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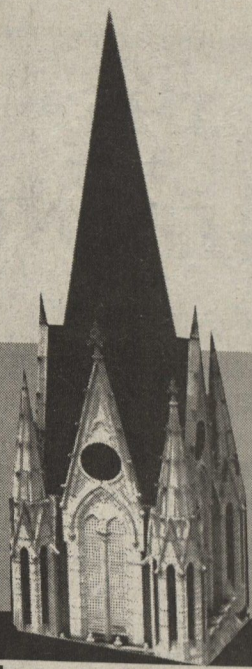
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Page 3: New computer lab in Worden



Page 4: Nira to leave OLLU



THE LAKE FRONT

NEWS FOR THE STUDENTS. BY THE STUDENTS.

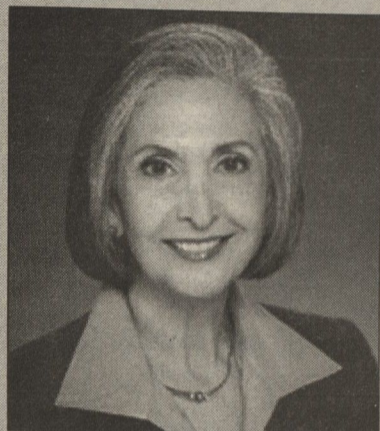
OUR LADY OF THE LAKE UNIVERSITY, SAN ANTONIO, TX

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OLLU faces President Pollack's leave



Gianna Rendon
Reporter

A week after the announcement of President Tessa Pollack's departure on March 1, the university community wonders what's next.

Our Lady of the Lake University has created a committee to appoint a new president as soon as possible, and the committee members and others are in the process of identifying what the university wants in its next president.

Roy Terracina, chairman of the university Board of Trustees, said the board is looking for someone who will unify the university and continue to carry on its mission and values.

Representing the diverse perspectives making up the university, the committee includes university board members, a Sister from the Congregation of Divine Providence, alumni, and representatives of the faculty, staff, administration and students.

Though the university is looking for a new president, not everything will change. The board



After the announcement of President Tessa Pollack's (above left) leave, the university struggles to find its identity.

plans to continue with the Strategic Plan they voted on last year, Terracina said.

However, Terracina said it is apparent the university needs a change since something is "not working well."

With Pollack's resignation and other proposed changes coming, OLLU may face an identity crisis in the community.

Chris Day, general manager of KGBTexas communications said there is a possibility that "public perception will be put to the test" like any organization with a sudden change in leadership.

"The story is no longer about the current president resigning," Day said. "The story should now be about what OLLU's leadership is looking for in her successor."

OLLU needs to clearly indicate its vision for the future and how it will lead the community during this transitional period, Day said.

Day said that OLLU is struggling to find its identity.

"While it may not be an accurate assessment, OLLU seems hesitant to define what that will look like in the years to come," Day said.

In the aftermath of the 12 cut majors, some student protestors

argued the university was only out for money.

In a not-for-profit organization, like the university, Terracina said profit is not a motive.

He said that the university has to do all it can do to get and retain more students.

"The students are the university," Terracina said.

However, protestors said students feel their voices aren't taken into consideration.

"To say that the board is not listening to students is erroneous," Terracina said.

Tyler Tully, student activist

and religious studies major, started a poll Saturday, Feb. 2, on the Facebook group "Stand with the 12" asking what qualities students want in a new university president.

The quality with the most votes at press time was a tie between "Dedicated to the Liberal Arts, Mexican American Studies, and Catholic Identity" and "Shared Governance- respect for students, teachers and admins."

In the same poll, 11 students said they want a student on the search committee.

Steven Zumaran, Student Government Association president, is the only student on the committee to appoint the next president.

When he found out he was on the committee he said he immediately asked for feedback from students on social media sites.

He said he will bring up the opinions from the poll on "Stand with the 12" to the committee.

He said he found students want a president who understands the mission of the university, is visible on campus, and collaborates with faculty and staff.

He said he really wants students to get excited about finding a new president and volunteer their input.

Dan Yoxall, vice president of Institutional Advancement, recommended students contact Zumaran with their concerns.

"I do believe that a strong dose of healing is in order for us to move forward," Yoxall said.

If you want to send Zumaran feedback email him at sga@ollusa.edu or Facebook him at OLLU SGA or tweet @SGAollusa.

'Popular' professor not awarded tenure

Angelica Casas
Designer

When Tyler Tully, religious studies senior, sat down to talk to his professor about enrolling in one of his summer courses, he did not expect to find out his professor's employment contract would not be renewed after the upcoming academic year.

Religious Studies and Theology Professor Oswald John Nira was on tenure track but his application for tenure was denied last month.

"I was just heartbroken and really mad," said Tully, who led the student protests against the cut of 12 majors, religious studies being one of them.

Tully announced Nira's employment status on the Facebook page "Stand with the 12. The post has since been removed.

On Thursday, Jan. 31, the Board of Trustees awarded tenure and/or promotion to 11 university professors. (The list can be found in the text box below.)

Nira confirmed by email that his application for tenure was denied. He also confirmed his last year of employment at the university would be the 2013-2014 academic school year, but he declined further comment.

Tenure provides faculty with guaranteed permanent employment at the university, within specific institutional expectations.

Faculty Assembly President Leah Larson, who became tenured in January 2011 and is the only tenured English professor, said that of more than 100 full-time professors at OLLU, about 30 are tenured.

Tenure allows faculty academic freedom, Larson said. Tenured

faculty feel more comfortable speaking their minds in the classroom, but she added they are also more cautious about losing their guaranteed positions and economic stability.

"I owe (my tenure) to the students," Larson said. "I think it's helped my teaching."

According to a presentation about tenure provided by Dan Yoxall, vice president for Institutional Advancement, the university's commitment to a faculty member over the life of his or her tenured career is more than \$1 million.

This economic security provided by tenure, Larson said, attracts better faculty prospects and keeps them as university assets longer.

Although employment is guaranteed, tenured faculty can still lose their jobs, Larson said. There is just less chance of it.

The university employs untenured faculty on a year-to-year contract.

While some professors arrive at the university and are automatically on tenure track, others have been at the university three decades and are still on a year-to-year contract, Larson said.

The 7-year tenure track begins with a request on behalf of the university.

In their application for tenure, faculty must demonstrate service to students, service to the university and civic community, and service to one or more academic disciplines.

Tenure continued on page 3

OLLU receives preservation award for Main



PHOTO BY GIANNA RENDON

Cookies depicting Main Building and OLLU cupcakes were given to faculty and students in honor of the award.

Steven Santana
Reporter

Faith, determination and preservation pay off.

On Jan. 30, faculty and students commemorated the Historic Preservation Honor Award presented to Our Lady of the Lake University and Kell Muñoz Architectures for the restoration of the Main Building.

Artists made replicas of many architectural features of Main Building including the ceiling tiles, an archway in Main's entryway and the weather vanes atop the spires.

"They tried to bring back historic features that were lost over time," said Anne Gomez, associate director of communications and marketing.

The OLLU community celebrated the award with cookies, cupcakes and by offering portraits with the Main Building as their backdrop.

Mike Edelmann, immediate past chair of the Board of Trustees, went to the National Preservation Conference held in Spokane, Washington to receive the award in November 2012, Gomez said.

"But we are sharing it with everyone today," said Paula Parrish, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement.

Our Lady of the Lake University is the only institution of higher learning to receive the preservation award in 2012.

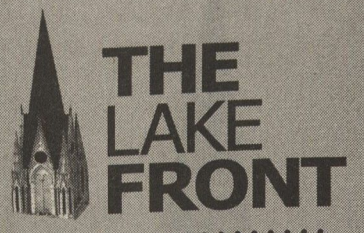
The Main Building's restoration transpired after the four-alarm fire that occurred in 2008.

2013 Promotion and Tenure Awards

- Christine Carmichael (communication disorders) was promoted to associate professor
- Meghan Carmody-Bubb (leadership studies) was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor
- Michaela Cole (education) was awarded tenure
- Phyllis Duncan (leadership studies) was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor
- John Gomez (psychology) was promoted to full professor
- Loranel Graham (psychology) was awarded tenure and promoted to full professor
- Ezequiel Pena (psychology) was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor
- Will Rainford (social work) was awarded tenure
- Belinda Schouten (education) was awarded tenure
- Jorge Valadez (philosophy) was awarded tenure
- Steve Wise (library) was awarded tenure

EDITORIAL & OPINION

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University needs to move forward

OP-ED

Gianna Rendon

Reporter

Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation within days of the announcement of OLLU President Tessa Pollack's leaving.

These sudden changes in leadership can leave us with a "what's next?" feeling.

It's ironic that both of these leadership changes are happening during Lent, a time for reflection and growth.

Lent gives everyone a chance to improve, universities included, and is a time to see the past for what it is, accept it and move forward.

We should take advantage of this Lenten season as an opportunity to re-evaluate ourselves as a university community and focus on how we can better the university as a whole.

One thing to consider is how the university community can improve its communication skills.

Students need to be more active in giving administrators feedback and possible solutions to problems. But at the same time, administrators need a more effective way to reach students.

Let's face it—no one reads E-Currents. However, OLLU could use its Facebook and Twitter pages to reach a greater number of students. Everyone has complained about some aspect of the university at some point, but posting an angry Facebook status or sending an angry Tweet isn't constructive, unless it's to an Student Government Association representative.

You can find SGA representatives also at Student Voice Assembly meetings, which allow for a forum of self-education and discussion that leads to the possible improvement of the university.

It doesn't matter how you get active in the university, what matters is that you try. OLLU is what faculty, staff and students make it. If one of these groups in the OLLU trinity doesn't do its part, the whole

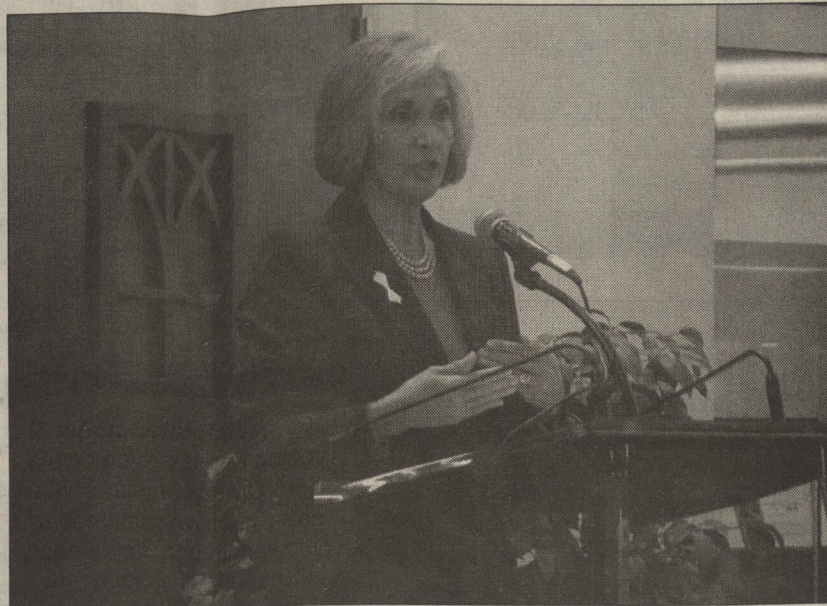


PHOTO BY MARIAM KEVLISHVILI
President Tessa Pollack to leave on March 1, inviting drastic changes to come for the university.

university suffers.

But the OLLU community can be strong if banded together. This doesn't mean everyone will always agree, but if everyone tries a bit harder to listen to each other, the

university will thrive.

This is OLLU's Lenten Challenge: students—get more involved, administration—listen to students, and faculty—help facilitate this communication.

Most romantic places at OLLU

Gianna Rendon

Reporter

Whether you are a couple or riding solo this Valentine's Day, take some time to admire the beauty of our university campus.

St. Ann's Courtyard—This secluded spot is the perfect place for a romantic picnic for two or some much needed alone time. The street lights, koi pond and proximity to

the Sacred Heart Chapel's tower transports you to a time when knights weren't cliché and princes still had white horses.

Sacred Heart Chapel—This is the place where many alumnis tie the knot every year. What's sexier than a Christian pick up line; "Is this pew taken?" The tower itself inspires awe and makes our beloved campus look

like Hogwarts.

Elmendorf Lake—There's no better way to spend Valentine's Day than with friends, especially if they are cute fluffy ducks! Bring some bread, a blanket and a sense of humor and those ducks will adopt you as one of their own. The way the setting sun reflects on the water will take your breath away and will make

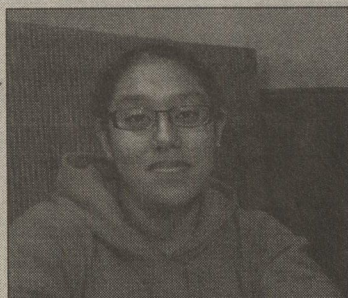
you forget all your worries.

3rd floor of the library—The quiet of the library and the beautiful swooping of the windows allows day dreaming and is a good backdrop for whispering sweet nothings on the quiet floor. The view of the campus across the street is enough to take your sweetheart's breath away, giving you the opportunity for a little romance if you know CPR.

SOUNDING OFF

Students react to news of President Pollack's departure

Stephanie Rodriguez, sophomore and CISS major, said she hasn't been here that long so she doesn't know what changes have happened and what changes will happen. "I don't know who should be the new president (but) I think new people with fresh ideas could help," Rodriguez said.



Jessiva Perez, senior and kinesiology major, said if the new president is coming from somewhere outside of OLLU, he or she will be implementing new ideas. "If it's someone within administration, they will know the university well. Wither or works for me," she said.

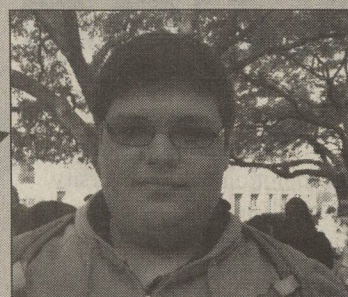


Jessica Deleon, freshman and biology major, said she hopes the new president will be "very dedicated, very nice and very enthusiastic." She wants him or her to be a mother or a father figure. "This school makes me feel right at home," she said.



Mara Rincon, junior and communication disorders major, said she is sure there is a candidate out there to take Pollack's place but she can't think of who. "I hope it's someone with leadership experiences and who knows the school very well," Rincon said.

Cristian Ortiz-Salas, sophomore and psychology major, said he knows other students are excited. "I was hopeful the 12 majors would come back when I heard the news," Ortiz-Salas said. "I think the new president should have a religious background and understand that OLLU is a multicultural university."



Marlena Kendrick, sophomore and biology major, said that when she found out, she was shocked like everyone else. "If a new president comes from OLLU, it would be good, but outside people can bring new ideas."



IT'S COMPLICATED

Darian Mendez and Jennifer Marroquin
Reporters

Although a Catholic institution, Our Lady of the Lake University has never had trouble accepting gay, lesbian and bi-sexual students.

However, most gay students are troubled after they leave campus.

We can solve this problem, though, by keeping OLLU accepting toward all gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender students.

OLLU is like a parent teaching its children to love each other, so that once they step out in the real world, they can teach others. Right now, the rest of the nation could use some

OLLU learning.

Every couple that talked to the Lake Front for a recent story of LGBT students, even those who were out and proud, still said they were uncomfortable going outside of campus and showing affection. Many didn't even want to hold hands in public because they were afraid of the looks and worried others wouldn't understand.

When going out, a gay couple seen on a date or simply holding hands tend to be younger, giving the impression that being gay is a phase

young people go through.

However, as one staff writer has a lesbian mom, and the other a lesbian aunt, we can tell you that is not the case. The older generation faces the same fears the younger one does.

The nonexistent federal laws to protect against harassment don't make it any easier. This means the country is saying it's okay to harass people over sexual orientation or gender identity. While OLLU provides an accepting community for its' students, the older generation has nowhere to turn for acceptance.

Some may argue that it's harder for adults to publicly come out

because of the lack of rights that comes with it, like not being able to marry in certain states.

When we live in such a discriminating world, it becomes clear why people like this staffer's mom can't go out in public holding her girlfriend's hand or even propose to her after being together for over five years.

In the inaugural address, President Obama gave millions of people hope for equality. If protection of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression can be found on a Catholic university on the west side of San Antonio, it should only be a matter of time before it spreads.

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.

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The Lake Front Student News

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New Worden computer lab helps students

Steven Santana
Reporter

Renovations to Worden School of Social Service are one step toward an ambitious future for Our Lady of the Lake University.

The computer lab is part of the first phase of the Master Plan approved back in 2009 by the Board of Trustees, which plans to move more student activities and resources to the residential side, said Jack Hank, vice president for Student Life.

The computer lab in Worden has moved to Room 7, which was home to the Writing Center before it moved to Moye as part of the Master Plan.

The new computer lab consists of 16 new Lenovo desktop computers, two Macs and a printer.

The computers also include IBM Statistical Product and Service Solutions, software used for statistical analysis for social sciences that students can access from home, said Raquel Moncado, director of Instructional Technology and Digital Media Services.

While the computer lab is open to all students, social work majors



who spend most of their time in Worden are grateful for the new computer lab.

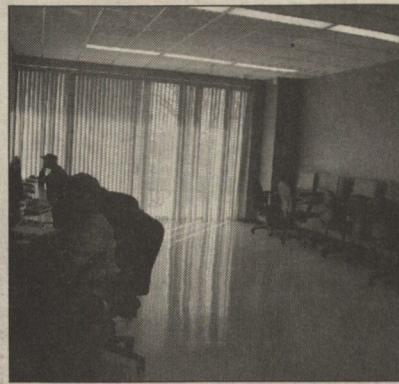
Richard McGraw, a social work major, said the computer lab's new location and the upgrade in technology is long overdue.

And he appreciates that "it's no longer hidden," McGraw said.

Joe Deck, chief technology officer, said Information Technology just got the funding to start a replacement cycle.

"What we look to do is replace computers, which includes desktops, laptops and servers on a three year replacement cycle," Deck said.

The cost of replacement is a little



PHOTOS BY MARIAM KEVLISHVILI
Although the new computer lab in Worden School of Social Service is not completely finished, it is already being used by students. The computer lab is part of the first phase of the Master Plan.

more than \$1 million a year, Deck said.

It is replacing the technology in the spots that need it the most this fiscal year, including the new computer lab in Worden.

The budget overall for the new computer lab is less than \$35,000, Deck said.

Following the recent computer lab renovation will be other changes to the building.

"We're trying to assist them in making any improvements to the building that we possibly can," Hank said.

The Student Leadership and Development office's move to Worden is part of the improvement, making it easier connect with resident students, along with the creation of a new lounge for students to gather, said Catherine Frago, director of the SLD.

Frago said the new area is larger than the office in Walter Center, where SLD is currently located, and will make it easier to collaborate with the Center for Service Learning and Volunteerism.

The Student Government Association plans to create workspaces for student organizations in the new area, which is a service not currently offered.

"In all, I do believe the students will enjoy the new developments to Worden Building," Frago said.

New discrimination policy in handbook

Student Complaints: Discrimination

Purpose

As a Catholic University we strive to maintain a learning environment free of discrimination.

It is the policy of the Our Lady of the Lake University to provide an educational, environment free of discrimination based on following categories: race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, pregnancy, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, genetic information, marital status, or veteran status. No member of the University community as defined in this policy will engage in conduct constituting discrimination.

Darian Mendez
Reporter

For the first time in Our Lady of the Lake history, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression are protected against discrimination.

As of Jan. 17, 2013, the new policy can be found in the online student handbook, protecting straights, gays, bisexuals and transgender students from discrimination on campus.

"It's a big deal for a Catholic university on the Westside," said Amanda Beschonet, former president of the Alliance.

While Beschonet said she hasn't heard of any discrimination on campus, the new policy's purpose is to ensure it won't happen in the future.

The policy change has gained attention from media like "QSan Antonio" and Texas Public Radio.

"At the end of the day it's not a gay issue or a trans issue," Beschonet said. "It's a student issue."

The urge to change the discrimination policy began in January 2012, the beginning of Beschonet's presidency of the Alliance.

"This was [Beschonet's] baby,"

said Manuel Marin, current president of the Alliance. "She went through hell."

Beschonet showed the old discrimination policy to members of the Alliance and asked what was missing. The members were surprised that OLLU didn't have those protections already.

Immediately, Beschonet and the Alliance started a petition on campus and an electronic one on change.org. They received 408 signatures from students, faculty and staff as well as 247 from the online petition.

"People are very accepting here," Marin said.

During their petitioning, Beschonet said the group received no negativity from anyone on campus.

"We had Sisters signing," Beschonet said. "The CDPs were behind us."

The Alliance presented its resolution to the Student Voice Assembly in Spring 2012, which was voted on unanimously, Beschonet said via email.

Beschonet also sent out requests for letters of support, which went along with the petitions in a binder, presented to Vice President for Student Life Jack Hank.

The resolution needed to be included in two items: the Equal

Opportunity Employment statement and the student non-discriminatory policy, Hank said.

This is why the proposed resolution proposed took a year to be included in the handbook.

During summer 2012, the EOE was reviewed by the University attorney, Hank said. He also had a follow-up meeting with Beschonet, Denise Mejia of Equality Texas, John Dean Domingue of GetEqual Tx and Dani Dominguez from the OLLU graduate psychology group Rainbow Coalition, to discuss the progress of the resolution.

"We were very serious about this," Beschonet said. "I wanted [Hank] to understand how important this was."

Gender identity and expression were not originally included in the EOE statement since it isn't mandatory by law, Hank said, but is included in the student policy.

From August to December, Hank focused on bringing the resolution to the student policy. After going through six different revisions, the updated policy was announced to the SGA on Jan. 16.

"[The resolution] makes absolute sense," Hank said. "I think that says something good about our university."

VITA assists students in filing taxes

Jennifer Marroquin
Reporter

February is the start of tax season, but many students don't file taxes because they don't know they can get free money back just for being a student.

"That would have been really useful to know, because those of us without jobs, have to struggle to get by," senior Yvette Gonzales said.

Of about 50 students surveyed, half didn't realize they can file as a student using the 1098t form which lists school expenses for each year. With many students lacking tax knowledge, some wonder why Our Lady of the Lake University does not offer any tax services to students.

"I had to learn from my dad, my second year of college," junior Dray Baker said. "I missed out on filing my first year, though, because I never had any help [from OLLU]."

OLLU does not provide any tax services to students currently, said Sandy Alvarado, accounts payable supervisor, but the university used to.

An OLLU accounting professor, Edgar Zepeda, recognized a need for a free tax service in the mid 1990's, and started asking OLLU professors, faculty and staff to volunteer their time to help students file. Alvarado was one of the volunteers Zepeda found to help students with taxes.

Alvarado said she worked with Zepeda and other volunteers doing taxes for students when he started the program.

Zepeda started Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, VITA, at OLLU in the mid 1990's, but the

IRS had already been working on getting the program started for about 10 years, although it had not reached San Antonio yet, VITA program director, Jennifer Preager said.

However, when Zepeda retired in 2009, no one else wanted to pick up the program, said Alvarado and the program at OLLU came to an end. However, the city of San Antonio successfully instated VITA all over the city in 2003, Preager said.

The program was successful for 13 years, but when Zepeda retired from OLLU in 2009, no one else on campus wanted to pick up the program, Alvarado said. San Antonio, however, had heard of Zepeda's program, and when no one from OLLU offered to pick it up, the city did, Alvarado said.

The city decided to keep the name VITA, and it has become one of the most successful tax programs in San Antonio, offering free tax services to residents who make less than \$55,000 annually.

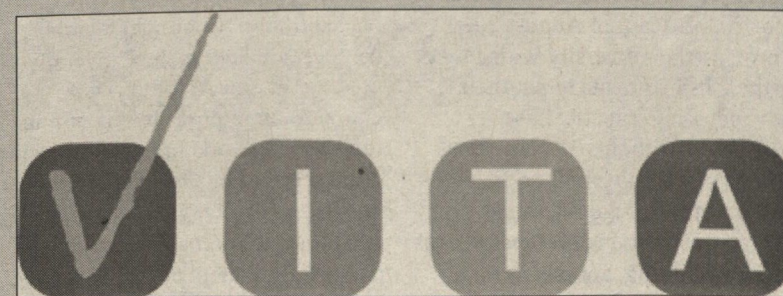
Although OLLU no longer offers tax services, VITA has many locations, including one walking distance from campus on Castroville Road.

VITA advises students to wake up early and arrive at 7 a.m. to guarantee a spot. The sites get packed quickly, and showing up after 9 a.m. means having to try again the next day.

If your parents claimed you, or plan to claim you in their tax return, they would need the 1098t form and the credit would go toward their tax return.

Go to 1098t.com to get the 1098t form, and follow the step-by-step instructions.

6363		VOID	CORRECTED	OMB No. 1545-1074
FILER'S name, street address, city, state, ZIP code, and telephone number		1	Payments received for qualified tuition and related expenses	2011 Form 1098-T Tuition Statement
FILER'S federal identification no.		2	Amounts billed for qualified tuition and related expenses	
STUDENT'S name	STUDENT'S social security number	3	Check if you have changed your reporting method for 2011	Copy A For Internal Revenue Service Center File with Form 1099. For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the 2011 General Instructions for Certain Information Returns.
Street address (including apt. no.)	City, state, and ZIP code	4	Adjustments made for a prior year	
Service Provider/Account No. (see inst.)	8	Check if at least half-time student	9	Check this box if the amount in box 1 or 2 includes amounts for an academic period beginning January 1 through March 31, 2012
From 1098-T		10	Check if a graduate student	10
Do Not Cut or Separate Forms on This Page		Cat. No. 25087		Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service



TENURE

continued from page 1

They should provide a current curriculum vitae (resume), a self-evaluation, statistics of student course evaluations, letters documenting service to university, copies of publications and/or conference brochures, annual summary forms, scholarly activity reports and at least three letters of recommendation from the dean of their college, peers and two colleagues.

An anonymous Promotion

and Tenure Committee reviews tenure applications, and the Board of Trustees approves the decisions, usually announced in January.

Faculty whose applications for tenure are denied are provided one last year of employment while they find another job, Larson said.

Although this is now the case for Nira, Tully attributes the termination of Nira's contract to the phase-out of Nira's department major - religious studies and theology.

"They're taking the funds that would've been allocated to salary benefits to the revitalization," Tully said. "If I were (Nira), I would feel

betrayed."

But Yoxall said that Nira's employment status is not the result of his department major being cut and that three other professors whose department is on probation (education) or will be phased out (philosophy) did receive tenure.

Although Larson does not know the details of Nira's case, she said he is a good professor and popular with students.

"(Nira) has done a lot to promote Mexican American culture and spirituality with things like the Dia De Los Muertos (event)," Larson said. "He has done a lot for the university."

NAMES & FACES

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THE LAKE FRONT | OUR LADY OF THE LAKE UNIVERSITY

FEBRUARY 2013

Professor not limited to classroom

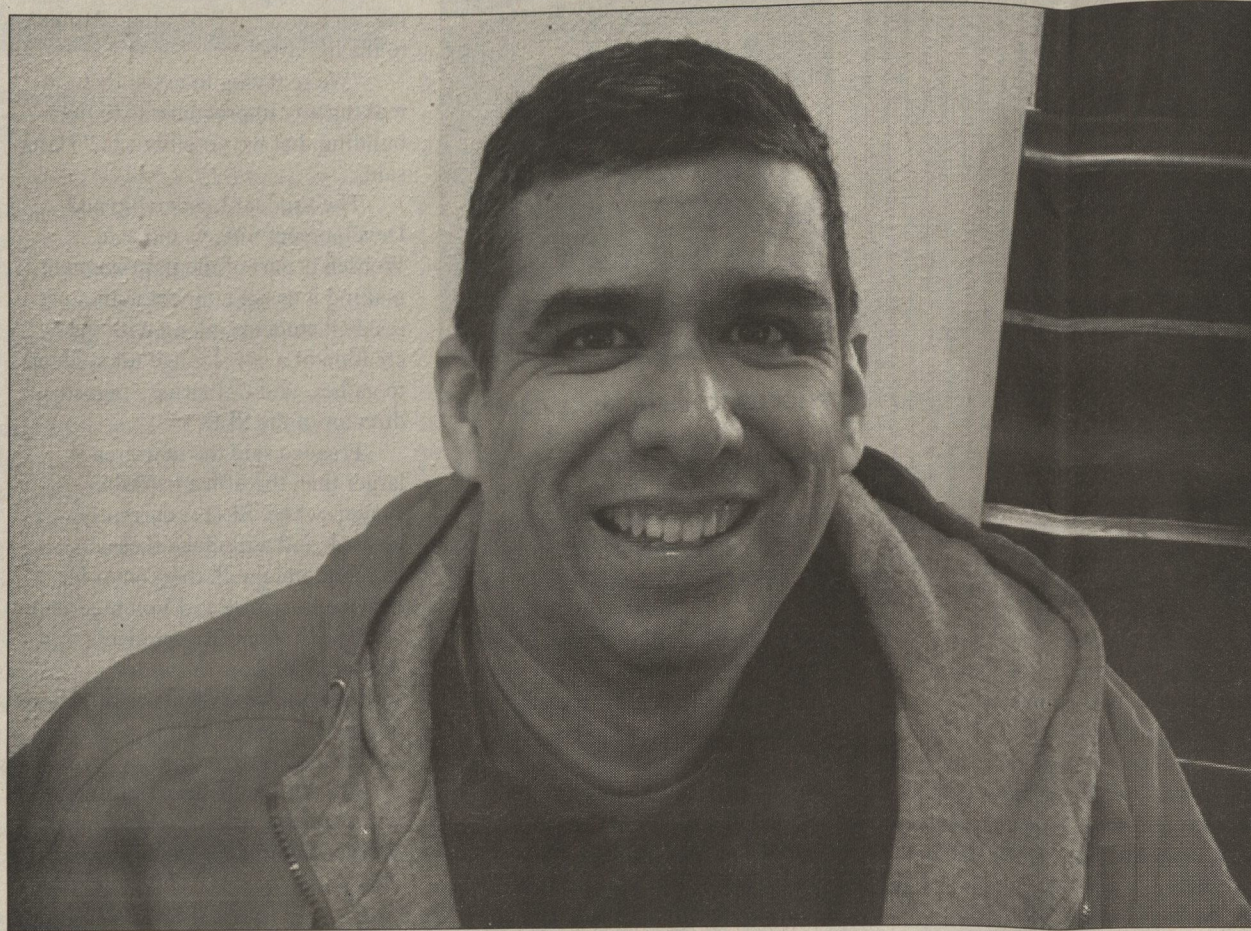


PHOTO BY MARIAM KEVLISHVILI

Oswald John Nira (above) attends Ash Wednesday mass in Sacred Heart Chapel.

After 17 years of service to the university, Professor Oswald John Nira will leave after the 2013-2014 academic year. He started at OLLU in 1997 as a part-time instructor.

Mariam Kevlishvili
Editor

Oswald John Nira has never been just a professor students see twice a week for a little over an hour.

He is a professor who rides a bicycle to the school. He is a devout Catholic who interests students in other religions. He is a professor who will remember students' names even after the class is over, and one students see at almost every university event.

He is also a professor who might not be teaching at OLLU after the

next academic year.

Nira's application for tenure was denied, meaning that the university does not wish to offer him a more permanent position after ten years here. (See "Popular" professor not awarded tenure" on page 1).

However, Nira, religious studies professor and chair of the Humanities and Social Sciences Department, said he is going to dispute that decision.

"I have been informed that next year will be my last," Nira said. "I intend to challenge that. I don't want next year to be my last."

Fellow religious studies professor

Jane Grovijahn described Nira as a "valued colleague" and will be sad to see him leave.

"To lose another Latino scholar in arts and sciences could challenge the effectiveness of our larger Hispanic Serving Institution identity and success in being a highly effective Catholic university," Grovijahn said.

Nira said he has had a lot of good memories of the classroom and of conversations with students.

"Ten years is a long time in the same place," Nira said. "You see a lot of transitions that make you think

and appreciate and wonder. You have opportunities to show love."

Nira started as a part-time instructor at OLLU in 1997 but left the next year to pursue his PhD. He returned in 2001 to a full-time position.

Since then, Nira has been involved in many aspects of the university.

In 2007, Nira became the first director of the Honors Program and was asked to lead the Alliance, a group of students interested in strengthening bonds between gay, lesbian and straight individuals. The same year, Nira got his doctorate and became the chair of his department.

"I have been very, very busy trying to manage this department," Nira said. "What I really love to do is be in a classroom."

Nira used to teach four classes during first five years at OLLU, but now he teaches only two due to his responsibilities as department chair.

However, Nira's classroom isn't limited to the walls of the university. During his world religion classes,

he frequently takes tours with his students to mosques, synagogues, Buddhist and Hindu temples and prayer centers of various religions.

"In San Antonio, we have people from all over the map," Nira said. "It is really important for me, to go out and learn about their culture and to communicate with them."

Students have come to appreciate his unique teaching style.

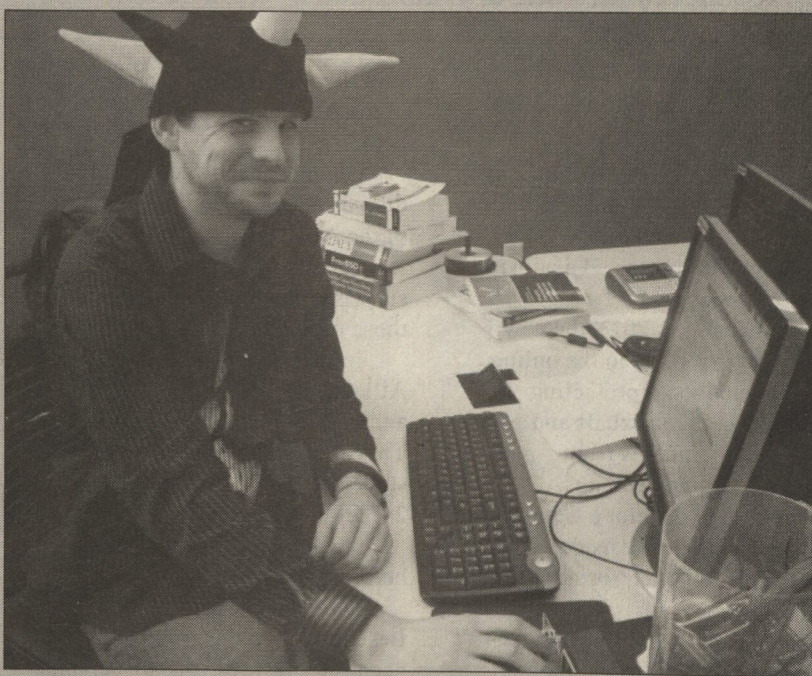
"One aspect of his classes that always stood out was beginning each class with prayer," said Jeffrey Huber, a religious studies minor. "It always excited me. I wish more professors did this."

Huber said that although Nira's prayers weren't specifically Catholic, they included Providence, which was important because he taught many freshmen.

Huber said that Nira played a vital role in introducing him to what Providence meant for the university.

"I was very upset learning that he would not be returning," Huber said. "I hope that decision gets reconsidered."

CyberSaints prepare to compete



PHOTOS BY ANGELICA CASAS

Senior Artair Burnett (above) formed the CyberSaints team almost two years ago and has since served as the team's captain. Some CyberSaints (left) partake in Burnett's Wacky Hat Wednesday.

Angelica Casas
Designer

On Jan. 26, OLLU's cyber security team competed in the Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC) southwest regional preliminaries but did not place.

Although the CyberSaints will not advance to CCDC regionals, the team is already registered and preparing for the Defense Cyber Crime Center (DC3) competition, where they will compete globally, even against military teams.

Seniors Artair Burnett (see "Burnett wears hats for smiles" on right) and Collin Beckendorf, both Computer Information Systems and Security (CISS) majors, formed the CyberSaints team in August 2011 to provide the university with a way for the CISS students to put their knowledge into practical use.

The team counts 11 consistent members and an average of 15 students at meetings. Meetings, held in a restricted access classroom in Main Building, are meant for general knowledge absorption.

Kevin Barton, CyberSaints' sponsor and assistant professor for CISS, said that the concepts applied in competitions go beyond those taught to the students in a classroom and that they developed specific skills on their own.

The team learns how to hack — gain unauthorized access to data in a system and constructively taking it apart to determine how it works and how it can be made better — and throw virtual viruses at computers, which they watch melt away after being attacked. They are also skilled in server management, computer security and networks.

"There's a reason why (the door) says 'restricted access,'" said Burnett, CyberSaints captain.

Last semester, CyberSaints placed first in the annual Panoply competition held at the University of Texas at San Antonio. The competition requires teams of four to hack a network and get possession of its server while being attacked by hacking warriors, who try to destroy what they are doing. The team will compete in Panoply again this year.

"It's time to show the world that

OLLU actually has smart kids," Burnett said.

Barton said the skills the CyberSaints learn and apply are helping mold the CISS curriculum and the focus of what students need to learn. For example, before the formation of the team, there was no cyber defense course and now there is, he said.

By the time the CyberSaints graduate, the specific systems, hardware and software likely or will be phased out because technology is always changing, Barton said. But their knowledge will not go unused.

"It's much more important to know how to solve problems with whatever tools are available," Barton said. "The student leadership needed (as a CyberSaint) will in the long-run make them better citizens and better employees."

The CyberSaints plan to offer free seminars about online awareness at the end of the semester to educate the university as a whole.

"We just want everyone to be smarter," Burnett said. "The one thing that should be shared freely with everyone is knowledge."

Burnett wears hats for smiles

Dr. Seuss' Cat in the Hat has competition.

Since his freshman year at OLLU, senior Artair Burnett has been wearing a wacky hat every Wednesday with the purpose of making others smile.

"I want everybody to be happier," said Burnett, who invites others to partake in Wacky Hat Wednesdays (WHW).

Burnett, computer information systems and security (CISS) major, said that WHW also gives him a reason to wear his unusual hats, which he has collected for more than 15 years.

He has no problem wearing the hats to class, but out of respect for his professors and

depending on his professor, Burnett sometimes takes them off during lecture.

"It's not about being disrespectful," Burnett said. "It's about joy."

Kevin Barton, Burnett's CISS professor and CyberSaints advisor, has noticed him wearing the hats but has never partaken in Burnett's WHW.

In the past, a cafeteria staffer stopped him and asked to take a picture of him.

"I realize that most people are laughing at me rather than with me, but guess what?" Burnett asked. "If you're laughing, you're doing just what I wanted you to do."

Local Beats



COURTESY PHOTO

The Devil Wears Prada will perform March 6 at Backstage Live.

Darian Mendez
Reporter

2/19 Unknown Mortal Orchestra, Foxygen and Wampire

Location: Korova, 107 E. Martin St.

Tickets: \$12-\$15

Just another one of those indie shows with weird band names. The light and airy sounds of Unknown Mortal Orchestra are perfect for trying to calm down via dancing.

2/20 Sam's Electronic Dance Music Night 9:00 p.m.

Location: Sam's Burger Joint, 330 E. Grayson St.

Tickets: \$3-\$5

What exactly will DJ Crias play on this magical night? We don't have a clue, but it sounds like a hoot. The San Antonio native knows the right sounds create a heart-pounding, hip-swaying night.

2/22 Anberlin

Location: Backstage Live, 1305 E. Houston St.

Tickets: \$15-\$17

Anberlin is as alternative as alternative can be, but Stephen Christian's pipes are what make the band stand out. One second he's low and soothing and the next his voice is fully charged and busting your ear drums.

2/23 Wednesday 13, Calabrese and Cold Blue Rebels

Location: White Rabbit, 2410 N. St Marys St.

Tickets: \$14-\$16

In a nutshell, Wednesday 13 sounds like old comedies that were supposed to be

horror movies. Imagine a raspier Marilyn Manson, but with cuter horrorpunk lyrics about zombies, bad breakups and the taboo.

2/23 Immortal Technique

Location: Korova, 107 E. Martin St.

Tickets: \$15-\$22

Poverty, government, rape and class are only a few themes of Immortal Technique's lyrics and art—swag free of course. The "Dance With The Devil" rapper's songs are not for the faint of mind, but that doesn't take away from his sense of reality, passion and flow.

3/06 As I Lay Dying and The Devil Wears Prada

Location: Backstage Live, 1305 E. Houston St.

Tickets: \$22-\$25

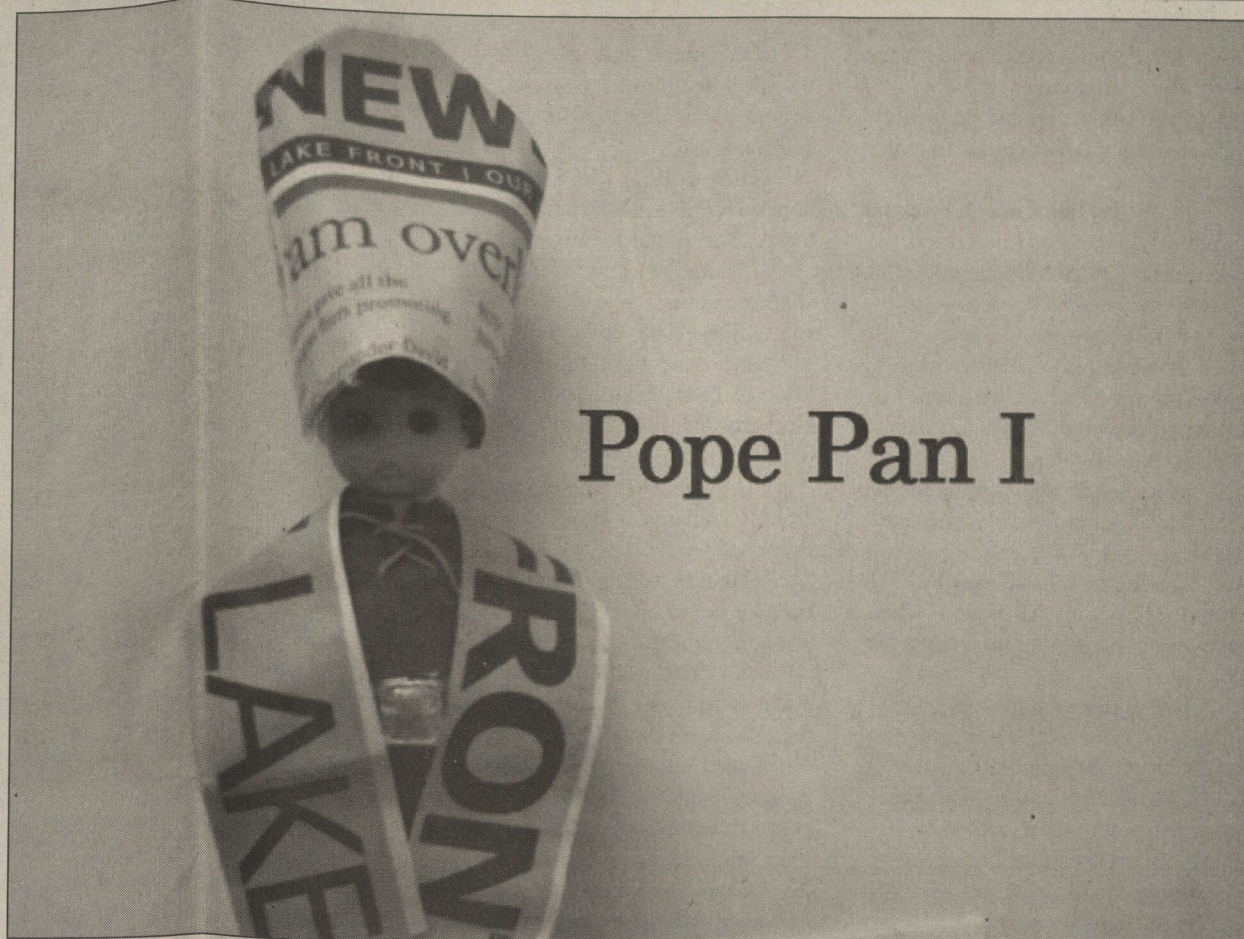
In the midst of the screaming, beating and chords, the cowbells ring triumphant. The Devil Wears Prada has gotten heavier over the years, in chords and vocal cords, which means heavier head banging and flying fists. See you in the pit.

3/09 Volbeat

Location: Freeman Coliseum, 3201 E. Houston St.

Tickets: \$25, purchase at HEB or online only

If Metallica, Elvis and Disturbed were stuffed in blender, the result would be this Danish concoction of heavy metal with a sweet side.



Pope Pan I

University prepares for Mizuumi Con



PHOTO BY MARIAM KEVLISHVILI

Last year's Mizuumi Con attracted thousands of visitors to OLLU.

Mariam Kevlishvili
Editor

One day a year OLLU's gothic building that might remind one of Hogwarts, is full of magical beings with multicolored hair, cat ears and lime green eyes.

Mizuumi Con 6, an anime and Japanese culture annual convention, will be held Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. to midnight.

Tickets are \$15 at the door and \$12 for everyone who registers a week ahead online.

Mizuumi Con will offer games, karaoke, vendor rooms and voice actors and educational panels.

Victoria Wixon, president of the Mizuumi Anime Club, said she is expecting 2,500 or more people.

"Every year, the number of attendees increases," Wixon said. "Last year, 2,171 people attended. A year before, there were about 1,600."

Mizuumi Con is the only family friendly anime convention with no 18+ content in the city, Wixon said.

"We strive for quality not quantity," Wixon said. "We are a Catholic university so we choose to have a safe convention for family and young."

Sixty percent of the population are high school students, Wixon said. However, the university responds to Mizuumi Con neutrally and does not take the advantage of it as they should, Wixon said.

"Sometimes the university sees it as a 'kid thing' like Pokémon," Wixon said. "They don't understand

that we are running the whole convention like a business."

Wixon noted that she has seen a lot more support recently from admissions and is grateful for it.

Thomas Newton, director of admissions, said he thinks that Mizuumi Con is a good opportunity for recruiting.

"I believe we can show students that we have a fantastic array of student life including M-C6," Newton said.

Newton said that, if allowed, admissions office will have a recruitment table out and offer campus tour times.

He also said he hopes admissions staff will dress up for the convention.

"If only I could find my Kikaida outfit... it's legit!" Newton said.

Kikaida is his favorite Japanese superhero.

The admissions office is not alone in showing interest in Mizuumi Con. Jenn Wolff, accounting specialist at the university bookstore, and Edward Croce, the store manager, said they would love to incorporate the bookstore in Mizuumi Con.

"Mizuumi Con is a lot bigger than I expected," Wolff said. "We had a lot of traffic coming in the book store last year."

Wolff said that she thinks the bookstore can have a table at the convention and have what other vendors don't sell, like batteries and safety pins.

"We want the university to be more involved," Wixon said. "We need student volunteers because they are experts of the locations. Plus the volunteering shifts are short and they get to attend the rest of the convention for free."

If interested in volunteering, email Wixon at vewixon@ollu.edu.

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Students open about gay orientation

Darian Mendez and Jennifer Marroquin

Reporters

Having someone to hold means everything to couples, but not everyone can accept public display of affection when it comes to gay couples.

Many gay, lesbian and bisexual students on campus find OLLU accepting, but step into a judgmental world outside of school.

Junior Jasmine Orozco had first-hand experience with discrimination when her mom stopped talking to her when she came out as lesbian.

"The last thing I want is for her to be mad at me forever," Orozco said.

Orozco now has a healthy relationship with her mother, who now is accepting of Orozco and her fiancé.

It was in an 8 a.m. freshman class that Orozco met her future wife, Marisol Gonzales.

It seemed like things weren't going to work when Gonzales developed a crush for Orozco, who had a boyfriend at the time.

After Orozco ended her relationship, she gathered enough courage to kiss Gonzales when they were studying together. Orozco ran back to her room without a word.

Orozco and Gonzales are now engaged.

On their one year anniversary, Oct. 25, 2011, Orozco said she proposed to Gonzales after a few blunders.

"She locked me in the bathroom," Gonzales said.

Alissa Huerta is another happily engaged student and didn't come out until her sophomore year of college. "I felt a lot more myself that summer," Huerta said.

Her softball teammates accepted and supported her decisions, but her parents didn't.

In addition to trying to kick her

out of the house, her parents said she wouldn't be allowed to attend OLLU anymore, but Huerta insisted on coming back.

While dealing with issues at home, Huerta said she appreciated the support of her teammates.

"It's nice to know you have that support group," Huerta said. "That's something I'll never forget."

Huerta met her fiancé, Chrissy Filoteo, during a night out at Grahams Central Station and hit it off right away.

The couple became official Oct. 24, and a year later Filoteo proposed.

"She was asking 'What would it take for me to be with you forever?' and I thought she was playing around," Huerta said. "She kept asking and I said 'figure it out!' and then she went on one knee."

Huerta's father recorded the proposal, and the couple watches it every time they argue to re-evaluate their relationship.

Huerta and Filoteo currently live together and are planning their summer wedding.

"My mom helps a lot," Huerta said. "I don't know how I'd do it if I was alone."

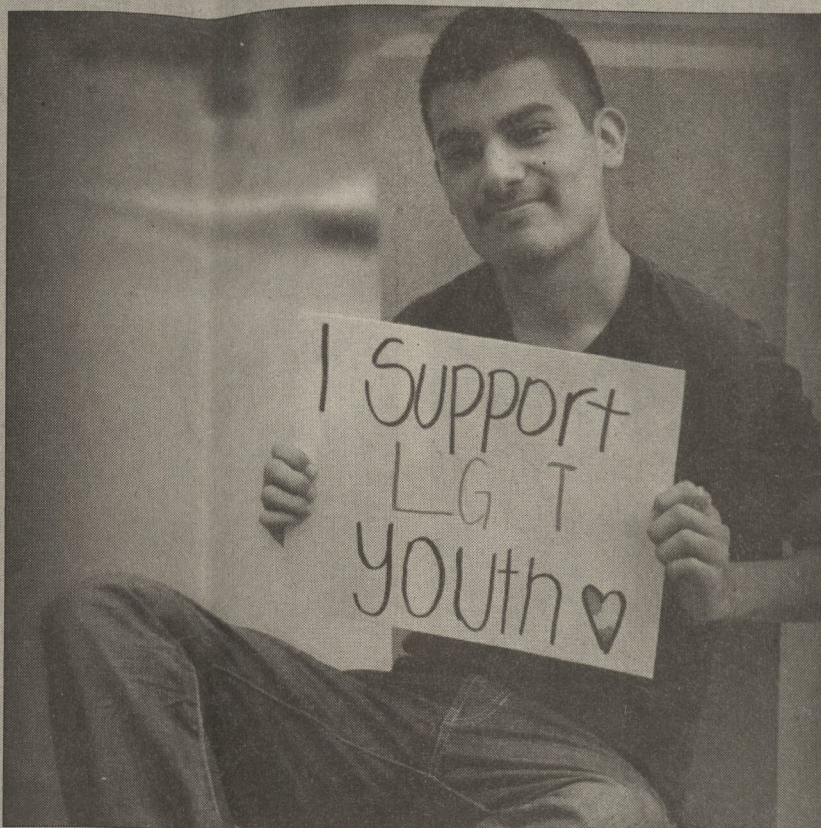
Sophomore Lisa Robles was a daddy's girl before coming out when she met her current girlfriend her freshman year of college.

Robles met Ashley Oshiro while they were working at Old Navy. After sharing a long night shift in the fitting room, they connected to each other.

When they became official, Robles kept it a secret, but not for long.

"It was unfair to [Oshiro] because she was already out," Robles said.

Once Robles told her dad, he kicked her out of the house.



Oshiro offered Robles a place to stay.

Once Robles called her dad to tell him she was going to pick up her things, he realized what he did, Robles said.

When Robles announced on Facebook she was gay, many 'friends' from her high school, sent her scriptures every day about sexuality.

"Some went to the extent to tell me I would go to hell," Robles said "And that they'd pray for me."

While Robles stayed strong through one religious battle, Orozco and Gonzales fought another when a friend from church told them they were "mutated."

Huerta also had battles of her own to overcome when she and Filoteo went out in public.

"We try not to do anything, especially when children are around, because some parents don't teach

their children about gay couples," Huerta said.

Then there are students like junior Manuel Marin, who haven't told their parents about their sexuality.

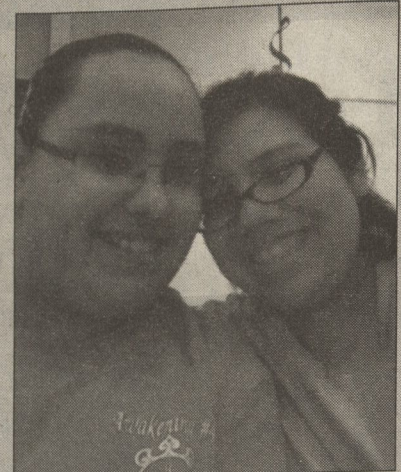
"I came to this school thinking it could repress those feelings," Marin said.

Marin knew he was gay since the first day of middle school, but he said growing up in a strict Pentecostal family doesn't bring many opportunities to come out.

Both of his grandparents were pastors at a church Marin used to attend. While Marin goes to a different church now, he said he doesn't want to tell the pastor in case he tells Marin's parents.

Only Marin's two sisters, Angelica and Victoria, and a cousin know about his sexuality.

Angelica broke down in tears after Marin told her, but Victoria



COURTESY PHOTOS

Manuel Marin (left) has not told his parents about his sexuality but confides in the OLLU community. Jasmine Orozco and Marisol Gonzales (above) met almost three years ago and are now engaged.

easily accepted him.

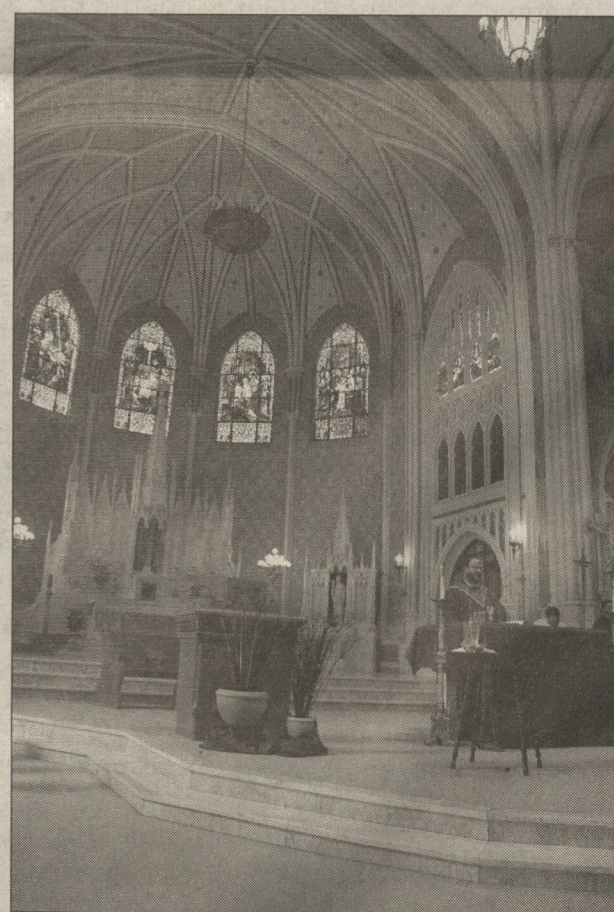
"[Angelica] hated gay guys to the T," Marin said.

After struggling to accept himself, Marin decided to come out publicly at OLLU his freshman year.

Marin does not have a good relationship with his father and said his mother will agree with his dad. This is why he plans on telling them after he graduates.

Although Orozco, Huerta and Robles were originally cast out by their parents' when they came out, each has a healthy relationship with them today. They still struggle with criticism from the outside world, but they managed to find a support system at OLLU.

"I was really worried about coming out because [OLLU] is a Catholic school," Robles said. "I had already experienced that in high school, and thought the same thing would happen, but everyone was really supportive."



Members of the OLLU community (above) celebrate Ash Wednesday at Sacred Heart Chapel. Father Kevin Fauz (above right) presided the noon mass on Ash Wednesday.

PHOTOS BY MARIAM KEVLISHVILI

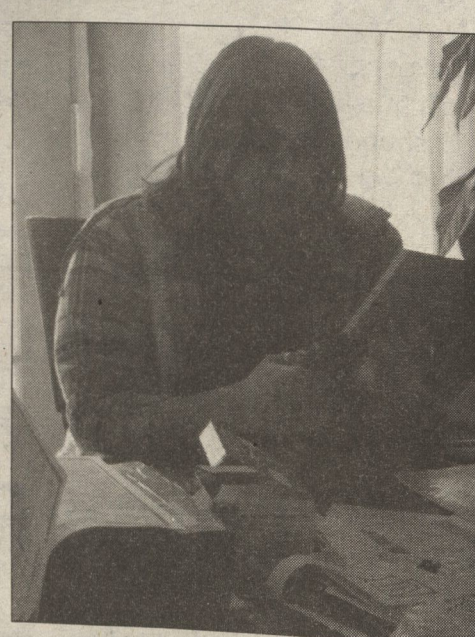
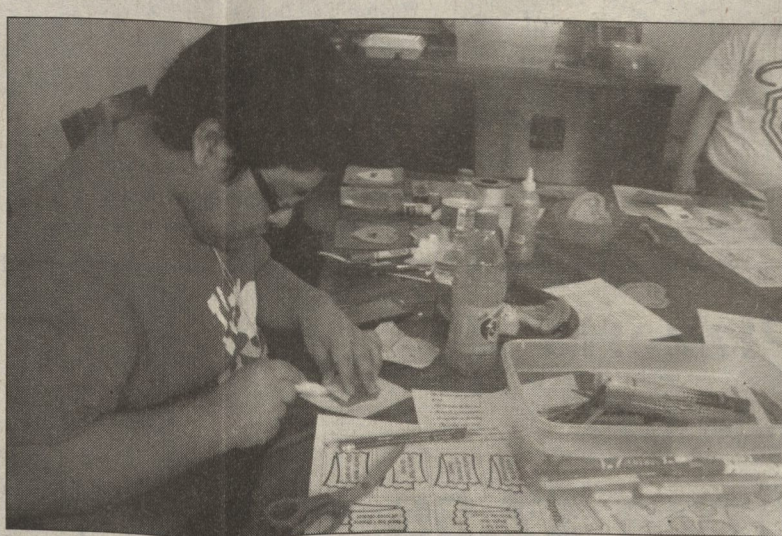


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PHOTOS BY GIANNA RENDON
Wasley Rodriguez (above left) and other students decorate Valentines at Elliot House on Feb. 7 and 8.



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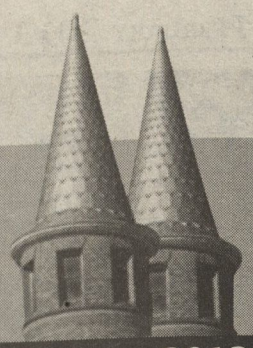
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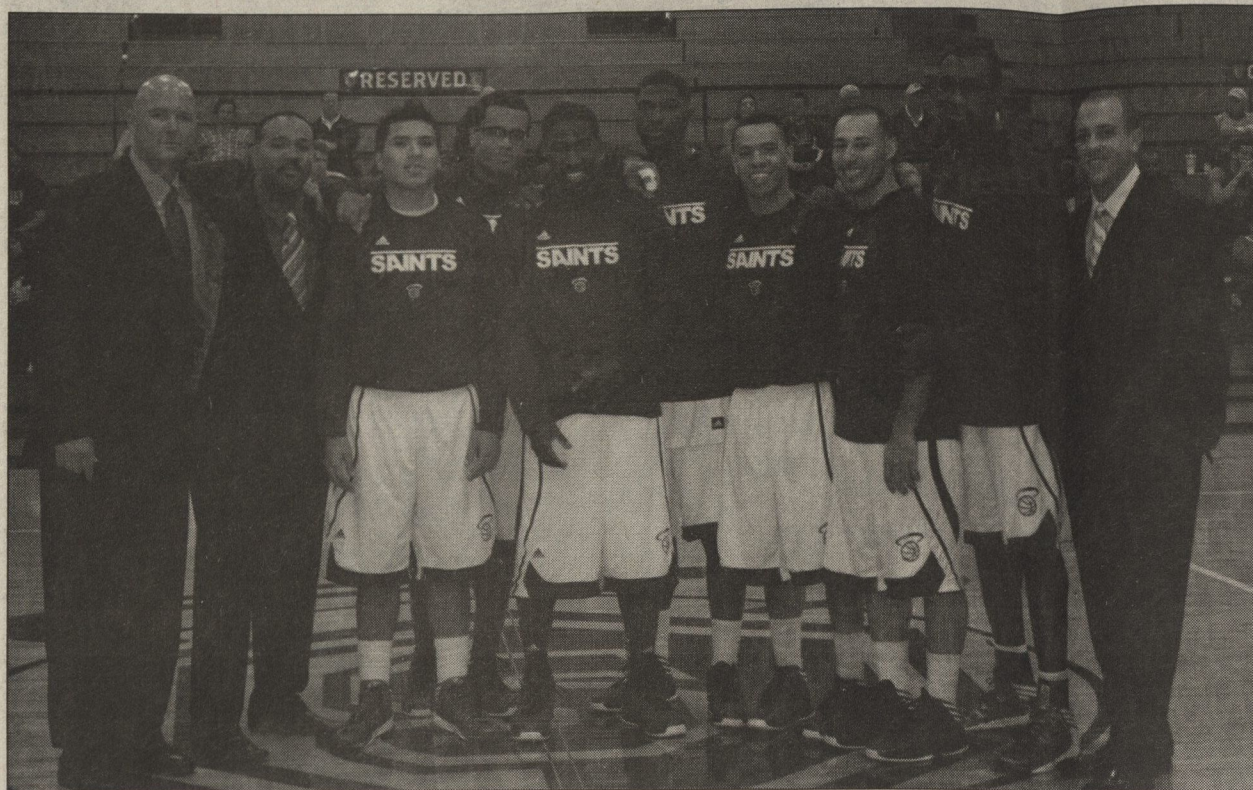
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Saints' Science of Recruiting Athletes



COURTESY PHOTO

The basketball team's seven seniors will graduate this May, leaving open positions for entering OLLU freshmen.

Jordan Whitfield
Copy Editor

The OLLU Saints Athletics program began with three goals: make sure students graduate, don't cost the university and gain regional and national recognition.

This year they're three for all three.

However, working with athletes who are talented students as well as at least one drawback: eventually those students graduate. When the graduating members of the men's basketball team walk off the court for the last time this season, they'll leave seven open positions behind them.

Each year, when athletes

graduate or leave, coaches have to recruit new players for the empty spots. More than simply looking for a talented player to fill the opening, coaches look for a specific mix of skills in players that they have seen make for successful students and athletes.

"For us, this is a business," said Arthur Salazar, assistant soccer coach, "and we try to bring in the best student-athlete possible."

To do that, each coach looks for the right combination of characteristics in players to build a quality team.

"We want someone who will represent the program well," Salazar said, "someone who can handle

themselves academically and on the field."

To bring in the best mix of student-athletes, coaches look for players through a variety of sources, including word-of-mouth, videos, the internet, student-initiated contact through the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Eligibility Center and others.

Sometimes the coaches initiate contact with the players after seeing their performance in local club sports; other times the student, or a parent or coach, will initiate contact.

This is where being regionally and nationally known comes in handy.

"What our student-athletes have

been able to do in the classroom and on the field has put us in a position where people are contacting us," said Jack Hank, vice president for Student Life and athletic director.

Students can find contact information on the Saints' website and ask coaches to watch their performance at a showcase.

When Salazar attends a showcase, he highlights the names of the students who have contacted him on the list of players attending and spends the day watching their games.

But the process doesn't end there, as student-athletes also have to prove their ability off the field.

Though it may seem the priority for athletes is performance on the field, Salazar said it's the combination of grades and skills—the "jackpot"—that gets his attention.

"If they're a good player but don't have good grades, we don't entertain the idea very long," Salazar said.

The women's soccer team currently has what Salazar calls "a very good blend" of good students and players, with 21 of the team's 29 players above a 3.0 GPA.

"We strive to be the best we can on and off the field," Salazar said. "We have high expectations in the classroom and socially...We want them to be role models."

However, that blend of student-athletes changes every year as students graduate or leave.

This year, the softball program and the men's and women's basketball and cross country programs will reach the end of their fourth year, and players who have been on the teams since the start will graduate.

To fill that gap, Assistant Men's Basketball Coach Ryan Wall looks for qualities in recruits that he's found important in his experience playing and coaching.

He said he looks for someone who is "coachable, hard-working, passionate, [and] competitive," but for him, "the main thing is relationship building and being genuine."

Once they find students possessing the right mix of skills, coaches and athletes still have to complete many more steps.

Student-athletes have to complete the usual university admissions processes, as well as meeting ensuring NAIA eligibility. The coaches help along the way to ensure no paperwork problems keep a student from playing.

One hurdle student-athletes face is financial aid.

Like other students, athletes have to fund their education through a variety of sources. If academic and institutional scholarships, along with outside scholarships and grants, aren't enough to cover the cost of attending, coaches have to decide how much to invest, Hank said.

No student-athletes receive full scholarships from the athletic program.

Hank noted that the athletic program is paid for with tuition dollars and actually brings in money.

"If you were to look at it on a spreadsheet...we show a positive revenue to the university's bottom line," Hank said.

And that surpasses Hank's financial goal for the program

LOVENOTES

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY FROM D.J. TO ALL FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS

To: Alysha Blanco

I only think of you when I'm breathing.

- Bruno Horwath

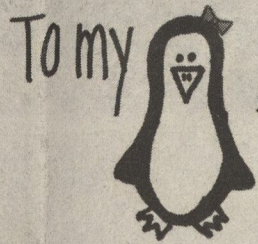
Happy Valentines Day!

To: ALL THE GIRLS CRUMPTON I LOVE - Cathy, Bonnie, Becca, Abigail & Sara Jo -Awpah

The only way to have a friend is to be one.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

TRiO will always be your friend!



To my

I love you more than 'y' needs 'x'.

- Jeppuy

TO MY WONDERFUL HUSBAND OF 33 YEARS. I LOVE YOU TODAY AND EVERYDAY.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S -JACKIE

parte diei tu optimus. vos diligent! felix valentines die!

Eres lo mejor que me ha pasado en mi vida. I love you!

Best of luck KDchi Beta's keep it...

classy.

- Selina

Write your own LOVENOTE below and give it to your loved one!