AUTHENTIC
FELLOWSHIP
You have to max out every single rep and every single step in order to make the show great. I try my hardest to max out every task or opportunity that faces me.

-Jacob Rechsteiner

The most meaningful thing I think this life offers us is family, and not just the family we are born with, but the family we find in our friends. A group of friends that doesn’t have to love us but CHOOSES to love us. There is seriously nothing cooler and more meaningful to me than the body of Christ.

-Laura Graven
“Chad is one of my closest friends and a part of ‘the big five.’ I met them freshman year when we all lived on second floor Chapman, and we’ve kind of ‘grown up’ here at Olivet together. There hasn’t been anything special about the group except that we committed to just do life together, all through the ups and downs. Everything from late nights together, to meals together, to wedding parties together. It is because of these guys that I’ve come to realize what they mean when they say, ‘college years are some of the best years of your life.’”

-Brandon Maranion

As much as I’ve felt as though I have to be there for my residents, I have to say that I have learned how much they are there for me. This year has been full of Jesus, laughter, tears, conversations, and coffee. Freshman year was a time in my life I will never forget. And this year I am experiencing it again, but this time from a different perspective, and I wouldn’t change it for anything.”

-Madison Davis
"Residential Life Staff, as a communal arm of Olivet Nazarene University, are driven by a Godly passion to serve students through intentional, loving relationships. As we strive to imitate Christ, we model, mentor, and motivate students to be Christ-like in their world." Centering their lives on this mission statement, the Residential Assistants furthered the kingdom of Christ, making incredible memories and friendships with depth.

"My absolute favorite thing about Res Life would have to be building relationships," said Grand Apartments RA Lyndsey Rupp. "I’ve gotten to meet and develop relationships with people I probably never would have otherwise, and I would have missed out on getting to know so many incredible people if I hadn’t been an RA." According to Rupp, the Res Life staff all work together in an effort to be support for students. Teams of Resident Directors and Resident Assistants, working under Phil Stewart, the Dean for Residential Life, made it their mission to be there for on-campus students whenever they were needed. This included planning events, organizing Bible studies, and even arranging for one-on-one communication with students for support and encouragement. Because of this, Residential Life was an organization that Olivet took very seriously.

"Residential Life is a community," Sarah Struck, RA in Williams Hall, said, "so there was so much encouragement and team-building involved in training and preparing for the school year."

Even beyond the beginning of the year, RDs and their RAs met often to touch base and discuss how to improve their system and the lives of the students under their care. Because, for the Res Life staff, it really is all about the students and how best to lead them. For students living on-campus, Olivet was home away from home and Res Life welcomed them into a genuine and loving family.
Group chats, impromptu runs to Chick-fil-A, Pepsi Breaks, Dunkin Days, meme-making, quan-hitting and “Friends” recreating, the Executive Council brought a group of diverse people with varying personalities and talents together and made them into a family.

“The executive council was more than just a few people who planned events,” said VP for Student Relations junior Luke Salomone. “We were individuals who got to explore our passions and interests while still in school. I loved being able to come together as a group and just enjoy the company of each other”.

Each member had a different skill set that equipped them for a position, and although they were all strong personalities they found they made a great team.

“Working as a team was vital for our the executives to succeed,” Salomone said. “While one may assume since we were all in positions of leadership our personalities might have clashed too much the opposite was true. We got along very well and had an amazing balance of talents that allowed us to be productive but also have a lot of fun.”

Everyone was passionate about their specific niche, and the council served as a support system and encouragement.

“I loved serving on the executive council because it opened the door for relationships with so many beautiful people,” said senior VP of Spiritual Life Katie Reed. “We had a built in family. It gave me mentors and resources that encouraged me to be accompaniment for amazing individuals as they served others. I loved watching the growth that took place in student leaders who I know will continue to make a difference after they leave this place.”

Council members agreed that it was an incredible group of individuals and an even better team of people who truly cared about the school and each other.

“It was so fun to watch people use their unique strengths to serve the Olivet family,” Reed said.

The farm was better together.
With hearts for the Lord and for the women on campus, Women's Residential Life truly fulfilled their mission to build relationships and encourage people through Christ. “It was truly amazing to see us have a Kingdom impact,” Michaela Maris, Vice President of WRL said. “That was by far the best part.” Maris lead the council of 20 women in providing events that were Christ-centered and promoted unity amongst the women on campus. Maris shared that she almost did not apply to be on WRL her freshman year, but realized that God was calling her to serve in this ministry and eventually lead it. From Sister2Sister, to Homecoming Coronation to Mr. ONU, Maris and her council aimed to build community and Christ centered friendships. WRL also took time to pray for the RAs on campus and partnered with various ONU organizations. In addition to these events programs, the group also ran an Instagram account aimed to encourage beauty. Through one of WRL’s main programs, Sister2Sister, the council fulfilled their mission of building friendships among the women on campus. The freshmen and transfer student mentoring program allowed new students to have an older student as a sister, mentor and friend. “We see sustainable friendships bloom from Sister2Sister,” Maris said, “and women encouraged because WRL touched their heart.”
WE ARE ASC

ASSOCIATED STUDENT COUNCIL

ASC, The Associated Student Council, has come to be known as the glue holding the student body together. Playing a highly important role in the development of the student body, their sole purpose has been to serve the student body in a variety of ways. This year was no different. Senior Chelsea Risinger, president of ASC, has been actively involved in ASC since her freshman year. She gladly reflected on her experiences and her gratefulness for being able to be president again for her senior year. She expressed how she enjoyed serving the student body this year, as in years past, and loved building on top of that.

“We’ve been here to serve the student body with whatever they need, and we have always gladly helped,” Risinger said. “We’ve had a direct connection to the administrative staff and connections across campus.”

Along with planning events for the student body, ASC’s goal this year was to insure that the communal aspect of Olivet stood strong, just as every year. Risinger and Maggie Cusey, junior class president, both agreed that service is important.

“I liked to see this as a ministry,” Cusey said. “This is the main ministry that reaches every student on campus, and I think it is a great opportunity to have.”

Creating an atmosphere where students feel constantly welcomed and involved in the life of Olivet helped bring the theme of unity on campus. With events that allowed the students to get together to have fun and grow spiritually, ASC served an important role. Risinger and Cusey shared what they have learned from ASC when it came to staying organized, being professional, developing a servant’s heart, and falling in love with working with other believers. ASC has not only impacted the student body but as well as the members that helped make it all happen.
CONNECTIONS
MADE IN INK

GLIMMERGLASS

Passion, pursuit and perseverance. With a heart for the news and the willingness to pursue it, GlimmerGlass editor Grace King led her staff in capturing good stories and turning them into print.

“The staff was definitely full of go-getters,” King said. “They were on top of things and were always ready to do what they had to in order to get a story.”

The staff members agreed that in addition to finding good stories, one of the highlights of working for the newspaper was connecting with new people. In the process of putting together an issue, writers and photographers often were in contact with, and communicated with many unique individuals in the Olivet and Kankakee area.

“I really enjoyed meeting people on this job,” said senior writer Melissa Luby. “Every story that we wrote was involved in a different part of the paper, so we met so many people from so many different walks of life, allowing us to develop relationships with a really broad spectrum of people.”

The staff’s diversity of interests allowed them to dabble in many different aspects of campus and community life. The connections made by staff members helped the paper produce stories that were important and relevant to students. The issues of the GlimmerGlass that were released every other week showed the hard work and connectedness of the staff, and the students truly appreciated their passion and pursuit of the good stories.

“WE MET SO MANY PEOPLE FROM SO MANY DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE, ALLOWING US TO DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS WITH A REALLY BROAD SPECTRUM OF PEOPLE.”
HEART OF AUTHENTICITY

Designers, photographers, writers, and editors found their place in the community of the “authentic” Aurora staff this year. This yearbook’s theme carried over into all work on the book and in their relationships with each other. The genuine team members aspired to show what the 2015-16 year was really like in the pages of the finished product. Working with a modern concept and designing original layouts made this yearbook stand out as something unique.

“The designers this year haven’t been using templates when we put together each page of the book so everything looks very different and definitely modern,” junior Carlee Sprecher said. Simple, geometric designs, stellar pictures, and focused stories provide a snapshot of this year’s people of Olivet. More than just a staff, the Aurora writers, designers, photographers, and editors have been a team.

“I love that I’ve gotten to meet new people by being on the Aurora staff,” assistant yearbook editor and junior Kristen Hung said. “I have some really good friends on the staff and it’s been great getting to work with them.”

The team’s goal has been to preserve memory within the pages of this book.

“The yearbook is kind of like a mosaic,” Executive Editor Kate Kettelkamp said. “Countless pieces of hard work and art have come together to make one big picture that people can look back on and see their experience.”

Two semesters of deadlines and long nights added up to a yearbook that will hopefully be pulled off the shelf for reminiscing for years to come. The staff wanted the book to bring back memories of friends, events, and clubs from 2015-16 and really represent Life at Olivet. The authenticity of Olivet was reflected in the Aurora staff, and from their efforts came a work that they hoped reflected their hearts.

“It’s like a mosaic. Countless pieces of hard work and art have come together to make one big picture that people can look back on and see their experience.”
Prospective students were met with warm welcomes and genuine enthusiasm as they stepped into the Admissions Center. The Admissions staff worked to show others the true spirit of Olivet and strived to help make attending Olivet possible for every student. “My favorite things about this job is when a family that doesn’t think their student can be at Olivet discovers it is possible,” said Gary Gerstenberger, Family Advocate and Enrollment Advisor. The admissions staff did all that they could to help students’ dreams of attending Olivet become a reality.

“The campus and academics are incredible, said Nancy Benoit, Admissions Receptionist and Ambassador Supervisor. “But it is the people who are amazing—and visitors notice and comment often on the friendliness of the people on campus.”

Not only did the Admissions staff show the unique Olivet community to prospective students, but they also had incredible community with each other.

“It’s been a blessing to be a part of a team that not only works together, but also prays together,” said Admissions counselor Megan McKinley. “Our work meetings consist of planning and preparing for events but ends with prayer requests. My co-workers are genuinely interested in my life and I am in theirs.”

Some events the admissions staff hosted for prospective students were ‘Purple and Gold Days’, ‘Red Carpet Days’, and ‘Just for Junior Days’. ‘Purple and Gold Days’ were for high school seniors and parents to experience Olivet. They had a chance to meet with the faculty and staff, hear from Dr. Bowling, and stay in a dorm with a current Olivet student. Students also took a trip to Chicago for some pizza and Starbucks. ‘Red Carpet Days’ were designed for high school sophomores and juniors wanting to experience Olivet, and ‘Just for Junior Days’ were for, as the name implies, juniors and typically held in the spring. In addition to these days, students could schedule personalized campus visits during the week days.

Olivet had over 2000 campus visits a year, and as a result of the Admission team’s hardwork, Olivet had 734 new freshmen. The friendly admissions staff did everything they could to make students’ dreams become a reality, and had fun while doing it.

“I loved my admissions family,” McKinley said. “It was always a party in the back room.”
NOT TOO SERIOUS

SPOONS 4 FORKS

As the saying goes, laughter is the best medicine. In a college setting where stress is prevalent, Spoons 4 Forks became a remedy for that on Olivet's campus, bringing the essence of laughter to the student body with their comical skits. "Laughter helps people realize that life shouldn't be taken super serious," said member Kyle Johnston. It helps people forget about the stresses and problems that they are going through."

Working as a team to make spectacular productions was an important aspect of Spoons 4 Forks this year. "The members of the team have been some of the most interesting people that I've ever known," said member Joe Bunker. "We were one big, messed-up comedic family."

The events brought group together, as well as the Olivet family to enjoy nights of fun, laughter and a chance to release some stress in a positive and hilarious atmosphere.

"LAUGHTER HELPS PEOPLE REALIZE THAT LIFE SHOULDN'T BE TAKEN SUPER SERIOUS"
MuKappa

China, Korea, South Africa, Haiti, France, Puerto Rico—these are just a few of the countries from which Olivet international students, missionary kids and first generation Americans originated. Transition into American life was difficult at times, but the club MuKappa helped these students connect and make friends. MuKappa, an international initiative, has served on campuses across the nation, working to encourage missionary kids, multi-cultural, and international students in their cross-cultural transitions.

“Our mission has been to create a family that international students can lean on and put trust in,” said the president of Olivet’s chapter of Mu Kappa Calvin Price. “We’ve wanted to provide them with support.”

As in previous years, the club brought international students together, allowing them to be unified and help each other with their struggles. “I have seen Mu Kappa support international students by helping them feel at home,” said junior Sarah Mouaraki. “It’s always hard for many students to be away from home, and Mu Kappa has been a place for international students to feel at home. We helped them know that they were not the only ones that had to go through it.”

Mu Kappa has also helped American students learn and understand other cultures.

“My favorite part of leading Mu Kappa this year was the cultural experience of meeting new individuals from different walks of life,” Price said.

Not only did these students get to make friends with other international students, but they got to meet national students and help them learn about other cultures. By building a community of support, learning and acceptance, Mu Kappa has been extremely effective in helping international students endure and enjoy their college experience.
Another club that has helped integrate international students into Olivet’s campus is Multi-Ethnic Relations (MERC). MERC helped familiarize international students with each other and with American students to raise ethnic awareness.

“It was our mission this year to bring students of different cultural backgrounds together to serve others in the community,” said junior president of MERC Destiny Paden. This mission of service helped create friendships and camaraderie among both local and international students.

MERC’s main goal this year was to serve the community and bring people together; making a difference was the club’s first priority. MERC participated in many service activities this year, including work with Awana and volunteering at a homeless shelter in Chicago.

“I didn’t want to leave Olivet the same way I found it,” Paden said. “I wanted there to be something that I left behind. I would love to see us all coming together for something bigger than ourselves on campus.”

Much like Paden, the international students in MERC wanted to impact their community for Christ through wholehearted service.
SOMETHING IN COMMON
The Anime Club and Craft Connections club shared something in common with each other—unique passions. Both clubs brought students together to enjoy their hobbies with other fellow students. Many people chose to join these clubs because of the ability to meet other people who enjoyed their same interest and passion.

“As a club, we did not just use anime for entertainment,” said Anime Club leader Andrew Fey. “The club influenced us to get together and be with like-minded people. My favorite part of this club was just bringing people together and enjoying each other’s company.”

Anime Club brought people together to watch anime and offered a place for them to relax and enjoy each other’s presence. Other members of the club expressed that meeting new people was their favorite part.

“I was a part of this club because I loved anime and cherished the opportunity to discover new friends with similar interests displayed on a big screen, accompanied by snacks,” said freshman Xavier Champ. Members of Craft Connections said it also provided an outlet for artistic inspiration and moments to de-stress with other students.

“I was a part of the Craft club because I loved having an outlet of self-expression that allowed me to decompress after a long day of classes and just be creative,” said junior Emilie Walder.

Club members said they came together to create beautiful pieces and projects while enjoying snacks and movies. At the meetings, students could learn new projects or discover skills they never knew they had. “It was important to take a break from the homework to have a little fun,” said senior leader Asha Reynolds. “It was also a way to manage stress. I tried to encourage everyone who came to just have fun and create. Many students didn’t believe that they were creative and were pleasantly surprised when they gave it a try. Everyone can be crafty.”

Similar to Anime club, Craft Connections fostered many friendships. Students agreed that finding solace among like-minded individuals by doing what you love is a great way to make connections with others and also find a sense of belonging. Both clubs strived to provide time and space for students to relax in community with one another, enjoying hobbies.
"It's a place where borders are crossed between the many different social circles at Olivet."
exactly as the name suggests: students gathering together on Friday nights to play board games together. As one of Olivet’s most casual clubs, Tabletop Gaming has provided a space for groups to come together, just let loose, and have some laid-back fun for an evening.

“We’ve had no attendance policy and it’s always been ‘come when you want, leave when you want,’” said club president Hardy Carroll. “Our focus has always been just to provide a free, fun environment to play games and de-stress from the week.”

Tabletop experienced a great boom in attendance after it was established, as many students were drawn to this idea of freely come-and-go.

“My favorite thing about Tabletop would have to be the social dynamics we’ve seen this year,” said table top’s historian Bob Kuhn. “It’s been a place where borders have been crossed between the many different social circles at Olivet.”

As Kuhn suggested, many students from all different majors and social circles found themselves at Tabletop Games Club at least once in a semester.

INVESTMENT CLUB AND TABLETOP GAMES

Two of the most obscure (but no less loved) clubs on Olivet’s campus have been the Tabletop Games Club and the Investment Club. Both have been consistently filled with passionate individuals.

In 2016, these clubs catered to students who found themselves wanting to be a part of a specific community.

Tabletop gaming has functioned exactly as the name suggests: students gathering together on Friday nights to play board games together. As one of Olivet’s most casual clubs, Tabletop Gaming has provided a space for groups to come together, just let loose, and have some laid-back fun for an evening.

“We’ve had no attendance policy and it’s always been ‘come when you want, leave when you want,’” said club president Hardy Carroll. “Our focus has always been just to provide a free, fun environment to play games and de-stress from the week.”

Tabletop experienced a great boom in attendance after it was established, as many students were drawn to this idea of freely come-and-go.

“My favorite thing about Tabletop would have to be the social dynamics we’ve seen this year,” said table top’s historian Bob Kuhn. “It’s been a place where borders have been crossed between the many different social circles at Olivet.”

As Kuhn suggested, many students from all different majors and social circles found themselves at Tabletop Games Club at least once in a semester.
Riding through a forest, members of the Equestrian Club see the sunlight streaming between the trees and hear the birds chirping merrily as they enjoy one of their favorite pastimes. Students who loved horses usually did not get many opportunities to interact with them while they lived on campus, but through the Equestrian Club they had the opportunity.

"Before I joined the Equestrian Club, I did not really get to be around horses here at college," said sophomore Katie Rummery. "I love having this opportunity to ride, be around horses, and build friendships."

The people in the Equestrian Club this year enjoyed spending time with each other and building relationships.

"I have witnessed and personally experienced friendships that were built, and all of our members enjoyed taking breaks from campus to spend one-on-one time with these beautiful horses," President of the club and junior Elizabeth Johnson said. Members of the Equestrian Club were able to bond and build great friendships while spending time with the horses they loved.

About twice a week, Johnson took a group out to assist a local widow they endearingly called "Nonna," who owns four horses. They groomed and fed the horses, mucked stalls, and helped with various barn chores. They loved being able to minister to Nonna and share the love of God with her by helping her in a very practical way. At the same time, they got to spend time with animals that they love.

"It has been awesome to see people step forward to serve in our local community as we care for horses," Johnson said.

The Equestrian Club aimed to give students the opportunity to be around and care for the beautiful creatures that God has created.
Climbing trees, hiking through the woods, building fires, making s’mores: no club said “outdoors” like the Outdoor Adventure Club. The group tried to bring this kind of excitement and love for creation to Olivet’s student body this year by venturing out into the great outdoors and inviting students along.

“We both chose to lead this club because we love the outdoors,” said Presidents of the club Jon Harman and Elizabeth Jenkins. Who better to lead an outdoors club than those who have a passion for God’s creation? Through their leadership, the club gave students the opportunity to get away from the noise and busyness of college and see God’s creation.

During the fall semester, the club took trips to the Kankakee State Park and to Starved Rock, where they hiked, camped, and simply enjoyed nature. These get-away trips allowed students to connect with others and build relationships in a new way. Members loved getting to participate in outdoor activities and spend time with newfound friends.
Emily Janes, a senior zoology major, seized an opportunity for zoology majors and all students passionate about animals to come together, by founding the first ever zoology club at Olivet Nazarene University.

"One of the main goals of the ONU Zoology club is to fulfill our responsibility of God's awesome creation," Janes said. "Whether through meetings and events on campus, or volunteer work within the community, we hope to help members uncover personal passion within the field of environmental and animal science." To kick off the club Dr. Veld and Dr. Finkenbinder, the faculty advisor, lead members of the club to the Field House Museum of Chicago. There were over 20 students who took part in the field trip which put the Zoology club off to a strong start. The group hoped to continue learning about creation and serving the area through volunteer work for years to come.
Social Justice Club

To stand up and speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves was at the core of Olivet’s Social Justice Club. The ministry based on serving the inflicted and the unjustly treated, sought to raise awareness of often overlooked issues. “Our members have all been passionate people wanting to speak out for those who don’t have a voice, regardless of community, nation, or identity label,” club president Clara Reugsegger said. Most of the members were actively involved in the anti-trafficking efforts, while also focusing on several other social injustices. They shared a desire to work together in making an impact on the lives of many and to put an end to social injustices.

Raising awareness was one of the driving motives behind the club this year, according to Vice President Laura D’Angelo. “We wanted to educate and inform students on campus of social injustices in this world,” D’Angelo said. “We wanted not only to provide education on the issues, but also give students the ability to respond to them.”

The sex trafficking industry was a major focus of the club this year. One of the most impacting campaigns that Social Justice Club was able to lead was fittingly titled “The Not-So-Super Super Bowl.”

“This annual event draws attention to sex trafficking that occurs during major American sporting events, such as the Super Bowl,” said Dr. Craig Bishop, Criminal Justice Program director and faculty advisor for the ministry. “I have been encouraged and inspired to observe student leaders serve with selfless enthusiasm in support of other human beings.”

The club was filled with passion-driven people this year, ready to stand up for the hurt and abused, the mistreated and ignored. They were lights in the dark areas of this world ready to spread the love of Jesus Christ to the hearts of many.

“We wanted to not only provide education on the issues, but also give students the ability to respond to these injustices.”