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**U.S. News & World Report names Olivet one of “America’s Best Colleges”**

For the second consecutive year, U.S. News & World Report has named Olivet Nazarene University as one of “America’s Best Colleges.” Olivet is one of only 10 Illinois colleges to be named in the “Best Universities – Master’s” category.

According to U.S. News, schools within the “Best Universities – Master’s” category provide a full range of undergraduate and master’s programs, a category for which 557 U.S. schools were considered. Olivet, an accredited Christian liberal arts university, offers just over 120 areas of study, including the newly approved Doctor of Education degree in ethical leadership.

University President Dr. John C. Bowling responded to the honor by saying, “This important recognition by U.S. News & World Report verifies the growing reputation of Olivet. It affirms that not only has the University been increasing in student enrollment, but the quality of the academic programs, campus life and facilities are also improving year by year. I particularly commend the faculty and staff of ONU who have made this achievement possible.”

Brian Parker, director of admissions, is delighted by the recognition. “We are certainly celebrating this distinction in the Office of Admissions. Our stature and influence continue to increase as the University grows both numerically and qualitatively. We are now positioned in the top 10 largest Christian universities in the United States.”

In 2005, Olivet celebrated its ninth consecutive year of record-breaking enrollment, and early estimations of incoming freshmen exceed last year’s freshman class by 15 percent.

Parker notes the greatest benefit is for Olivet students and alumni. “As ONU becomes more widely known, their degrees and credentials begin to carry additional weight.”

Partnering with the Association of American Colleges and Universities, U.S. News divides colleges and universities into categories then ranks schools within those categories based on seven criteria: assessment by administrators at peer institutions, retention of students, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving and graduation rate performance.

Highlights of the college rankings are scheduled for publication in the August 28 edition of U.S. News & World Report magazine, available for newsstand purchase as of Monday, August 21 — the same day the “America’s Best Colleges” guidebook will be available. The complete ranking will appear on the magazine’s Web site ([www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com)).

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ONU news is also available on the web. Go to [www.olivet.edu](http://www.olivet.edu) and click on “News & Events.” Licensed University photos and official logos available upon request. For additional information, contact Heather Day at 815-939-5197, or [hday@olivet.edu](mailto:hday@olivet.edu).