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There is no quick fix to this. Fissures are observed through coke bottle glasses: aisles and pews, altars and podiums, the grapes fermented and not. Angles are calculated in order to turn the proverbial mole hill into a canyon. Wars are waged over thickness of paper, rather than what’s written upon it. Through the foundation is strong the structure still sways, growing out instead of up, collapsing upon itself in a lonely narcissism. A first look reveals a palace embroidered with jewels of the postmodern taste, inducing an epileptic fit through mastered visuals and sound. Upon closer inspection no description could be farther from the truth. The absence of a heart creates a distended cavity lacking support. Only with unity can we mend the flesh and bone of the unseen God. Only with humility will we mend the kingdom of Christ.
“Hi, I’m Greg Bruner, Financial Aid Director at Olivet Nazarene University.” It’s the greeting that his friends tease him about; a claim to fame that isn’t famous but is a fundamental part of his identity.

“His bosses used to joke, ‘We’ll have security remove you if you show up. We’ll change the locks,’” his wife Tina said with a wry smile. “I’ve had to call Human Resources and tell them to tell him not to come into work.” Even when he was so weak while recovering from surgery that he couldn’t walk up the stairs into Miller without resting, he still came to work.

Such dedication was modeled by Greg’s father, who worked even while fighting cancer, using his lunch breaks to receive chemotherapy. Greg Bruner has inherited this ability to internalize work, to be the same person everywhere.

“One of his phrases is that he’s a lifer; he’s not going anywhere,” explained Dr. Doug Perry, Chief Financial Officer at Olivet. Since arriving on campus as a freshman, Greg has never left. “It’s never even tempted him,” Tina said. “He could make a lot more money at a bigger university, but he’s never even looked.”

And that’s despite a near-death experience in the basement of Williams Hall during his days as supervising custodian. On his thirtieth birthday, while he used a wet-vacuum to try to clean up water in the flooded basement of Williams Hall, he was electrocuted, nearly to death. The story has become legend among his friends and coworkers. “It was a serious thing, but now we like to joke about it,” Perry said.

The jokes don’t bother Greg one bit. “He just loves the people that he works with; he holds them in such high esteem,” she said. People who come into contact with him sense how much he genuinely cares about their situation. “He’s the best financial aid director we’ve ever had,” Perry said. “He’s kind, he’s gentle, he works well with families and students, and he’s always trying to come up with a solution rather than a roadblock.”

The position of director is hardly easy—despite what he’d like, Greg can’t help every student who comes into his office. Those days he comes home beat, torn apart by seeing students struggling beyond his control. But even when facing insurmountable challenges, he remains optimistic.

One such mountain was the process of adopting two daughters from China. Greg and Tina teamed up with Dr. Jay Martinson, chair of the communication department, and his wife Jeanette. “It came down to an act of obedience, what he felt the Lord was calling him to do,” Martinson said. The two families set up a joint bank account to pool their resources. “He said, ‘I don’t know how we’re going to afford it, but it’s something we need to do,” Tina explained.

Greg’s confidence gave the group confidence. “He’s an encourager and puts a positive spin on everything,” Martinson said. Grinning, he recalled how on the flight home from China Greg stood up and apologized to the entire plane for their new baby daughter’s crying.

The example is one of a thousand case studies of care in Bruner’s life. As Tina explained, “Days when he really gets to help somebody—that’s what he loves.”
Greg Bruner is “a giant teddy bear,” according to Dr. Jay Martinson.
It sits on two city blocks and rises over one quarter mile into the sky. Its 110 stories comprise 4.5 million square feet of office and commercial space. When you drive north from the Olivet campus toward Chicago, you can first see it while you are still south of Route 30. It breaks the plane of the horizon when it is still over 20 miles away.

It took 2,000 workers, working around the clock for nearly three years, to build it. This structure, first known as the Sears Tower, and now The Willis Tower, was for many decades America’s tallest building. Just this year it was edged out of first place by the new Freedom Tower in New York City.

I’m not sure what all is involved in the engineering and construction of such massive buildings as these, but one thing I do know is that when the construction crews begin, the first direction they work is not up . . . but down. Before a building can reach for the sky, it must first be anchored on a firm foundation.

In Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus ended his Sermon on the Mount with a story of two builders.

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who builds his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

The message of the parable is simple and profound . . . foundations are fundamental. This is a tried and true principle for every structure and is true for life itself. Before an individual can successfully build a life, he or she must first determine the foundation.

This is why an Olivet education is so important. The Olivet experience is not just about learning how to make a living, it is more fundamentally about learning how to live. During a student’s university experience, he or she is laying a series of foundations for life: an academic foundation, a personal/social foundation and a spiritual foundation.

The 2013-14 edition of the Aurora reminds us all that . . .

Everyone is a builder.  
Every building will be tested.  
Only those with a proper foundation will stand.

Those are good lessons to learn and remember throughout our lives.
It's a parade of pastels moving through inner campus; the Greek chorus of the Olivet community. As the students gather through the doors of chapel, propped upon in apprehension, individual physiognomic features blur into one collective hum, but within the bustling crowd are lives and souls exceptionally beautiful and intricate, a fingerprint often overlooked in the spirit of community. Each with tattered clothes and scars, each with love pressing against the confines of their hearts and waiting to spill onto their passions and the people they love. Christ manifests in the flaws and the blemishes of his people, turning crags of clay into the house of God.
Nearly 10 months after opening, the Student Life and Recreation Center (SLRC) was officially named in honor of Dr. Douglas E. Perry for his 40 years of service to Olivet. The decision to name the building was made during the annual Board of Trustees meeting, according to an Oct. 10 Olivet press release. The official name of the building is The Douglas E. Perry Student Life and Recreation Center. Perry currently serves as the Vice President for Finance, but his 40-year career at Olivet began in the building and grounds department mowing lawns and cleaning buildings. He has served as the Chief Financial Officer for Olivet for the last 30 years. Perry played a large role in making the SLRC a reality. “He was the first to catch the vision, and he did the initial research. It was Doug who identified and enlisted the architectural firm for the project,” Bowling said. “Perhaps most importantly, Doug created the financial plan to make it a reality.” The Board of Trustees unanimously voted to name the building after him, but Perry said there were many others who made the building a possibility. “I never even considered that any building would be named after me, let alone such a major campus building as the Student Life and Recreation Center,” Perry said. “I am truly honored and grateful for this recognition.”

By Brandon Klemm

This picture of Perry with the title “Students Reflect Upon Their Future” was originally printed in the Kankakee Daily Journal during his freshman year at Olivet.
The administration team is made up of Dr. Ryan Spittal, Dr. Walter “Woody” Webb, Dr. John C. Bowling, Dr. Douglas E. Perry, Dr. Brian Allen, and Dr. Dennis Crocker (1). The board of trustees members each belong to different Nazarene districts (2). Doug Perry and his family during his early days working at Olivet (3). (S)

“I have a remarkable sense of being a part of the team,” said Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Dennis Crocker of his new position on Olivet’s Administrative Team. ONU is in good hands under the leadership of these men who “collaborate instead of compete” and strive to leave their weekly meetings in agreement about the direction in which they are moving. According to the self-proclaimed “new kid,” their meetings are effective as well as fun. “There is an informal banter that is refreshing,” Dr. Crocker smiled, explaining for example that the alumni members don’t shy away from hazing the new guy.

By Katharyn Schrader

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**Cory Lara @coffeeordie**
So, those Nazarene gentlemen and ladies that stood up are like the Jedi council of the midwest? Cool. #onuchapel

**Katelyn Spencer @Katelyn_Jess**
Dr. Bowling is speaking but all I hear is “Beard, beard, I have a beard.” #onuchapel

**Abby Ragsdale @abbyrags**
Bearded Dr. Bowling is what I imagine Mr. Whittaker from Adventures in Odyssey would look like #throwback #onuchapel

**Sarah Jane @ohsarataylor**
Can’t handle Dr. B’s beard swag in #ONUchapel right now.
“Can you make me look thin?” Dr. Aggie Veld says, sitting on an open counter top in the greenhouse. She’s taken to the fresh air, having escaped for a brief minute from the labs in the lower level of Reed. Dr. Veld’s passion for education couples with her fascination for the world of science.

To say that Dr. Veld is known around campus is an understatement. As one of the professors teaching General Biology, she sees the majority of students at some point in their college career. “I have to pretend I’m jazzed,” she says about her personality, which is high energy to say the least.

Her mildly frantic persona is exhibited through the number of places she’s lived, which include Florida, Germany, and California. She says shyly, “My teaching career has been a bit of a patchwork.” She earned a master’s degree in science with a minor in chemistry, but was initially unable to find a teaching job and took a position in the computer programing industry. She eventually settled at home to homeschool her four kids over a period of seven years, but her heart has always been for teaching students the love of God through science.

“We don’t have to understand it for it to work.”

“I can’t pull them apart,” she says about the relationship between her faith and science. She believes that God has granted man three gifts. First, the gift of life. Second, “the fact that He lets us figure it out.” Third, “We don’t have to understand it for it to work.” She hovers closely to the leaves of an unnamed plant, pointing out the various cells that make up photosynthesis. “It’s in his system,” she says, “What an incredible symphony.”
Bio Baby

Dr. Veld teaches General Biology, Environmental Science and Technology of Elementary Education in addition to supervising four out of the seven Anatomy and Physiology labs. She is in her ninth year as a professor here. “Gen Bio is my baby,” she says. “Studies show that it is the last science most students will take in their lives.” Her heart is for educating students who aren’t science majors about what biology means for them. “You are on the edge of fertility,” she said. “You can teach biology to the students, or you can teach the students biology.”

She’s not planning on going anywhere soon. “I asked God to let me live to one hundred,” she says. “I’ve got forty-seven years left.” She’s excited for her job every day. “I get to learn, pass it on, and see people take that ball and run with it,” she said.
When Francisco Medina-Garcia was a boy, he and his friends would hike up the mountains near the small town of Casacu­aran, Mexico. Using their hands and the thick vegetation, they constructed forts and tree houses. Sometimes they would play baseball, using branches as bats and whatever they could find in the garbage as a ball. “My family was extremely poor,” Francisco said quietly. “One room for six people: my parents, two sisters, one brother, and me. We cooked, slept, and did anything there.” The cramped room was often one person short; his father worked as a manual laborer in the United States, and was gone for months at a time. As soon as Francisco turned eighteen, he left Mexico to join his father in the fields of central Illinois. Their family was starving, and he hoped to return with hands full of dollar bills, just as he had seen the others do. “They were talking about a place that was wonderful,” he said. That is not what he found.

One evening, after twelve hours in the blistering sun, Francisco trudged toward the small house where he and the other workers slept. In the front yard sat a baseball. Francisco's mind wandered back to his childhood and he let out a laugh. His younger self could not have imagined something as wonderful as a clean, smooth baseball.

He left the ball for several days, where it remained untouched in the front yard. Finally, Francisco decided that it must have been lost, so he walked over and picked it up. Less than five minutes later Francisco was staring at a policeman's polished boots, being actively accused of theft. He had been set up.

“I was thinking, ‘This is not the place that the other immigrants were talking about. This is not the American dream.’ I didn’t understand why people would treat me like that. I was just here to work,” he said.

He met opposition a number of times within that first year. One night he found the words GO BACK TO YOUR COUNTRY scrawled across his front door. His house was egged several times.

After a year, he moved to Kankakee, where a couple of Catholic nuns invited him to a Spanish mass. Surrounded by the golden glow of candles and the soft chant of prayer whispered in his native tongue, Señor Francisco was filled with a sense of peace. “I think God gave me hope. I started thinking ‘maybe it can be a change. Maybe not everyone will treat me the same.’”

Not long after, Señor Francisco met a compassionate social worker. Eight years later the two were married and Francisco’s father-in-law recommended him for a position in the department of building services at Olivet. He cleans floors, empties trash cans, and does odd-jobs in the dorms. 2013 marks a decade of his employment here.

For Francisco, the best part about working at Olivet is interacting with students. “God gave me an open heart and a love for talking to people. The more you talk, the more you learn about people’s differences, and the more you learn about God,” he said. Sweeping a large hand through the empty space before him he added, “God’s garden is made of flowers of all different colors to make it beautiful.”

By Erin Stephens
One afternoon, grasping a rough mop-handle in a tanned hand and rubbing droplets of sweat out of his stinging eyes with the other, Francisco remarked to a coworker, “I am living the American dream working here at Olivet.”

The man’s eyebrows shot up. “Your dream is to clean toilets?”

Francisco ignored his coworker’s taunt. “You have to look at the whole picture,” he said, “I want to make a better life not just for me but for my family.” His work at Olivet has qualified his son and two daughters for free tuition here.

According to Francisco, when he sees his eldest child dressed in a graduation robe holding a crisp college diploma, his hope for the future will be fulfilled. What is more, the struggles that he overcame in immigrating to this country will be worthwhile.

Ten years ago Francisco became a United States citizen. Although Mexico will forever be in his heart, Señor Francisco embraces America as his new home. “This is the land of the freedom and the beauty. It is the greatest place. And I love it.”
Faculty and Staff

Jeremy Bachelor
Karen Ball
Adam Banter
Jonathan Bartling
Alissa Bass
Clayton Bass
David Becker

Sandra Begley
Rebecca Belcher-Rankin
Jeffery Bell
Sharon Bellomy
Nancy Benoit
Andrew Benson
Emily Benson

Gideon Berhanu
Nicholas Birkey
Craig Bishop
Michael Bishop
Leon Blanchette
Helen Boley
Jorge Bonilla

Nancy Bonilla
Nicholas Boros
Ray Bower
Jacquelyn Boyd
Darcel Brady
Kevin Brewer
Rebecca Brewer
Q: What was your favorite thing about growing up in Japan?
A: I love the people and the food. The people are very kind and respectful. The food is amazing. They have the best fish. It is so hard to get good fish in the States.

Q: Has your life in Japan influenced how you raise your own kids?
A: Yes it has! I speak in Japanese at home. I'm passing on the culture.
Q: Why do you draw Dora the Explorer?
A: I love to draw, and it is fun to color and draw with my kids. They enjoy it when I can draw their favorite characters, so I am constantly trying to draw their favorites better. At the same time, I am trying to keep up with all the new ones they keep getting introduced to! So, sometimes in class an illustration or graphic reminds me of a shape that also belongs to one of these characters, and I (for whatever reason) just complete the illustration for my students. Honestly, I think I (and my students) am caught off guard when this happens! However, I think this can be a nice thing when you are talking about things like research methodology or statistics. I think a little lightheartedness can go a long way to facilitate learning, and I sincerely believe that Jesus was spontaneous and joyful and, looking at creation, artistic.

Q: How long did it take you to learn how to draw Dora? Do you have an art background?
A: To learn the cartoon characters Kylie and Bailey like most, I do have to study them a little. However, I did take art classes in junior high and high school. I really considered a career in graphic design at one point.
The inside scoop on Dr. Anstrom’s secret obsession: pugs.

Q: What started your love for pugs?
A: My husband is to blame, at least that is what I tell him. We both love animals and had always had larger dogs. He wanted a small dog, one that could sit on his lap while he watched football games. He decided on a pug, and I was not sold. I didn’t think they were the most attractive breed, but we went to look at some puppies. It was love at first sight for both of us, but Leo (our first — he is still with us at eight) and I bonded. I spent every waking hour over the summer training and playing with him.

Q: Do you receive pug gifts?
A: You bet, every Christmas, every birthday, and I would not have it any other way.

Q: How many pugs do you have now?
A: Six seems to be our lucky number. I cannot image my life without my pugs, always happy to see me — they are my friends for life. We do not breed our pugs; we do rescue and would never turn one away. We live in the country, on an old farm, so who knows when the number of pugs will increase. We always have room for one more pug!
He’s the reason we look forward to going to the library to do homework, the explanation for taking an unnecessary detour for a cup of coffee.

“I don’t go to Jazzman’s for the coffee; I go for the experience of talking to Lee,” Heather Rossner said. “We talk about his life and his travels.”

Students love his warm smile, how he greets them by name and makes their drink with care. And if you stay and chat, as he is so willing to do, stories will begin to slowly emerge. There was the time he got robbed at gunpoint off the coast of Venezuela. Or the time he almost died from hypothermia while backpacking in Iceland.

“I don’t do tours,” he said, a slow grin spreading over his face. “I make my own way.” Often he travels with one of his three children or his wife. Of the places he’s been—from Europe to Latin America—Australia is his favorite.

“I like to interact with the natives,” he said. The Michigan State graduate has certainly spent many hours getting to know the natives during his last six years of working at Jazzman’s. “Interacting with students is my favorite part,” he said. “I love you guys.”

The feeling is mutual. “Lee’s smile and kind spirit always make my day,” Sydney Morehead said. “He’s the only reason I get drinks from Jazzman’s before 3 p.m. His flawlessly sweet caramel blasts are just an added perk!”

Rossner agreed. “He’s my favorite staffer,” she said. “Like maybe him, then Dr. Bowling second.”

By Staci Bradbury
Philip Steward
Brian Stipp
Linda Stone
Tonya Stott
Judson Strain
Shelly Stroud

Ghedam Sultan
Thalyta Swanepoel
Darlene Swanson
Scott Teeters
Bradley Thomas
Aaron Thompson

Houston Thompson
Martha Thompson
Chris Tudor
Susan Turner
Rosalie Tuttle
Stan Tuttle

James Upchurch
Lynne Utter
Larry Vail
David Van Heemst
Jeremy Van Kley
Lisa Vander Veer
Kristian Veit

Marjorie Vinson
Laura Warfel
Kelly Wellenreiter
Corrie Wessman
Jeremy Williamson
Melody Wilson
Stephen Wilson

David Wine
Carla Wolf
Neal Woodruff
Karen Wright
Kent Wu
Beatriz Ydrovo
Jennifer Kershaw
Stefanie Strothmann

She’s quite possibly the only Kenyan who can’t run. She tells me this as we make our way to the eighth mile of the Chicago Marathon on the Red Line, munching on enormous cinnamon rolls that threaten to cause diabetes and ignoring the sign telling us that consumption is prohibited on CTA transit. The conversation circles back to accents and pronunciation, and she’s kind enough to repeat any word when prompted.

The differences between Kenya and America are bountiful, but she doesn’t prefer either culture over the other. The Kenyan paradigm is more community based, but the independence offered by America is rewarding in a different way. “I miss food back at home,” she says, although she’s not disappointed with the selection which America offers.

“I wanted something completely different from what I was used to,” she says about choosing to go to school in America. She was born in Kenya, where she now lives, but she also spent a year and a half in England while her mother was working toward her masters’ degree at Newcastle. “She has a school,” she says of her mother’s profession, further clarifying that she founded a school in Kenya and now acts as headmaster.

Stefanie courageously took the chance and has become a familiar face at Olivet, working at the Alumni Center, serving as the treasurer of the Mu Kappa club and Lambda Pi Eta, the communications honor society, and serving as a freshman connections mentor.

By David Modica
"I heard about Olivet from Becca Reed (far right), whose parents were missionaries," she says. The choice was easy from there, as she repeatedly states that she likes to be around diversity. "It gives me different perspectives," she says. Her biggest concern about international perspective is the "generalizations [that] occur," a point that she strives to combat.

Stefanie Strothmann is a senior corporate communication major, with a minor in marketing. "I’m interested in international relations," she says about her future. "I’m still figuring it out." She would like to stay in America after graduating, but if the plan falls through she says there is always England, Australia or South Africa.
Olivet is one of over 2,000 schools to award students the academic honor of selection to Who’s Who Among Students. The national honor program identifies campus leaders through student and faculty vote. The Who’s Who logo on a student’s picture indicates an exceptional GPA, leadership ability and community involvement.
1. How has your view of ONU changed since you were a freshman?

I have truly grown to love this place. As the excitement and newness of freshman year wore off, I began seeing Olivet in a new light. I have come to see it as a place where living out the life that God has called us to holds high importance. This isn’t just a place to get an education, it’s a place to figure out who you are as a kingdom person.

2. On average, how many hours of sleep do you think you got as a college student?

I’m a big fan of naps. I would probably only average about five or six hours a night with the occasional afternoon nap. And I don’t mean just a 20 minute snooze, I’m talking a two hour slumber.

3. Any advice for underclassmen?

Live it up. Seriously, cherish every moment you have here. You may not realize it now, but this place is really special. Play intramural basketball. Prank Chaplain Holcomb. Build cardboard castles. Move all of your friend’s stuff into the community bathroom. Live in the moments.
If you could change the school mascot, what would you change it to?

Garrett Corpier

If I could change the school’s mascot, I would make it David Bowie.
Scott Ellis  
Political Science  

Megan Elroy  
Elementary Education  

Julie Emmons  
Nursing  

Justine Espersen  
Journalism  

Aaron Eubanks  
Communication Studies  

Erin Evans  
Ministerial Missions  

Tyler Evans  
Actuarial Science  

Jennifer Ewing  
Accounting & Business  

Chantalle Falconer  
Music Performance  

Frank Fankam  
Nursing  

Nathaniel Ferris  
Engineering  

Jonathan Fightmaster  
Math Education  

Aimee Fish  
Elementary Education  

Matthew Fisher  
Computer Engineering  

Zachary Fisher  
Exercise Science  

David Flack  
Biblical Studies  

Crystal Fleck  
Multimedia Studies  

Kayla Foster  
Child Development  

Thomas Francoeur  
Engineering  

Melissa Freeman  
Nursing  

Tasha French  
Elementary Education  

Robert Gaines  
Business  

Monica Galarowski  
History  

Ronald Gamache  
Communication Studies  

Tanner Garner  
Athletic Training  

Laura Garwood  
Elementary Education  

Miranda Geever  
Chemistry  

Nicholas Geever  
Intercultural Studies  

Brian Ginn  
Biology  

Camilo Giraldo  
Engineering  

30 // Seniors
If you could change the school mascot, what would you change it to?

Jake Neuman

“I would probably change our mascot to Dr. Bowling. How cool would that be? We could all wear Dr. Bowling wigs and cheer “Bowlings. Bowlings. Bowlings.” No one else would have it, that’s for sure. He’s been here long enough it’s about time we honored his legacy in a fun and memorable way. Instead of a Toby the Tiger costume we could have a big Dr. Bowling head and a guy wearing a suit. It’d be great!”
Kyle Miller

“I can honestly say I have matured beautifully since freshman year by God’s grace. My perspective on life is no longer egocentric but more so a selfless desire to serve God’s people. I am confident that the Lord has changed me, not for my own benefit but for my generation.”

Garrett Corpier

“Well, I’m less in touch with my redneck roots, I have more facial hair, and I have more loans. On a serious note, I’ve begun to recognize the blessings in my life and have become more thankful for the people who have challenged me to grow.”

Someone Agers

“I’ve started using fun closings for emails like ‘Cheerio!’”
Hannah Miller
Computer Science

Katelyn Miller
Business

Kyle Miller
Music Education

Michael Miller
Communication Studies

Scott Miller
Electrical Engineering

Jason Mills
Psychology

Michelle Mitchell
Social Work

Vito Miulli
Economics & Finance

Trent Moberly
Christian Education

Nicholas Mohr
Business

Alyssa Mol
Art

Erica Moncelle
Fashion Merchandising

Alison Monkemeyer
Nursing

Andrew Moore
Music Education

Garren Moore
Actuarial Science

Kenneth Moore
Psychology

Sydney Morehead
Criminal Justice & Psychology

Johnie Morgan
English

Spencer Morris
Psychology & Sociology

Jean Mosey
Nursing

Katherine Mount
Psychology

Sarah Murphy
Music Ministry

Rebekah Musselman
Business

Andrew Muzljakovich
Chemistry

John Nardozzi
Business

Aaron Nelson
Zoology

Amanda Nelson
Family & Consumer Science

John Neuman
Multimedia Studies

Kristin Nichols
Criminal Justice

Michael Nielsen
Sociology
What has been your most embarrassing moment at Olivet?

Kyle Miller

By far my most embarrassing moment here at ONU was when I received a standing ovation for spilling my entire tray of food all over the cafeteria floor. I was starving one night at dinner so I had a sandwich, stir fry, and whatever was in the main line. My tray was already full when I tried to get water from the lemon water containers. I failed to balance my tray on the ledge which sent my food straight to the floor and broke all of my plates! As a musician, it’s sad to realize that this moment will probably be my only genuine standing ovation.
Ariel Rock  
Social Work

Vanessa Rodriguez  
Elementary Education

Caleb Rogers  
Pastorial Ministry

Andrew Rothen  
Electrical Engineering

Zachary Ruddle  
Business

Renee Runyan  
Music Education

Madison Rupert  
Psychology

Jacob Ryan  
History & Political Science

Edward Saliba  
Chemistry

Thomas Sanders  
Elementary Education

Andrew Sayre  
Biology

Alyssa Schaffer  
Interior Design

Melissa Schaver  
Graphic Design

Megan Schneider  
Nursing

Felisha Scholz  
Zoology

Katharyn Schrader  
English

Cheryl Sendzik  
Multimedia Studies

Megan Shaddick  
Biology

Lauren Shaner  
Christian Education

Molly Shirosky  
Ministrial Missions

Justin Shutt  
Criminal Justice

Kara Sitton  
Chemistry

Logan Smith  
Chemistry

Megan Smith  
Nursing

Nathaniel Smith  
Exercise Science

Olivia Smith  
Housing & Environmental Science

Kaleb Soller  
Electrical Engineering

Brandon Song  
Art

Raven Southard  
Elementary Education

Rebekah Southerland  
Youth Ministry
1. How has your view of ONU changed since you were a freshman?

I've realized more and more how integrated Olivet is in the Nazarene Church. Coming in as a non-Nazarene, it's been very interesting to see and learn all the Nazarene traditions here at school. In addition, it seemed like a really big school at first, because I didn't know anybody. And now, as a senior again with lots of classes, I feel like I don't know many people once again.

2. Who is your favorite professor and why?

What a tough question! I feel like I've really gotten to know and love many of the professors that I've had. To just pick one is too hard. I would have to say all of the professors in the Education Department. They are all so loving and full of passion. They have encouraged me to not only be a great teacher but to be a servant of God.

3. What will you miss most about Olivet?

I think I'll miss the excitement more than anything, be it move-in days, Ollie's Follies, or those last days leading up to breaks. There's a lot of emotion here at Olivet, and it's always been great to engage in that excitement with other people. I hope that God provides me with people who keep me this enthusiastic about even the little things.
“No one really calls me Miles,” he admits. He isn’t the fourth generation male in his family to go by Archie Lyle, and he doesn’t go by his first name; most people know Miles Kolby Meador by his middle name. After getting to know him, it is clear that Kolby could also go by Stage Success, Amish Beard, People Person, Social Planner, and Lincoln Lover.

Kolby is one of the most well-rounded individuals you might ever come across; he ran track in high school as well as during his freshman year at ONU, but he says that baseball is his best sport. He also played the saxophone in the band when he first came to Olivet. Most important in his life, however, is the theater.

“Everyone in my family is a performer,” says Kolby, the youngest of them all. He began acting around the age of nine, and he dreams of being in a film someday. Seeing a show come and go is hard, but he is used to the bittersweet feeling by now. “It’s like chapters in life...You create something together and then you hear the applause and it’s over.”

By Katharyn Schrader

“A girl will get brownie points if she likes the beard.”

Kolby acted alongside Jordan Hirl in the fall play.

When he’s not acting, Kolby finds time to work as a referee for intramural games.
Kolby is also known for having a double identity: sometimes he has a remarkably successful beard which people occasionally say makes him look Amish, and sometimes he doesn't. "Most guys love it," he says of the times when his face is comfortably carpeted, "but 90% of girls don't. I feel more confident when I'm clean-shaven, but a girl will get brownie points if she likes the beard."

Kolby is inspired by Abraham Lincoln, Professor Jerry Cohagen, and his parents. He values President Lincoln's vulnerability and integrity, and he owes his continued enrollment at Olivet following freshman year to Professor Cohagen, who convinced him not to transfer. His appreciation for his parents increases as he gets older. "I can better recognize their sacrifice now," he says.

Kolby is certainly a junior to know. He wears blue to make his eyes stand out, he loves people, and he is not shy. "I just try to take life step by step," he says. "I don't know exactly where I'm going, but I just want to bring glory to Christ." (On-stage or off, clean-shaven or other.)
Juniors

Monika Alfke
Rachel Alfonso
Nicholas Allen
Angela Ames
Ernestina Amponsah-Ayewa

Bethany Anderson
Maria Anderson
Evanne Astell
Candace Baird
Trey Ballard
Brandon Brown
Jessica Brown

Adeena Balthazor
Claire Barber
Kilmeny Barnell
Colleen Barry
Mary Bass
Julie Buck
Jennifer Buhr

Joseph Bauer
Morgan Baumert
Mark Beaumont
Alicia Beckmann
Sarah Beecher
Caleb Burkey
Janice Bumeson
"Faith is a huge part of my life."

Favorite spot on campus: Centennial Chapel
Major: Intercultural and Religious Studies
Favorite class: Introduction to Philosophy with Dr. Mark Quanstrom. “Dr. Quanstrom makes you think about things in a different way,” Stu said.
Both of his parents and his sister, Cassie, are Olivet alumni. He loves watching and critiquing film, especially action-suspense thrillers. His favorite movie of 2013 was World War Z.
Major: Social Work
She picked her major because she has a heart to help people. “I know through social work I can accomplish what God has called me to do,” she said. One day, she would love to use it open a camp. “I don’t know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future!” If she could be any animal, she would be a hippo, “Because I could eat as much as I want and still look cute!”

“I would be a hippo because I could eat and still look cute.”
Amanda Bursztynsky
Megan Butler
Austin Davis
Emily Davission
Kenneth DeCook
Mary DeMent
Amber DeYoung

Philip Caffee
Emma Capps
Joshua Dees
Dustin Dehart
Kate Dekoning
Brianna Denhart
Jared Dennis

Haley Carroll
Taylor Cavanaugh
Ashley Dettore
Christina Di Monte
Rachel DiVittorio
Tatiana Diaz
Andrea Donley

Emily Downing
Clarence Driver
Amber Drozd
Caleb Duffy
Kaci Dunnum

Michelle Dykstra
Nicholas Eckart
Jessica Eckerley
Taihla Eddins
Samantha Ellett

Gretchen Elliott
Jonathan Elliott
Jessica Ellison
Valerie Erickson
Mayra Escoto Rodas

People // 47
Major: Accounting and Spanish
Her favorite class is Spanish Culture and Civilization. "I lived in Quito, Ecuador this summer for two months and I hope to travel to South and Central America in the future," Jackie said, "I hope to be fluent in all Romance languages by the time I am 30." Besides studying abroad she also likes to write letters to pen pals and has been on the track team for the past three years. "Cracking noises make me extremely uncomfortable."
Chase Farley
Jacqueline Fayne
Benjamin Geeding
Robin Gerboth
Kendall Gher
Tyler Gill
Sarah Gliwa

Emily Fernette
Benjamin Fightmaster
Kamaria Goedhart
Daniel Going
Bryce Goldade
Michael Gonzalez
Malia Grainger

Austin Fischer
Kaitlyn Fitzgerald
Grace Gregory
Doree Guerrero
Ryan Guertin
Ashley Gulder
Cameron Gunter

Griselda Guzman
Andrew Haack
Dakota Hack
Janelle Hackathorn
Alaina Hagen

Isaac Hale
Mary Hall
Lindsey Hamlin
Shayla Hancock
Jordan Hawkins

Marshall Hawn
Daniel Hegel
Jenna Height
Aaron Hemgesberg
Rebekah Hernandez
Major: Social Science Education

Joy is in her second year as an RA in Williams Hall. "I love being a mom to them," Joy said. Her favorite professor is Dr. Loewe with her favorite class being American Civilization. In January 2013 she went to Washington, D.C. with Dr. Loewe. Besides being an RA and studying history, Joy also loves spending time with her cat Carmel and camping during the summer.

“I’m just a weird person.”
“I should have had a crossbow!”

Major: Accounting and Marketing

“I really like salesmanship,” Sam said. When asked what people might not know about him, he responded, “I know the Russian word for cookie. It’s ‘pechen'ya.’ Sam continued, “I’m also willing to meet everyone. Be who you are. I’m not going to judge anyone.” Sam’s spirit animal is a giraffe, for obvious reasons. Some of his favorite activities include: wakeboarding, baseball, beach volleyball, and soccer.
Paige Penrod
Christopher Peterson
Rachel Peterson
Cassandra Petrie
Alexander Phillips
Emily Rosenboom
Julia Ross

Brian Pickering
Daniel Pickering
Kaitlyn Pierce
Michael Poff
Krista Postell
Kimberly Rothacker
Olivia Ruby

Annalisa Pouliot
David Powers
Brittany Pruitt
Breanne Putney
Zachary Rasmussen
Annie Salsgiver
Ashley Sarver

Josilee Ray
Emily Reader
Sarah Ready
Wesley Reece
Sabra Reichow

Kyle Reopelle
Kristen Richey
Kayla Ridgway
Shana Riedlinger
Allison Ritzert

Lisa Rizzo
Kaitlyn Roberts
Rachel Rodeheaver
Logan Roix
Catherine Rose
Major: Athletic Training/Exercise Science

Josh is from Anchorage, Alaska and is the tallest person in his family, even at 5' 8.” He worked as a commercial fisherman catching red salmon over one summer. “I'm a cat person,” Josh admits. Josh is the outside linebacker on Olivet’s football team. “I’m color blind. I almost failed kindergarten because I didn’t fill in my coloring pages correctly.

“I can say my ABCs pretty fast backwards.”
Major: Elementary Education

Amber plays ultimate frisbee with the Lady Penguins. Her favorite professor is Dr. Oswalt, while her favorite class this year was Studies in Literature with Dr. Belcher-Rankin. “I’ve been addicted to pool this year,” Amber said. “My favorite place on campus is the tree house because of the pool table.” Amber also enjoys working at the Provena nursing home.

“I really love hospital socks.”
"We have a matching piercing!" Pam Loitz said to a new friend out of nowhere. Her conversations dip and dive into hollows that no one thought viable before meeting her. She’s full of a fantastic kind of energy which makes her personality magnetic.

"Before I came to Olivet I didn’t grow up in a Christian home," she says, slowed suddenly by contemplation. She was looking at colleges in Colorado before her father recommended Olivet because of its proximity to her home. "What I heard about Olivet was that it was weird . . . and I fell in love with it the first day.” She became a Christian on September 19, 2012, shortly after becoming a member of the Olivet family.

The following summer she was honored with the opportunity to work at Camp Sonshine, a Christian camp in Nebraska. She was initially intimidated by the feeling of inadequacy when comparing herself to the other counselors, whom she says she considered “more advanced Christians.” Despite her initial hesitation, she soon turned her lack of knowledge into a benefit, learning along with her campers. If a camper asked her a question she didn’t know the answer to, her response was always, “Let’s figure it out.”

By David Modica
Pam is an ethnic conundrum: born in Bulgaria to parents who were Italian, she learned Russian from birth and was adopted by a German-speaking family. She only wishes that she had a South African accent.

AWANA, an acronym for Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed, is an evangelical organization dedicated to educating young children about the Bible and providing a loving community. Christ Community Church sponsors a group at Peotone Elementary school on Wednesdays, where Pam helps to lead a group of twenty-five kids. “We literally just play with kids and teach them about God... it’s the best combination ever.” (S)
Cortney Allenbaugh
Joshua Altmann
Jessica Anderson
Ryan Anderson
Joel Andrade
Nathan Areil

Jay Armstrong
Alexander Atkisson
Angelique Azouri
Alexis Badiac
Melissa Bartholomew
Kymberli Beausoleil

Amy Beckberger
Sara Becker
Melissa Beer
Anthony Benda
Daniel Berkiel
Matthew Bieber
Jacqueline Clark
Ryan Clark
Brenna Close

Holly Billiter
Ryan Blauw
Madeline Bloom
Austin Blyly
Tyler Bontrager
Ashley Borop
Matthew Cockroft
Joanne Coffey
Breanna Coffman
I guess it really is just me, myself, and all my millions.

I love thinking about good deodorant names. What do y'all think of these: deliverance, freedom, escape, cream soda, and tameless dragon #yes

Some days this whole getting out of bed thing just doesn't settle well with me. And by some days, I mean everyday.

My couch and my fridge fight for my attention...They don’t know that I love them equally. #MyLoveLife
Jonathan Hand
Neely Harris
Shelbi Harris
Sydney Harris
Alexandria Haffield
Lindsay Hathaway

Jordan Hayes
Alea Heck
Cole Heinz
Mary Heinz
Kaylin Heitmeyer
Karalyn Hewett

Luke Hiatt
Jacob Hileman
Phillip Hill
Travis Hill
Levi Himes
Nicholas Hinrichs

Jordan Hirl
Kurtis Hoekstra
Heather Hoffman
Alina Holliday
Nichole Hollis
Austin Hoppe
Samuel Kwak
Jaqueline LaPash
Rebekah LaPlante
Aaron Larson
Matthew Larson
Stephanie Larson
Madalyn Lathrop
David Latko
Wesley Lau
David Leman
Kayla Lewis
Jordan Lingle
Stephanie Linquist
Taryn Lofton
Taylor Logan
Pamela Loitz
Tiara Long
Ashley Longnecker
Ian Lopshire
Melissa Luby
Janelle Lucas
Hannah Luginbill
Ryan Lutz
Andrea MacDonough
Alexandra Mahaffey
Kasey Main
Cody Manning
Joelle Mannion
Brandon Maranion
Hayley Marcordes
Andrew Marcotte
Michaela Maris
Brittany Markland
Keren Marsh
Hannah Martin
Kimberly Maue
Haley Peterson
Julie Pilaczynski
Bethany Pilat
Saige Pilgrim
Gregory Planck
Micah Plank
Arika Schmitt
Ashley Schmitt
Nicholas Schoon

Sam Porgman
Matthew Posladek
Calvin Price
Sarah Putman
Jessica Putnam
Sarah Quealy
Collin Schoonover
Taylor Schott
Christian Schrader

Francisco Ramirez
Jessica Raquet
Catherine Reed
Meredith Rennie
Asha Reynolds
Kacey Richman
Katelynn Schurman
Alyssa Secor
Cristen Seiders

Chelsea Risinger
Nicholas Rivera
Rebekah Rivers
Zachary Rivett
Brett Robertson
Joshua Robinson
Victoria Sellers
David Shaffer
Nicholas Shaffer

Megan Rogahn
Nathan Romanowski
Alexandra Rosa
Leah Roth
Clara Ruegsegger
Walker Runyan

Zane Rupe
Emily Rush
Emily Sauer
Amber Scheidt
Zachary Schinzing
Annika Schmit
The sophomore class gifted Dr. J P B 3 JI Bowling with a beautiful piece of art for Christmas. Creator Francisco Ramirez explained the process: "I decided to make a leaf inspired wood-burning piece, because during the fall the leaves fall down and leave a beautiful impression in the ground. Dr. Bowling is well known for leaving a great and beautiful impression on people.

I made the wood burning by using a 4x4 piece of wood and a wood burning tool and a ton of imagination. I was extremely nervous when he was opening it. I was scared that he wasn’t going to like. In the end it was nothing but praises, and he told me he loved it and I had done a great job. This made me feel proud of myself. I just hope that I can top it off for next year’s gift!"
“Sometimes we’re in our own little bubble,” he says about the American church, sinking into a chair that looks less comfortable than it really is. He’s wearing a button down under a sweater. Daniel Meza is a freshman with a major in communications and a minor in multimedia with a focus in film studies. Despite his prospective graduation date, Daniel is actually twenty years old. His parents are both missionaries. When asked about his future in ministry all he can say is, “I don’t feel like I was called to be a missionary.” It’s as simple as that. God’s instruction dictates the direction of his life.

By David Modica

Daniel worked at EnCLave Producciones in Quito, Ecuador filming a women’s TV show called “Mujer Valiosa,” which means Valuable Woman. He did everything from video production to photography and animation. (1) (S) Daniel took a break to play pool between classes (2). (R.H.)
Daniel and his brother traveled to the city of Medellin, Columbia (3). (S) Daniel worked with Caleb Williams to begin producing episodes for the show (4). (S)

“I was born in Costa Rica,” Daniel Meza says, though he now lives in Colombia. He took a year off of school in order to work in film ministry. He spent six months traveling around to various cities with his dad to film different congregations to raise awareness for their ministries. The second half was spent in Ecuador working for a film company that’s “part of the Nazarene Mission.” It was while working there that he met a student mission group from Olivet and instantly felt connected.

“Going to Olivet was an option but it wasn’t a concrete decision,” he says. He had two other options: continue to work in Colombia or go to school at Mount Vernon. After interacting with the students of Olivet, his decision was solidified. “It’s a very diverse college,” he says proudly.
Brandon Baker
Luke Baker
Tyrel Baldridge
Abigail Balducci
Ashley Baldyga
Brooke Ballard

Melanie Adams
Kaitlyn Adkins
Tyler Alcazar
Christine Aldeir
Megan Aldridge
Mattie Alexander

Allison Alexy
Nathan Allen
Spencer Allen
Sarah Allison
A’tajene Anderson
Riley Anderson

Tamareia Anderson-Wilson
Alyssa Applegate
Liliana Arroyo
Jenna Ayers
Brooke Bachtold
Madison Badiac

Brandon Baker
Luke Baker
Tyrel Baldridge
Abigail Balducci
Ashley Baldyga
Brooke Ballard
Aaron is new here at ONU, but his family isn’t. Six of his relatives are Olivet graduates, and his grandparents, Roland and Freda Wolfe, are well known within the Olivet community. As the newest member of an Olivet family legacy, Aaron says he is very happy with his decision to come here. He explained, “My experience at Olivet has been great. The professors are indeed some amazing people. My favorite thing about ONU would have to be the love and happiness that seems to be emitted by pretty much everyone you come in contact with.” Aaron is majoring in athletic training, and his favorite things include Scripture, coffee, and being awesome.
Rachel Elder
Alaina Elliot
Tyler Ellis
Megan Elmer
Rachel Elson
Shavon Emerson

Allison Englebrecht
Michelle Erickson
Alberto Escobar Ruiz
Evelyn Espinoza
McKenzie Evans
Cole Evenson

Sarah Faivre
Nikos Fajdich
Jamison Ferguson
Michael Fiene
Chase Fierro
Jacob Finn

Joseph Finn
Luke Fischer
Dexter Fish
Tiffani Fisher
Bryan Fladseth
Travis Fleetwood

Aaron Flemming
Jacob Ford
Matthew Fowler
Brooke Fraley
Alynn Franklin
Marta Franseen

Ashley Freeman
Tierney Frey
Laura Frump
Shealeigh Funnii
Levi Gambill
Genesis Garcia
Esther Paek is a biblical studies major from North Chesterfield, Virginia, but you may know her better as the freshman class chaplain. Esther was attracted to Olivet by the small size, sense of community, and Christian focus, but her decision to attend came when she read Acts 1:12 and saw the word “Olivet” in the Bible for the first time. She took it as a sign from God that ONU would be the right place for her, and so far, it has exceeded her expectations. The classes here have expanded her perspective on the possibilities and strategies of ministry. When asked about what she is looking forward to in her next three years at Olivet, Esther said, “I’m looking forward to really deepening my relationship with God and enriching my life with good friends... And, possibly finding a husband,” she added with a laugh.
Matheus Guimaraes
Seung Chul Ha
Elaine Hackney

Matthew Haerr
Kristi Hamachek
Brandon Hamilton

Abigail Hancock
Allyson Hanrahan
Holly Harlow
Jonathan Harman
Lisa Hartman
Danielle Harvick

Andrea Hay
John Hayes
Brooke Heaton
Elizabeth Hein
Jessa Hendricker
Megan Hendrickson

Cassandra Hendrix
Hannah Henry
Rachel Hensley
Lyndsey Herndon
Emily Hess
Joshua Hess

Victoria Hess
Shannon Hicks
Ethan Hiles
Kollin Hiles
Morgan Hill
Helena Hill-Schaeffer
Nicholas Hundley
Kristen Hung
Alexander Hunt
Sean Hurley
Charlene Hutchcraft
Jayna Hyde
Brandon Jackson
Jacari Jackson
Elizabeth Jenkins
Johnson Jevaughn
Rachel Jirik
Alexander Johnson
Amanda Johnson
Elizabeth Johnson
Heather Johnson
Jessica Johnson
Jordan Johnson
Jessica Johnston

Sydney Hilst
Lara Hoaglan
Jacqueline Hobbs
Elisabeth Hobson
Anneka Hoekstra
Grace Hohn

Dava Hollis
Austin Holton
Alexander Hottle
Codey Houts
Sydney Houzenga
Taylor Howard

Allison Howell
Taylor Hudelson
Sean Hudgens
Sarah Hudi
Christina Huebner
Hannah Humphrey

Nicholas Hundley
Kristen Hung
Alexander Hunt
Sean Hurley
Charlene Hutchcraft
Jayna Hyde

Brandon Jackson
Jacari Jackson
Elizabeth Jenkins
Johnson Jevaughn
Rachel Jirik
Alexander Johnson

Amanda Johnson
Elizabeth Johnson
Heather Johnson
Jessica Johnson
Jordan Johnson
Jessica Johnston
Matt Reed, Maddie Buseth, and Rachel Blunier pause for a picture while playing Apples to Apples.

Autumnal food and new friends abound at the freshman party in the Warming House.

Brandon Hamilton and Jacob Ford focus in on a board game.

Esther Paek playfully balances a pumpkin on Gunther Maddock's head.

Angela Meier Vaughan Meiss Faith Meitzler Joseph Melsha

Jacob Mettille Brianna Meyers Natily Meyers Jacob Miller

Olivia Miller Abigail Mills Emily Mills William Mims

Cheyenne Miotti Julianne Mitchell Trevor Moberly Brent Mollema

Matthew Montgomery Charity Moody Mitchell Moon Sarah Moon

Samantha Morey Lacey Morgan Ashley Mose Drew Mosson
Drew Philson  
Ashley Piekarczyk  
Jessica Pierotti  
Danielle Finder  
Joshua Pityer  
Palmer Ponstein

Amilee Potts  
Caleb Powell  
Ayla Price  
Carson Price  
Benjamin Prince  
DeShawna Psalms

Gianna Puccinelli  
Juleah Puccinelli  
Daneli Rabanalez Hernandez  
Alexandra Radulovic  
Megan Ralston  
Samantha Rasmussen

Cassidy Ratcliff  
Juliana Ray  
Sarah Ray  
Tiffany Ray  
Molly Reamon  
Katelyn Reed

Matthew Reed  
Angela Reinbacher  
Daniel Reinke  
Marjorie Remy  
Matthew Restad  
Jason Reynolds

Jacquelynn Rhea  
Olivia Rhoades  
Stephen Richardson  
Macie Riegel  
Alan Riley  
Maggie Risher
Holly Risinger
Nicholas Rivera
Reilly Roberts
Justin Robertson
Jonathen Robey
Kanisha Rodriguez
Brittin Rollette
Hayley Ronci
Myles Roosevelt
Thalia Rosas
Madison Rose
Ryan Rose
Megan Ruffolo
Lyndsey Rupp
Thomas Russell
Luke Salomone
Jack Salsgiver
Thomas Salsgiver
Lindsay Miller, a junior, sat in a computer lab on the fourth floor of Burke (her home as an English major) smiling beneath her Blackhawks hat, excited to talk the ear off of anyone about the nation's greatest team and the world's best sport. 

Leaning against the chair, she fired off her favorite players. Savard is first, playing in the eighties, before she was born. "I had the opportunity to meet him once," she said, eyes wide with the memory. "I have an autographed puck from him and it's my prized possession." Also on the list is Seabrook, who she quickly mentioned is the youngest player on the team. "My mom jokes I'm going to marry him, and I hope it's not a joke," she said. She has multiple jerseys, a shocking number of T-shirts—15—along with a plethora of other apparel and accessories, including a collection of hats.

Despite all the evidence to the contrary, Lindsay is in remission, with three treatments left to combat a stage three case of Hodgkin's lymphoma. "We found the tumor on April Fool's day," she said, her smile evanescent. Treatment began as soon as she went home for summer break. She finished this year by traveling home every other Friday.

"It was honestly such a blessing that the Hawks lasted so long in the playoffs," she said, "It was encouraging seeing them fight their battles while I was fighting mine." Unfortunately, one of the side effects of the chemotherapy was deterioration in vision, which led to some difficulty watching lengthy amounts of television. "I would purposefully nap for hours leading up to the game," she said.

Her celebration of their recent victory wasn't affected in the least by the sickness. "I literally collapsed to the floor and cried. Then my friend and I went out to McDonalds," she said. Despite being unable to go to the parade due to her weakened immune system, she got her chance to touch the Stanley Cup on its way to a rally, after weaving through a crowd and past a security guard. She found out she was cancer-free just two weeks later, prompting her family to jest that "Jesus and Lord Stanley" had cured her. By David Modica

Brent Seabrook scored in overtime during game four of the 2013 Stanley Cup Finals against the Boston Bruins to help the Blackhawks win the cup.
“I want to go up to people who have cancer and say, ‘Hey—you’re bald. I was too!’” Hannah Reister does not shy away from telling people that she had cancer.

When she came to Olivet, most people just thought she just had a cute, short haircut. Now, a year later, perfect ringlets fall nearly to her shoulder. If you stay and ask, you will learn about the day that Hannah cut off a foot of her long blonde hair to donate it, and about the mornings she woke up with fallen hair blanketing her pillow due to chemo rounds during her senior year of high school. One day, she couldn’t take it anymore. “We’re shaving it off now,” she decided.

As a volleyball player, Hannah had to work back up to reach the skill level she knew she was capable of after losing 30 pounds of muscle. While retraining her body, her heart was trained through the challenges too.

“I want to go up to people who have cancer and say, ‘Hey—you’re bald. I was too!’” Like the title of the book the volleyball team studied this season, Hannah experienced a “soul shift.” Her transformation was tested this year when she tore her ACL on the third day of preseason. Still smiling, she relates that the injury would have caused her world to cave in if she hadn’t already experienced—and beat—something bigger. “I have realized that the stresses of my life are so much smaller,” she said. Hannah knows how blessed she is, often remembering the words of the hymn “Count Your Blessings” which her head oncologist sang to her on the day she found out she had cancer.

She knows that her challenging bout with cancer changed her life for the better. “I am genuinely excited to see God’s plan in all of this,” she says.

By Katharyn Schrader

Hannah has found comfort in the words of the hymn “Count Your Blessings.” The lyrics explain, “When upon life’s billows you are tempest tossed/When you are discouraged/Thinking all is lost/Count your blessings/Name them one by one/And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.” (RH)
“The doctors said I had a guardian angel over me,” Brittany Luchene said, expression shifting from melancholy to celebrative. “This kind of thing doesn’t normally happen to a fifteen year old, and it wasn’t normal to not need chemo.” All in all, she ascertains that she was lucky.

Brittany is in her junior year, working toward a double major in Business and Sports Management. She manages the ONU football team. She can’t decide who she likes more: the Bears or the Blackhawks. When pressed she’ll choose ice cream as the food to eat exclusively for the rest of her life (nutrition notwithstanding). She’s also a cancer survivor, over four years cancer-free.

On January 5, in the middle of her sophomore year of high school, Brittany was admitted to the hospital after experiencing severe stomach pain for three days. “The doctors discovered her appendix had ruptured and surgery. “The doctor told me if I had come an hour later I would have died,” she said reflectively.

The blessing didn’t end with timing; the doctors discovered a tumor beneath her appendix that might have otherwise been overlooked. The mass was cancerous. The cells had spread to two-thirds of her colon, a portion of her large intestine, and a number of lymph nodes. The treatment would span from January to March, consisting of several surgeries to remove the affected tissue.

“At the time I was very distant,” she said. “I struggled a lot with my faith.” The largest obstacle was overcoming the question of why bad things happen to good people. She never gave up despite adversity, insisting that the experience helped her to reassess her values. “Looking back I grew a lot,” she said with a smile.

After several weeks of checkups following her discharge, she was pronounced cancer free. Now, she’s bucking under the weight of schoolwork like a typical upperclassman, participating in extra curricular activities when she can. “I got to see what was important and what wasn’t,” she said. She uses her story to emphasize the difference between the worldly and the eternal. Though the future is uncertain, she hopes it involves ice cream and athletics.
Logan Roix, the oldest of nine children, is featured on the cover of a nonfiction memoir titled “What’s Next, Papa?” written by his father about the loss of his wife to cancer four years ago. “I was having a rough day,” he said reflectively. “It was right after my mom died, and I just didn’t want to get out of bed. We finally just went to one of the state parks, and we were hiking and I had a backpack on and I was just standing there looking the river and he took a picture.”

His father later surprised him with the finished book cover featuring a photo of that moment.

Roughly four years later Logan was diagnosed with cancer after “noticing some changes.” The doctors wasted no time, giving him an ultrasound that night. Two days later he met with a urologist. The day after that he had his first surgery. He received a call from his doctor on his way home from his family’s house in Wisconsin telling him that the blood levels that they had been monitoring had gone up. He would need chemotherapy, a method of treatment they were hoping to bypass. “When I first found out I had it I was kind of okay, not really freaking out,” he said. “While we were driving home and he told me I would be starting chemo, that’s when it hit me for the first time.”

The treatment involved three rounds of chemotherapy. “The first week would be Monday through Friday for six to eight hours and then for two weeks after that I would just go on Tuesday, and it would be short and easy,” he said. Afterwards there would be another full week of treatment. “I have never felt that tired before,” he said. “It drains everything from you.”

His mother’s death left him with a lot of unanswered questions he’d been working through ever since. His own struggle with cancer left him humbled and taught him of God’s grace through His provision over numerous medical bills that he could not have paid for on his own. “Why was I angry before?” he said. “He really is a great God.” He chose joy rather than bitterness. “I wouldn’t say it was a good experience, but it hasn’t been all bad,” he concluded.

“Four years ago my mom passed away from cancer,” he said pensively. “That was in April, and then the following August I met Taylor, who is now my fiancée. So we’ve been kind of going through this together. She was there with me every single treatment. I couldn’t have done it otherwise.”

He finished up his last treatment the Tuesday before coming to Olivet. For now, he’s trying to stay on top of schoolwork and planning to marry Taylor a year from March, ready to put it all behind him and move on, applying the lessons he’s learned in the process.

By David Modica
Gina Bianchi and Kati Jackson dressed up for the WRL Sister-to-Sister Christmas/Pajama Party. The women are participants in the Women’s Residential Life Sister-to-Sister program. The program matches an upperclassman with a freshman; two women are matched based on interests and areas of study. There are usually two organized Sister-To-Sister meet-ups a semester, although freshmen are encouraged to reach out to their big sisters if they need guidance, advice, or just someone to hang out with. According to Gina and Kati, the program works very well.
If you've stopped by Jazzman's recently, you may recognize Juliana Ray. This friendly freshman from Burke, Virginia is one of Sodexo's newest baristas. To keep things at the coffee shop interesting, Juliana tries to switch up her hairstyle every time she works. She's an elementary education major with a Spanish minor. If you haven't met her yet, stop by Jazzman's for a sweet treat and warm smile.
Katie Tabisz
Kelly Tabisz
Sarah Vrosh
Jacob Wagner
Jordan Wallem
Sarah Walmsley
Jamie Walsh
Deborah Walton
Frank Tapia
Jennifer Taylor
Jordan Wanner
Lacey Ward
William Ward
Jacob Warfle
Matthew Warren
Tyler Watson
Shelby Taylor
Jordan Terbush
Samantha Weigt
Ronald Welles
Keefer Whaley
Matthew Wheeler
Whitney Whitehead
Noah Wildeman
Laura Willging
Diamond Williams
Mylana Williams
Emily Willis
Jacob Wilson
Kayla Winter
Christian Wizieck
Andrea Wojciechowski
Anna Wolford
Caleb Woods
Megan Woods
Jeff Woodward
Nicholas Woodward
Catherine Wright
Samantha Wright
Tyler Yager
Megan York
Hannah Zobrist

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