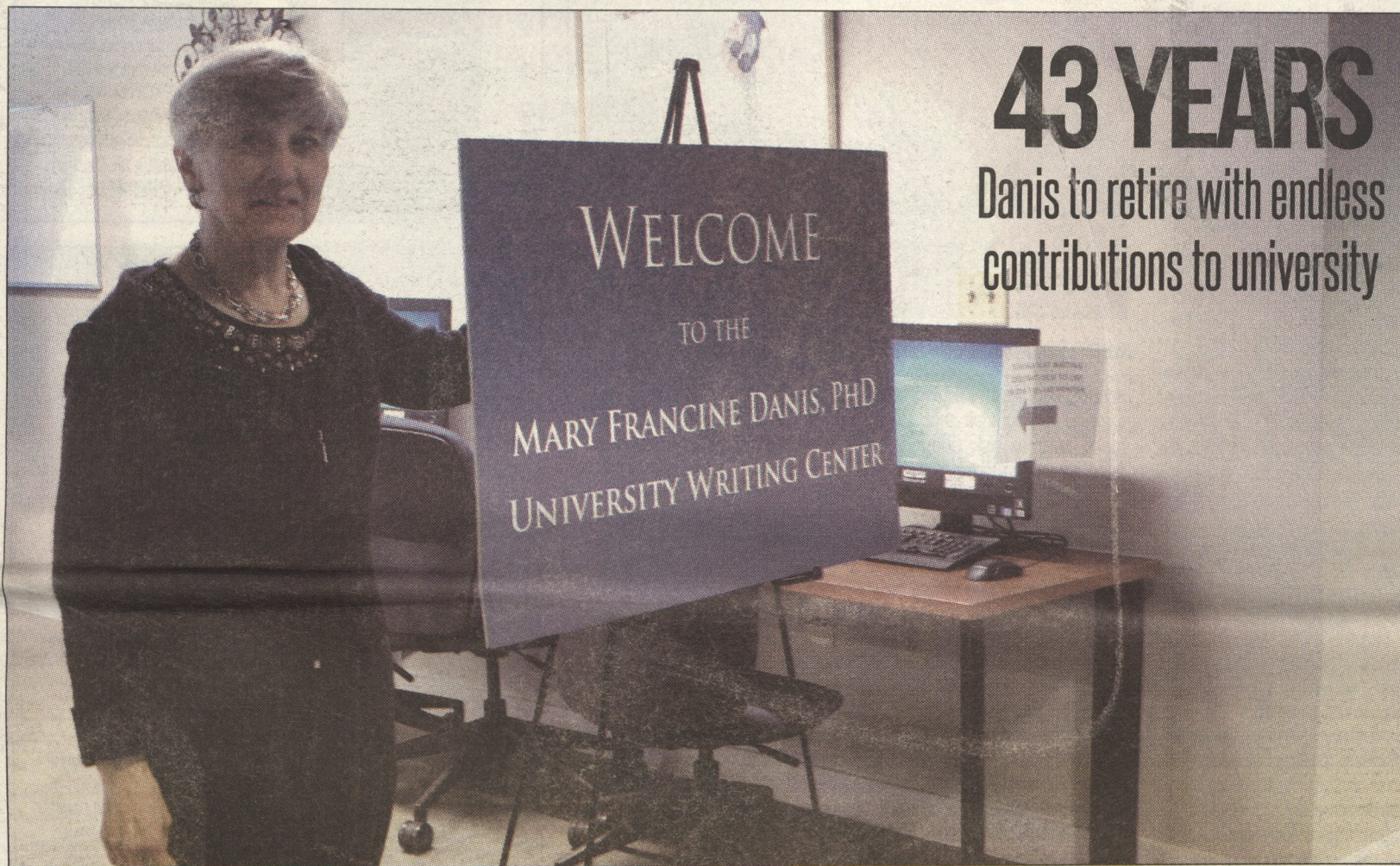


THE LAKE FRONT

News for the students. By the students.

Volume 58, Issue 4 APRIL 2014



43 YEARS

Danis to retire with endless contributions to university

MEAL PLANS TO BENEFIT NEXT SEMESTER'S HUNGRY STUDENTS

In an email sent to residents on Tuesday, April 8, Mark Center, the director of Residence life, and Gloria Urrabazo, the vice president of Mission and Ministry, announced that students with meal plans can donate parts of their left over meal plans. The money will go to OLLU students in need.

If you want to donate money talk to Dewey Johnson, the dining manager at Sister Annie B's cafeteria, and he can help you transfer some of your excess funds to the Mission and Ministry Fund Account. Students can only donate funds through the month of April. Email Mark Center at mrcenter@ollusa.edu for more information.

Mary Francine Danis, Ph.D., named "Professor Emerita," arrived at the Our Lady of the Lake as a student over four decades ago. *Photo by Angelica Casas*

By Angelica Casas Editor-In-Chief

Mary Francine Danis' story at Our Lady of the Lake University is not of one, but of two. The story is also of the man whose photograph sits on Danis' bookshelf in her Writing Center Office.

Danis, Ph.D., founder and director of the Writing Center, will retire in May after 43 years at the university. In a retirement party held in her honor on April 3, President Jane Ann Slater, CDP, announced the Writing Center would be renamed the Mary Fran-

cine Danis, PhD, University Writing Center.

Danis was born in Mineral Wells, Texas near Fort Worth. Her father was in the military and out of the country at the time and she and her mother were living with her aunt, whose husband was also in the military. When her father returned, they moved around the country several times until they finally settled in Austin when she was still very young.

After she finished 4th grade, they moved to New Braunfels. Through this move, Danis and her two younger sisters attended

Catholic schools through the 8th grade.

"We had what we needed, we certainly weren't poor," said Danis, adding that her father was an insurance salesman. "But they must've done without a lot of stuff for us to go to Catholic School."

Her mother sewed them clothes and she remembers the family's vacations every summer through the job conventions her father would attend.

It was in the 5th and 6th grades that Danis realized she wanted to be a teacher. She admired the

Dominican sisters that taught her in St. Austin's, especially her 5th grade teacher Sister Erasma Fitzpatrick, who was from Ireland. She also attributes her 3rd grade teacher Sister Annette in helping her become a good reader.

"These two nuns really influenced my desire to teach," Danis said. "They were both gentle and had a sense of humor and so I wanted to be like them."

When it was time for her to go to college, Danis decided to major in English at Our Lady of the Lake College, where she also began preparing to become a

sister of the Congregation of Divine Providence.

College life was very sheltered for her at the convent, where women always surrounded her, she said. She would head to classes at the college and then return to the convent where she would help with different chores. Her favorite job was cleaning the "big chapel" - Sacred Heart Chapel - where she would fill up the holy water fonts, dust the pews, set up for Mass and dust a large nativity set the chapel used to house at Christmas time.

DANIS continued on page 7

Richard Sanchez

The university's housekeeping supervisor's assistant has worked here since he was only a teenager.

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New STE sweetheart

Lisa Robles, a junior, is Sigma Theta Epsilon's new sweetheart.

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Biblical blockbusters

This month, one of The Lake Front's Cinemaniacs takes a look at the most popular Biblical films - both recent and old.

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your staff

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Our Lady of the Lake University

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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@ollusa.edu
lakefrontads@ollusa.edu
facebook.com/lakefrontsa
twitter.com/lakefrontsa

Saving with Cesar MEAL PLAN ALTERNATIVES

Cesar Rodriguez is a junior and an accounting major. He is also The Lake Front's accountant.

By Cesar Rodriguez
Accountant

The end of the semester is upon us and no one knows this better than the student residents at Our Lady of the Lake University. The last days of a semester are perhaps some of the most troublesome for residents because of a depleted meal plan. As a requirement to live on campus, all residents must have a pre-paid meal plan. These meal plans vary by amounts—they can range anywhere from \$1,950+ tax to even \$2,850 + tax per semester. These limited plans combined with above-average meals can result in a rapid depletion, which I know from personal experience.

The following tips can help you stretch your savings without sacrificing your eating habits.

• **Family Dollar.** If you have never walked outside of campus or have never crossed the bridge above Elmendorf Lake, you will be glad to hear there is a Family Dollar on Commerce Street at the intersection with 24th Street. This fairly new store carries most of the popular food brands we know as well as the store's own generic brands. Buying the generic brands will help you save money while buying items similar to the ones you are used to. This Family Dollar offers all types of meals—from frozen foods to canned items and everything in between. It also offers cleaning supplies,



HEB is a less expensive alternative for food. *Courtesy photo*

school supplies, clothing and snacks. If you visit this store, make sure to ask about their specials and coupons.

• **A & A Drive Inn** (4103 W Commerce St). Personally, A & A Drive Inn has one of the best home-made burgers I have ever eaten. This restaurant, quietly located on Commerce Street across from Conn's, offers a typical mom and pop's restaurant with Coca-Cola antiques all around the restaurant. Regarding saving your money, you will be glad to know that A & A Drive Inn offers \$1 dollar burgers every Thursday and Saturday. That's right, \$1 burgers that taste way better than McDonalds. The only downside to this great establishment is its beverage prices. My advice: buy food to go and buy a bigger beverage at the family dollar for less money.

• **HEB.** If you are the type of person who does not mind walking, then I recommend visiting the HEB on Culebra or the one at Las Palmas Shopping Center. HEB will make sure to offer you multiple coupons on all sorts of



items. My advice is to visit any HEB with other students to take advantage of discounts on multiple items.

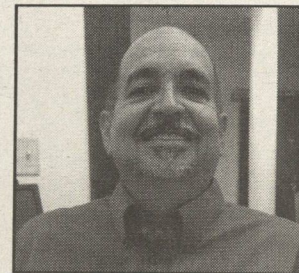
• **The Elliot House.** University Ministry and the Center for Women in Church and Society will make sure to feed all students during the last week of classes, when their help could not be more needed as that is finals week. These departments have maintained this great act of "Fishes & Loaves" every semester in order to make sure students stay focus and survive their last week of classes. My advice is to go get some delicious food from the Elliot house and thank them for existing.

These tips might help you save some money and eat healthy for the rest of the semester. If you happen to be a lucky resident with a good meal balance, make sure to monitor it by using the charts provided by Selrico in each of the Cafeteria and C-Store check-outs.

cnrodriguez@ollusa.edu

What do you say?

AS A PROFESSOR, WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE GRADUATING SENIORS?

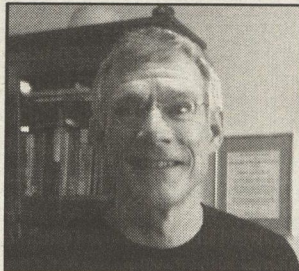


Dennis Medina, professor of History, said he would advise students to get into the job market early. Don't overlook internships because they are a foot in the door," Medina said. "Even though the payment is low, it's still a stepping stone."

Annalisa Mendiola, director of TRIO, said the sky is the limit. "The only limit is the one they put on themselves," Mendiola said. "They have been well taught here and prepared for the next stage in their lives."

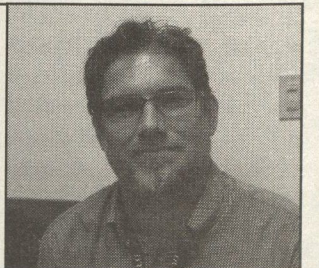


Michael Lueker, professor of English, said if you get a job right away, great! "Follow your passion," Lueker said. "Job opportunities will come your way."



Jim Hall, professor of Biology, said they should contact the instructor in their major for context in their field. "Don't limit your applications," Hall said. "The more places you apply, the better your odds. My other advice is education does not have to stop at the bachelor's level."

Michael Thompson, television studio technician, said to not become discouraged if things don't start the way they hoped. "For those that are going to graduate school just keep those good habits that helped you to graduate," Thompson said. "Good luck."



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IT'S COMPLICATED

Leaving the hated 'friend zone'

By Shannon Valladolid
Contributing Writer

"I love you but as a friend" – the words no one wants to hear.

Yes, you just got friend zoned, all right. Don't worry, I was always in the friend zone but, as a survivor now I know how to come out of it. While it's notoriously hard to get out of the friend zone, if you really want to escape, these steps should be of help.

smvalladolid@ollusa.edu

1. Break the "nice guy" or "sweet girl" stereotype.

Most guys and girls who are in the friend zone usually have the characteristics of the "nice guy" or "sweet girl" stereotype. This means they want to avoid making other people uncomfortable at any cost, but its done usually at their own expense by not communicating their own needs. It's time to put a stop to that! When you're romantically attracted to someone, but you don't want to "pressure" them into a relationship, or "ruin" the friendship by expressing your interest or making a move, you'll end up holding back in a variety of ways.

The danger with this is when you make other people's feelings more important than your own, you're automatically communicating to people that your own feelings don't matter. Just tell them how you feel! If they stop talking to you then those aren't the kind of people you want in your life. I told my guy friend I liked him in high school, although he didn't feel the same way about me. It felt great getting it out of my system and we remained friends. See, it's not that bad!



It's never a good thing to be in the friend zone, but there is hope. Just like Ron Stoppable and Kim Possible became something more than friends, you can too. These tips are not worth anything if not applied, so get to work. *Courtesy photo*

2. Stop being needy.

A little harsh? Maybe, but one of the reasons you might be interested in this person more than they're into you is because you are giving off signals that you really want to be in a relationship. You might be coming off as a little desperate, which is quite the attraction killer. My suggestion is that you examine your own neediness and relax. Don't force yourself to reveal your hopes for intimacy, but rather let your actions display your confidence. Your demeanor should speak for itself.

3. Break the touch barrier.

For many people, a big difference between "friendship" and "relationship" is the way they touch. For instance, you wouldn't hold your guy friend's hands if you're just friends. Take some touch risks, just don't go overboard. Reach for their hands, hair, shoulders, and back. Don't just always wait for them to do it first. If they don't like it, they'll definitely let you know. But touching someone lets them know you find

them attractive, and also that you're confident. Both of these things can make someone feel more attracted to you.

4. Moving on.

If you stepped up your role, stopped being needy, broke the touch barrier and this person still doesn't want to date you, I would suggest you move on and make that friend a close acquaintance. Consider that it'll be difficult to develop feelings for someone else if your feelings for this person are fueled every time you hang out. You'll struggle with feelings of jealousy and frustration when that person dates.

No matter what happens, don't let this affect you every time you meet someone you like. Life is going to throw rejections at you but just remember to keep your head up and wear your confidence everywhere you go!

Do you have something you want to read about in our It's Complicated column? Let us know at lakefront@ollusa.edu

New nearby hookah lounge offers over twenty flavors

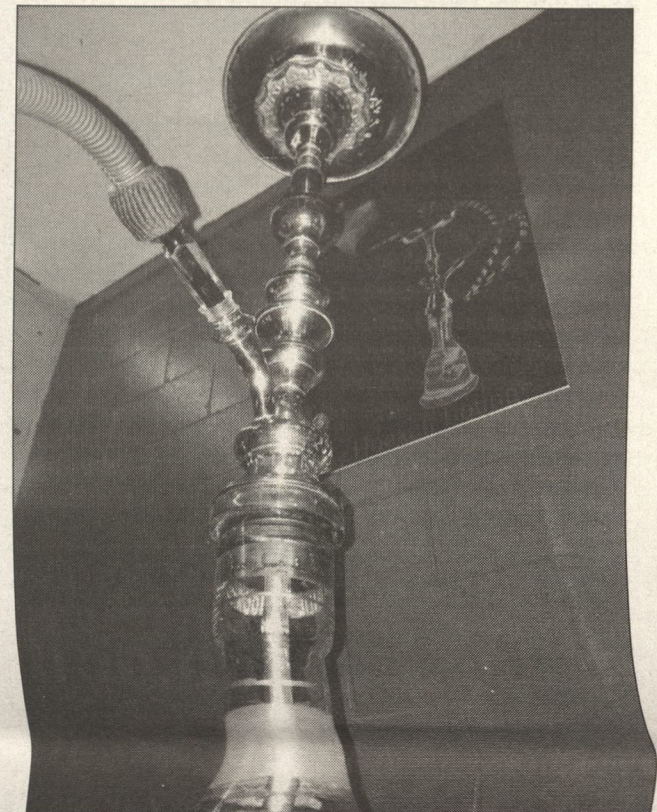
By Cassandra Bravo-Cepeda
Reporter

Absolom, the blue caterpillar from Alice in Wonderland, appears smoking hookah through various parts of the movie. Low and behold, hookah has become a very popular trend among college students.

Joining Sultans, Karma, and The Raven is a new hookah lounge within walking distance from campus. Blue Hookah Lounge recently opened up right next to the convent on 24th Street. It's a small dainty location with room and various comfortable spaces to enjoy the flavored tobacco substance.

There are over twenty flavors of hookah that vary from "drink" type to exotic flavors. The owner, Jameel Alslaw, will make you feel at home with his hospitality.

Upon your first visit to the lounge, you will get one complimentary free cup of chai tea to taste. There is also a \$2 discount for all college students.



Blue Hookah Lounge recently opened down 24th Street at walking distance from the university and offers a \$2 student discount. *Photo by Cassandra Bravo-Cepeda*

Hours of operation vary according to Alslaw, give it a whiff, you just might get hooked!

Blue Hookah Lounge is located at 619 SW 24th

Street. If you want to know more about the hookah lounge call 210-452-1783 or email thebluehookalounge@gmail.com.

cfbravo@ollusa.edu

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THE LAKE FRONT

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New Political Science program offers new network of mentors

By Neida Escamilla
Contributing Writer

The political science program at Our Lady of the Lake University has introduced a new concentration. Students can now choose to have a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a Pre-Law concentration.

The new addition is part of the degree plan's revitalization. The new concentration and the general Political Science degree will include new courses and slight changes of currently offered courses.

The revitalization plan was approved in February 2013 by the university.

John Trayhan, Ph.D., associate professor of political science and program head of the department, said the pre-law concen-

tration will help students be more prepared with classroom experience if they decide to pursue a law degree.

"For me it was the input from the students, many of them would say I want to go to law school," Trayhan said. "We needed something to accommodate those desires of the student."

The pre-law concentration was launched in fall 2013. Two mock trial courses were introduced, providing students with real courtroom experience.

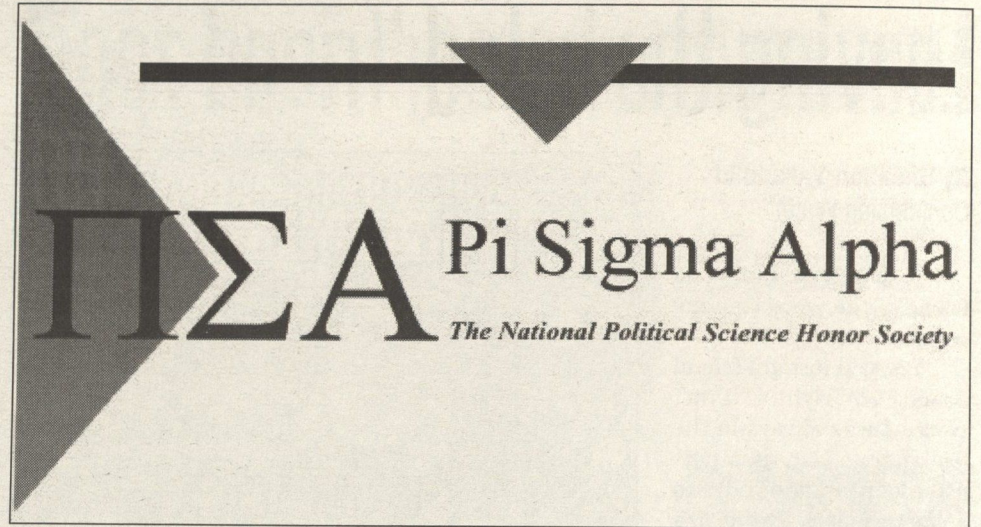
Also, the political science program has a new advisory council. It is meant to provide a network of mentors for students looking to pursue a career in law.

"It's about making

those connections," Trayhan said. "That council consists of people in the community that serve in positions like attorneys, some alumni from the school, elected officials, and other community leaders."

Becoming a lawyer isn't the only option students have with a political science degree. Some career paths include campaign management, public relations for nonprofits, human rights activism, and foreign policy in international affairs.

Trayhan said it would be a good idea for students to look into the two political science organizations on campus: the National Political Honors Society, Pi Sigma Alpha, which is open to those students in the major who qualify, and the



The university has a student chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. *Courtesy photo*

Law and Politics Society.

"As a department, we want [students] to become involved," Trayhan said.

The Law and Politics Society organization is open to all majors and non-majors. They provide

opportunities for students to visit law schools, register people to vote, organize LSAT practice sessions, and allows students to organize around political issues important to them.

One thing Trayhan

said he is looking forward to the most with this new concentration is "watching students graduate and getting accepted to law school."

naescamilla@ollusa.edu

Capital One funds student business plans through challenge

By Andrea Pruitt
Contributing Writer

Over the years, Kathryn Winney has fostered a relationship with Capital One Bank.

This relationship began when Capital One partnered with Our Lady of the Lake University to support the community in financial literacy. More recently, the university partnered with Capital One and Acción Texas to create the Entrepreneurship Challenge, two courses dedicated to fostering entrepreneurial abilities in students.

Winney, newly appointed chair of accounting and accounting professor, oversees the Entrepreneurship Challenge on campus.

Winney helps the stu-

dents, all from the School of Business and Leadership, take an idea or concept they think would be profitable and turn it into a business plan. Throughout the course of both semesters, students receive mentorship from members of Capital One and Acción Texas.

During the second semester, the business plan is presented to Capital One and Acción Texas, who judge the groups of students. The groups are awarded "seed" money to transform their business plan into a small business. First place winners receive \$7000 and the second place winners receive \$5000.

This year, "Forever Young Marketing" won first place, receiving \$7000.



Elda Barajas (from left to right), Larry Lopez, Stephanie Paz and Jasmine Arroyo are all members of "Forever Young Marketing," the group that won this year's Capital One Entrepreneurship Challenge. Professor Kathryn Winney (far right) is the advisor of the two semester-long courses that helped furnish the students' business plans before they presented to Capital One. *Courtesy photo*

The business' first client was Mariachi Nuevo Estilo, who appeared on "America's Got Talent." Larry Lopez, Elda Barajas, Stephanie Paz and Jasmine Arroyo are all members of the group.

The second place winner that received \$5000 was the company Slap Tagz, which creates custom decals and whose members include Sam Wolf, Paul Morales and John Hernandez.

Third place winner is ACTZ Clothing Company, which makes customized t-shirts and jackets, and whose members include Yared Temesgen, Taon Clark, Jason Zerda, and Zach Adam.

aapruitt@ollusa.edu

Search begins for permanent university president

By Cassandra Bravo-Cepeda
Reporter

On Friday, March 7, students received news via email that a search for Our Lady of the Lake University's new president is underway.

A 17-member selection committee was identified in the email. The Board of Trustees appointed Mike Edelmann, former chairman of the board, to head the search as Committee Chair.

The remaining 16 members include: Ruth Pina, a trustee and alumna; Mario Oliveira, executive officer of the Board; Steve Blanchard, Ph.D., president of the Faculty Assembly; Frances Boynes, an alumna; Sister Pearl Ceasar, CDP; Ashley Guevara, president of the Student Government Association; Carol Jeffries-Horner, Ph.D.; Sister Rosa Kruppa, CDP; Michael Laney, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Leah Larson, Ph.D., professor of English; Cathy Maule, assistant director for Marketing and Communications; Sister Ann Petrus, CDP, Ph.D.; Karen Reed, alumna and assistant vice president of Finance and Facilities; Veronica Salazar-Escobedo, alumna and former trustee; Patty Stoltz, trustee; and Gloria Urrabazo, vice president for Mission and Ministry.

"I went to the January board meeting," Edelmann said. "They approved a charge to the committee and that charge includes that the committee will be a diverse group."

Edelmann visited with faculty and staff leadership, alumni, sisters of the Congregation of Divine Providence and Student Government Association President Ashley Guevara to create the 17-member committee.

"There's a student, alumni, faculty and staff constituents that make up the committee," said Dan Yoxall, vice president of Institutional Advancement.

The search committee has sought the help of AGB Search, a consultant group specializing in higher education searches for long and short term institution presidents, to assist with the search. AGB Search will create a professional profile that fits the core values and intentions of OLLU.

"We hired a search consultant that will bring us the best possible candidate who we will match against a profile that will be developed by the community," said Edelmann.

Julie Tea is the lead consultant who is facilitating the national and international search.

"One of the meetings Julie did ultimately was to meet with student leaders to get input from all groups as we build this profile," Edelmann said.

Once Tea's profile is complete, the committee will finalize and advertise for the intended president position. Interested applicants will have all of summer 2014 to apply.

When the committee has chosen the finalists, they will bring them to campus to meet with various students and student organizations. The committee will then choose the desired applicant based on student feedback and create a report to give to the Board of Trustees for final validation.

The committee will not reveal the names or information of the potential candidates until they are ready to reveal the finalists to the university community.

"President Slater ultimately could reapply and go through the process of se-

lection just like all the other applicants, if she chooses to do so," Yoxall said.

"There's going to be natural curiosity about the search," Yoxall said. "We want to continue the momentum that Sister Jane Ann has established, there's a lot to tell a story about."

The newest institutional strategic plan, "To Grow, To Graduate, To Lead" will be presented to the new president. Their expectation is to contribute to the growth and development towards the plan and any plans in the near future.

"The students deserve to have the university pursue those objectives to make the university better," Yoxall said.

The ideal term for a college president is about seven years. Ideally, for Edelmann, the search committee must look into the future to see if the next president has the ability to lead for several years.

"When you interview people you'd hope that you're looking at a decade that they would provide that leadership," Edelmann said.

In the months before President Slater's term ends, the committee will choose a new president and announce it to the community to allow a smooth transition in leadership.

Currently, students and faculty throughout the university have shown support to President Slater. Her role is to lead, be the executive leader and the face of the university.

President Slater evolves with the changing times and is always approachable. She was nominated for interim president in the absence of Tessa Pollack in the spring of 2013. Her presiding term will end in August of 2015.

cfbravo@ollusa.edu

Larraga to be associate dean of College of Arts & Sciences



Maribel Larraga, Ph.D. (middle) with Spanish adjunct faculty Gerri Iruegas-Peters (from left to right), Diana Harmon, Elvia Quijano and associate professor Nina Patrizio Quiñones. *Courtesy photo*

By Kimberly Yosko
Reporter

Maribel Larraga, Ph.D., current Spanish professor and program head, has been named associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). She will fill the position in the summer.

Larraga was asked last semester and Michael Laney, Ph.D., dean of the CAS, appointed her in early February.

Larraga said she will be helping with academic assessment.

According to an outline about this position, the position "provides leadership involving accreditation, assessment, strategic planning and evaluation of all undergraduate and graduate programs in the College of Arts and Sciences."

"I was appointed to work with assessment in

the CAS," Larraga said.

Larraga said that the CAS's programs are changing rapidly.

"The programs have not really changed in about 10 years," Larraga said. "I will be working with the changes in the programs and helping to update them."

The outline states that the person appointed to this position will be doing many tasks that involve assessment of programs, such as "[reviewing] program plans" and "[planning] and [managing] the necessary strategic planning sessions and programs that gather the resources of CAS".

Larraga said that she will be working with others in order to update the programs.

"I will be working with people who care about the university and its students," Larraga said. "And

we have to care about the programs."

Kara Larkan-Skinner, senior director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, will be one of the people helping Larraga in her new position.

"I will be helping with the assessment in the whole university," Larkan-Skinner said. "Larraga is only helping with CAS."

Larkan-Skinner said the position involves working with faculty in CAS, as well as the administrators of OLLU.

"We will be working with faculty and helping them develop learning outcomes for students," Larkan-Skinner said. "We will [also] be examining faculty in CAS to help assess student learning and making sure that students are learning what we want them to learn."

keyosko@ollusa.edu

Housekeeper's life marked by decades of service to university



Richard Sanchez, housekeeping supervisor's assistant, has worked at the university for nearly 47 years. *Photo by Vincent Reyna*

By Angelica Casas
Editor-In-Chief

Over 40 years ago, Richard Sanchez cut the shrubs that encircle St. Martin's Hall because he was tired of trimming them every week. He twisted and tied together the three small branches that remained of each shrub.

Today, those shrubs

have grown over 6-feet high, their branches still intertwined with one another. This is one way in which Sanchez has contributed to Our Lady of the Lake University's appearance, he said.

Sanchez, 65, is the housekeeping supervisor's assistant. Most of his life has been spent at the university.

"My fingerprints are

all over campus," Sanchez said. "On walls, on lights, on furniture. If you could see the footsteps around St. Martin's Hall, the field would be covered with my footsteps."

Sanchez's relationship with the university began when he was a teenager and volunteered at St. Martin Hall Elementary School through a program for high school dropouts. He was

officially hired as a maintenance man for the elementary school on Sep. 7, 1967, at the age of 18.

Sanchez had dropped out of high school because he was sick with asthma.

"I got better and thank God I was able to continue my job over here," Sanchez said.

When he went to the payroll office to sign his W2 form, Sanchez said one

of the sisters joked about his size and told him "we don't have jobs here for little boys."

"Some things you don't forget," Sanchez said, laughing.

At St. Martin's Hall, Sanchez would clean the classrooms in the morning for students to arrive at 8 a.m. From about 8-10:30 a.m., Sanchez would work on the yard. At 11 a.m., he would set up the tables and chairs in the cafeteria for lunch at noon. After lunch, he would have to clear the cafeteria so that the area could be used as a gym for Physical Education class. At 3 o'clock, when all the students would leave, he would get a head start cleaning some of the classrooms for the next day.

He did this everyday on his own for 10 years until he was moved to the west side of campus and became the housekeeping supervisor's assistant, a position he still holds.

"I like responsibility but I don't like full responsibility," Sanchez said. "I never know what I'm going to do tomorrow; it's always a little bit different. I like that."

Sanchez said many changes have taken place since he first started working at the university. He has constantly moved room furniture and offices across campus, even from the University Wellness and Activity Center on the far west side of campus to Worden Building on the far east side.

Even the student demographic has changed: when he first began, Our Lady of the Lake was an all-female college.

"I felt embarrassed to walk down the hallway," Sanchez said with a chuckle. "I felt like all the girls were looking at me."

Sanchez said he re-

members when the college started admitting males. They used to live in a building where Conn's is now located on Commerce Street. When Pacelli Hall was built, the females moved there and the boys began to live in Ayres Hall.

"Things kept changing," Sanchez said, adding that he used to feel like he was working at a holy place because the sisters would be everywhere.

In 2008 when the fire in Main Building happened, Sanchez was not in town and said he felt horrible because he could do nothing about it. Before the spire on the right was placed back over Main, Sanchez asked to touch it so that his fingerprints could also be on one of the highest places on campus.

Sanchez, now married with two sons, was never enrolled at the university but did attend workshops offered through Weekend College on how to run an office. He learned how to properly answer the phone and make conversations shorter.

Sanchez said when he was 10 or 11 years old he would visit Elmendorf Lake on the city bus with his mother. He would see people around and ask himself what kind of people worked at the university.

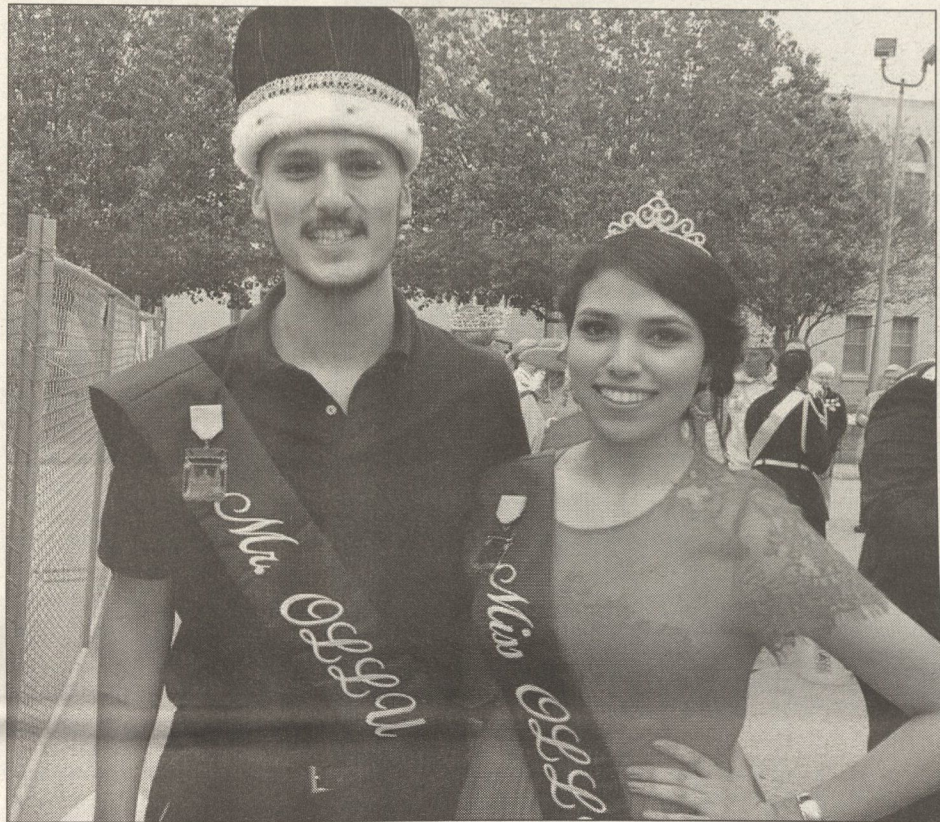
"I wonder what kind of work there is to be done there, I would ask not knowing that I would one day be there for a long time," Sanchez said.

This September will mark Sanchez's 47th anniversary working for the university. He plans to retire in two or three years.

"I feel pleased that I'm doing not just a job but something for the university and the students," Sanchez said. "Everything is a pleasure."

amcasas@ollusa.edu

University royalty crowned at first annual showcase



Mr. and Ms. OLLU Kevin Castaneda and Elda Barajas at Best of the West on April 5. *Courtesy photo*

By Astrid Villegas
Reporter

Last January, 75 nominated students were invited via email to take part in the first annual Mr. and Ms. OLLU showcase awards hosted by the University Programming Council (UPC). The candidates were nominated by peers and staff members who consider them to have a positive attitude, to be dedicated to academics, and committed to the Our Lady of the Lake University core values.

Each nominee was asked to turn in a portfolio with a headshot photo, a resume, a cover letter, and one reference letter. This portfolio was presented in an interview process in order to advance in the competition.

The amount of contestants became smaller after the portfolios were looked at until it got to the final four for each grade. The freshman category winners would be called Mr. and Ms. White. The sophomore category winners would be called Mr. and Ms. Sacred Heart. The junior category winners – the most important – would be called Mr. and Ms. OLLU. Finally, the senior category winners would be called Mr. and Ms. Providence.

At the showcase, each contestant performed their talent, participated in a group performance, participated in a catwalk along and answered a question about them asked by the show's host, UPC president Courtney Lynn Dailey.

The panel of judges included University President Jane Ann Slater, CDP, Jack Hank, and Elizabeth Longoria.

The talents showcased varied from country, bachata and flamenco dancing to singing and instrument playing with some on the spot art and even a line of clothing designed by one of the contestants.

The Mr. and Ms. White winners were Devin Scott and Marissa Amador. Each of them received a \$100 book voucher.

"This title was a chance for me represent the freshman class at OLLU and to show my fellow classmates that they too can become a leader on campus," Scott said.

SHOWCASE continued on page 14

DANIS

continued from page 1

After graduating, Danis got her first teaching job in 1967 at St. Pius X School in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

When she returned to Our Lady of the Lake, she taught English for a couple of years before receiving her master's in English from the University of Texas at Austin.

Danis spent 20 years both preparing to be and being a sister of the Congregation of Divine Providence. But during the last of these 20 years, things were not all too clear for Danis.

"During the midst of all of that, I was questioning whether I was in the right place," Danis said. "I did a lot of talking with a lot of people and I realized I wanted the opportunity to get married."

The man in a photograph on Danis' bookshelf is Jud Mather, the man she fell in love with and who became the final factor in her decision to leave the convent.

Danis and Mather met in at a Bible study group in Michigan while she was receiving her doctorate degree at Michigan State University (MSU). In 1983, Danis signed the paperwork that would cut her ties with the convent as a sister. She and Mather married two years later in Annunciation Chapel and had their reception at the university's Blue Room.

"We wanted a small wedding and we could only afford a small wedding," Danis said.

During their first year of marriage, Danis took a leave from her teaching position at the university and they lived in Michigan, where he continued his teaching at MSU. They returned to San Antonio during their second year of marriage for her to continue her teaching career here at OLLU and he was hired



The first memorial tree planted near Elmendorf Lake was that of Jud Mather, deceased husband of Danis. *Photo by Angelica Casas*

as an academic advisor. In 1990, they built their own home in Castroville and commuted to the university daily.

"We would get a chance and eat lunch together sometimes," Danis said. "If we were going home together, he'd sit by the fountain in the Mall Area smoking his pipe. He would talk with anyone."

Mather spent the last eight years of his life working at the university with his wife.

On Christmas Day of 1994, Danis and Mather went to Mass with Danis' mother and sister. When they got home, Mather began to feel bad so they called 911 and he was hospitalized because he was having a heart attack. Her sister continued making Christmas dinner and took it to the hospital for them to eat in the waiting room while Mather underwent a surgery that same night.

With tears in her eyes, Danis remembered her husband's death in January 1995, with her family around.

His many legacies remain in this city, especially through the university.

The Jud Mather Scholarship is awarded yearly to a student of the Weekend College, his name is on a plaque in a Sacred Heart Chapel bench, and his was the first memorial tree planted by Elmendorf Lake on the west wing of campus.

"I kept on working here but I went through a

bad two years feeling like a zombie," Danis said. "I did what I needed to do but I wasn't totally there."

Since then, Danis has served as dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, professor of English and now the full-time director of the Writing Center, which she founded in 2009.

"The university has been a beautiful mind-stretcher," Danis said. "One of the biggest things the university has taught me has been a focus on student-centered learning. Not just what you say to people but finding out what they understand."

After she retires this year, Danis said she'd like to spend more time gardening, learn Spanish through Rosetta Stone, spend more time with her sisters and friends all over the country, make hand-crafted cards, finish writing the poems and stories she has in binders full of her work, and volunteer teaching others to read and write.

"I feel like I've had a lifetime of learning," Danis said. "Education is not just teaching other people about what you know already, but continuing to learn."

Without a doubt, she will continue to visit the university, she said.

"I'm sure I will dream about these hallways for a long time," Danis said. "I hope [the university] will stay a life-long connection."

amcasas@ollusa.edu

Spanish more than a language for department chair, professor



Maribel Larraga, Ph.D., started working at the university in 1997 after receiving her doctorate degree. *Photo by Angelica Casas*

By **Mariam Kevlishvili**
Reporter

She calls the classroom her playground.

Maribel Larraga, Ph.D., head of the Spanish Program and a Spanish tenured professor, was recently named associate dean for Accreditation, Assessment and Planning of the College of Arts and Sciences. Her position will begin in the summer.

She has worked at the university for almost 17 years. Her relationship with the university began in 1989 when she attended as an undergraduate.

Larraga still remem-

bers the name of the recruiter from the university that went to Harlingen, TX, where she used to live. His name was David Guzman.

When she was accepted, she stayed at Pacelli Hall, room 232. She said that after leaving Mexico at the age of 13, she found her second home here at the university.

"I love this place," Larraga said. "But more than that, I love the people. People who have been here for a long time have been an inspiration to me and the students."

Larraga didn't always know she was going to be a professor. As a child she dreamed of becom-

ing a nurse. Her aunt who looked so professional in her white uniform, white pantyhose and white shoes inspired her. She was planning on applying to St. Mary's University because she believed they had a nursing program, but she followed her friend, who convinced her to apply at Our Lady of the Lake by telling her that a congregation of religious women founded the school.

"I thought that would be very appropriate and my mom would feel comfortable knowing that I am going to go to a university that was founded by nuns, and I am going to be working with sisters," Larraga

said. "'Monjitas,' as she used to say."

As the eldest child trying to validate her mom's decision to move from Mexico to the United States for better educational opportunities, Larraga said she felt responsible and had an urgency to graduate. She graduated from here in December 1992, three years after she started, with a major in Spanish and a minor in English.

"I was surrounded by people, professors and staff who believed in me," Larraga said. "So I applied to graduate schools and I got accepted in the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque."

Once again, Larraga felt an urgency to finish school, this time, because she wanted her doctorate before turning 30, which seemed to be old to her back then. She wanted to work and help her mom and her family. She was 27 when she finished.

José Miranda, Ph.D., who was her Spanish professor, had warned her she would have to sacrifice a lot for graduate school. She did. She did not own a television, she did not go out much, and she did not watch movies. She finished her master's degree in 1995.

"I knew in my heart that I wanted to come back

to San Antonio," Larraga said. "I wanted to teach in South Texas, [but] I didn't know it was going to be here at the Lake."

Larraga wanted to teach at a small university or a college where there was a large representation of first generation students. She had applied to Palo Alto College, but she was rejected.

"I was very disappointed," Larraga said. "I called Dr. Antonio Rigual [another one of her mentors who taught here at the university] and he told me, 'Una puerta se cierra y otra se abre.' Something better is waiting for you."

Another door did open, right here at OLLU. She started working at the university in 1997 after finishing her Ph.D.

"It was a blessing, but it took a lot of hard work," Larraga said.

When Larraga arrived to teach at the university, Miranda, despite being very sick, met her in the Fine Arts and Humanities building to give her the key to her new office.

Soon to be the associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Larraga said she likes the balance of administrative work and work in the classroom. While the administrative work demands a lot of energy and focus and might get overwhelming, teaching in the classroom and being with students reenergizes and refocuses her, she said.

In the classroom she forgets about the reports and deadlines of her administrative responsibilities. She said she enjoys all her classes but in her elementary Spanish class she likes to ask her students about:

"When have you dreamt in Spanish?"

mkevlshvili@ollusa.edu

Lisa Robles named STE fraternity's new sweetheart

By Desirae Martinez
Reporter

Last month, Sigma Theta Epsilon brother, James Crawford, told criminal justice major Lisa Robles to come out to Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto. It was there that brothers of Sigma Theta Epsilon (STE) surprised her and she found out she was chosen to be the new STE Sweetheart.

The 21-year-old junior was officially revealed as the new STE Sweetheart at Our Lady of the Lake University on March 6. She was first recruited by Ignacio Trevino, friend and now STE brother.

Robles said she had her doubts initially.

"During informationals we had to go around the room and talk about ourselves and I didn't think I was going to get chosen," Robles said. "All the other girls were really awesome."

In previous years, Robles attempted to join a sorority but she said the connection wasn't right at the time. In the end, she found the right Greek family for her.

"Honestly she was a missing piece," STE President Courtney Dailey said. "Adding her was exactly what we needed and we were exactly what she needed. All I can say is Providence."

Robles said she fits in well because she doesn't care about makeup and clothes like most girls. In fact, Robles has an extensive Star Wars and comic book collections, and a "bookshelf of nerdism."

"I'm like a bro," Robles said. "I like comic books, action movies, and I'm a lesbian so I like girls."

Her favorite comic book is "Rite of Passage," which features her favorite Star Wars Jedi on the cover, Aayla Secura. She says her



Lisa Robles, junior and criminal justice major, is Sigma Theta Epsilon's new sweetheart. Junior Cristian Ortiz-Salas and freshman Matthew Zertuche are brothers in the fraternity. *Photos by Desirae Martinez*

brothers are just as into comics as she is even if they're too cool to admit it.

Aside from her comic book collecting, Robles enjoys volunteering with her STE brothers at St. P.J.'s Children's Home. It was there that Robles got closer with her brothers. She said she is proud to be the sister of men who give back to the community.

Family is important to Robles.

Robles considers her mom the biggest role model in her life. While Robles was in high school, her mother was studying to get

her degree in math while receiving chemotherapy treatments for cancer.

Her mother graduated and walked the stage but ultimately lost her battle with cancer. Robles said losing her mother was one of the hardest points in her life.

"When we're young we don't think our parents are going to die," Robles said. "As a child, it was hard for me to see someone so beautiful but at the same time so sick."

After seeing her mother graduate in her weakened condition, Robles

realized she herself had no excuse not to achieve her own goals.

Robles plans to join the police academy after graduation. She even lost 50 pounds to prepare herself for the physical demands of the academy.

"I decided if I'm not going to make it it's going to be for something outside of my control," Robles said.

Her lifelong goal is to work for the San Antonio Police Department as a homicide detective but for now she will hold the title of STE Sweetheart.

demartinez@ollusa.edu



France exchange student experiences university, culture



Maxime Glorieux, from Lille, France, has spent this semester at Our Lady of the Lake University and will return to his home country next month. *Photo by Cristian Ortiz-Salas*

By Alejandra Guzman
Contributing Writer

Texas—stereotyped for having horses, guns and Stetsons.

Maxime Glorieux, 20, a Mass Communication major and exchange student from Lille, France said he was curious and wanted to see what Texas is really like.

"My friends are like, 'bring me some plaid shirts and some cowboy hats,'" Glorieux said. "But you don't see people wearing them on a daily basis."

Glorieux has been at Our Lady of the Lake University since the beginning of this spring semester and will return to France in May.

"I'm happy to be here

at OLLU just for a semester," Glorieux said. "It's a very good school."

Glorieux compared his education in France at the Institute of Communication Strategies and Techniques (ISTC) at the Catholic University of Lille to OLLU's and had nothing but compliments to say about our university.

As opposed to the 20-25 hours per semester he is used to taking at ISTC, here has been able to take less.

"Here I have 12 hours," Glorieux said. "The difference is we don't have much homework and here you learn by yourself and I think that's a good thing because you learn independence."

Glorieux said his class-

es have a very professional atmosphere where students learn to be professional in different aspects.

"Once I graduate in 3 years I want to work in music for bands doing communication for band," Glorieux said.

Glorieux's parents, Ellen and George, encouraged him to leave and study abroad even though it meant leaving his parent's house for the first time.

"My parents weren't so worried," Glorieux said. "It's very common for us French to travel for internships—we study abroad but improve our English and sometimes Spanish."

Glorieux said some students and professionals study abroad with the goal to one day fulfilling their

careers abroad.

For Glorieux, communication with his family has only been possible through social media since Glorieux does not have an American phone line.

Communication with his family and girlfriend—sorry ladies—has been easy to manage and feel like he brought his friends along with him.

"It's easy because we have Skype, email and Facebook," Glorieux said. "I Skype my parents one time a week I also Skype my girlfriend often."

This was the first time he left his girlfriend alone for four months, Glorieux said.

"It's not always easy but you can't choose between school, relationships

and love that's two different things and my studies come first," Glorieux said.

He says his young age has a lot to do with it as he aspires to travel and complete his studies.

Along with his new transition into the American university atmosphere he discovered the brothers of Sigma Theta Epsilon (STE) at OLLU's Club Rush on Jan 22. Glorieux visited both fraternity booths but one appealed to him more than the other.

There are no Greek organizations in France and explaining this to his friends and family is very difficult.

"I really wanted to experience it and I've made friends who are very diverse," Glorieux said.

Glorieux became an official brother of STE April 6, 2014.

"Taking this back to France will be a great experience," Glorieux said.

He said he looks forward to the strong link he will have with the members of the organization and has a plan of action in case any of them travel to France or he plans a trip back to the United States

"I will keep contact with the brothers and if they want to visit France they are welcome," Glorieux said.

"I'll be a good tour guide or if I come back to the United States I know I can contact them too."

aguzman@ollusa.edu

Former OLLU student directs MTV winning video



Jaime Sanchez, Our Lady of the Lake alumni, works on documentary videos and films, and recently directed a music video that won the "Freshman Pick of the Week" on MTVU. *Courtesy photo*

By **Desirae Martinez**
Reporter

Former Our Lady of the Lake University film

student Jaime Sanchez, has lived a life that would make a great movie.

The 30-year-old filmmaker recently directed

a music video that won the "Freshman Pick of the Week" on MTVU, MTV's college channel. On "The Freshman," viewers vote for the video of an up and coming artist to be played in on-air rotation on MTV.

Daniel Basulto, who produced the song "In Music We Trust," sought out Sanchez after seeing his work. Sanchez said the next thing he knew he was flown out to New York.

In New York, he sat down with the artist Will Apollo (aka Guuru Sagod).

"I asked him about his emceeing and his life growing up," Sanchez said. "Then he started talking about his dad and that's where we got the inspiration for the video."

Sanchez may have job offerings lined up now but he has not always been so fortunate.

At birth, Sanchez suf-

fered from hydrocephalus, a condition that caused his head to swell from excessive fluid in the brain. Today, he lives with a cerebral shunt, a pump attached to a catheter that drains the fluid from his head.

Sanchez grew up in Chicago with his family of seven living in a two bedroom apartment.

After graduating from high school in Chicago, a counselor connected him with AmeriCorps, a network of service programs, and suggested Sanchez move to San Antonio.

Sanchez had no prior film or photography experience until he attended San Antonio College. There, he began his first film project and found a passion for the craft. He even produced a film that was screened at the San Antonio Film Festival.

After wrapping up at

SAC, Sanchez said he was ready to settle for an associate degree but a friend of his who was attending Our Lady of the Lake University convinced him to apply.

After transferring to the university, Sanchez flourished in his film career. He won first place in the San Antonio Neighborhood Film Project student category for the music video, "Dia de los Muertos." He was also the recipient of the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts Scholarship.

But while he was succeeding in the art world, his personal life was struggling. Sanchez went through a period of homelessness where he would sleep on friends' couches and the back seats of cars.

"There was a point where I asked myself 'Where am I going with my talent?'" Sanchez said. "I

just wanted to quit."

Even after all his struggles, Sanchez never gave up. He continued his work in film and photography and even volunteered at a local Jewish Community Center teaching children how to make videos.

Today, Sanchez is RAW Artist's Filmmaker of the Year, has showcases lined up every month and has an extensive following on Instagram.

He is currently working on a documentary about freight train graffiti titled "Life in the Steel" and also plans to release a photography book documenting different locations he has traveled to in his life.

To see some of Jaime Sanchez's work, visit youtube.com/bazookafilms77.

demartinez@ollusa.edu

Mural at McCullough Hall brightens up CDP's physical therapy

By **Yvonne Rosas**
Reporter

Now the Sisters of Divine Providence can have something to look forward to as they receive their physical therapy here at Our Lady of the Lake University, thanks to one of the sisters who has undertaken a large mural painting project.

Sr. Kate Fitzgerald has painted the majority of the mural in a little over a year. The project began on Holy Thursday, March 28 of last year.

The mural is located on the fence facing McCullough Hall towards the back of the Sisters of Divine Providence Convent Complex, on the corner of Grotto Rd and Emergency Services Rd.

The mural, depicting a multicultural landscape of

colorful hues, showcases various faces framed within decorative borders over a bright, floral background. Currently, the mural takes up about 7 feet by 4 feet of painted area.

"The theme that I had in mind when I started painting was to capture the diversity of God," Fitzgerald said. "When we see other people, we see that everyone has a bit of God in them."

She utilizes this theme using border frames as mirrors, so that the painted pictures act as a reflection.

"At first it was just an idea that one of my friends brought up," Fitzgerald said. "So the sisters can have something to look at while receiving their treatment."

Activities Director Amanda Hill approved the



Sr. Kate Fitzgerald painted the majority of the mural located at McCullough Hall. *Photo by Kimberly Yosko*

mural painting commencement a year ago.

Fitzgerald has not taken this project up alone. She has the help of her fellow sisters as well as the McCullough staff and university students. The difference in painting styles is not apparent and ultimately, Fitzgerald hopes that the mural can be a community effort.

"People have been very encouraging about it," she said. "Honestly, that is what has helped me continue on and not give up."

Students are welcomed to visit the mural and they are encouraged to help out with the painting process if they wish to.

Contact Sr. Fitzgerald for more information about the mural at kfitzgerald@lake.ollusa.edu or at katefitz1121@gmail.com.

yerosas@ollusa.edu

SOUNDS IN SAN ANTONIO*Your guide to good music during study breaks*

Hit up these venues, plays before finals week

By **Darian Mendez**
Copy Editor

You're going to want to have as much fun as you possibly can before finals week creeps in, and what better way to unwind than free chili? Or jam out to some of these classics.

4/10 Silverstein, Blessthefall
6 p.m.

White Rabbit, 2410 N. St Mary's St.
Tickets: \$17-\$20

Silverstein and Blessthefall have earned their stripes when it comes to keeping metalcore relevant. Music is their craft and since their inception the two bands have been perfecting their sound and, alternately, redefining music. Go listen.

4/12 "Thirteen Ways to Screw Up Your College Interview"

24th Street Theatre at Our Lady of the Lake University
Tickets: \$3 for OLLU; \$5 public



Our Lady of the Lake University's drama students star in "Thirteen Ways to Screw Up Your College Interview." The play's last performance will be held at 7 p.m. on April 12 and will close this year's Literary Festival. *Courtesy photo*

Come support OLLU drama students by watching this hilarious reenactment of one of life's most stressful moments.

4/13 The Chili Queens Chili Cook-Off

The Bonham Exchange, 411 Bonham

Tickets: Free admission
Chili tasting, the Tackiest Drag Queen competition, music, and proceeds benefit the San Antonio AIDS Foundation Kitchen.

4/14 Rob Thomas

The Majestic Theatre, 224 E. Houston St.

Tickets: \$60-\$120
You may recognize him from Matchbox Twenty but Rob Thomas has a life and talent all his own. He's a radio staple with songs like "Lonely No More", "This is How a Heart Breaks" and "Smooth" that have mighty powerful choruses. If you need to sing along to every line and every word, this is your gig.

4/24 Cage the Elephant

White Rabbit, 2410 N. St Mary's St.
When one thinks of Cage the Elephant the word sassy comes to mind. Sassy lyrics, sassy beats and sassy men. Combine sass with their instrumental simplicity and you get Cage the Elephant, a truly wonderful band.

4/25 Blue Oyster Cult 5 p.m.

Backstage Live, 1305 E. Houston
Tickets: \$10

(Don't Fear) The Reaper, or Godzilla for that matter. This will definitely be an enchanted evening.

4/30 Gardens and Villa

502 Bar, 502 Embassy Oaks
Tickets: \$8-\$10

No, Gardens and Villa isn't just another indie band from California. It is music for the introvert: nature-inspired, soulsearching, ethereal goodness your ears.

dgmendez@ollusa.edu

Gallo Pizzeria to include complementary music menu

Betsaida Lopez
Reporter

Gallo Pizzeria is home to pizza and now music.

"Something exciting is happening in San Antonio," said Jeremiah McMillan, owner of Gallo Pizzeria.

Jeremiah, who goes by "Mack," opened up Gallo Pizzeria with his wife, Stephanie McMillan, when they were both 29-years-old. The restaurant has been open for three years now.

McMillan has opened-up his restaurant to local bands as a venue where any band is welcome. Bands that play anything "from hardcore-thrash to pop" have played at Gallo Pizzeria in the past, but McMillan has a lot more planned for the future.

He holds high hopes for

the "underground revolution happening in San Antonio," which he strives to be a part of. McMillan sees San Antonio as having "talent, class, art and all kinds of fun!" He sees Gallo Pizzeria as a "different...intimate setting" where musicians have the chance to "get out of their shell."

Not only is Gallo Pizzeria a venue where bands can come to rock some socks off, but it is also open to artists who would like to exhibit and sell their work.

"I want this world to know that there's so much talent out there," McMillan said.

Gallo Pizzeria does not gain any profit from the events held.

"We're in business for the pizza," McMillan said.

Bands are free to choose

whether to have tickets sold or to have a free show. All the money raised from tickets sold would go directly to the band.

"[Local] bands don't get paid well and we're going to change that," McMillan said.

McMillan also plans on having a mariachi group performance along with a group of folklórico dancers in the near future.

"My wife loves folklórico, she can't get enough of it!" McMillan said. All of the events hosted by Gallo Pizzeria are open to all ages. "We keep a close eye on everybody, especially our OLLU [Our Lady of the Lake University] students," McMillan said.

Gallo Pizzeria is proud and passionate about their culture-filled future.

"I have a passion for



Stephanie and Jeremiah McMillan are the owners of Gallo Pizzeria, located on 164 Castroville Rd. *Courtesy photo*

seeing people happy," McMillan said.

What better way to bring the community together than with some great, original, local music and pizza? An event calendar will be posted up on the

restaurant's website in the future, gallopizzeria.com. If anyone should be interested in performing or having their artwork displayed at Gallo Pizzeria, they should call 210-264-0077. Gallo Pizzeria is located at 164

Castroville Rd., San Antonio, TX 78207.

blopez@ollusa.edu

McMillan is still in the process of booking events, but he shared a few anticipated events to be held at Gallo in the near future: **Secrets and Irises**, who came to bloom early 2012, will be playing for free on April 19.

An Art Exhibit will be hosted by Gallo Pizzeria on April 31 and is open to any striving artists who would like to share their work with the west side community.

"The Super Kawaii Epic Jumbo Extravaganza/Anime Show," fully sponsored by the pizzeria, will take place on May 17 and will have art, music and cosplay! A reward of \$100 will go to the first prize winner of the cosplay costume contest and free pizza will go to the second and third prize winners.

CINEMANIACS

Cristian Ortiz-Salas and Desirae Martinez are both juniors who met their freshman year at Brackenridge High School. Both have a passion for movies. They have seen many movies together and enjoy commenting about them. Martinez enjoys the storyline of films, while Ortiz-Salas is drawn to the cinematography aspects of films.



Biblical blockbusters gain popularity through the decades

By Desirae Martinez
Reporter

Hollywood is an industry of trends. If one adaptation of a young adult novel is successful then more are soon to follow.

It was a surprise when Mel Gibson's 2004 project *The Passion of the Christ* made over \$600 million worldwide that studio executives didn't immediately order up another biblical blockbuster.

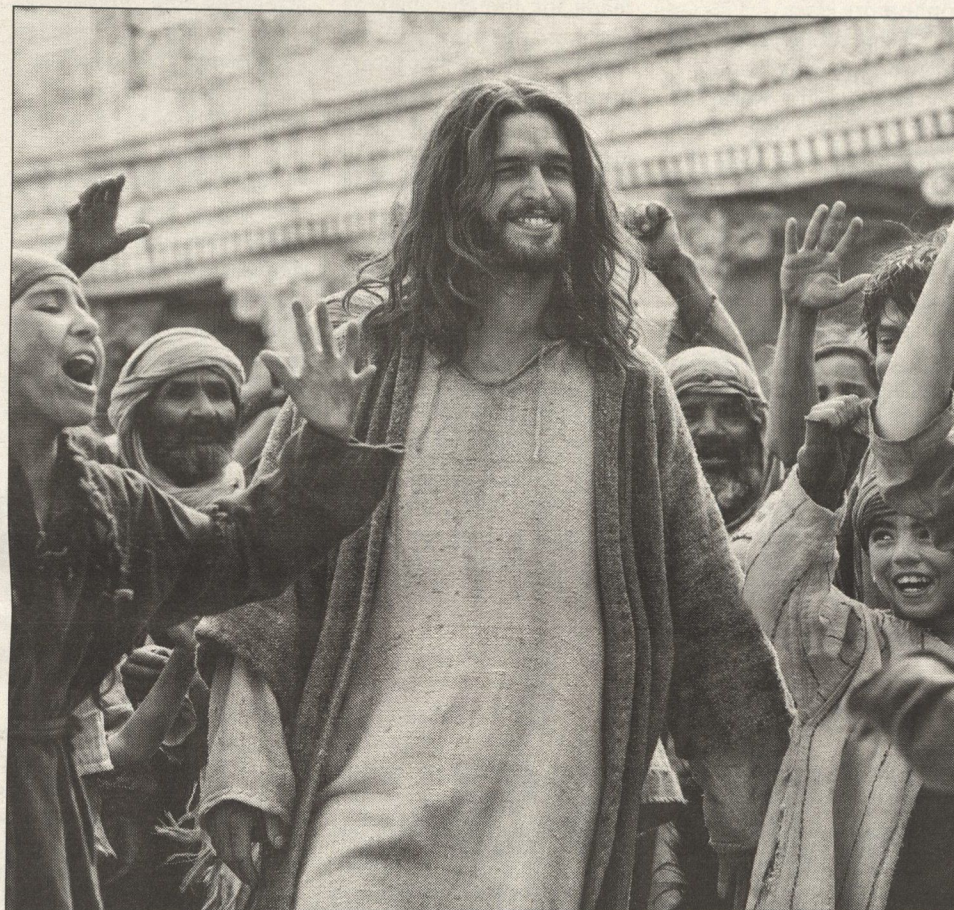
In the decade that followed, a few studios launched faith-oriented divisions such as FoxFaith and Sony's Affirm Films, which produce Christian-friendly films released to limited markets or exclusively on DVD. Biblical films targeted to the masses have been released sporadically but this year three major films had their source material come from the Bible.

Back in February, the History Channel's minise-

ries *The Bible* was released as the feature length film *Son of God*. The movie features select scenes from the miniseries as well as footage that didn't make the telecast. The film also edited out scenes that feature Satan because of the controversy from the series that claimed the actor resembled President Barack Obama.

Despite the new material, *Son of God* received mixed reviews from the critics and at this point has only made \$57 million on its \$125 million budget.

Recently released is Darren Aronofsky's *Noah* starring Russell Crowe and Jennifer Connelly. The film has received criticism from Christian groups that claim the film strays from the original story and turns the title character into an environmental extremist. *Noah* has even been banned in several countries that believe the film contradicts the teach-



Son of God, released in February as a feature length film, received mixed reviews from critics and has only made \$57 million on its \$125 million budget. *Courtesy photo*

ings of Islam.

Even with these setbacks, *Noah* has been reviewed positively by other critics and even scored the number one spot at the box office in its opening weekend.

Set to be released in December is Ridley Scott's *Exodus: Gods and Kings*, starring Christian Bale as Moses. The film will tackle biblical elements such as the plagues, the burning bush and the parting of the red sea. Think of *The Ten Commandments* meets *Gladiator* (also directed by Scott) shot in 3-D.

Ultimately, when it comes to biblical blockbusters, it's important to find a balance. The film needs to be flashy enough to appeal to mainstream viewers but still keep in mind the source material does not offend the faithful.

demartinez@ollusa.edu

CREATING CONTROVERSY

Religion is a sensitive topic. As long as there have been biblical films there has been controversy surrounding them. In some cases, controversy can hinder ticket sales, while in other cases the movie becomes a box office hit. Here are three films whose ticket sales were hurt or helped from infuriated religious groups.

The Last Temptation of Christ (1988)

Martin Scorsese's adaptation of Nikos Kazantzaki's novel was a critical success but a financial flop only earning \$8.4 million. The film was boycotted by Christian groups for its portrayal of Jesus Christ, who in the film's final sequence is tempted to come down off the cross, marry Mary Magdalene and live as a mortal man.

The Passion of the Christ (2004)

Mel Gibson's version of Christ's final hours sparked controversy for its depiction of Jewish characters and graphic R-rated violence. Despite the controversy the film grossed over \$600 million worldwide, making it one of the highest grossing films that year.

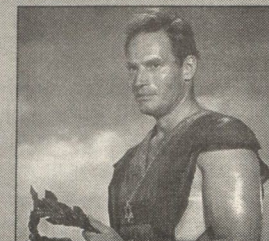
The Da Vinci Code (2006)

Ron Howard's adaptation of Dan Brown's novel was banned in numerous countries for suggesting that Jesus and Mary Magdalene married and had a child. However, the film still managed to draw in audiences and rake in over \$200 million.



The Last Temptation of Christ (1988), an adaptation of Nikos Kazantzaki's novel, was boycotted by Christian groups for its portrayal of Jesus in the last scene. *Courtesy photo*

HIGHEST GROSSING BIBLE FILMS*



Ben Hur is the highest grossing Biblical film of all time. *Courtesy photo*

1. *Ben Hur* (1959) \$594.8 million
2. *The Ten Commandments* (1956) \$563.3 million
3. *The Passion of the Christ* (2004) \$458.5 million
4. *The Robe* (1953) \$315.4 million
5. *The Prince of Egypt* (1998) \$145.5 million

*Domestic grosses from boxofficemojo.com, adjusted for inflation

SHOWCASE

continued from page 7

To Amador, this opportunity meant meeting new people

"It showed how much our friends and everyone here at OLLU really care about each other."

The Mr. and Ms. Sacred Heart winners were sophomores Adolfo Gallardo and Christine Chavez, who also received a \$100 book voucher.

"I was not sure if I wanted to follow through with the competition or just let it pass," Gallardo said. "Obviously I decided to go along with it but I was extremely nervous during the entire process."

Gallardo played the piano at the showcase.

"Playing in front of so many people was overwhelming, but I had fun doing it," Gallardo said. "The showcase is definitely something I will remember and I'm so grateful that I was given the opportunity to take part in it."

Chavez said the showcase meant a lot to her because she had the opportunity to represent the sophomore class.

"I got to show my culture and my generation."

The juniors were the most privileged ones of the competition. Not only did they receive a \$500 book voucher, but they also get to represent the university on a float at the Fiesta Night Parade.

The Mr. and Ms. OLLU winners were Kevin Castañeda and Elda Barajas.

Castañeda sang and played guitar at the showcase, accompanied by a tambourine player.

"At first I wasn't sure what to expect but the competition was a great experience," Castañeda said, "I enjoyed getting to know my fellow students even better through our time preparing for the showcase."

Barajas said she was ready for the challenge as soon as she received the email. She said she is extremely competitive, but she took this competition more as an opportunity to have fun and make new memories.

Barajas, who designed a clothing line called "Spring Fever" for the showcase, said she was surprised when they called out her name as the winner.

"There was two other ladies competing against me and they did a great job in the competition," Barajas said. "I knew it was going to be a tough competition."

To Barajas the Ms. OLLU title is more than just a crown or a certificate.

"This title is about a young women setting an example for Our Lady of the Lake and the students attending the university," Barajas said. "I have been extremely involved on campus since day one and worked very hard to get where I am at."

Seniors Bob Vasquez and Tahiry Contreras were named Mr. and Ms. Providence. Vasquez had showcased his art talent by creating a masterpiece with a mixture of his faith and art discipline. With music

playing in the background, the intensity grew as he painted boxes in a mixed order to lastly rearrange them together in such a way that Jesus Christ's face was shown. Vasquez said his goal was to go as far as he could and use his opportunity to shine as a light for Christ while having fun in the process.

"Ministry and Art are two areas I'm called to and this skit represented both," Vasquez said. "I believe the message for this skit represents how life can be stressful, confusing and scary, especially for college students, with all the anxieties that come with the pressure of grades, friends, family. Everything may start out messy and scary but your life can be turned around."

Contreras presented a Bachata dance.

"I never imagined myself doing what I did since my comfort zone is presenting at conferences," Contreras said. "I had lots of fun because I met new people and in a way I got to know myself better."

Contreras' favorite part of the journey in becoming Ms. Providence was the appreciation she gained of the university. Her favorite part of the showcase she says was the opening number of Independent Women by Destiny's Child that she performed with two other contestants - Priscilla Gomez and Monette Cardona.

"The song itself just describes me and I had a blast performing it," Contreras said.

aevillegas@ollusa.edu

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Choosing graduation wear

By Roxana Rubio
Contributing Writer

Graduation season is chaotic enough before you realize you have not decided what you're going to wear under the gown that you'll be crossing the stage in.

What to wear to graduation is something simple that can become a headache for some. To save you from some stress, here are a few dos and don'ts to keep in mind when shopping for graduation attire.

rgrubio@ollusa.edu

Do: dress to impress.

This is your big day and dozens of photos will be taken! You don't want to be caught wearing your favorite shirt with a new stain on it. These photos will be posted all over Facebook for many people to see. If you feel overdressed, you're ready to cross the stage!



As tempting as it may be, avoid decorating your graduation cap and/or gown. *Courtesy photo*

Do: wear comfortable shoes.

Graduation is going to be a long day and you don't want to exhaust your feet before you even cross the stage. The stage at the Freeman Coliseum is known to be very steep and, if haven't broken those shoes in yet, you might trip. You've worked hard for this degree; don't fall right before the last step!

Don't: decorate your cap and/or gown.

It might be tempting and you might want to make it easier for your family and

friends to find you from their seats but according to the Registrar's Office, it is prohibited. To maintain a professional and uniformed look, they are asking for no one to be "flashy" with any decorations on their cap and gown.

Don't: wear polyester or a suit and tie.

It will be May in Texas and it will be hot! Polyester is not a good idea since it is not a fabric that breathes well. You will be nervous enough and don't want to start sweating through your gown!

Lit Festival: High School Creative Writing Contest winners

This year's Literary Festival featured a creative writing contest for all high schoolers participating in the festival's High School Day on Friday, April 11. The contest received entries from Holy Cross Catholic High School and Trinity Christian Academy. Below are the two winning entries by sophomore Briana Torres and senior Christian Montano.

FIRST PLACE *Strong one*

By Briana Torres
Holy Cross High School
Grade 10

Everyone's supposed to have some lovely reason behind their name. The thing we write on all of our papers and say when we introduce ourselves is said to have a hidden reason behind it.

Some girl named Lily once told me, "Oh my name means pure," and I gave her a judgmental look because the boy on the basketball team had told me different. One boy said his name had belonged to his great-grandfather who crossed the border to better his family's life. But when we went to Chemistry and I saw a 45 on his test, I wondered if his great grandfather would have swum across for him then.

They didn't fit into their names and I did not feel as

though I fit into mine. As a child I found my birth certificate in a drawer that depicted my 6-letter label on it. I accepted the label and thought nothing of it.

A couple of years later I was in third grade where we would always have library time. It was an hour of being surrounded by books we'd just learn how to decode. I chose to bring down a baby name book from the shelf.

I went to the 'B's' and the 'Br's' then the 'Bri's' then 'Bria's' finally the 'Brian's' and there it was: 'BRIANA: Celtic; strong one.'

I remember I thought it fit because I hadn't cried when I had fallen on the way to lunch.

But last night my thoughts were darker and I was silently crying in my living room thinking about the conversations I had had with my parents and the boy who I thought to be the embodiment of the word, "love." The conversations had taken place at different times but both contained the accusations: "unfaithful," "broken promise,"

"wasted time," and "unhappy." I couldn't stop thinking of these conversations. Hearing those words over and over broke me down to the point of self-pity. I had forgotten what my name meant. I had honestly never believed it anyway. They didn't believe that I was strong. Their words were proof enough: I wasn't strong. I was weak; I had allowed their words to break me.

It seems petty, but I could only take so much. I felt as though every single person on this earth was using me, disappointing me, and taking my soul with them when they left. I was empty and my body was beginning to fail me as well. I was dying, all because of their words.

After an hour of keeping my sobs to myself I couldn't take it anymore. I opened my front door and ran out. By the time I was three streets down I had forgotten my whole identity. Finally, I was free to cry out loud but all I did was run, trying to chase the reason behind my name.

By the time I reached the bridge by the grass, I fell on top of it trying to catch my breath but I couldn't. I had lost the ability to breathe. I felt empty and dead as I lay under the invisible stars.

I prayed to God asking for Him to come lie with me.

That's when I heard the voice and turned to see the boy who I had thought to be the embodiment of the word "love" sitting next to me.

I whispered his name out loud and asked why he was there.

"I don't know why I'm here. Why am I here Briana?"

Just this once I didn't want to talk to him. I wanted God.

All those nights I had chosen to talk to him instead of my Father had been the beginning of a toxic phase. I had begun to worship him and see him as my god. "You're nothing without me, I am your god," he insisted.

I realized that he hadn't molded me, he hadn't made my mother name me my name, he

hadn't given me life.

When he left and took parts of me with him, he did kill me. But I could live without him.

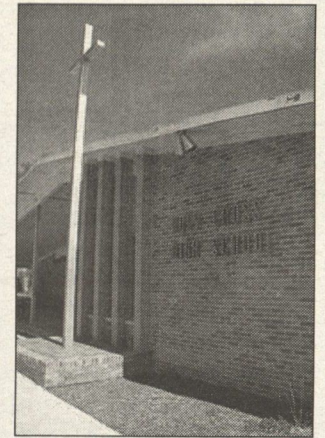
That's when my eyes closed and I prayed to God asking Him for life. To be reborn. To be full. To be strong.

It felt as though someone had forced my swollen eyes open in time to see the sky begin to light up. The one who had sat beside me was gone. The light had taken his place.

I was alive. Reborn and made new. God had given me new life.

As I got up to make my way back home I remembered Wednesday's Theology class. We learned about Elihu and Job. Elihu had told Job that God spoke to his people through visions and physical pain. I knew that "my love" was a mirage and the sobs that had wracked my body had been the physical pain of God communicating with me.

Suddenly, I bumped into an elderly woman who asked



Both contest winners are students at Holy Cross High School. *Courtesy photo*

what I was doing, then what my name was.

"Briana."

And for the first time, I believed it. In my new life, the name belongs to me, it finally truly fits. I'll find the reason for my name here while I live it. I am a strong one. I filled my lungs with air, and I could breathe again.

And I thanked God for my strength as I walked.

SECOND PLACE *A Man Awakened*

By Christian Montano
Holy Cross High School
Grade 12

A black truck pulls up to a small house in an older part of town. A man steps out of the truck and enters the house. He thinks to himself, "Man, the last people to live here really did a number on this place." There were stains on the floor, holes in the walls, and the doors were nearly off their hinges. He sits on a rundown couch thinking, "This place really did go downhill, just like me."

He thinks about the past few years, about his lost jobs, about his wife and the connection he lost with his son. He wonders, "where did it all go

wrong and how did I lose control?" The sound of footsteps startles him. From the corner of his eye he sees a man dressed in a white suit moving towards the middle of the room. He thinks to himself, "I don't recognize him, but he looks familiar to me." The man in white says, "So you want to know where it all went downhill? Well, I'll show you."

The man asks, "Who are you?" The man in white replies, "I am a forgotten memory and a friend. Now let's begin."

A large screen rises from the floor in the center of the room. As the two men look on, memories begin to start showing on the screen. They begin to see past moments of the man's life being played back. He sees a moment several years back when his parents passed away and left him the house he grew up in. Soon after, he rented it

out to a family member and her family. They turned out to be unreliable and they abandoned the house. This had been the first time in three years that he had stepped into the house.

As he looks at the memories of his parents, he can't help but feel ashamed. He starts to cry out, "I'm sorry mom and dad. I made a mistake, please forgive me."

The man in white says, "Yes, leaving your old family home in shambles is one of your mistakes. Let's see what else there is."

A new memory comes on the screen. As he looks on he sees his ex-wife. The memories are of their wedding day and everything is decorated in white. His wife even insisted on both of them dressing in white so that they would never forget that one special day. These memories go from good to bad

quickly. Next his wife enters the room and says to him, "Your boss called." He replies, "Yeah." "He said that this was the fourth time in a month that you didn't come to work and you're fired!" she said. "How are you going to support this family?"

The man yells at his wife, "I got this."

The man in white then interrupts saying, "You never found another job. That's why she left you right. When was that? Oh yeah, two years ago wasn't it?"

Reflecting on his past, the man can't help but get angry with himself for letting his wife down. "I was so selfish. What an idiot I was. I don't blame her for leaving."

The man in white says, "But that's still not the worst thing you've done."

On the screen memories of the day his son was born

take shape. The man looks so happy when he first lays his eyes on his son. As the memories pass he starts to see that he never paid any attention to his son, fighting with his wife while his son was in the room. The last memory shown was of the day his wife left with his son. The man puts his hands to the screen and begs, "No more, I can't take it. My son hates me and it's all my fault."

The man screams, "Why are you showing me these things?"

The man in white then slaps him and says, "Why do you think? It's not too late. Clean up your act."

The man whimpers softly, "What if I can't?"

The man in white shakes him and says, "Stop crying, the game's not over yet. I mean it's not like you're on your deathbed. Listen, you still have a

chance, don't give up, everything can still be fixed." The man clears his eyes, straightens himself out and nods his head in agreement.

The man in white remarks, "Good, now wake up and don't screw it up again."

The man then wakes up to find himself sitting on that old beat up couch. He pulls out his cell phone and makes a call. He asks, "I'd like to come by and spend some time with my son if that's alright. Thank you. I'll be there at in a couple of hours; I have some work to do around the house. See you soon."

As he walks out of the house he takes a quick look in the mirror and finally figures out why the man in white looked so familiar. It was the man in his wedding photo, the man he forgot to be and the man he got a chance to be again.

Hank seeks coach for new Saints baseball team

By Alejandra Guzman
Contributing Writer

Baseball is a sport that has been discussed at Our Lady of the Lake University for a number of years, according to Jack Hank, director of Student Life.

"I was asked back in 2007, 'will we ever do baseball and track and field?' The answer would be: at the right time," Hank said.

Hank said it is now the right time and the team will start playing in the fall but will begin competing in the 2015 spring.

The university

does not include a baseball field but it has acquired a home field thanks to the Mission Baseball Academy, located on 5707 Hwy 151.

A head coach has not been hired but will be named by May 1.

"I've had an overwhelming response to the job posting," Hank said. "I can say I've had over 20 applicants and more have even asked."

Selected candidates will be brought to campus for an interview as they meet the necessary criteria for the position.

"I've got four

weeks to get through this and get somebody hired," Hank said.

A head coach is required before any players are chosen for the team. An evaluation was made of a few players as the university hosted two tryouts for the team both on different occasions. Tryouts were held March 5 and 12 at the Mission Baseball Academy fields.

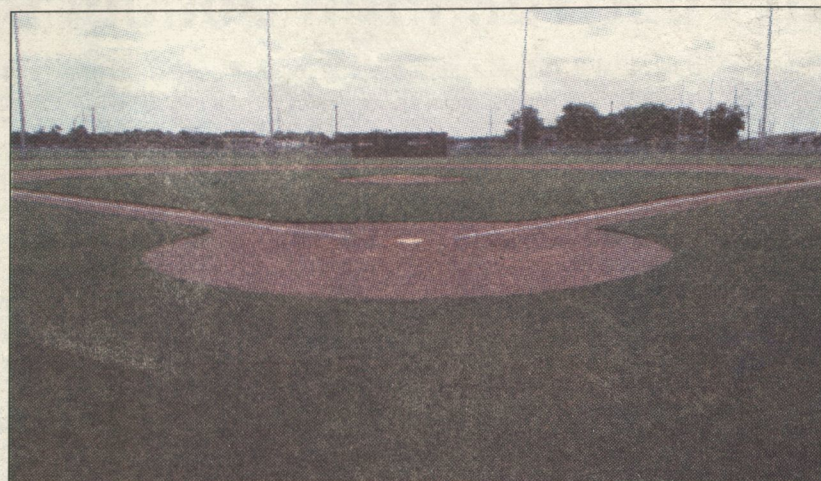
"We had 43 potential student athletes show up to be evaluated to try to make the team, said Hank. "This is everywhere from transfer to high school students who

are interested in coming to the Lake to play baseball."

Neither of the tryouts assured a player a spot on the team but it did not deny them one either. This was an overall evaluation giving the opportunity to put a face to a name.

"It was some type of grading so we can say 'ok' we think this individual has the capability of playing at a collegiate level or maybe not," Hank said.

After the head coach is hired his next step will be to sort through the potential candidates. He has to



One of the fields at the Missions Baseball Academy, which provides seating for 300-500 people. *Courtesy photo*

make sure they get admitted, they get NAIA eligible and they have done everything required to be a part of the team.

"If they're not in school it doesn't matter," Hank said. "Every one of those individuals has to go through the process to be considered to play in the fall."

Baseball players will be receiving scholarships just like any other sport on campus.

Every student brings in their academic portion afterwards there is some scholarship money available for players. The coach will make the necessary decisions for every player based on individual needs.

The first year was planned for a team of about 35 players.

"I anticipate that we will have 45 as we sort through it," Hank said.

These players will be both freshman and transfer students from around the country, possibly the world, Hank said.

"The first year program you want to

look at a mix as you look at 50-50 you can start a rotation from year to year," Hank said.

The Missions Baseball Academy provides seating for 300 to 500 people to watch the games.

Admissions to the games will be free for students, faculty and staff. For visitors, tickets will be between \$3-\$5.

The Missions Baseball Academy will provide the concessions for the games. Beer will be a part of the concessions under the academy's licensing.

"I do expect students to behave themselves, as well as parents, if they drink beer," Hank said. "It's still a university function and you will be held accountable for any craziness. Know the limitations and be responsible."

Providing transportation for spectators is a difficult task with the university only having seven-passenger vans.

"We'll have to work on it and see if there's a need for it," Hank said.

On the bright side spectators have more than one choice available for game days. Hank suggested taking the bus—departs from 24th St. and arriving on Hwy 151.

Option two would be live streaming for game days, which Hank said he is already planning.

Adding Baseball and Track and Field will now make a "7-7" athletic program having seven male and seven female sports.

"We are very competitive in the NAIA," Hank said. "We have a great reputation not only locally but regionally and nationally."

Transitioning into NCAA would not benefit the program at all.

"The sports program is a good place right now as far as the recruiting and reputation," Hank said.

Building a baseball field on campus is an anticipated subject at this point in time.

"Having an excellent facility this close and maintained is a pretty good situation for us right now," Hank said.

aguzman@ollusa.edu

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