Olisophy: How to Spot an Adolescent

Message from Will Laughlin
Head of School/CEO

I love watching extreme sports. Flipping motorcycles, skiing avalanches, free soloing big walls, flying in a wingsuit, you name it. But there is one sport I find too terrifying to watch—women’s gymnastics. Especially the beam. Watching tiny grinning girls hurtle through the air at ferocious velocities over a four-inch wide beam of steel-hard maple makes me anxious to the point of nausea. But my wife makes me watch anyway.  

Read more...

"I'm Oli!"
Q&A with Alumna Shelly Stein '14

Q: Hi, Shelly! Would you please let everyone know what you have been up to since graduating Oliverian June 2014?
A: Happy to! After Oliverian, I jumped right into college at University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. I am in my sophomore year now and am really excited to have chosen water resources and soil science as my major. At Oliverian, and during my summer internship
at conservation corps, I discovered my passion is to work with the environment.

**Q: What led you to Oliverian in the first place?**

**A:** Well, I really isolated myself a lot because of anxiety and depression and I didn't have any plans or hope for the future. I didn't have any interest in school, or spending time with people, or making significant relationships. I felt completely hopeless. My parents took me to a wilderness program and that really woke me up. After wilderness, I tried to go back to high school, but things got worse and I isolated even more. I knew something needed to change and it needed to happen soon. I reached the point where if I didn't do something, then I would go past the point of repair. I went to Mountain Valley Treatment Center and then straight to Oliverian from Mountain Valley. The minute I toured Oliverian, it felt like home and the right place for me. Oliverian really catered to my needs. I was someone who didn't need so much supervision or restrictions, but I really needed a lot of help and support. Read more...

---

"Are You Iron?"

Kudos to all of our athletes that took the Iron Mountain Challenge last weekend: Sam, Jack, Patrick, Will, Peter, Matt, Henry, Mitch, and Gabe!

Spanish teacher Bill Kearney created this Olistyle triathlon of biking/chopping wood/running as a way to promote fitness and fun for the community. The challenge began at the Upper Valley Stewardship Center where competitors first biked 1.25 miles through Beaver Meadow. Participants then showed off their lumberjack skills by splitting three pieces of wood before hiking 1.6 miles up Iron Mountain to complete the challenge. Contestants were greeted with warm drinks and soup, along with a sea of enthusiastic supporters at the finish line. Oliverian
was delighted to have their neighbors from the Mountain Valley Treatment Center join in the race and festivities as well! Please visit our Facebook page for more pictures of this event.

About Oliverian

Oliverian is a nonprofit coeducational boarding high school committed to students who have struggled in more traditional settings. We take a unique approach to learning by striking a balance between structure and flexibility, support and challenge, and individual and community. Our faculty and staff guide each student toward intellectual and personal self-exploration and growth. We provide students with the opportunity to develop the skills, confidence, responsibility, and independence they need to transition successfully to college and life.

We also offer a seven-week Summer Session which combines six weeks of academic recovery and enrichment with a one week adventure trip.