



JEAN MARTIN '72

Freshman year at Olivet Nazarene College was difficult for Jean Martin. She had moved from Florida to Indianapolis before her senior year in high school. Then she came to a college she had never visited before attending orientation. Some of her friends still remember how Jean did not want to be there. She missed her friends from Florida and went home to Indianapolis every chance she got. Students were allowed eight weekend passes, and she took them all.

When her sophomore year began at Olivet, Jean got involved in student government. That was the turning point for her life at Olivet. She made some of her best friends for life during her remaining years on campus. Her graduating class continues to be very active and even to enjoy special trips together. She is active on the reunion committee and enjoys staying connected with everyone.

She married Stan, from Indianapolis, who also graduated from Olivet and now serves on Olivet's Development team. In addition, her mother; her daughters, Camie and Cassie; her brother-in-law

and sister-in-law; and a niece and nephew have also earned degrees from Olivet.

During Jean's professional career in the fields of social work and fundraising, she has always had a heart for those who need extra encouragement. Working with troubled teens and older adults was her focus for the first part of her career. Raised by a single mom, she understands the challenges of growing up without a dad present in the home. She continues to have a special connection with people who are looking for community and a foundation for their lives.

In 2007, Jean joined Olivet's Development team as director of annual giving. "I had the privilege of supervising our student Phonathon phone callers for eight years," Jean says.

"The last group I worked with grew particularly close. We worked together and also had fun together. I'm still in contact with some of them. I enjoy seeing how they've matured."

OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

Connections with her Olivet classmates and other alumni continue to bless Jean. She always enjoys her class reunions. She recalls two other special events which gave her opportunities to interact with some of them: the naming and dedication of Olivet's McGraw School of Business, and organizing a luncheon for the Otis Johnson Scholarship. These celebrations brought alumni together with the students, faculty, staff and local community.

Today, Jean serves as the director of donor research and engagement. "Stan and I meet with a lot of Olivet alumni and friends," she says. "Many of them are surprised when they find out that both of us work for Olivet."

One of Jean's favorite ways to tell others about Olivet and its mission is to share how Christ is at the center of everything that happens. Classes, sporting events, concerts, celebrations.

"If there's a need, people stop and pray for one another," she says. "What a blessing to be in a place where prayer is permissible! Students recognize the difference when they don't see that in other parts of their lives."

Jean's desire to help Olivet alumni and friends reconnect or stay connected with the University fuels the work she now does. She and Stan especially enjoy all the opportunities they have to share Olivet's successes and plans. "Everyone is spread out across the world," she says. "Most of the time, we don't get to see them or interact with them. When we do get to meet with them in person, it's really special. The web of Olivet connections continues to surprise me."

During a recent women's retreat she attended, Jean was reminded of those connections once again. A cable on the presenter's computer broke, and the session was almost ready to start. Jean called an Olivet alumnus who lived in the area and found the cable for her. The man and his wife even personally delivered the cable to them.

Jean recalls how she realized the Olivet difference during a job interview she once had. "The interviewer questioned me extensively about job tenure," she says. "Employers used to ask for a long commitment. That remains part of who I am as a Christian and as an Olivet grad. Building trust with the people you serve doesn't come overnight. People value that commitment, even in today's world."

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