

# OLIVER SCHOLARS

Oliver News - 2020 - Opportunity Unlocked

**\$283.5K**



## Your Support Made the Difference!

2020 has been a year we will never forget! It will go down in history for being the year of the unexpected, of great change, and the year where everyone has had to reimagine, pivot, and get creative.

For Oliver Scholars, the fall presented an especially unique opportunity: we chose the creative path, holding our first ever virtual gala -- Oliver Fest! Under the leadership of CEO Dr. Danielle R. Moss, the Board of Trustees, and an amazing Benefit Committee, we presented a premium virtual event the likes of which Oliver has never done! We used media in new and exciting ways with video trailers and invitations; we ramped up our social media presence to raise interest and awareness; we sought out new virtual platforms to keep our content fresh and engaging; and, we found new partners in thought leaders, celebrities, comedians, and others. This was no typical Oliver Gala!

Oliver Fest weekend opened with a Friday night virtual Dance Party - the Scholars Jam featured Celebrity DJs and Oliver's own alumni. The Saturday Opportunity Unlocked Symposium covered myriad compelling and relevant topics: "The Return of Black Boy Joy," "Black, Brown, and Gifted" "The Oliver Impact - Scholar Perspectives," and "The Road to Inclusion - Alumni Perspectives." We closed with our capstone virtual awards ceremony, *Gala-ish*, honoring our 2020 Champions of Excellence MSCI Chairman and CEO Henry Fernandez and his wife Alexia, and Harvard University professor Dr. Khalil Gibran Muhammad. We also paid special tribute to the Oliver Scholars Class of 2020.

With the generous support of our honorees, sponsors, and guests we are excited to announce that we raised over \$280,000. THANK YOU to all who helped make Oliver Fest a success! A year ago, we could have never imagined the landscape we face today. Yet in spite of the challenges and the uncertainty, our scholars continue to excel, our support to families remains steadfast, and our teachers and staff continue to do the critical work of ensuring that the Oliver legacy sustains.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

— OLIVER SCHOLARS —

No question, 2020 has been an exceptionally challenging year. Oliver Scholars' Development Team has had to be especially creative, imagining exciting engagement events and activities designed to both raise awareness about our work and secure the financial resources needed to help us deliver our services.

**JOIN THE CELEBRATION**  
ALL MONTH LONG

Oliver Scholars is celebrating 36 years of Scholarship, Leadership, & Service! Join us and support our scholars and our mission.

11/13	Zumba
11/17	Mixology Class
11/18	Family Game Night*
11/20	Zumba
11/24	Mixology Class
12/1	Comedy Show
12/3	Unlock The Box Raffle

Each event \$19.84 or two sessions for \$36  
All Access Pass \$100  
\*Family Game Night is FREE  
Development@OliverScholars.org



Our spring #OliverCares campaigns celebrated the #ClassOf2020 and invited alumni to #ComeHomeToOliver.

Our unique 2-day #Oliver Fest in October not only raised critical funds, but also raised the bar in how we deliver a successful event in a virtual space.

On October 30th, we kicked off our current #HappyBirthdayOliver campaign - a month-long celebration honoring Oliver's 36th year of Scholarship, Leadership, and Service.

There are multiple ways to participate and support the campaign:

- Spread the Word: Follow us on [FaceBook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) and share all the great things happening at Oliver!
- Attend a #HBDOLiver Event: All month, we'll be hosting virtual events, including a mixology lesson, fitness classes, and a game night! [Tickets](#) are just \$19.84, 2-for-\$36.
- Buy a Raffle Ticket: We've got exciting prizes including a package from Oliver's inaugural alumna Tanya Wright '85 (from Orange is the New Black and True Blood, and HAIRiette), JetBlue tickets, and a photo package from Hartshorn Portraiture.
- Contribute: Your [generous gifts](#) will support our programs and our Scholars!
- Join Club 1984 with a monthly gift of \$19.84 or more: Consider a recurring gift in celebration of our founding year! Small gifts, when multiplied, make a huge impact!

The [#HappyBirthdayOliver](#) campaign concludes on **Giving Tuesday** with a capstone **Virtual Comedy Night** event. Oliver is partnering with UStreat Comedy to bring you this exciting lineup:

[Franqi French](#)



[Daniel Simonson](#)



[Chanel Ali](#)



[Judah Friedlander](#)





# The CEO Corner

Here at Oliver scholars we are grateful for the continued support from the Oliver community. As we have reached out over the past few months, willing hands and hearts have reached back. From our generous sponsors, to our scholar parents, staff and alumni, the quote "it takes a village to raise a child," has never been more true, and our gratitude for your service is endless.

We are excited to share that this winter, a new season of the CEO Salon Series will premiere on FaceBook Live. We look forward to having these important and informative community building conversations.

We would also like to announce the newly formed Oliver Scholars Virtual Book Club. "Caste: The Origins of our Discontents" will be the first book of the series. The club will feature group readings, new author interviews, panels, and community conversations! Our first meeting will be live this coming January 12th. We hope to see you there!



**Dr. Danielle R. Moss**

We invite you to stay connected and even volunteer as we continue to work toward our mission, and bring innovative programming to our youth, and our community. Join us, as we spread the good news, about the great work that's happening at Oliver and the achievements of our scholars.

## Alumni Spotlight

Oliver Scholars welcomes alumni Nicholas Olmo '98 to the Oliver Scholars team! This fall, Nick will be filling the role of Oliver Scholars Alumni Relations Consultant tasked with bringing forth the 2021 Strategic Plan for Alumni Engagement, the Governance structure for the Alumni Council/Advisory Board, the new Oliver Connect Alumni Portal, and the continued development of alumni involvement and partnership with our beloved Oliver Scholars Program.

Nick is looking forward to working with all of you to help create the framework for our collective vision for alumni relations. → OliverFamily, → OliverStrong, → Oliver4Life. Be sure to #StayConnected by reading our monthly alumni newsletter for the latest news, events, job alerts, and volunteer opportunities.



**Nicholas Olmo '98**

Nicholas Olmo is a member of the last cohort recruited under the leadership of Oliver's founder John Hoffman and was selected to attend Phillips Academy Andover (Class of '98) and later went on to attend the University of Pennsylvania (Wharton)

# Events

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## ZUMBA

**11/13 & 11/20**  
5PM

This class mixes low-intensity and low-impact moves for a calorie-burning dance fitness party. This class is for all ages and abilities. Instructor: Fatima Horne (AKA Mama Zumba)

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## COCKTAIL MAKING CLASS

Come Learn, Laugh, and Drink for a good cause!  
A Masterclass-style series that creates an interactive mixology lesson, insightful conversations and noteworthy memories.  
Hosted by Gibson Strategies.

**11/17 & 11/24**  
7PM

## MIXOLOGY

**11/18**  
6PM

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## FAMILY GAME NIGHT!

Gather up the whole family and join Oliver Scholars for Game Night! Come try your luck, test your sleuthing skills, and flex your music memory -- all in celebration of Oliver's Birthday! We've got fun and games for kids of all ages!

BINGO - FAMILY FEUD - NAME THAT TUNE - QUEST

**FAMILY FEUD Live**

\*Free for all families. Suggested Donation of \$10 All appreciated

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**12/1**  
7PM

## COMEDY NIGHT

Join Oliver Scholars on Giving Tuesday for an exciting final event! We are partnering with UStreat Comedy for a Benefit Comedy Performance, featuring four heavy hitters on the country's comedy circuit.  
Support Oliver and LAUGH OUT LOUD!  
Tickets are only \$19.84!

Judah Friedlander   Franqi French   Daniel Simonson   Chanel Ali

## UNLOCK THE BOX Raffle

We welcome you to participate in our unlock the box raffle for a chance to win one of three fantastic prizes.

jeiBlue  
HARTSHORN  
I Found God in My Hair  
HAIRiette

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## Caste

The Origins of our Discontents  
Isabel Wilkerson  
Winner of the Pulitzer Prize  
Author of THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS

## Virtual Book Club

Join our quarterly book club curated by CEO Dr. Danielle R. Moss.  
"Caste: The Origins of our Discontents" will be the first book of the series.