

Education With A Christian Purpose



ROY F. QUANSTROM '69

When he was a high school student, Roy Quanstrom was the quarterback for their football team for three years. He was the play caller, calling the plays on the field, and was the team captain during his senior year. That's where he first learned about leadership and the leader God was calling him to be.

Roy entered and graduated from Eastern Nazarene College in 1956, majoring in mathematics followed with three semesters as a mathematics Graduate Assistant and student at Michigan State University, followed with employment at Chrysler Missile, Fort Motor Car Company, and International Business Machines.

“My earliest memory of Olivet’s campus is coming with my family, in the 1940s when I was a young boy, to visit the Brodien family,” he says. “Ed Brodien was Olivet’s chief engineer. He and my mother had known each other since childhood in Chicago.”

Roy’s connections with Olivet have continued throughout his adult life. While pastoring a Nazarene church in Brookfield, Illinois, in the late 1960s, he commuted to campus and earned his master’s degree in Religion. At that same time, Dr. Harold Reed, University President, asked Roy to teach in the math department for two years. Then later, in 1976, University President Leslie Parrott asked him to serve as vice president for institutional advancement. Roy served in that capacity for six years. In 1983, Roy received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from the University.

After pastoring five Nazarene churches followed by a 15-year career in development for The Salvation Army, Roy joined Olivet’s Development team in 2008. His awards and certifications include:

- Wharton School of Business Seminar, University of Pennsylvania
- Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) certification from the Association of Fund Raising Professionals (1995)
- NSFRE Executive Management Institute certificate from the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University (1998)

OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

- “Learn, Lead, Serve” Award from the National Committee on Planned Giving (2002)
- Alumnus of the Year Award from Eastern Nazarene College (2005)
- Ian T. Sturrock Outstanding Fundraising Executive Award (2006)

Roy has deep appreciation for Olivet’s consistency in maintaining important values. At Olivet then and now, the spiritual dimension of life is still important. “Chapel is still a part of student life,” he says. “Everyone pauses in the academic process to make time for chapel. Professors still pray for students in their classrooms and offices. They are available to talk with students about their problems. College Church of the Nazarene is still on campus. This is a testimony to Olivet’s values.”

In his current Development role at Olivet, Roy intentionally creates a friendship and a spiritual connection with the Olivet friends and alumni he contacts. He prays with people in every home visit. Sometimes this opens the door for them to talk about other concerns in their lives. He does his job as though he were the local pastor and enjoys it when they telephone him to talk.

Assisting students who need help is one of Roy’s joys in his work. “When a donor gives a financial gift that is larger than expected or anticipated, and they really come through for the students at Olivet, I am so pleased,” he says. “This is especially beneficial for the donor, because they are extending themselves with their generosity. Giving is a growth experience for each donor and also a testimony to God’s faithfulness to them. Every gift has a level of sacrifice associated with the gift.”

Roy and his wife, Shirley raised four children – Mark, Joan, Stephen and Lynne – who all attended Olivet. Their son, Mark, was a pastor, then a professor and later chair of Olivet’s School of theology and Christian Ministry. He now serves as senior pastor of College Church. They have three children. Joan and Jeff Wood direct over

3,000 students in after school Marshall Arts and Cheer Leading courses throughout the state of Minnesota. They have three children. Stephen and Denise reside in Fort Collins, Colorado, and are employed in sales. They have four children. Lynne and Craig Dillman live in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where Craig is the senior pastor at the Church of the Nazarene International Fellowship Church. They have three children.

Shirley and Roy have 23 great-grandchildren. Roy says, “On April 21, 2022, our two newest great-grandchildren were born on the same day, on the same floor, with the same doctor, in the same Grand Rapids, Michigan, hospital.”

When Roy needs inspiration and encouragement in his work, he often turns to a card he received in 1969 from Dr. Harold Reed, a past University president, with this quote: “Whatever the future holds for thee, be sure the best is yet to be.” He still has Dr. Reed’s card.

He also treasures this promise from God’s Word: “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’” (Jeremiah 29:11).

And he also thinks about his next trip to Alaska, a place he has visited four times in his life.

“I consider myself an educator,” Roy says. “I work for an educational institution, and I educate donors about the possibilities for giving they never conceived. And I am thankful to be working productively for Olivet students at this time in my life.”

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