



ALYSSA PHELPS '21

“Every campus visit I host is different because every person who visits is different,” says Alyssa Phelps. As she leads ONU’s special guest campus visit program, she meets and interacts with any guest who isn’t a prospective student — donors, alumni, chapel speakers, lecturers, people from the local community.

She fondly recalls the first campus visit she hosted. “The woman I hosted never attended ONU,” Alyssa says. “Her brother had passed away and had donated his musical instruments to our School of Music. She saw ONU for the first time when she came to present the instruments on the anniversary of his death. I had the privilege of leading her down memory lane and also showing her what her brother’s gift would now be part of.”

Alyssa still remembers her first visit to ONU when she was a high school freshman. When she walked onto the campus that day, ONU became part of her personal story forever.

“My dad had always talked about ONU, although he never attended,” she says. “When I enrolled, I faced the same situation that many of our

students face today. I came from a single income household, and I know God provided for me to come to ONU through the generosity of His people. I was a scholarship recipient when I was a student. Now, I’m partnering with God and helping people just like me.”

Looking back over her years as an ONU student, Alyssa sees and celebrates many of God moments. The first came on the first day of her freshman year when she moved in at Williams 2 South. The friends she began making that day are still her best friends today. Some of them are her roommates now, too.

Alyssa also recalls the mentoring relationship she developed with Dr. Lynda Allen, professor in ONU’s McGraw School of Business. Alyssa was in many clubs, activities, classes and meetings with Dr. Allen. Each time students gathered, Dr. Allen offered a devotional thought, a personal insight and prayer. “Dr. Allen is so in love with Jesus,” Alyssa says. “That helped me fall in love with Jesus. The way she lives out her faith inspires many students. She is an excellent example of ‘Education With a Christian Purpose.’”

After graduating from ONU in 2021, Alyssa went on to earn her MBA in 2022. In her current role with ONU's Development team, she builds relationships with donors and plans events — two of her favorite activities!

One of her first job assignments was to plan and execute ONU's Winter Golf Outing in February 2022. "I had never played golf or even been on a golf course before," she says. "When we arrived in Phoenix for the event, I knew only five people who were there. Five days later, I had 60 new friends."

"That was one of those God moments, when God confirmed to me that I'm doing what He wants me to do with my life and doing what really matters."

She also has the opportunity supervise student workers. "They are the coolest people you would ever want to meet," she says. "Learning from them and seeing them grow throughout their college years is a blessing for me. In our Development office, we are putting into practice what Olivet

teaches in the classroom. I'm leading them through a real world training experience while helping them grow personally, professionally and spiritually."

Alyssa credits her dad for his mentoring, including the best life advice she has ever received:

"Brighten someone's day. Everyone needs love and support." In her work and in her life, she strives to show kindness to everyone and let them know they matter. Her focus is on listening to people's needs and what they are going through, and also on hearing the unsaid. Then, she gives acts of kindness or encouragement to help meet their needs.

"I'm thankful to be doing corporate America work for a Christian nonprofit organization," Alyssa says. "We are in the hope business. Students sometimes feel hopeless about funding for their higher education. Donors sometimes need reminders that what they are doing for ONU matters. Our office is the Hope Liaison Office. We match those who want to give with those who have a need, and we do that matching with hope and purpose. That's how God provides through ONU."

Alyssa Phelps

*Associate Director of Donor
Engagement*

815-939-5016

ajphelps@olivet.edu