

OLIVERIAN

A school as unique as its students.

Oliverian Newsletter December 2018

Oli's Approach to Holiday Homecomings

For any adolescent or young adult, the prospect of returning home for the holidays can bring with it a swell of mixed emotions - joy and anticipation, to be sure, but stress and sometimes even sadness, as well. In order to help our students and families successfully navigate holiday breaks together, Oliverian faculty and therapists work to alleviate some of the pressure that surrounds visits home in order to re-frame holiday vacation as an opportunity for growth and self-discovery.



Head of School Will Laughlin explains our approach [here](#).

Board Member Spotlight: Peter Stevens on Stepping Outside Your Comfort Zone

Board of Trustees Vice President Peter Stevens has over four decades of experience working in education. Prior to joining the board at Oliverian, he served as a Peace Corps Volunteer, worked as an English teacher, was school head at four schools in the U.S. and abroad, worked as the academic director at a therapeutic boarding school in Massachusetts, and spent about 12 years working as an independent educational consultant.

However, he didn't have much experience onstage and in the spotlight - until this summer, when he took on the star role of Stage Manager in a production of *Our Town*. We caught up with Peter to ask about his time in the theater and his experience on the board.



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Home For the Holidays: Reacclimating After a Semester Away

Coming home for the holidays should be cause for celebration, but for some students, it can come as something of a culture shock. For parents, it's important to remember that it's a natural result of their child's successful adjustment to a new place - it's a good sign, not a bad one! We asked Julie Tracy-Prieboy, Oli's Director of Counseling, what parents, students, and siblings can do to support each other through the transition.



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Electives Week Recap with Micah Weiss

Humanities teacher Micah Weiss wears many hats here at Oliverian. While he's an English teacher by training, his American Studies classes at Oli focus on a holistic blend of American history and literature before, during, and after World War II. He's also the chairman of the hiring committee, serves on the Oliverian Senior Project committee, and lives on campus with his wife, Betsy, and their three children.



This semester, Micah used Oli's electives week to explore a particularly timely topic with his students: how to engage in productive civil discourse. We sat down with Micah to discuss his approach to the class, the students' response, and what he learned along the way.

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What We're Reading

[The Art of Learning: An Inner Journey to Optimal Performance](#)

The author of this book, Josh Waitzkin, was

a chess prodigy and the focus of the movie *Searching for Bobby Fischer*.

This book explores his process for learning and acquiring new skills. I have found it an interesting read, and it's prompted me to think critically about my own learning process.

-Brendan Bigos

