

The online site for The Lake Front contains stories, videos, slide shows, blogs, an archive and more! Check it out at: [lakefrontsa.com](http://lakefrontsa.com)

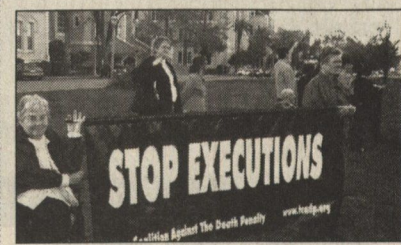
Questions? Comments? Story suggestions? Contact us at: [lakefrontsa.com/contact-us/](http://lakefrontsa.com/contact-us/)

Make sure to 'like' The Lake Front on Facebook!

Follow us on Twitter at: [twitter.com/LakeFrontNews](http://twitter.com/LakeFrontNews)



Page 3: Interim Dean close to home



Page 7: CDPs protest for right of life

# THE LAKE FRONT

NEWS FOR THE STUDENTS. BY THE STUDENTS.

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE UNIVERSITY, SAN ANTONIO, TX

February 2012

Volume 54, Issue 2

[lakefrontsa.com](http://lakefrontsa.com)

## OLLU to host official Fiesta event

**Valerie Cowan**  
Editor

Students and faculty who have been at Our Lady of the Lake University for the past few years remember when OLLU hosted Tamale Fest during San Antonio's Fiesta celebrations in 2009. The Tamale Fest has since disappeared, and it has been three years since OLLU has held a Fiesta event.

Tamale Fest was only a one-year partnership between OLLU and Delicious Tamales, according to Director of Marketing and Communications Anne Gomez. She said Delicious Tamales has since moved on to organize the event for various other non-profit organizations.

OLLU's recent lack of Fiesta presence is about to change this year with the introduction of an officially recognized Fiesta event that will likely become a tradition in years to come. "Best of the West," to take

place in a fenced off area behind Sueltenfuss Library, will showcase the culture and diversity in the Westside of San Antonio.

"[Best of the West] is our attempt to come back with a permanent Fiesta event and make it our own," Gomez said.

As to not compete with large events like Oyster Bake at Saint Mary's University held on Saturday evening during Fiesta, Best of the West will be a family-friendly event on Sunday, April 22 from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Best of the West will offer something unique to the Westside and set it apart from other Fiesta events.

"Since Our Lady of the Lake is the heart of the Westside, we thought it'd be great to expose all the amazing music and the food and culture," said Director of Alumni and Advancement Relations Asia Ciaravino, "And of course that all kind of centers around the Lake, so it's a perfect marriage."

Cost of admission will be \$4 for children and \$8 for adults. Each admission ticket will include a bracelet that allows visitors to choose three samples from various food vendors. Ciaravino said the planning committee for "Best of the West" is steering away from typical carnival foods like hotdogs and fried items on a stick. Instead, they are recruiting local, Westside ethnic restaurants to provide food to sell and give out samples.

Corporate sponsors will fund the event, so all of the profits from "Best of the West" will go toward OLLU student scholarships.

"We're not just doing it to party," Ciaravino said. "[Visitors] can learn a lot about the University and support students. They're going to know where their dollars are going... Everything we're doing goes back to the students."

**Fiesta continued on page 4**



PHOTO BY MARIAM KEVLISHIVILI

San Antonio's Westside will soon be filled with more festive colors aside from the colorful murals on building walls. This year, OLLU will join in the festivities through "Best of the West."

## Q-E-what? New plan brings changes (and confusion)

**Jordan Whitfield**  
Reporter

Last semester when student Patrick Krawietz found out the winner of OLLU's "Name the QEP" contest would win an iPad 2, he knew he had to submit. He thought his chances were good, even though he'd never heard of the QEP. His plan: submit as many names as possible.

It worked. Out of more than 200 names submitted, 100 were Krawietz's. Three of his names made it to the top four, and during the winter break students, faculty, and staff voted for one of his names.

Krawietz won the iPad 2 and now has the honor of being the person who named the QEP. But few people are aware of the QEP or what it is, let alone he who named it. Like Krawietz, many students have never heard of it, but it's about to bring some major changes to the freshman curriculum.

The Quality Enhancement Plan, known as the QEP, is a requirement of the university's reaffirmation of accreditation process through the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities. The QEP identifies one area the university will focus on to improve the quality of education and the student experience at the school.

OLLU's current five-year QEP is called QUEST, or "QUality Education for Student Transformation," and focuses on improving the freshman experience at the Lake by redesigning freshman courses.

According to Dr. Jerrie Jackson, chair of the QEP writing committee, the target group is "first-time, first-year students" and primarily focuses on those in developmental courses.

New students who score below a certain mark on placement exams have to take developmental courses before entering the freshman level courses required of every student. Jackson called these "gatekeeper" courses because students who need developmental courses must complete them before they can take the courses required for their degree plan.

Students in developmental courses can easily fall behind a semester or two on their degree plans, which can have long-term consequences.

"This is part of the reason why students are not persisting to graduation at OLLU," Jackson said.

In fall 2011, OLLU reported having had a 59 percent retention rate for first-year, full-time students for the previous academic year.

With the freshman program identified as a major factor behind

students choosing to leave the Lake, the QEP team has undertaken a complete redesign of the freshman English and math courses.

According to Executive Vice President David Estes, the new program will "accelerate students' earning their degree and keep them on a timetable."

In the new format, developmental classes will meet five days a week for intensive instruction. This extra class time will help students learn the material and get the help they need.

After five or six weeks of developmental work, the students will begin regular coursework. By the end of the semester-long course, students will have completed both the developmental and regular coursework and be on track with their degree plans.

"This will provide the additional time for support for students to be successful," Jackson said. Jackson added that the program was successfully piloted last semester.

The QEP will also affect the entire core freshman curriculum. The QEP team will work this summer to ensure that innovative teaching practices are integrated into all freshman courses.

**Change continued on page 6**

## Accreditation: Why it matters

»Legitimacy tested through changes

**Jordan Whitfield**  
Reporter

With all the acronyms thrown around recently, it's easy to forget what they all mean. HALO. QEP. SACS. Each one is important, but without the SACS stamp of approval, the value of an OLLU degree would drop considerably.

SACS stands for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, a regional accreditation agency that certifies that its member institutions comply with its education standards.

As a member of the SACS Commission on Colleges, OLLU must undergo a 10-year review to ensure that the university continues to grow while maintaining SACS' standards.

As part of this review, SACS representatives will be on campus March 19-21. This campus visit will give students the opportunity to get involved in the process because the on-site team will want to find out how students feel about the university.

The 10-year reaffirmation of accreditation process ensures that institutions meet the standards set by their peers and are constantly evaluating their performances and finding ways to improve.

Without the backing of an accreditation agency, a degree from a higher education institution does not carry weight.

With the rise of the Internet came online school scams in which fake online colleges sold degrees to students. In some cases, students spent thousands of dollars and put hours into their online coursework only to learn that the degree they earned would not be accepted by employers.

These schools are able to exist because the federal government does not regulate the educational standards and curriculum of institutions. The government grants the license to operate, but it's the regional agencies like SACS that inspect and accredit schools.

According to Executive Vice President David Estes, SACS accreditation is important so that "students can be assured we have made our case to our peers and that we meet certain standards."

These SACS standards are

the same for all of its member institutions, but each school chooses how to meet them. As long as schools meet SACS standards, they can offer diverse courses and a variety of programs.

Or, in Estes' words, "They don't tell us what to do, but they give us standards to meet."

One effect of the reaffirmation process is the necessity of improving.

Since the university has to prove that everything it does counts for something, changes have been made to stop enforcing the Values and Skills requirement on degree plans and reexamine the frequency of course offerings.

These changes are what Estes calls "growth," because the university is not changing what it does but finding ways to do things better.

According to Estes, one area in which OLLU has grown since the last reaffirmation of accreditation is in the school's average class size.

"When I got here, there were too many options offered. We offered the same courses every semester," Estes said.

Estes' goal when he started here in 2007 was to develop a "multiyear track" for courses and get students on the right advising path so that they wouldn't miss any necessary courses.

Now, many courses are offered on two-year cycles and classes are fuller, but students have complained about missing necessary courses.

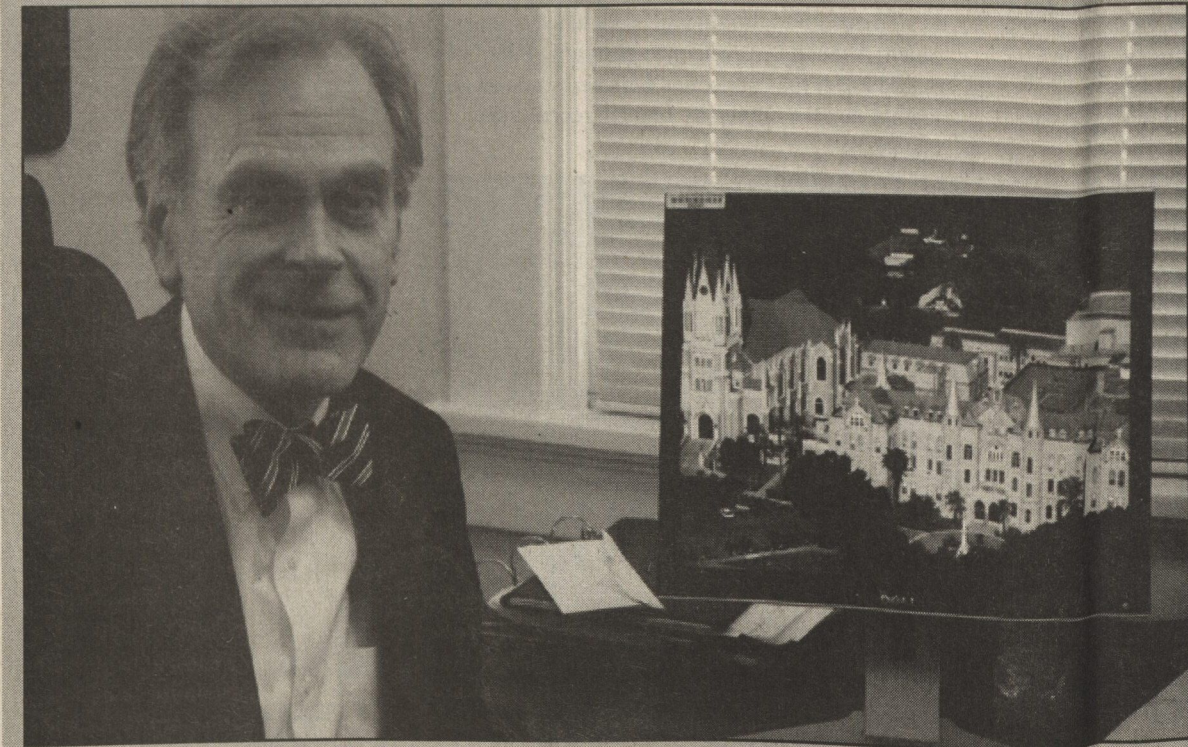
"Students will complain about cancelled sections, but I think we're through that phase," Estes said.

OLLU's small student body makes it difficult to offer a large number of classes and still meet a required number in class size.

"Students have to choose between the strength of the small school experience versus having classes offered every semester," Estes said.

Although a university's accreditation may not play a role in a student's search for schools, it does play a role in both the decision-making of OLLU administrators and outside employers who might not hire an applicant with a degree from unaccredited schools.

## Estes to leave university



Dr. David Estes, executive vice president, will leave OLLU next month after his position recently was eliminated. For more, read the story on page 6.

PHOTO BY MARIAM KEVLISHIVILI

## OLLU must raise 'la Santa fiebre'

### EDITORIAL

The university has made crucial changes, especially with the added emphasis on NATA sports. Now more than ever, the addition of university-sanctioned spirit teams, including cheerleaders, dancers, a band, and a mascot, are no longer just a luxury, but a necessity. It is time for OLLU to be recognized not only for its service to the community and academics but for its athletics and school pride, as well.

Many students come to the Lake looking for the excitement they see on advertisements for other universities with students proudly wearing their university's logo - an "authentic" university environment where faculty, staff and the student body are proud to be Saints and feel unified by wearing the colors and shirts on game days. Many students come looking to get "la Santa fiebre" (the Saints fever), so at the end of the day, they can go to the games, eat hot dogs, and even drink a beer. All the while, everybody is cheering with the cheerleaders and having fun with the mascot before and after the game, all accompanied by the rhythm of instrumental music. In this way, the university can stop losing so many students who are looking for the excitement and rush of the games that larger schools have to offer.

OLLU's regulations are a little different from other schools that often allow alcohol to be served at their sport games and events. Excessive consumption of alcohol among students at the games can affect the security of the campus.

On the other hand, the responsible selling of alcohol at games can generate revenue for the university and might even finance all the giveaways, prizes and some of the support given to spirit teams. However, unlike the NCAA regulations that larger universities like UTSA abide by, NAIA regulations state that alcohol is not allowed in the playing area, including the bleachers in the gymnasium and on the soccer field. Yet alcohol can be sold or served on OLLU's campus with special approval and in accordance to legal guidelines.

Tailgating could be more exciting and enticing for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and even people from the community if alcohol were made available away from the playing area and before the game. This can generate more spirit and bring more people to the games.

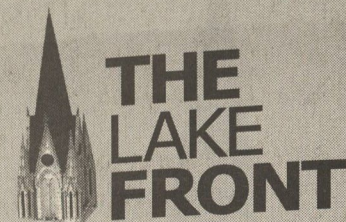
Once at the game, the spirit and crowd interaction should continue with entertainment provided by the spirit teams, including cheerleaders, dancers, music, and a mascot. Unfortunately, no financial support is given from the university to these initiatives.

Funds should be allocated for positions to

be in charge of the spirit teams and to recruit for the university. Recruiting for a pep band, a cheerleading squad and a dance team can increase enrollment and create a more diverse student population. It is confusing that the university does not provide any support to the hardly-existing dance and cheerleading team, yet they do advertise them on the official OLLU athletics web page. Dancers, cheerleaders, and bands can also win awards that bring even more recognition to the university.

Another essential part of the puzzle is the mascot. Having a sports team without a mascot is like having a peanut butter and jelly sandwich with no jelly. Even though there has been discussion of a new mascot after the disappearance of the armadillo, it appears as though no action has been taken. A mascot helps give the team and the university its own identity. Mascots not only represent the sports teams, but the school as a whole by making appearances at other events and away games, too.

With the creation and growing success of all the sports teams at OLLU in such a short amount of time, it must be within the university's reach to finance and support more spirit at the games. The end result of this investment will have a positive impact on the university through increased publicity, pride, and revenue.



**Editor**  
Valerie Cowan

**Assistant Editor**  
Collette Orquiz

**Reporters**  
Mariam Kevlishvili  
Jordan Whitfield  
Gianna Rendon

**Online Editor**  
Mariam Kevlishvili

**Ads Manager**  
Flor Salas

**Designer**  
Angelica Casas

**Photographer**  
Mariam Kevlishvili

**Advisor**  
Kay O'Donnell

**Press**  
San Antonio Press

## SOUNDING OFF

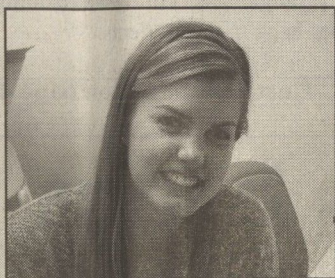
### Income tax returns: 'yay' or 'nay'



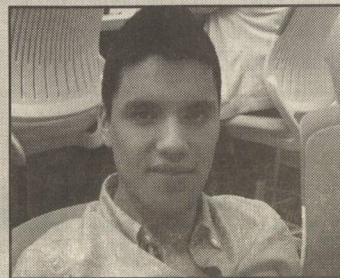
Oscar Valencia, sophomore, has not filed his taxes yet, however his parents have. "My parents have medical consultations and save the rest."



Arashy Alvizo, sophomore, did get her tax return but she has to pay them back. "I worked during summer, and they hadn't taken away for medicare."



"My tax return money went back to tuition," said Abby Dulaney, junior. According to her she didn't get to do much shopping.



Moises Torres, junior, had his tax money go back to tuition. "I didn't get to buy anything exciting."



Tahiry Contreras, freshman, doesn't file her own taxes. "My mom bought me a lot of things. She bought me purses, shoes, a lot of clothes." Tahiry said her mom has spoiled her.



Marissa Angel, senior, hasn't gotten her tax return money yet, but the money will go to paying for her children's doctor's bills. "If there's anything left over it will go to savings."



Brandy Obaya, senior, bought a new computer, HP. "I also paid my bills, fixed my car and bought gifts for my daughter's birthday."



Steven Santana, junior, hasn't filed his tax return. "My parents did, but, honestly, I don't know where they spend [their money]."

The opinions published in The Lake Front are not necessarily those of its staff or the faculty, staff, administration or student body of Our Lady of the Lake University. The Lake Front publication strives to inform, entertain and communicate with OLLU and its surrounding communities. Advertisement information is available upon request.

#### Submission requirements:

The Lake Front accepts letters to the editor for publication on the Opinion page of this newspaper. Letters should have the author's printed name and contact information. Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters can be submitted in person, electronically or by mail and become the property of The Lake Front upon receipt. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for libelous material, grammatical errors, space constraints and/or offensive language. The Lake Front does not discriminate because of age, gender, ethnicity, national origin, disability or sexual orientation. "Letters to the Editor" is intended to serve as a public forum for issues related to the OLLU community.

The Lake Front is published monthly during the academic school year. The Lake Front newsroom is located in Main Building, Room 219.

#### The Lake Front Student News

Our Lady of the Lake University  
411 S.W. 24th St.  
San Antonio, TX 78207  
(210) 434-6711, ext 2445  
www.lakefrontsa.com  
lakefront@lake.ollusa.edu  
lakefrontads@lake.ollusa.edu

## Faculty-in-residence not such a bad idea

### EDITORIAL

Although Dean Roger Bennett's presence in Pacelli Hall may appear strange, it is not unusual for faculty members to live in student residence halls at some universities.

At institutions such as the University of Houston, Duke University, Baylor University, Cornell University, and the University of Oklahoma, faculty members apply to live on campus as part of a Faculty-in-Residence program.

In the typical Faculty-in-Residence program, a faculty member and his or her family live in a residence hall to bring a sense of community amongst students and faculty. They organize programs for the hall's residents, including lectures, activities, dinners, and field trips and open their on-campus homes to students.

While that sounds like a valuable program, it is not what we have at the Lake. We have a dean living in the freshman girls' hall, where he has stayed for three semesters already, and no one knows who he is.

The school didn't tell students the dean had moved in when he started here back in fall 2010. Pacelli residents had only a sign showing Bennett's name on his apartment door to reassure them that he was not a random, well-dressed man wandering the residence hall.

It wouldn't be so weird if the school had told students who he was and why he would be living there. The programs at other universities show how beneficial it can be to have faculty members living on campus.

At one point, OLLU had an on-campus residence for the university president in Casa Caritas. This was the home of Sr. Elizabeth Sueltenfuss during her tenure as university president, but it now houses the offices of

Institutional Advancement.

The idea of a president's house is not unusual, and some schools provide a home or a housing allowance for the president. At these schools, the president hosts events in his or her home for university guests and students alike, encouraging a personal connection between students and the university administration.

For example, at Trinity University, the homes along Oakmont Court are the residences of the university's president and vice presidents. Guests to the president's house have included past presidents, foreign dignitaries, and popular entertainers, along with a large number of students.

Having university officials open their homes to students gives the student experience a personal touch. A faculty-in-residence program at the Lake would foster the connection between students and faculty that the university touts in recruitment materials.

## Students weigh in on pet restrictions

Students didn't pay Bennett's presence in the dorm much notice until his dogs moved in. But now, he's a topic of debate in the dorms.

"If he can have his dogs, then I want to know why I can't have my cat"

- Margarita Salas  
Junior

"It's not a problem having him live here. He's friendly...and his dogs are not an inconvenience at all... [But] I wouldn't like dogs to live in the dorms because I don't know how people would be with them."

- Veronica Gomez  
Freshman



PHOTO BY MARIAM KEVLISHVILI  
A stray cat on campus (above) is fed daily by Dean Roger Bennett.

## Dean in the dorms

»Dean's wife, dogs join him in Pacelli apartment

**Jordan Whitfield**  
Reporter

For four semesters, Pacelli residents have wondered about the man who resided in that residence hall's first-floor apartment. Residents often spotted an older man taking out the trash or leaving for work in the morning, but they knew nothing about him.

Recently, three new residents, his wife and their two dogs joined that resident, Roger Bennett, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, raising even more questions among students.

"I wasn't sure who lived there when I moved in," freshman Pacelli resident Veronica Gomez said, "but I knew he must be important if they let him live here."

Bennett has resided in the Pacelli Hall apartment since he began his term as interim dean in fall 2010. According to Bennett, the university provides the apartment as a benefit of his contract, which is set to expire this semester if the university selects a candidate to fill his position permanently.

The Pacelli apartment is fully furnished and much larger than the typical residence hall room. It has a kitchen, living and dining areas, a bedroom, bathroom, and a laundry area.

During the semester break, his wife joined him, bringing their two golden retrievers, and she has been busy "reorganizing the apartment to make it more livable," Bennett said.

With his family here, Bennett

feels more at home.

"Bachelor life is different," Bennett said. "It's nicer to have the whole family around."

His wife waited to join him until their home in Illinois sold, but now she plans to reside with him in Pacelli Hall until his term here ends.

The apartment has caused some confusion among students and visitors.

"Sometimes students knock on my door thinking I'm an advisor," Bennett said. "I try to explain to them who I am, and I help them if I can."

"A mother came to me during some activities on campus to complain about the temperature in [her daughter's] room," Bennett said. "I let her use my phone."

Other than the occasional lost visitor, Bennett has not been bothered by the happenings in Pacelli.

"The students are not raucous at all," Bennett said. "I lived in a student room in a residence hall at [another university], and the students were very different. There was a more noise and partying. Students here have fun, but are more considerate."

Plus, the location doesn't get much better.

"It's convenient," Bennett. "Sometimes when I come in late to a meeting I joke that I had traffic problems."

The apartment is available as a temporary residence for university guests or administrators. It is much like any other furnished apartment,

with the exception of its location in the campus' only strictly female, primarily freshmen residence hall.

Bennett said that the university made a special exception for him to be able to bring his dogs, but he said he would take full responsibility if they cause any damage.

The dogs, Molly and Maggie, were rescues. Bennett adopted one from a shelter to save her from being euthanized and rescued the other from an abusive home.

He describes Maggie as being "enthusiastic for life" to the point that some people think she'll bite them, but he points out that when she jumps and barks she only wants to play.

Bennett has a reputation for being an animal lover. Students have seen him all across campus feeding a stray cat.

After he finishes his last semester as dean at OLLU, he plans to retire in Florida. He and his wife own a lot in a retirement community near some of their friends, and they plan to build a home there.

Bennett came to OLLU through a national registry that places experienced university executives with interim positions at institutions nationwide. He has served as dean seven times at universities across the country, and even tried to retire three times, but he found that retirement does not suit him.

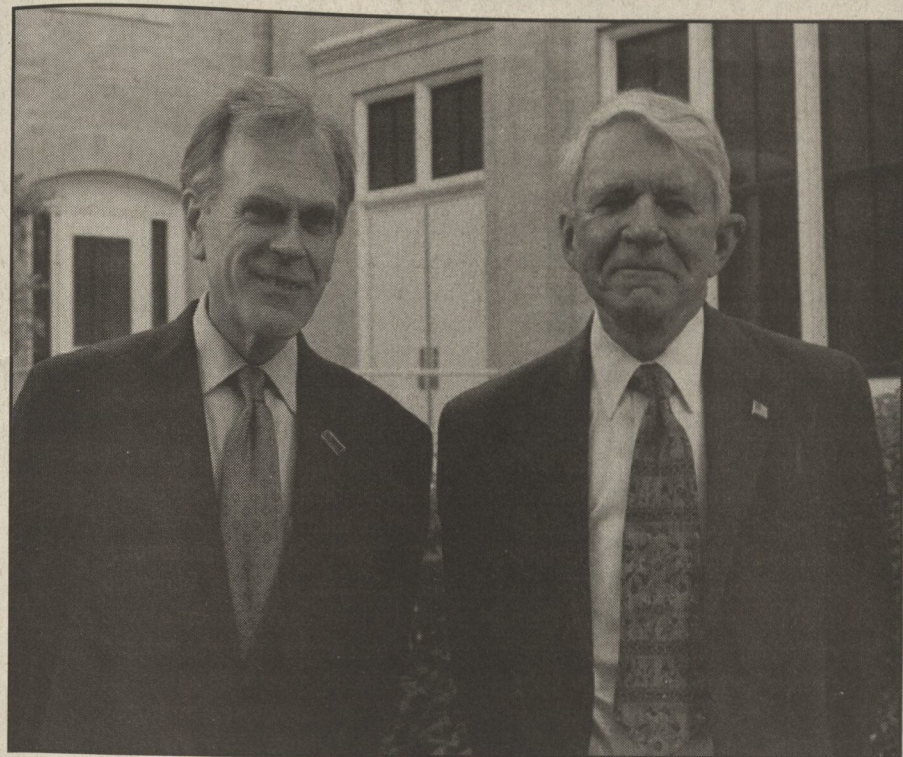


PHOTO BY MARIA BARQUIN

Executive Vice President David Estes (left) and Interim Dean Roger Bennett.

"I enjoy working," Bennett said. "I enjoy talking and interacting with students."

With all of that experience, Bennett can make an objective assessment of how OLLU stacks up against other institutions.

In Bennett's words, OLLU boasts a "multicultural student body" made up of "extremely good students who are interested and serious about their education" along with "exceptionally good faculty."

At the time of the interview, Executive Vice President David Estes, Ph.D., could not recall the terms of Bennett's contract as they related to his residence in Pacelli Hall.

Estes stated that Bennett is able to have pets because an apartment is different from a residence hall room.

Mark Center, director of Residence Life, declined to comment, as he was not involved in

the arrangement between Estes and Bennett. Instead, Center said, "The no-pets policy for resident students still stands."

This seems to be the issue among students, who are not allowed to have pets. According to the Residence Life Handbook, page 14: "Due to health and safety concerns, pets are prohibited in the residence halls, with the exception of small fish in a container no larger than 10 gallons."

## New Houston campus strives for connection



PHOTO COURTESY OF OLLU

The new Houston campus opened February 4.

**Mariam Kevlishivili**  
Reporter

The Grand Opening Celebration was held February 4 at the OLLU-Houston campus' new location at the Lone Star College University Center in The Woodlands.

The University's mission is to provide education to those with limited access. Many people acquire nine-to-five job immediately after graduating from high school to support their family. After working for the majority of their life, some decide they want to go back and receive a degree from a higher learning institution. A university's traditional, afternoon scheduling will most definitely be a setback, thus the weekend college concept was introduced on the San Antonio campus in 1978, and later in Houston in 1986.

Generally, students are very appreciative of flexible schedule and interesting classes. Adiel Nunez is a graduate student and a staff member at OLLU Houston Weekend College. He received his bachelor's degree from the Houston campus and describes his education as exceptionally enriching.

"It was challenging but rewarding," Nunez said. "I was able to use my experience at my previous job... I actually had a lot of lifetime experience that helped me with studies. So did other students; many of them were working adults. I was able to learn a lot from them."

Nunez said that the new university setting is a big improvement. OLLU actually moved to The Woodlands in the end of December. It is located in the

same building as other universities: Texas A&M, Sam Houston State, St. Thomas University, University of Houston, University of Houston Downtown. Nunez said he thinks this will cause people from these other universities to transfer because of the superior program and flexible schedule OLLU offers.

According to Admissions Counselor Paula Ruiz, there already are a couple undergraduate students transferring.

"I can definitely see that there's a grown interest here," Ruiz said. "We are hoping to at least triple the number of the transfers. We are not adding any programs yet, but we probably will be in the future."

However, there are still things to improve. Nunez mentioned the lack of connectivity with the main campus. He said that as a staff member, he felt like he was part of OLLU San Antonio, but as a student, that sense of connection was missing.

"I would like to feel more connected," Nunez said. "I would like to have more career builders, more events. Things that would guide you into your career."

Ruiz stated that they are willing to fix that problem. She is an OLLU San Antonio graduate, and has also noticed the lack of connection.

"There are couple of events planned to feel more connected," Ruiz said. "Some of the events we are starting are a job fair, networking and resume building."

She said the OLLU Houston Campus is moving forward in gaining more popularity and publicity.

## Fall graduation ceremony an option for summer graduates

**Angelica Casas**  
Designer

If it were not for clarification from the registrar's office, Sarai Bejarano, a summer graduate, would still be concerned about receiving her diploma after graduation.

"We weren't sure if I was going to be able to get my diploma right after," said Bejarano. "If I were applying to any jobs, I wouldn't have a certificate to show them. It would conflict with a lot of things."

Bejarano, who needs to take one math class in the summer, due to a misunderstanding on her part, will be one of the less than 100 estimated students finishing their degrees in the summer. But with no summer graduation, graduates will nonetheless receive their diploma in August.

"They can receive their diploma, come back, and participate in the (fall) ceremony," said Norma Anderson, Registrar.

Up until August 2006, Our Lady of the Lake University held three graduation ceremonies a year – in May, August, and December; it now only holds one in the fall and one in the spring. According to Anderson, this change was mainly due to the small class size usually seen in the unaccustomed summer semester (therefore, a change that would affect the least amount of students) and a way to cut back University expenses.

"It's not a cheap endeavor," said Anderson. "It takes many offices working together to pull it off and make it seem as simple as it does; many schools don't even have two graduations a year."

The average cost of a commencement ceremony is between \$31,000 and \$37,000. Considering that 284 graduates participated in the fall ceremony and 350 are expected to participate in the spring ceremony, the costs are equivalent to spending anywhere from \$88.57 to \$130.28 per graduate.

Taking into account that graduation ceremonies now take place in the Freeman Coliseum rather than the Municipal Auditorium, a change that began due to renovations

taking place at the Municipal Auditorium, many more have been the added costs to the ceremonies.

"When we were able to have it at the Municipal Auditorium, the seats and stage were already there," said Anderson. "At Freeman Coliseum, we have to rent stage, rent backdrops, rent chairs; [it] makes it a much larger job to do."

Although they had searched for other places to host the commencement ceremonies and even considered hosting them in Thiry Auditorium or in the UWAC. The university chose Freeman Coliseum, since a smaller place would limit the number of guests a graduate could invite and the parking availability was more convenient.

"We're constantly trying to make graduation better," said Anderson.

By announcing each graduate one by one and allowing them to walk across the stage by themselves – unlike larger universities such as UTSA that put four people on the stage at the same time – the University allows for personal commendation.

Also unlike UTSA, that does not order their diplomas until after

the graduation ceremony, graduates do not have to wait to receive their diplomas by mail.

"All of the students actually get their diplomas on stage; when you walk off the stage, when you leave the stage, you have your diploma in your hand," said Anderson.

With diploma in hand, each graduate is then stopped by University President Tessa Martinez Pollack, for a picture, before walking down the ramp. With the goal of making graduation better, the University is currently looking to modify the ramp to be less steep for the spring commencement ceremony.

"We try to make it very special; it's a very special time," said Anderson.

A special time that Bejarano will now partake in the fall, she looks forward to experiencing a graduation with "a whole bunch of people" as opposed to a small one that would have been the case in an August graduation.

"Even though it's not going to be all of my classmates, I want to come back with my family and a couple of friends," said Bejarano. "I've worked hard for four years, why not celebrate?"

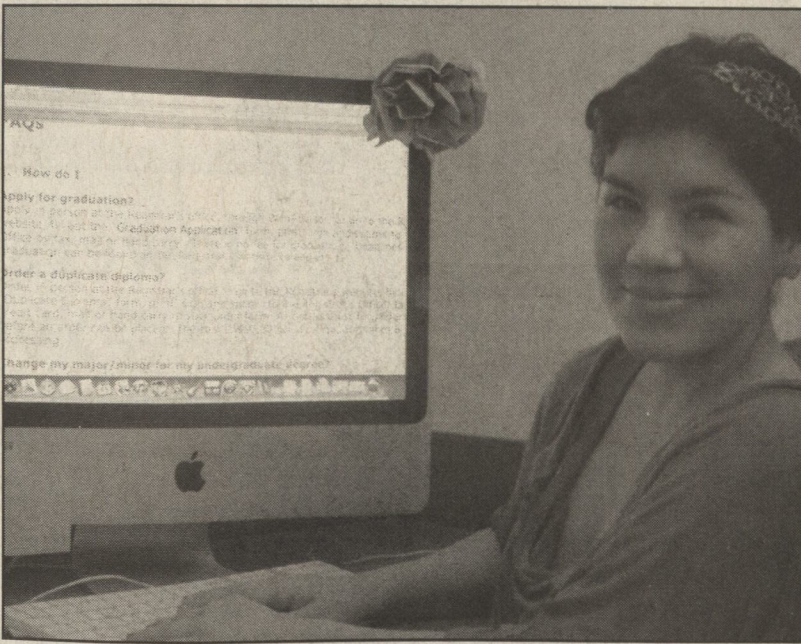


PHOTO BY MARIAM KEVLISHIVILI

Sarai Bejarano will be completing her Bachelor's Degree in the summer and participating in the fall ceremony.

## OLLU prepares for Mizuumi Con



PHOTO BY MARIAM KEVLISHIVILI

Last year's Mizuumi Con was a success, with visitors from Houston and Corpus Christi.

**Darian Mendez**  
Contributing Writer

March means Mizuumi Con. The convention, set for March 31, is San Antonio's second-largest opportunity to embrace Anime culture next to its big contender, San Japan in August. Mizuumi, which translates to "lake" in Japanese, has gotten bigger and better over the years.

Darrell Hoberer, the OLLU Anime Club's staff advisor, has been there for the convention since day one and said in a way, "It's a recruiting event. Not officially, of course."

With 82 percent of the participants being high school students, Mizuumi Con gives prospective students a chance to visit a beautiful college campus while at

the same time showing them how diverse a Catholic University can be.

Rumors are going around campus that this convention will be bigger and better than last year's. Patrick Lloyd, the Anime Club's president, said in response to those rumors, "we always plan big," and this year they're focusing more on marketing to rally a bigger crowd outside of campus.

"We also had some people coming in from Corpus and Houston," Hoberer said when remembering last year's crowd.

For those students that have never been to an anime convention before, luck is in their favor.

"It's an ideal first convention," Hoberer said. "It's cheaper than San Japan."

Students unfamiliar to anime culture can get a pretty general idea

in just one day at Mizuumi Con.

"It doesn't take much of your time, unlike San Japan that's a couple of days longer," Lloyd said.

Tickets have been on sale since November, but they are also available online at [mizuumicon.org](http://mizuumicon.org). The club is also planning on selling tickets in the mall area a few weeks before the convention.

How can students get involved in this cultural tradition in the making? Students can sign up as a volunteer at the con's web site or attend Mizuumi Anime Club meetings, which are set for Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

"It's cheaper than San Japan."

**Darrell Hoberer,**  
Anime Club Staff Advisor

## Concert line-up

### Collette Orquiz

Assistant Editor

2/24 **Joan Jett and the Blackhearts** 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$12-\$220

Location: AT&T Center, 1 AT&T Center Way  
I don't give a crap about your black heart, but Joan Jett is back and begging you to join her at the rodeo to renew your love with rock-in-roll by putting another dime in the jukebox.

2/24 **The Aesthetic Interiors, You and I Underwater, The Bad Perms, & Jonathan Moul** 8:00 p.m.

Cover: Free

Location: G.I.G. on the Strip, 2803 N St. Mary's  
Experience the musical articulations of The Aesthetic Interiors as Matt Moore intertwines you in a balance of poetic acoustic memories sung and strummed out in harmony.

3/2 **The Casualties, Toxic Holocaust, So Unloved** 7:00 p.m.

Location: White Rabbit, 2410 N St. Mary's  
Rocking the streets of New York City since 1990, The Casualties make the trek down to Texas with their mohawks and stick-it-to-the-man attitudes. Whoever said punk rock was dead lied.

3/2 **Attica, Brandon Cunningham, Cure for the Radio, You and I Underwater, & Jaik Yanez** 8:00 p.m.

Cover: \$7 if you dress up prom-style, \$10 if not

Location: Jack's Bar, 3030 Thousand Oaks  
Complete with groovy rhythmic guitar lines and back and forth replies of lyrics, Cure for the Radio, alongside the flowing emotional You and I Underwater, and upbeat folk-inspired Brandon Cunningham prepare to be whisked away by multiple genres with one thing in common: dancing shoes are required.

3/9 **Carolyn Wonderland** 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$12

Location: Sam's Burger Joint, 330 E Grayson St.  
Named Austin's Best Blues Band in 2009 at the Austin Music Awards, Carolyn takes the listener into her wonderland of soulful rockin' blues, one guitar twang at a time.

3/9 - 3/19 **The Big Spill Music Festival** 3:00 p.m./5:00 p.m.-12:45 a.m.

Tickets: \$10-\$20 daily

Location: The Korova, 107 E Martin St.

Spilling over from Austin and their annual music, film, and interactive conference, South By Southwest, SXSW, some of the best musicians from across the world will make the short trip down to San Antonio. There will be three stages with 16-36 artists performing in a laid back setting per night. Check out bands such as This Will Destroy You, Best Coast, Kevin Devine & the Goddamn Band, Motion City Soundtrack, Valient Thor, & MC Lars

3/12 **Best Coast** 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$15-\$18

Location: The Korova, 107 E Martin St.

Feeling old school? Best Coast combines the best of raw feel good garage rock and mixes it with surf-like waves similar to the sound track of a summer day at the beach.

3/14 **Good Old War, Belle Brigade, & Family of the Year** 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$12-\$14

Location: White Rabbit, 2410 N St. Mary's

Throwing together the best of acoustic, folk, and pop-rock, Good Old War, make even the bloodiest of battles feel like waking up in sunshine.

3/20 **Sleeping with Sirens, Abandon All Ships, Conditions, & Secrets** 6:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$12-\$14

Location: White Rabbit, 2410 N St. Mary's

Finding a harmonious balance between brutal breakdowns and soaring melodies, Sleeping with Sirens will blast the Sand Man away from your eyes and lure you into the arms of an underwater world with the help of Abandon All Ships.

## Babies Pan & Pablo reunited

## FIESTA

continued from page 1



### Baby Pan profile

**Age:** Forever a freshman in college

**Major:** Liberal Arts

**Work:** Started working at the Lake Front 10 years ago

**Favorite Color:** Green

**Hobbies:** Writing poetry, holding hands with strangers, and being friendly.

**Interesting fact:** Has lots of freckles, Made in China

**Life Goal:** "To be the best Pan I can be!"



### Baby Pablo profile

**Age:** slightly younger than Baby Pan

**Major:** Kinesiology

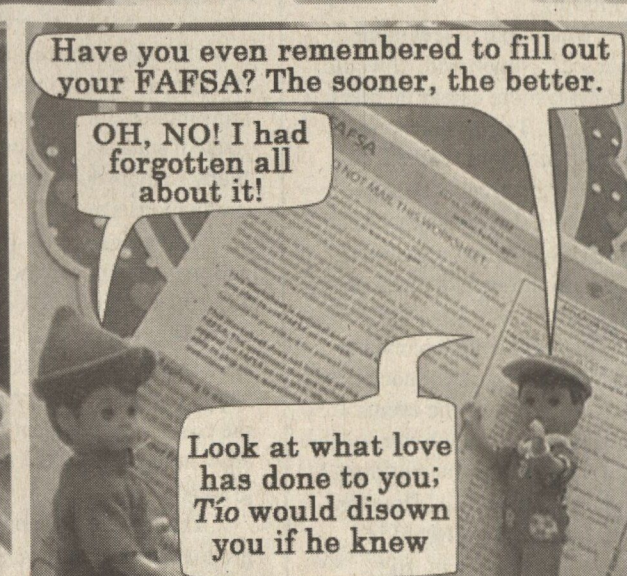
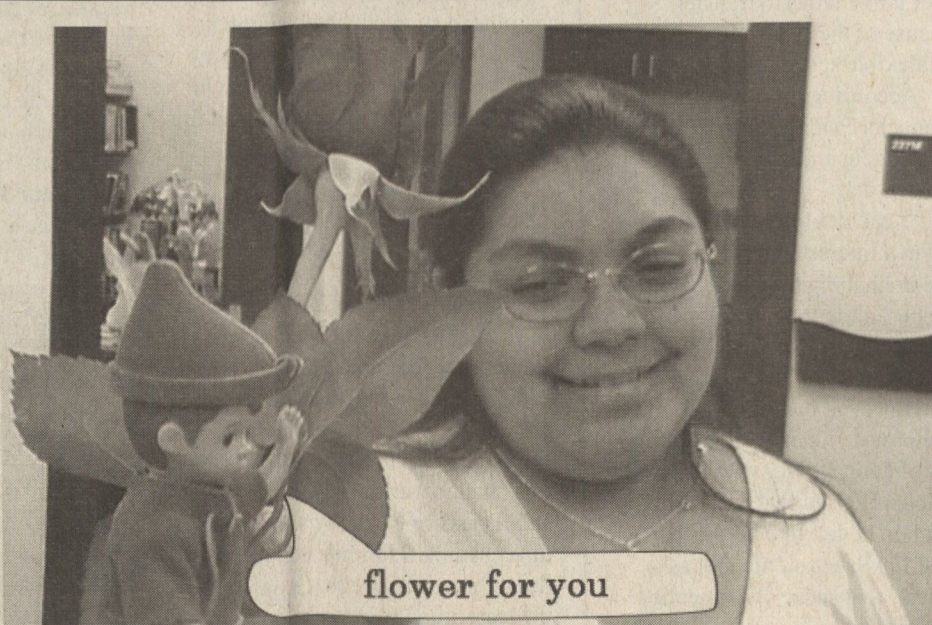
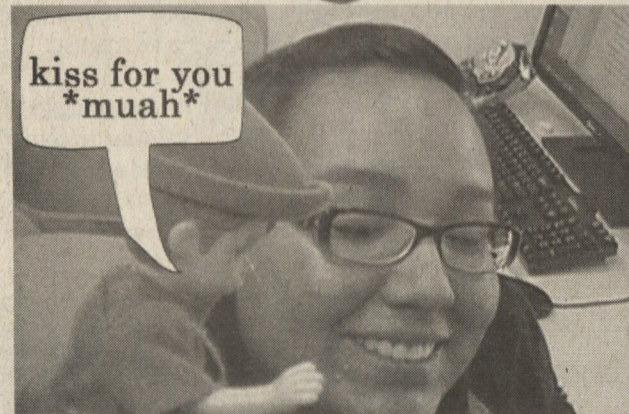
**Hobbies:** Soccer

**Interesting Fact:** Bilingual cousin of Baby Pan, Hecho en Mexico

**Favorite Food:** tamales

**Life Goal:** To become a famous soccer player and eventually work for ESPN.

## the adventures of BABYPAN



Note from Baby Pan: Don't forget to fill out your FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

PHOTOS AND COMIC BY GIANNA RENDON AND ANGELICA CASAS

Student opinions have also taken a central role in planning Best of the West, and they will also be heavily involved in running it. Ciaravino said there will be many ways for students to get involved, either through volunteering or showcasing their own music or artwork at the event.

"There will be tons of volunteer opportunities for students," Ciaravino said. "My vision is that the children's area will be completely student-run."

Ciaravino said the space set off for children will have face painting and crafts and drawing in order to create a more "intellectual-based children's area."

Since the crowds at Fiesta events often deter families with small children from enjoying the festivities, each family will be given matching bracelets. The bracelets will be checked when leaving the event's grounds to verify no child leaves with someone other than the family they arrived with. This added security gives parents "peace of mind," Ciaravino said.

As an official Fiesta event, "Best of the West" will be advertised throughout the city through various media, and Ciaravino said the "Fiesta Royalty will stop by the event at some point."

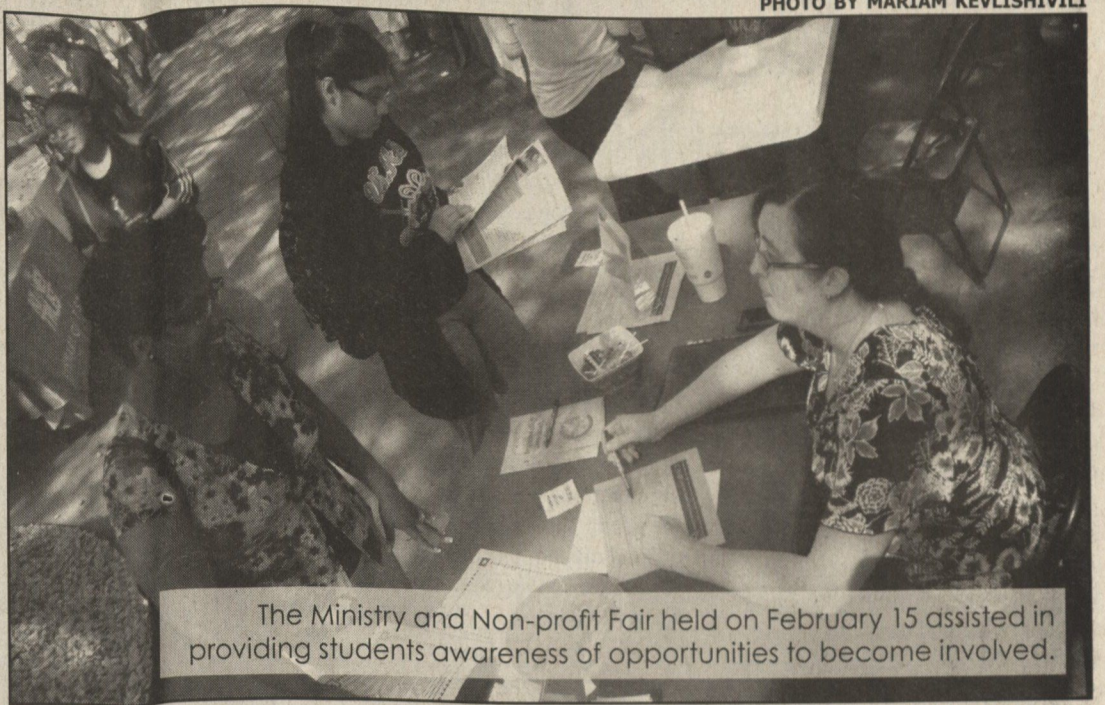
Ciaravino said one of her intentions for "Best of the West" is that it will be a source of pride for students at OLLU and a reason for alumni to come and bring their families back for a visit. However, "Best of the West" is not only intended to be a showcase and source of pride for the OLLU community, but for the entire Westside, as well.

"They make assumptions about what this side of town is. I want to blow all that out," Ciaravino said. "We have to carve out our own niche."

For more information on how you or your organization can get involved with this tradition in the making, visit [ollu.edu/fiesta](http://ollu.edu/fiesta).

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLOR SALAS

PHOTO BY MARIAM KEVLISHVILI



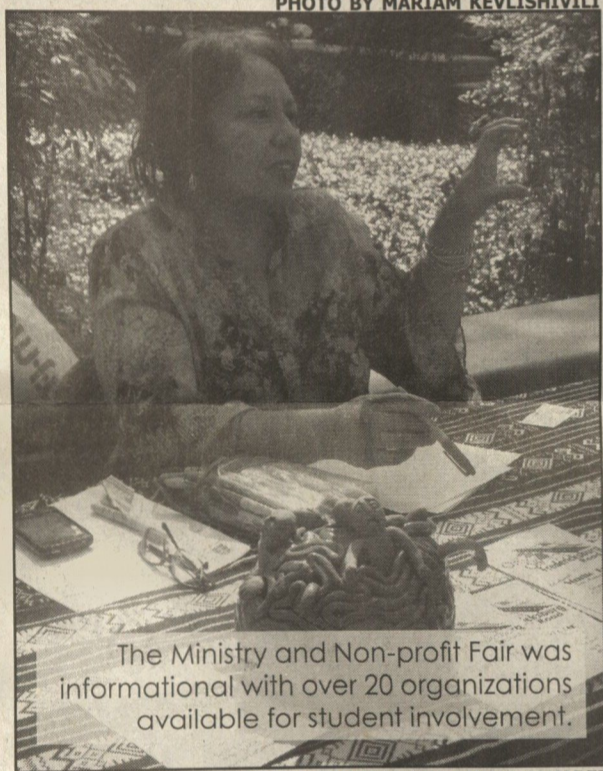
The Ministry and Non-profit Fair held on February 15 assisted in providing students awareness of opportunities to become involved.

PHOTO BY GIANNA RENDON



After the gospel service offered on February 12 by the Second Baptist Church, participants and students enjoyed a meal together and students such as Richaundra Darden (above left) helped serve.

PHOTO BY GIANNA RENDON



The Ministry and Non-profit Fair was informational with over 20 organizations available for student involvement.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SILVIA ALVAREZ

# THE LAKE SCENE

PHOTO BY GIANNA RENDON



The Contemporary Choir of the Second Baptist Church (above) made a visit to OLLU for a gospel service in honor of Black History Month.

PHOTO BY GIANNA RENDON



Lazaro Leal, Tim Soriano, and Matt Graff all attended The Valentine's Dance put on by Kappa Delta Chi.



Sonia Bernal and OLLU staff made their own Valentine's Day cards.

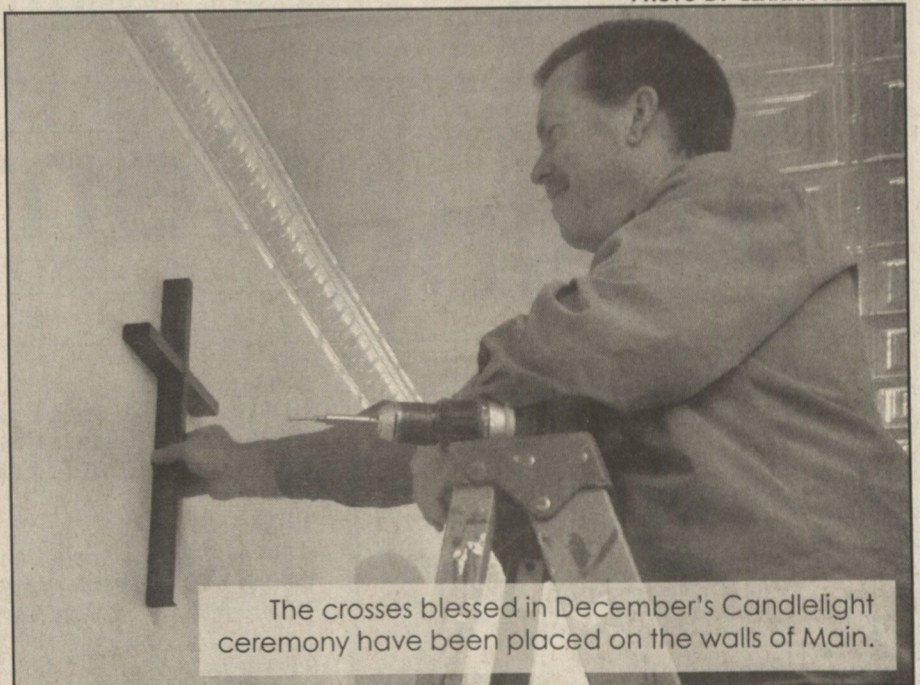
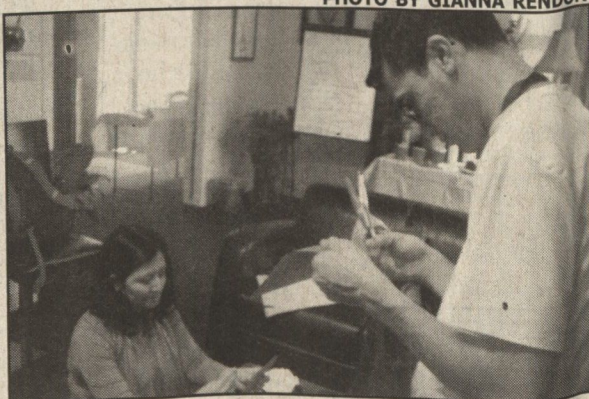
PHOTO COURTESY OF FLOR SALAS



PHOTO BY GIANNA RENDON

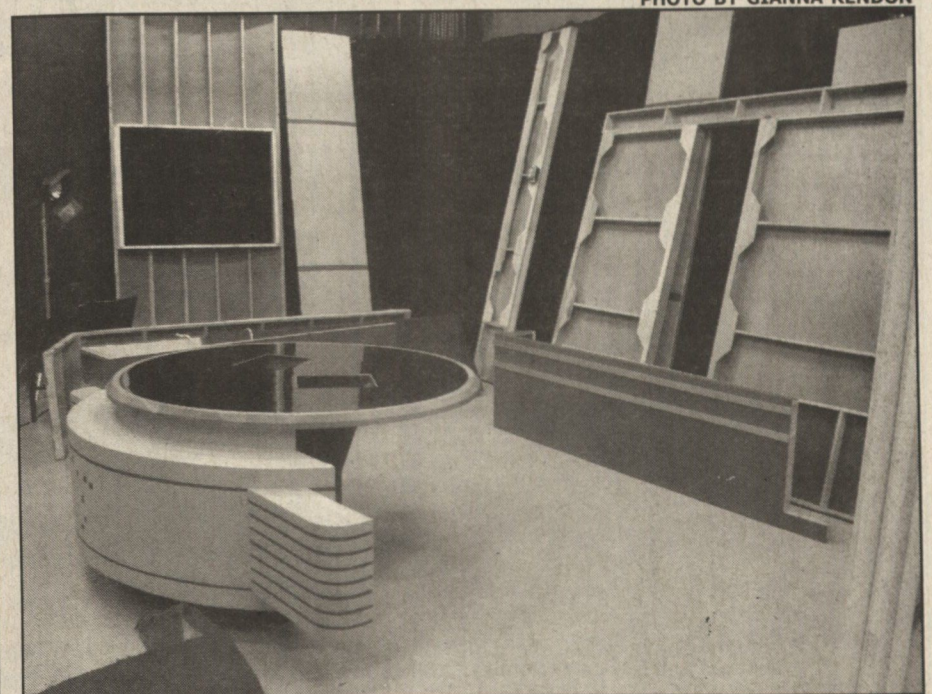
Stephanie Rodriguez, Ji Yeon Seo, Hyeri Kim, Catherine Hwang, and Gianna Rendon (above) attended the Valentine's Day dance held on February 10.

The Center for Women hosted a "Make Your Own Valentine" gathering (right) in which they provided faculty and students with arts and crafts to be creative.



The crosses blessed in December's Candlelight ceremony have been placed on the walls of Main.

PHOTO BY GIANNA RENDON



The television production crew of Lake TV received a new studio from Telemundo.

# Estes faces change

**Mariam Kevlishivili**  
Reporter

The day began with a shock for the OLLU community. President Tessa Pollack's report in the Feb. 20 E-currents announced that the executive vice president's position was being eliminated.

Executive Vice President David Estes, Ph.D., will leave the university on March 2. Estes commented that during his years at OLLU, the president and he had truly been in sync in their work together.

According to the president's report, the elimination of the EVP position was also a mutual decision targeted for the betterment of the University, aimed for it to "take its next leap."

However, this raises many questions within the OLLU community in regard to what has changed in recent years and why an executive vice president is no longer necessary.

Estes answered that Our Lady of the Lake has transformed, that a lot of changes and accomplishments have been made.

"There's now a strong momentum for growth among faculty, staff and students," Estes said.

His leave was unexpected to probably everyone but him.

"I prepared for this day from the first moment I took the job, and that's why I work so fast," he said.

Estes considers his work done, but he says he still needs to fulfill the pledge he made to the Lake Fund. According to the president's report, the majority of the EVP's responsibilities are going to be divided among the staff. However, it seems that Pollack will assume most of Estes' duties. Immediate oversight of operations will fall under the president; she will also be in charge of fund raising, partnership building, and Board support and development and will take a more direct role in oversight of the ongoing Strategic Thinking and Planning Process.

Estes said he is leaving the school without any regrets, just best wishes and is counting on the students to be tomorrow's leaders today.

"I don't know, well, things will be different for me. Getting to know to all of the students so well has been a real blessing and has changed my life."

Though Estes isn't certain about his future, one thing is for sure.

"I don't have any specific plans. I'm going to surprise my mother by going home on her 88th birthday... shhh... don't let her know."

Learning staff members taught the courses and an upperclassman peer mentor assisted the students in understanding the material.

In the new course, faculty and staff members will co-teach and bring a more interdisciplinary approach. The redesigned course will "help students make connections and think about career choices," Jackson said.

The changes underway in the QEP epitomize the goal of OLLU faculty and staff to make students' experiences at the Lake as unique and beneficial as possible.

"The freshman year is a very special year in every student's life," Estes said. "The QEP will ensure that learning in the freshman year will prepare students to finish their degree at OLLU."

With the QEP moving from the planning phase to implementation, all that's left is to tell students what's going on.

The Office of Marketing and Communications will launch a publicity campaign in early March to promote the QEP. The publicity will include giveaways, which, as Krawietz showed, are the best way to motivate students to get involved.

# Lady Saint balances faith and athletics



PHOTO BY GIANNA RENDON

Nashae Owens (right) works in University Ministry after undergoing a competitive hiring process.

**Flor Salas**  
Reporter

"You can just see her faith on her," said Sr. Joyce Detzel, director of University Ministry.

Nashae Owens is point guard for the Lady Saints basketball team. Besides her busy schedule with academics and basketball, she still finds time to be involved in both her faith and in University Ministry while working toward initiating a program aimed toward Christian athletes.

The life of an athlete can be demanding alongside college academics. With practice sometimes twice a day, classes, and being involved in the university community, it can be an even heavier load to carry.

At the age of seven, Owens was baptized. Later she moved to Houston, and "that's when everything changed. Ever since then, I wanted to be Christian," said

Owens.

Trying to fulfill her life through the Holy Spirit, she attended several religious camps, became involved with a Megachurch in Houston, and various programs like the Fellowship for Christian Athletes (FCA).

However, it was not always easy for Owens to get fully involved religiously because she couldn't count on her parents for support. Yet, she always encouraged her siblings to attend religious services and continues to pass along the message to her teammates.

After a competitive application process, Owens now works in University Ministry as a student minister.

"36 people were interviewed for the position only two got hired," Detzel said.

Owens stood out among all the other applicants mostly because

she was familiar with a different religious affiliation. She is a unique individual who connects with both athletes and those of the Protestant faith, Detzel explained.

While looking for the FCA, Owens came upon University Ministry. When she first learned about University Ministry, her eyes lit up and she knew "that was it, that was for me," Owens said.

The ultimate goal of the FCA program is to transform individuals through sports. FCA aims to "help a sports-crazed generation find victory - in Jesus Christ," according to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes web site.

Presently, Owens is working with University Ministry as well as the athletic department and student life to establish a Fellowship for Christian Athletes program at OLLU.

"She is a real link between athletics and the university," said Detzel.

## QEP

continued from page 1

All faculty will get professional development to help them revamp their courses, but a few will get release time to redesign certain courses. This will allow them to "make it unique" and find new ways to engage students, Jackson said.

Although the redesign is starting with freshmen, Jackson said it might not end there. Eventually, it may be integrated into all classes. But if not, the improved freshman curriculum should help students in later courses.

"If students get a good foundation as freshmen, those skills should persist in the courses in their major," Jackson said.

Another component is an update of the First Year Experience course known in recent years as Applications of Learning or Touchstone.

Student feedback shows dissatisfaction with the course, Jackson said, so the course is undergoing a curricular redesign with a "team-teaching approach."

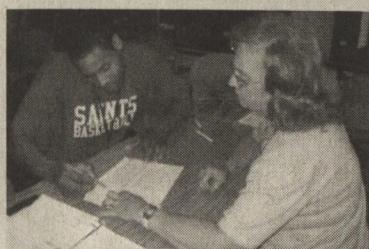
Last fall, Teaching and

Need to sharpen up on your writing skills?

Visit the **Writing Center** Worden 7

The Writing Center offers face-to-face consultation at any stage of the writing stage process. To set up an appointment, email [writing@ollusa.edu](mailto:writing@ollusa.edu), or call (210) 434-6711 ext. 2441, or drop by Worden 7.

For online students, the Writing Center recommends Smarthinking, which is staffed 24/7 during the spring semester. Smarthinking can be found under Applications on the right side of your myOLLU screen at no extra cost to OLLU students.



**Sundays**  
10:00 to 1:00  
2:00 to 4:00  
4:00 to 9:00

Sela Chavez  
Sela Chavez  
Amy Larrabee

**Mondays**  
9:00 to 2:00  
2:00 to 7:00  
7:00 to 9:00

Sela Chavez  
Mary Francine Danis  
Amy Larrabee

**Tuesdays**  
9:00 to 12:00  
1:00 to 6:00  
6:00 to 9:00

Skyler Ireland  
Sela Chavez  
Michael Suarez

**Wednesdays**  
9:00 to 12:00  
1:00 to 6:00  
6:00 to 9:00

Skyler Ireland  
Michael Suarez  
Margaret Garcia

**Thursdays**  
9:00 to 12:00  
12:00 to 6:00  
6:00 to 9:00

Elvira Leal  
Michael Suarez  
Sela Chavez

**Fridays**  
9:00 to 12:00  
12:00 to 5:00

Mary Francine Danis  
Michael Suarez

**Saturdays**  
10:00 to 1:00  
1:00 to 4:00

Elvira Leal  
Margaret Garcia

Holidays - The Center will be closed on the following days: Good Friday (4/6); Holy Saturday (4/7); Easter Sunday (4/8); and will be open at noon on Easter Monday (4/9)

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE UNIVERSITY

# Lent season resolutions

**Gianna Rendon**  
Reporter

Lent comes accompanied with a bombardment of questions: "Are you giving up anything for Lent? What? You're not? Gasp!" "Giving something up" can be difficult and distracting from the true meaning of Lent. Instead of trying to be better people and bringing love into our lives, some become preoccupied with what they "gave up" for Lent making it another New Year's Resolution.

**1. Read the Bible.** It can be hard to read the bible because of the outdated language and the daunting question of where to begin. Hearing the readings at Mass sometimes aren't enough to fully comprehend what the whole Bible is saying. The Book of Psalms is a good place to start. It is filled with love poetry directed to God. Emotions never become outdated.

**2. Get involved.** Serving others is a good way to put faith into action. Check out the Center for Service-Learning and Volunteerism at Worden Social Work School in room 23 for service opportunities. Even little things matter, like taking time out of your hectic schedule to make someone's day better.

**3. Forgive your enemies.** This may seem cliché but forgiveness is tough and can become a

barrier in life. If you walk through life with bitterness and resentment in your heart, you are living half a life. Forgiveness is not for the other person; it is for you to move on and have a happier life.

**4. Church hopping.** Go on a modern day pilgrimage and check out some Catholic parishes in the area. Grab a friend and plan to go to one church each week. You don't have to attend mass if your schedule does not permit it; some churches are open during the day for people to pray and meditate.

**5. Pray more and mean it.** Sometimes prayer can become routine and only be recited because of obligation instead of stemming from the heart. Prayer is like having an intimate conversation with a best friend or family member and can create a close bond to God. The key to a close relationship is constant conversation with the person; the same can be said for God.



PHOTO BY MARIAM KEVLISHIVILI  
Reciting the rosary helps strengthen one's relationship with God.

# CONVENT + CORNER

FEBRUARY 2012

THE LAKE FRONT | OUR LADY OF THE LAKE UNIVERSITY

PAGE 7

## Sisters' vigil is in response to execution

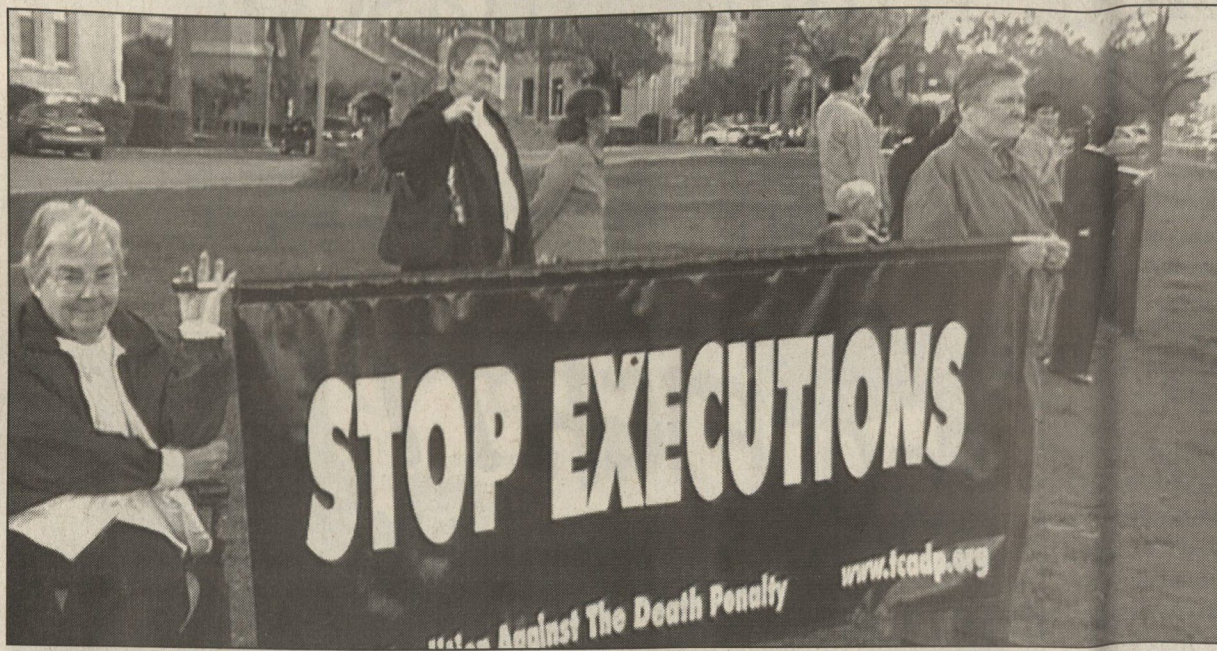


PHOTO BY GIANNA RENDON

Sisters of the Our Lady of the Lake Convent gathered on January 26 in protest of Rodrigo Hernandez's execution.

**Gianna Rendon**  
Reporter

Silence descended upon the protestors outside Our Lady of the Lake Convent as the bell tower struck 6 p.m. The Sisters of Divine Providence held signs saying "Stop Executions." "The Sisters of Divine Providence oppose the Death Penalty" and "Sisters of Divine Providence pray to end violence." They solemnly waved to passing cars while some people honked their horns, did the sign of the cross, and waved back.

Death penalty vigils take place in front of the convent every time

someone is due to be executed in Texas. The vigil starts at 6 p.m. when the executioner injects the person with the lethal drugs. The vigils last for about 20 minutes, which is the amount of time it takes a person to die from lethal injection. January 26 marked the convent's 77th death penalty vigil.

Rodrigo Hernandez, 38, was executed in the Huntsville prison by lethal injection on Thursday, January 26. According to the Associated Press, 18 years ago Hernandez abducted, raped, and strangled Susan Verstegen, whose body was found in a garbage barrel behind a San Antonio church. Verstegen's case

was left unsolved for ten years until the DNA he gave in Michigan, due to parole regulations, was matched up. Hernandez was also found tied to two other killings.

After the vigil, the people that protested with the congregation were invited to voice their intentions, which included prayers for the families of the victims and for Hernandez.

Sister Joyce Detzel, director of University Ministry, helped start death penalty vigils four years ago with Sister Patrice Sullivan, the late Sister Madelyn Pape and two other Sisters when they were deciding what they could do in areas of concern to

the community.

"The vigils use the power of prayer to change people's attitude about killing," Sullivan said.

Detzel spoke about the death penalty from her experiences working as a lawyer for 20 years. Sullivan is also a lawyer.

Detzel said that the "death penalty is the hardest issue" for most people. She said she had a family member who was murdered so she understands how the family members feel.

"Right to life [is] not just about abortion or euthanasia or executions or poverty," Detzel said. "It's about the whole span of life."

Detzel said the CDPs are "not pro-violence." She said they are opposed to victimization and state sanctioned death.

"Taking a life in the name of equalizing the score doesn't make sense," Detzel said. "There can never be a trade off."

Detzel said that the death penalty is unequally distributed and minorities are more likely to be put to death, which makes executions a social justice issue. She also said that the death penalty costs more to taxpayers than keeping the person alive.

Detzel said that United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website, usccb.com, has basic information about the death penalty and the Catholic view on this issue.

"The Faith component [to the vigils] is that only the power of God's love can transform the

universe," said Detzel.

The CDPs will silently protest once again during the upcoming executions of Anthony Barte and George Rivas on February 28 and 29.

### Death Penalty

• There are 34 states that have the death penalty and 16 that don't.

• Texas has carried out the most executions than any other state to a total of 478 executions since 1976 with Virginia as a close second with 109 executions.

• According to the Death Penalty Information Center, 56% of executed people are white and 34% are black. 76% of murder victims in cases that lead to executions are white although only 50% of murder victims are white.

• In Texas, it costs \$2.3 million to execute someone while it costs one third that amount to imprison someone in a single maximum security cell for 40 years.

• A poll done by Lake Research Partners found that 61% of voters prefer another form of punishment, like a life sentence without parole, than the death penalty.

Source: The Death Penalty Center in Washington.

## Contraception option faces Catholic disapproval

**Gianna Rendon**  
Reporter

Vagueness. That is what surrounds the discussion on both sides of the Obama Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate. Many students at Our Lady of the Lake are uncertain what the argument is even about.

The controversy over Obama health care insurance also covers contraceptives in religious organizations, created anger and frustration on all sides of the political and religious spectrum.

The HHS dispute came around the same time as the debate surrounding The Susan G. Kolman foundation's decision to stop funding Planned Parenthood. The foundation gave money to the organization for cancer screenings, according to The New York Times. This created tension between Pro-Life and Pro-Choice activists since Planned Parenthood also carries out abortions. The heated conflict then seeped into the health care controversy.

On Sunday, February 5, priests around San Antonio read a letter from Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, including our university chaplain Father Kevin Fausz. The letter said that the Health and Human Services policy created by Obama violated the First Amendment right.

Father Kevin Fausz, university chaplain, said the controversy is more a question of conscience.

Fausz said the Catholic Church does not believe in contraception because it "prevents something natural from happening." He said that the Catholic Church teaches that sex should only occur in marriage.

Fausz said that the reason the

Catholic Church was so angry at the Obama health care plan because it would hinder religious freedom.

"The contraceptive thing is not the issue here," said Fausz. "The issue here is religious liberty."

Jane Grovijahn, Ph.D., associate professor of religious studies, theology, and women's studies, said that she heard people saying the HHS mandate is anti-Catholic, but she disagrees.

She said there is a distinction between the Catholic Church as an employer and as a religious entity. Grovijahn said that the mandate recognizes this difference. The decree's objective is for all public employers to offer free contraceptives such as birth control, which is a part of women's reproductive health.

"Many women have discerned their responsibility and personal autonomy as faithful Catholics and opted for methods and medical care the church has declared to be immoral," Grovijahn said in an e-mail. "I do not think we can simply shrug this off as simple dissent or irresponsible actions."

According to Newsweek, 98 percent of "sexually experienced" Catholic women have used or are currently using birth control. This statistic is also under fire from media critics who say the poll is not accurate due to the wording of the question and the confusion over what sexually experienced means.

Grovijahn said that there are health related reasons that some women use birth control pills such as treatment for ovarian cysts, heavy bleeding, or used in preventative measures such as unwanted sexual encounters. In these cases, the contraceptives are used to promote



PHOTO REPRESENTATION BY GIANNA RENDON

Many Catholics feel as though state-mandated health care restricts religious freedom.

the wellbeing of the woman.

"It goes beyond individual formation and enforces a religious-driven identity on those who stand outside that faith," Grovijahn said.

Santa Rosa Hospital and the three Catholic universities in San Antonio, including OLLU, have insurance policies that allow employees to get contraceptives with partial pay, according to a recent article in the San Antonio Express News.

Obama agreed on February 10 to compromise on his health care plan and will no longer force religious organizations to pay for their employees' contraceptives. The employees would be offered free health insurance through the insurer, but the organization would not have to pay for it, according to the Associated Press.

As of February 12, the Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said that he would fight to overturn

the Obama policy because it still conflicts with religious freedoms, according to the Associated Press. Critics say that the Republicans want to keep this issue open in order to hurt Obama's presidential campaign.

Leda Barnett, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Political Science at OLLU, said that it seems that the Republicans won't back down after the compromise is for political not religious reasons.

"Since it's an election year, both sides will do what they can to exaggerate issues to appeal to their biases," Barnett said in an e-mail. "The problem for Republicans though, is that significant majorities favor the policy, including Catholic women."

Newsweek reported that 55 percent of Americans and 58 percent of Catholics believe contraception should be included in free health care plans.

Barnett said that the birth

control mandate is the same policy that already exists in many states.

Mitt Romney, a republican candidate who signed a similar policy in Massachusetts, said in an e-mail to the New York Times that the mandate is "an attack on religious liberties."

Fausz said that he would tell any Catholic who uses contraception to educate themselves about what the Church teaches. Fausz recommends people to go to adult faith education to learn about Natural Family Planning, which is an alternative to contraception between married people.

Whatever your religion or political affiliation, it is important to keep an open mind and open ear.

"My wish for people on campus is to stay in this discussion long enough to explore a broader truth," said Sister Joyce Detzel, director of University Ministry.

## LENTEN Calendar

### Dates & Observances

For more information wait for email updates or call University Ministry at (210) 431-397

### Tuesdays Mass and More

Offered from 12:25 to 1:20 in Constantineau Chapel on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Walter Center. Mass will be followed by a Lenten presentation by Sister Diane Heinrich, CDP. A sack lunch will be provided. February 28, March 6, March 27, and April 10.

### Thursdays Mass

Mass will be held from 12:25 to 12:50 in Constantineau Chapel followed by Soup and Scripture from 1:00 to 2:30 at Elliot House. March 1, 8, 22 and 29, there will also be Theology on Tap held at Blue Star Brewery. For more information contact Mission Ministries or go to the Theology on Tap Facebook page. Carpool from OLLU leaves at 6:30.

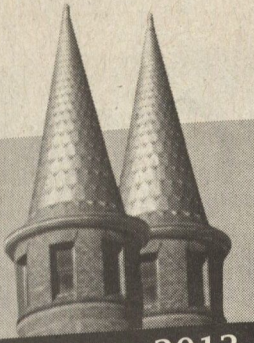
### Fridays Adoration

Adoration in the St. Joseph's Chapel (in Convent) will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 followed by a different Devotional each week from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.

### Sundays Mass

Evening mass will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Chapel.

Sundays in Annunciation Chapel, Solemn Vespers with the CDPs will be held from 6:00 to 6:30



# Not in attendance: music, mascot

Flor Salas  
Reporter

For the past few years, OLLU has put forth extraordinary effort in expanding the athletics department. However, they have missed a few pieces of the puzzle: music, cheerleaders, a dance team and a mascot.

Every year the basketball team accomplishes more than the year before. Now the Saints basketball team is very well known around the area.

The level the basketball team has reached now requires more than winning the games in order for the Saints to match the level of their opponents: they need the Saint spirit.

"It is sad how the other teams brings cheerleaders and a mascot to our own courts, and they take over all the bleachers because OLLU has none," said Silvia Alvarez, a supporter of the basketball and soccer team.

Alvarez explains that she gets pretty upset at the games because she feels like she is inviting someone over her to house, yet she has no cups or water to offer them and the visitor has to bring their own water bottle.

The school does have a cheerleading team and a dance team, but neither of the spirit teams has a coach to train them or receives any monetary help from the university. Both the cheerleaders and the dance team have to fundraise or pay out of their own pocket for their uniforms

and necessities.

"We need help with funds and we need to have a set place where we can practice in order to perform at games," sophomore dancer Victoria Trevino said.

There are many students who cannot believe there are no university-backed cheerleaders to support the athletes.

Anna Huerta, a sophomore, said with great surprise, "The basketball team is in the top ten, ranked nationally, I don't understand why we don't have a cheerleading team."

The lack of leadership, funding, and support are a few of the reasons why the spirit teams struggle to find stability.

"There should be someone who manages the dancers, cheerleaders, and mascot and communicates with the basketball team so that there is... more of a united team," said Stephanie Llanes, a senior and basketball fan.

Since the Armadillo logo and mascot was replaced with the Saints, little has been said to the student body about a mascot custom. Athletes say they would really like to have that kind of support.

"Definitely, with a band and cheerleaders, people are going to start coming," said soccer player Luis Flores. "The fact there is, people watching makes you want to play good."

Spirit not only draws the crowd in, but it also helps to motivate the

athletes to push themselves to the next level of performance.

"If there were definitely more cheerleaders, dancers and a greater support system, then the Saints team would be more motivated and encouraged because of all spirit and energy," said Sara Santiago, a basketball fan.

A total of 50 students, faculty and staff were asked whether or not they would be more willing to go to the games if the school provided a mascot, music, cheerleaders, dancers and other entertainment during the games. Almost 80 percent of those surveyed said yes, entertainment would be a good incentive to attend the games.

The university is moving

forward in the development of the athletic department, but little of the necessary support is granted to those students who voluntarily participate in the spirit teams. However, students and athletes alike believe that developing the athletic department

by increasing the support to the spirit teams can lead to positive changes in OLLU and increase the enthusiasm around campus.

"For any audience to get pumped up, you need a starting point to commence the spirit," Llanes said.

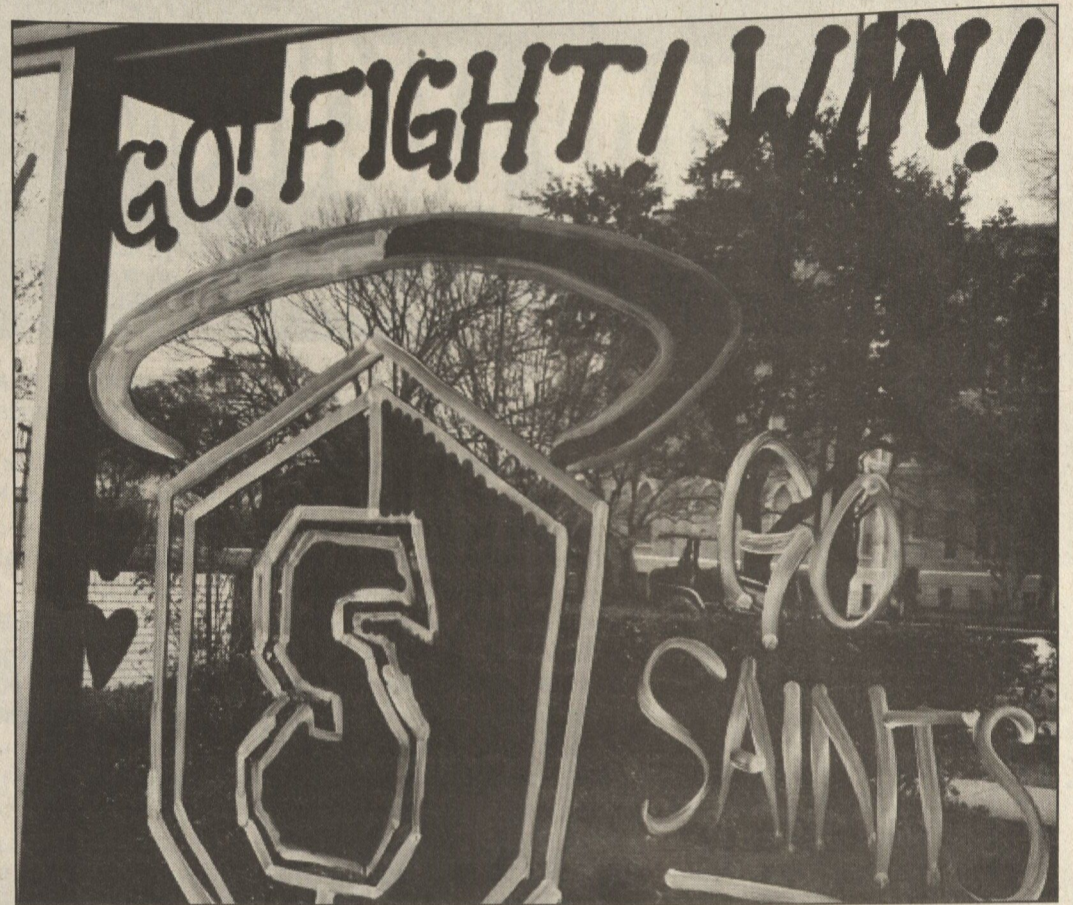


PHOTO BY MARIAM KEVLISHVILI

As the athletic department develops, the University hopes spirit develops with it.

## Faculty member wild about Saints basketball

Flor Salas  
Reporter

*\*Editor's note: Marianne Miller's position as coordinator of Survey Research was ended as of Feb. 3, but her pride for the Saints can continue to be admired and appreciated.*

Everything started when Marianne Miller received an invitation to an alumni tailgate party before a Saints basketball game. Since the tip off, Miller was hooked.

Ever since she was a little girl, Miller has been an extremely enthusiastic basketball fan. Now, Miller can be considered one of the biggest supporters of the OLLU Saints basketball team.

"What I love about them is their passion," Marianne Miller, coordinator of Survey Research, said.

Miller wanted to share this moment of exhilaration with her friends, so she invited Sister Janet Griffin and now "she is hooked," Miller said.

The energy displayed by Miller and Griffin is not only observed by fans, but by the Saints, as well. The team has actually taken that spiritedness and converted it into a tangible title.

"Right now we are ranked fifth in the whole nation," said Marco Cooper, number 35. "This is the first time in the history of the university in any sport. We are also first in conference."

Cooper mentioned that Ricardo Zanini is the most passionate player on the team. The fire Zanini has for the game has doubled this year because he will graduate this May, and "he knows this is his last chance to do it, so he pretty much gives it all in practice [and] games no matter what," Cooper said.

Zanini is not the only member of the team that has shown drive on the court. Marco Cooper is the lead team follows, said Michael Brown, number 21.

"Marco Cooper is a very hard worker," Brown said. "This is his last year and is giving his all; 100%."

The dedication and hard work Cooper has put in the game comes from his drive to see the young basketball team continue the move to success that has become standard since the team was first established three years ago.

"His whole face lights up with fire and passion," Miller said referring to Cooper.

The Saints not only have both dedication on the court and a good arm for three point plays that leave the fans in suspense most of the game.

However, watching the Saints requires fans to have very strong hearts because it can be a cardio activity.

"With the Saints, you are not waiting for something to happen; it's happening," Miller said.

Currently the Saints are ranked fifth nationally but their yearly goal is to improve and be ranked number one.

It is also recommended to have your flu shots because "watching them play is like catching a fever," said Miller.

Without a doubt, the Saints fans have witnessed the frustrations, hard work, dedication and enthusiasm that is reflected in all the achievements and awards the basketball team had received.

"I want the Saints to know how much we appreciate their talent, their heart, their play, their professionalism, and their good sportsmanship," Miller said. "I'm proud of our Saints."

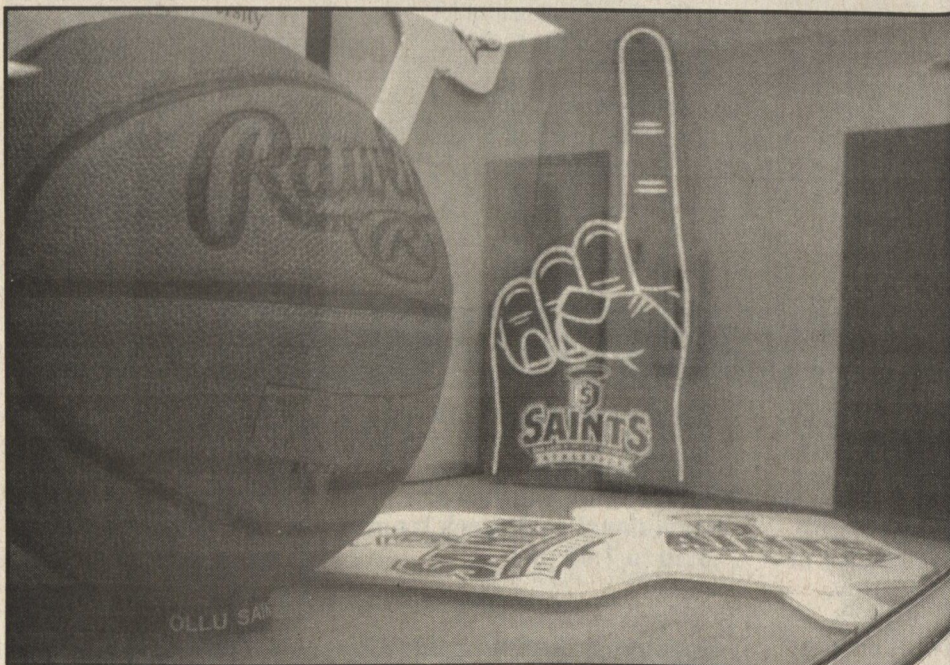


PHOTO BY GIANNA RENDON

Though spirit on campus seems minimal, Marianne Miller is proud of the Saints.

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL



QUIDAM

DIRECTED BY FRANCO DRAGONE

MARCH 14-18  
FREEMAN COLISEUM

Tickets starting at \$40 • [cirquedusoleil.com](http://cirquedusoleil.com)

Tickets on sale at AT&T Center's Southeast box office, [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) or charge by phone 1-800-745-3000

OFFICIAL SPONSORS

