletter

April 2024

We want your feedback!

In order to plan our events and communications with you in mind, we need your input! Please take a few minutes to complete this brief survey. Everyone who participates will be entered into a drawing to receive one [Spirit Store](#) item of the winner's choosing (up to a \$75 value!) (You must enter a valid email address to be entered in the drawing.) Your feedback is appreciated!



[Take the Survey](#)

UO Explore & Connect!

UO Explore & Connect is a new opportunity to join other alumni and friends on group travel adventures. This year, we are headed to Greece! Join us as we visit Athens, Mykonos, and Santorini on September 11-19, 2024. The trip includes 7 nights at handpicked hotels, 7 breakfasts, 3 dinners with beer or wine, 3 sightseeing tours, a private motorcoach, an on-tour flight, 2 ferry rides, and airfare on a major airline. Sightseeing highlights include the Temple of Zeus, Acropolis, Parthenon Windmills in Mykonos Town, Black Sand Beaches of Santorini, Akrotiri excavations, and Mount Profitis Ilias.

[Learn More](#)



Celebration of Life for Joel Epstein (April 13, 1937-December 30, 2023)

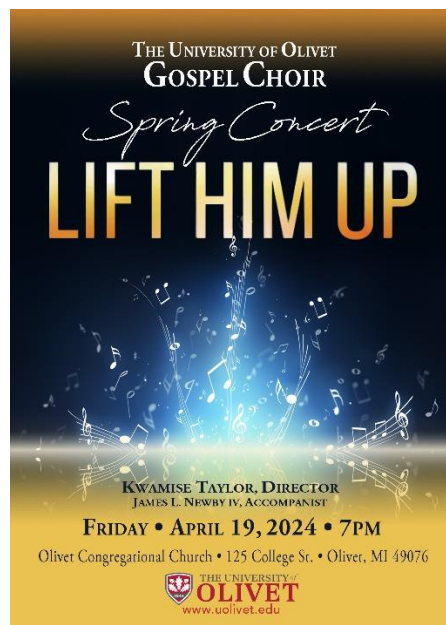
Please join us in remembering and honoring Joel Jacob Epstein, a dear friend, former professor, and fellow Olivetian. Joel was a professor of History from 1968 until his retirement in 1999. His celebration of life will be held on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 2:00 pm in the Cutler Student Center Community Room (200 East Cottage St, Olivet, MI). Please RSVP to Victoria at Victoria.epstein27@gmail.com by May 10, 2024, for planning purposes. Donations received in Joel's memory will support the Burrage Library.

[View Joel's Obituary](#)



The University of Olivet Gospel Choir Spring Concert

Please join us on Friday, April 19, at 7:00 pm for the Gospel Choir Spring Concert "Lift Him Up." The performance will take place at the Olivet Congregational Church, 125 College St, Olivet, MI. The Gospel Choir will also perform at the Messiah Baptist Church, 8100 West 7 Mile Rd, Detroit, MI, on Sunday, April 21, at 4:00 pm. All are welcome! Please email Kwamise Taylor, ktaylor@uolivet.edu, Gospel Choir Director, for more information.



HOMECOMING 2024, SAVE THE DATE!

We have many exciting activities planned for Homecoming 2024! Mark your calendars for Friday, October 4, and Saturday, October 5. Stay tuned to uolivet.edu/alumni/homecoming/ for more information and to register for events. We look forward to seeing you there!



Council Comments

From Alumni Council Chair Barron Evans '77

Greetings, Alumni!

Welcome to April, the month we witness Spring's *real* arrival, although we have been teased a few times since February. I'm pleased to share our Council update, published by the Alumni Office.

This time of year brings about thoughts of renewal, new beginnings, and hopeful futures. That sentiment is certainly the case for graduating seniors, but for many of us as well. It might come with a new relationship, family job, moving to a new city or home, etc.

However, that "new" sense may not always be something we necessarily *feel*. Certainly, since the pandemic, we've witnessed an ever-expanding spread of loneliness among adults. Regardless of life stage, we may be or know alumni who are suffering challenges to our personal well-being.

This topic was part of an Alumni Council conversation recently, when one of our members raised a poignant point: the Council's role, as an extension of the Alumni Office, is to *inspire alumni engagement* with Olivet. This is evident by the monthly newsletter content, events throughout the year, the alumni podcast, and certainly the monthly Council Comments. But her observation brought a key insight to our attention: perhaps we should also be thinking about how to *inspire engagement with each other* – given society's mental health challenges. That "aha moment" gave the Council pause, which leads to our message for this month – *How can alumni help each other in managing emotional well-being while along the way helping ourselves through engagement with others?*

The Alumni Council proposes that each of us reach out to those we know but with whom we haven't connected in a while to see how they are doing. It's as easy as an email, text, phone call, or even a snail mail note with the message, "I've been thinking of you and wonder how you're doing!" Perhaps

there are ways that you're already providing support for others (alums or otherwise). Please share with us what you're doing so we can spread the word in future newsletters. Here are some resources you can use and share:

Michigan Mental Health Resources <https://cmham.org/>

National Mental Health Resources <https://www.nami.org/home>

The Alumni Council is proud to inspire engagement with each other, carrying on *the divine art and science of doing good to others*. Your support is appreciated!



Alumni Events 2024

April 12, 2024 - Cocktail Reception, The Dearborn, Chicago, IL

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

June 22, 2024 – Cruising the Coast Sunset Cruise, Petoskey, MI

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

Questions, comments, or concerns?

Contact the alumni office at alumnirelations@uolivet.edu or (269) 749-6628