



## ERINN PROEHL '13

During his first ONU mission trip to Haiti in 2010, Erinn Proehl quickly learned how a team can make a difference in a community and in people's lives. "We stood in a line and passed rocks to the person next to us," he says. "That was the help the people of Haiti needed that day. We were moving the rubble away from their homes and businesses after the earthquake. God showed me the importance of working together to help and serve others."

As a high school student, Erinn had never heard of ONU before he met Rev. Mark and Marcia Green. Both were ONU alumni, and they were planning to bring their twin daughters to Just for Juniors Day. They invited Erinn's oldest sibling, Billie Jo, to go with them. Billie Jo fell in love with the nursing program.

Eighteen months later, Erinn and his entire family came with Billie Jo to campus for new student orientation. Erinn enjoyed his first experience with ONU's VIP treatment for prospective students.

Today, all five of the Proehl siblings (and some of their spouses) plus their father hold degrees from

ONU. In addition, everyone is currently working in their field of study.

**"Because of the Greens, our whole family's trajectory changed," Erinn says. "I wanted to be part of doing that for other families."**

In 2013, he began work as an admissions counselor in ONU's Office of Admissions. In 2016, he joined the Development team as the director of alumni relations.

Right before the first team meeting Erinn attended as an admissions counselor, a colleague took him aside and gave him career advice that has stuck with him ever since. "Don't talk in this meeting," he told Erinn. "This is your time to learn and earn your spot at the table. Your time will come."

Four years later, Erinn found himself seated at a table with some of the University's most successful alumni. He was leading a meeting of the alumni board of directors. "I was so

## OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

humbled that the University trusted me to lead that group,” he says. “This was such a powerful learning moment for me. I am so impressed by the esteemed alumni who want to help students and younger alumni succeed as leaders. They do everything they can to make Olivet better and make sure Olivet continues. That’s what I want to do, too.”

From his days as a student to his current role, Erinn appreciates Olivet’s values, value and vitality. “I want to help make sure that Olivet stays the same over time,” he says. “I love seeing how students and alumni are seeing the same Olivet because of our commitment to our Christian principles. I know from experience that there’s a sacrifice involved in attending Olivet. I see the incredible value of an Olivet education in my life, the lives of my siblings and so many others. God has given us this mission, and Olivet is going to continue to thrive and succeed.”

Erinn and his wife, Kelsey — a family nurse practitioner and ONU alumna — are living out that commitment in their life together as well. They have led 10 ONU mission trips to Honduras plus 3 additional trips. They also teach a Sunday School class for Kindergarten and first grade students at their church.

In preparation for one of the Honduras mission trips, Erinn and Kelsey led their group in a study of 2 Corinthians 4. Together, they talked about the light of the knowledge of the glory of God. After arriving in Honduras, Erinn and Kelsey challenged the students to light a candle each time they saw the glory of God while they were there. “By the end of that week, 67 candles were lit,” Erinn recalls. “God orchestrates our callings for us. He gives us work worth doing for Him. I learned that once again as I served alongside those college students.”

Erinn’s calling focuses on helping, organizing and planning for people as they work together to impact the lives of ONU students.

**“Staying in step with what God has for me to do and what His vision is for me keeps me on track,”**

he says. “I want to help others find what God has for them. I’m here to serve ONU alumni in all of life’s pursuits, to engage them in meaningful experiences, and to involve them in securing the future of the University. Leaning into what God has for us and where He’s leading us is what life is all about.”

### **Erinn Proehl**

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