

OLIVER SCHOLARS

OLIVER NEWS

Seniors Week Celebration

20
CLASS OF
20



Congratulations Oliver Scholars Class of 2020!

Written by Dr. Danielle R. Moss

Dear Oliver Scholars,

It gives me great pride and a sense of hope and possibility to offer you, the class of 2020, words of congratulations on this your graduation from high school. Now, I know the last year or so has been filled with many anxious nights of studying, papers due, finals, college applications, and waiting for those amazing decisions. But you made it! You're here! And you are finished with high school, and we couldn't be more proud of you and all that you have achieved! So, on behalf of our entire Board of Trustees, all of the Oliver Alumni, and the entire staff here at Oliver Scholars, I want to say to you, CONGRATULATIONS!!! You Did it!!! Have a blast in college when the fall comes; I know you are going to make us all really proud.

Oliver Marches On

As we reach the start of July, we look back on the first half of what has truly been a year like no other in recent history. New York City was temporarily brought to a pause - halt, really - due to the COVID-19 health pandemic, from which we are only still in the early stages of reemerging. The events set off in early June only added to the intensity as individuals and communities responded to the brutal and senseless murders of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd (along with so many other recorded and reported injustices inflicted upon Black and Brown people in our city and across this nation).

As we continue to pursue support for the Black and Brown youth we serve at Oliver, we have looked to find the balance in how we address the broader challenges of this moment of reckoning while also ensuring that we can sustain our own programs and continue to meet the needs of our Scholars for years to come.

Looking Back

In response to COVID-19, we re-branded our annual giving campaign to become #OliverCares - unrestricted support through #OliverCares gives us the flexibility to offer immediate emergency support to our students and families in the aftermath of coronavirus while also giving us the security we need to continue delivering our programs with little or no disruption.

We also created Club1984 to encourage affordable, sustaining support - making monthly gifts to Oliver is a wonderful way to contribute at a higher level than may be possible in a single gift and provides us with guaranteed income, again ensuring seamless programming. Finally, we made the decision earlier in the spring to postpone our annual Gala fundraiser until the fall. An in-person event was no longer physically feasible, but the delay has afforded us an opportunity to reimagine a new virtual event. Please hold your calendars for October 2nd and October 3rd -- more details to come, so stay tuned!



Gabrielle Gilliam
Chief Development Officer

Looking Ahead - We Need YOU!

Even after adapting to remote learning and coping with economic distress and health concerns at home, our Scholars continue to face apprehension about the fall semester, delays in college testing, canceled extracurricular activities, as well as heightened concerns about scholarships and financial aid.

At Oliver, our goal is to provide uninterrupted services to our students and their families. We want to be a steadfast, reliable resource, but our intentions alone are not enough. Now, more than ever, we need your support to help ensure that we can see our Scholars through this tumultuous time.

Join us by supporting #OliverCares and help us to stay #OliverStrong. Your gift will make a critical difference as we navigate the challenging months ahead.

On behalf of all of us, THANK YOU for being a part of the Oliver family.

Sincerely,
Gabrielle Gilliam
E-mail: ggilliam@oliverscholars.org



Make a Monthly Gift

Whether in-person or via remote learning, our programs depend on considerable financial resources to operate. Your generous support will give deserving students the opportunity to rise to their full academic and career potential.

Join - Club 1984

In honor of Oliver's founding year, make a recurring monthly gift of \$19.84 for a greater impact! Your modest monthly contribution provides Oliver with the financial security needed to continue offering a robust, uninterrupted experience for our scholars. Visit us online and be sure to click the "recurring gift" box.

Get Updates

Sign-up for our Newsletter and follow us on social media. Stay on top of the latest news from Oliver and share our updates with others.

Alumni Spotlight



Francisco Tezén'93

Oliver Scholars shines our spotlight on alumnus **Francisco Tezén**. Francisco Tezén became President and CEO of A Better Chance in February 2020. He joined A Better Chance from the Food Bank For New York City where he served as the Chief Development Officer. At the food bank, he played host to many young scholars for Community Service Day, sharing inspiring words of encouragement, and hope with our youth. Francisco has created and managed growth, visibility and partnership strategies for educational and social service organizations with community-based, national, and global reach. Prior to joining the Food Bank, he held positions at Year Up, The New School, and Columbia Business School. Francisco earned his B.A. in History and Latin-American Studies at Wesleyan University and his M.S. in Nonprofit Management at The New School. Francisco is a native New Yorker of Peruvian and African-American descent. A Better Chance's mission and work is very personal to him as he is also an Alumnus of the Oliver Scholars Program. He matriculated at the Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn, New York as an Oliver Scholar and currently serves as Secretary on Packer's Alumni Board.

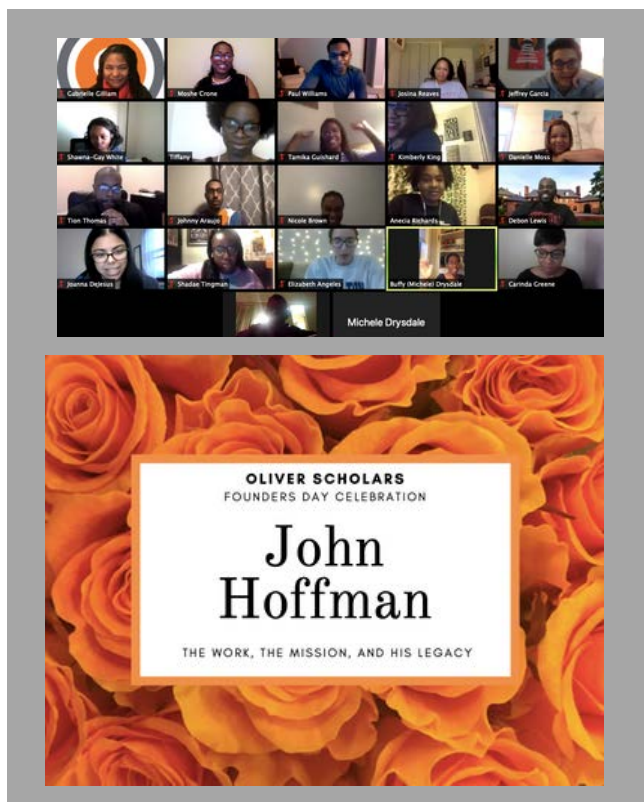
Oliver Scholars is very proud of Francisco and looks forward to seeing what great things he will do next!

Stay Connected

Oliver Scholars and the Alumni Council has launched a new way to reconnect with Oliver scholars and stay connected. Using the COVID-19 quarantine as a platform for virtually connecting, four Alumni Mixers - online "meet & greets" have happened thus far.

The last alumni event was a Founders Day Celebration. Close to 60 alumni gathered for a touching tribute to Oliver Scholars and Founder, John Hoffman. The event opened full of appreciation and continued with cherished memories and highlights of Oliver in its fledgling years and a look forward to the program's expansion and impact throughout the decades. Alumni shared great joy and pride for Oliver and their experiences during and after graduation.

Thank you to Oliver Scholars CEO Dr. Danielle R. Moss, The Alumni Council, and Event Planning Committee. This was an invaluable opportunity to reconnect and #ComeHome2Oliver where friends become family.



For more information, please contact [Gabrielle Gilliam](#), Chief Development Officer via email or at 646-761-1654.