<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The scholar with social work in her DNA</th>
<th>Cinco de Mayo</th>
<th>Batter up</th>
<th>Sexual assault in the social media world</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OLLU graduating senior Nuria A. Diallo Padro is recognized for her practice in social work in and out of the classroom</td>
<td>Celebrating Cinco de Mayo in San Antonio</td>
<td>Major League Baseball is back after a lockout</td>
<td>TikTok star Jack Wright speaks out about his sexual assault</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Page 2

Page 9

Page 12

Page 15

---

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**2022 Spring graduating class**
The scholar with social work in her DNA

OLLU graduating senior Nuria A. Diallo Padro is recognized for her practice in social work in and out of the classroom

By Destinee Roberts

SAN ANTONIO – Graduating with a master’s degree in social work at Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU), Nuria A. Diallo Padro is a mentor, faculty member and social worker who used willing determination to assist members of the OLLU community and influence academic success.

Current President of the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) Chapter at OLLU and former coordinator for the McNair Scholars Program, Diallo Padro, used her education and business administration background to encourage students to use academic resources and advantages that can expand their college endeavors. In addition, Diallo Padro empowered students throughout the OLLU community to embrace their capabilities and strengths.

Diallo Padro received her Bachelor of Science in rehabilitation services and later graduated with a master’s in education and business administration. On May 6, Diallo Padro will receive her master’s degree in social work for Hispanic children and families from OLLU.

Diallo Padro has practiced her leadership, business proficiency and social working through prominent roles inside multiple organizations around San Antonio. Diallo Padro is a current member of the following:
• President of The National Society of Leadership and Success, OLLU Chapter in San Antonio, Texas.
• Programming Chair of Penn State Social Equity Alumni (SEA) Network, College of Education in University Park, Pennsylvania.
• Disability Issues Caucus Reviewer and Member of the National Communication Association in San Antonio, Texas.
• Steering Committee for Business and Engineering Tracks for Girls Global Academy Public Charter School in Washington D.C.

Using her personal experiences in promoting access to equity, diversity and inclusion via social, economic justice and community economic development has allowed Diallo Padro to influence marginalized communities for a social cause and advocate for Hispanic citizens within San Antonio.

“Social work practice is a way of life for me,” Diallo Padro said.

Diallo Padro said that since being at OLLU she had used her social work practice as a graduate assistant, employee, social work intern and community member. From guiding her mentees to avoiding marketing schemes to assisting members of homelessness towards receiving a college degree, Diallo Padro provides for people within her community.

“Whether I was innovating new ways to engage middle school adolescents in a Title 1 school during my foundation year practicum or teaching McNair Scholars about the graduate admissions process, I was always available to address the factors and barriers in their lives that impacted their personal and academic goals,” Diallo Padro said.

Diallo Padro’s involvement in a Title 1 school gave her an understanding of the lack of resources middle school adolescents undergo and carried her skills in mentorship to OLLU.

“I have been honored each time a student entrusted me to discuss and explore the barriers and traumas they were facing to move forward on their academic goals,” Diallo Padro said.

Diallo Padro wants to continue serving and empowering her community through her work to empower vulnerable and marginalized populations. With the support of OLLU, graduating senior Diallo Padro will fulfill her social-work endeavors.

“Social work is a way of life for me.”

Nuria A. Diallo Padro, President of the National Society of Leadership and Success
Celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week

By Gabriel Cook

SAN ANTONIO - Teacher Appreciation Week is a week-long celebration recognizing teachers and their contributions to education and society. This year, Teacher Appreciation Week falls from May 2, 2022, through May 6, 2022.

Local teachers at Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) and nearby schools in San Antonio are persevering through challenges while making a difference in their students’ lives.

“OLLU felt like the right place to be. I wanted to help people find their place,” Antoinette Winstead, Professor of Drama and Mass Communication at OLLU, said.

Teachers Appreciation Week offers students and families an opportunity to show their appreciation and gratitude for the things teachers do for them.

One of the most significant role models in a person’s life can be standing right in front of the classroom. Teachers are people to look up to and emulate. It is good to reflect on the importance well-educated, quality teachers play in shaping people of the world.

Winstead is a professor who has collected an impressive amount of experience and education in Mass Communications. Her journey into the profession has led her to share her expertise and knowledge with her students at OLLU.

“It wasn’t my plan. It just sort of happened,” Winstead said. “I was in a graduate course here at OLLU earning a second master’s degree; after giving a lecture in my class the next day, my professor asked me if I wanted to be a professor.”

OLLU has a smaller-sized community compared to other colleges around Texas and San Antonio, giving it the ability to provide students with opportunities they could potentially miss out on at larger institutions.

Students at OLLU are given a rare opportunity to have a one-on-one experience with professors who are professionals in their field. The smaller student body means the majority will have access to resources, opportunities and the tools necessary for young professionals in society.

“I feel that the students that sit in my classrooms are getting a preparation for the rest of their lives,” said Winstead. “They are getting the hands-on experience in their production and writing course, and as long as they continue to grow and pursue, I think there is nothing they can’t do.”

Outside of OLLU and inside an elementary school, another teacher creates environments and resources for his students to help them reach their optimal success in life.

“[I have worked extensively in the Exercise Science and Strength & Conditioning fields for years and have always enjoyed creating a culture that allowed people to learn, adapt, grow, and have fun using health and movement,” Chris Buckley, Physical Education teacher at Harmony Elementary said. “When given the opportunity after Grad school to move into Public Education, it was something I jumped at the opportunity to do.”

“[There had to be constant communication throughout the day, and the hours were extended to ensure that everyone had the same opportunity as their classmate],” said Buckley. “It was an extremely challenging time for educators and without a doubt a challenge for the students as well.”

This year, Teachers Appreciation Week highlights all the teachers who took on the pandemic challenge and continued to devote their efforts to improving student’s lives by helping them grow inside and out of the classroom.

Celebrating Teachers Appreciation Week can be done through simple expressions of gratitude that do not have to be costly to show teachers that they are valued.

Organize a virtual in-class surprise, record a thank-you video, email a digital gift card, post a social media shout-out or give a simple handwritten note.

In honor of this special week in May, find a way to thank an educator for their contributions to education and society.
Sophia Mora, athlete and Lake Front News’ Editor-in-Chief, leaves a legacy in the OLLU community amid graduation

By Paris Quintanilla

SAN ANTONIO- Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) public relations major with a minor in multimedia journalism student, Sophia Mora, is set to graduate this May. She will walk the stage with the many accomplishments and contributions she has made to the university, its faculty and students.

After successfully graduating from Incarnate Word High School, Mora made her way to OLLU in 2018. Among many reasons, a significant factor in Mora’s decision to attend OLLU was the opportunity to play soccer.

“I came to OLLU for soccer,” Mora said. “That was always my biggest passion, and behind school, it was my number one priority.”

Additionally, the university’s film program was also of interest to Mora as she had hopes of pursuing a career as a film editor. But once she enrolled in a few journalism classes, things changed, and she realized that she had a stronger passion for something else other than film.

“I started out as a film major and I really enjoyed it, but something was still missing,” Mora said. “It wasn’t until after I took advanced newsgathering and spoke to one of my professors about public relations that I knew I needed to change majors.”

As Mora grew closer to what she was truly passionate about, she decided to change her major from digital film and multimedia production to public relations.

“After graduation, I am most looking forward to finding a job that I truly love. I think now being sure of myself and what I enjoy doing will make finding a role that I love that much easier,” Mora said. “I look forward to that ‘this is it’ moment when I get my dream job.”

Mora is optimistic about her future and hopes to obtain a job in sports journalism or public relations. Her passion for soccer makes her want to work for the San Antonio FC one day, which would allow her the opportunity to combine her interests with her profession.

“Mora’s drive and determination were also sources of inspiration for her team members to find their own passions.”

“Sophia introduced me to the Lake Front and gave me the opportunity to write and learn,” Lake Front News digital executive editor, Samantha Benne said. “She’s a big reason why I decided to take on a double major in communications specializing in public relations.”

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Mora leaves advice for the upcoming first-year students and even future EICs as she soon embarks on her new journey after OLLU.

“My biggest piece of advice will always be don’t procrastinate,” Mora said. “Having your work done early not only relieves you of the stress of turning something in on time, but it also allows you the extra time to go over assignments and make sure they are at the highest quality they can be.”

Mora will continue to be an inspiration to the OLLU community as she makes her mark in other parts of the world in the years to come.

Besides her contributions to the Lake Front News, Mora has also reached several other milestones during her time at OLLU. She has been a Dean’s List student, a Hispanic scholarship recipient, a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics scholar-athlete, an ambassador for the Jesse Borrego event hosted by OLLU’s mass communication department and was named to the Red River Athletic Conference second team in 2021.

Mora has made a mark on the OLLU community through her leadership and persistence. Therefore, after four years of contentious effort, it is finally time for her to graduate and begin life outside of OLLU.

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Senior highlights

Josh’s main motivation to come to OLLU was athletics and the location. As an England native, he was excited for the warmer weather. His favorite memory at OLLU was winning the conference title with the golf team and making an appearance at nationals his freshman year.

Joshua Sturt, finance major

Seeing her uncle graduate from OLLU was a huge factor in Sydney’s decision to attend the school. After her uncle gave her a tour of the school, she fell in love and knew OLLU was where she wanted to go. Her favorite memory at OLLU is the friend group she made along the way.

Sydney Rodriguez, mass communications major

Olivia’s desire to leave her hometown and continue her soccer career were the biggest motivators in choosing to attend OLLU. Olivia’s senior day with the women’s soccer team out at the field is her favorite memory. She really enjoyed seeing everything come full circle.

Olivia Eaglson, accounting, finance and management triple major

Selena’s great grandmother who once worked at OLLU was the main reason she decided to attend the school. She felt connected to her great grandmother after touring the school and has even met people who remember working with her. Selena’s favorite memory at OLLU was the school’s disability center aiding her in the creation of epilepsy awareness events.

Selena Bernal, biology major
Oscar chose to attend OLLU for the beautiful campus and the welcoming department of math and science. His favorite OLLU memory is working for the department of chemistry and physical sciences. Oscar felt that working under Dr. Charles Smith and Dr. Teresita Munguia made him a better student and a better person over the years.

*Oscar Rivera, biology major*

Sacnite was attracted to OLLU’s core values as she felt they aligned with her own and overall felt the school’s community was the best fit for her. Her favorite memory was meeting her now best friend, fellow OLLU Student, Gisselle Casarrubias on the first week of her freshman year.

*Sacnite Alexa Blanco, psychology and Spanish double major*

Sofia chose to come to OLLU based on the great education program and what she believed to be a very welcoming community. Her favorite memory at OLLU is having class with her wonderful friends.

*Sofia Colorado, interdisciplinary studies EC - 6th grade*

Andreas decided to attend OLLU for the teaching program. One thing he wished he knew as a freshman, was to apply for all the scholarship he could. Andreas’ favorite memory from OLLU was the annual Casino nights.

*Andreas Cortez, mathematics major with secondary certification*
SAN ANTONIO—Graduation day is right around the corner, and students at Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) are to begin their new lives outside of school.

Graduation day is exciting, but it can also be stressful. In the midst of finding a job, there is a possibility that students may be overwhelmed with the process.

By planning and preparing for their careers, students can be confident about life after graduation.

“I’d always recommend students to first visit The Center for Career Development and Testing (CCDT) since this is a free resource to students and alumni,” Career Advisor for College and Professional Studies, Lucero Villarreal said. “We provide in-person and virtual appointments for resume reviews, job search strategies, interview preparation, career exploration and we even have a career closet where you can borrow professional attire for interviews or other professional events.”

With the help of CCDT and its faculty, students have access to resources, guidance and information they need for finding a job, learning what employers are looking for or enhancing their professional skills.

According to careeronestop.org, a good resume has the power to open doors and give the applicant an opportunity to showcase their qualities and strengths. Students and alumni can schedule a personal meeting with a career advisor, either in person or virtually, to get assistance with their resumes or cover letters that will grab the attention of future employers and recruiters.

“Before recent grads begin applying, they must have a professional resume and a professional LinkedIn or Handshake profile,” Villarreal said. “If you’re not getting calls back, that means there may be an issue with your resume or your online presence.”

Compared to LinkedIn, Handshake is tailored for OLLU students. Student users can use Handshake to find local and national job openings, and when employers post a job opening, it’s because they’re specifically looking for OLLU students to hire. By using their OLLU email, students can create an account at ollusa.joinhandshake.com.

Along with a strong resume, it is also important for students to further develop the professional skills that are necessary to secure jobs.

“The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) lists problem-solving skills, analytical skills and the ability to work well in a team as the top three attributes that employers are seeking in a candidate’s resume,” Villarreal said.

A student who has never held a job or internship can still take advantage of the CCDT’s services by scheduling a preparation appointment, which helps students identify the skills and knowledge potential employers seek.

“Whether or not you’ve had an internship or a part-time job while in school, odds are that you’ve gained these skills in the classroom,” Villarreal said. “Our office provides interview preparation appointments for students and alumni so we can gladly help you figure out how to translate your work experience and classroom experience for a job interview.”

If a student is interested in further developing their professional skills to include in their resumes, volunteering is a way to do so.

“Volunteer work is another great way to gain skills because often these organizations give you the flexibility you need to manage your work/life balance,” Villarreal said. “Through certain volunteer opportunities, you can learn new skills or gain new experience that might make you a more well-rounded job candidate.”

Students may use the CCDT to begin preparing for their future endeavors and will be around long after they graduate.

“Former students are always welcome at our office so tell your friends, siblings or cousins who graduated last semester, three years ago or 15 years ago,” Villarreal said. “We’re here for all of you.”

To reach the CCDT office, one can email ccdt@ollusa.edu or call them at 210-528-7134.
WHAT'S NEXT...
Escobedo School of Mass Communication and Theater's 2nd Annual Mass Commference.

25 April 2022 through 27 April 2022

THREE-DAY EVENT

Public Relations | 25 April 2022
Multimedia Journalism | 26 April 2022
Digital Film & Theater | 27 April 2022

About this Commference
How did the pandemic affect the world of mass communication? Three speakers a day will give their insight into how their particular industry has changed over the last couple of years during the pandemic. In addition, each day consists of a training seminar that will provide attendees with valuable training in the particular industry covered that day.
Celebrating Cinco de Mayo in San Antonio

By Gisselle Casarrubias

SAN ANTONIO- The Mexican holiday, Cinco de Mayo, commemorates the date of the Mexican army’s defeat over France at the Battle of Puebla.

During the 1960’s Chicano activists raised awareness specifically to this event as it involved the victory of indigenous Mexicans over European invaders. Since then, the commemoration has evolved in the United States as a celebration of the country’s culture and heritage; with Americans often confusing the holiday with Mexico’s Independence Day.

The City of San Antonio celebrates the event with parades, parties, Mexican folk dancing, mariachi music, and traditional food. San Antonians can celebrate a day of Mexican heritage by coming down to one of these local events:

Cinco de Mayo Festival

The Cinco de Mayo Fest is a family-friendly event taking place on May 7 from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Mission County Park. The event will feature food trucks, vendors, live entertainment, a car show, and a salsa cook-off competition. Hosted on the Southside of San Antonio, its only right to bring out vendors from Southside owned businesses like LuchaLibre Tacos y Mas and Texas Bearded cartel. Vendors will be participating and selling a wide selection of delicious Mexican cuisine and treats, so don’t miss out! Attendees who wish to participate in the car show must register between 7:30 a.m.-10 a.m. at the registration set up. For participants who want to enter the salsa cook-off, contact Arturo Chavarria at 210-833-1052.

All profits made from those booths, along with raffles and donations during the show, will go towards a scholarship for economically disadvantaged seniors who show proof of attendance at any college, university, or technical school.

“The Harlandale Education Foundation (HEF) hopes to create a college-going community by offering $625 or $1,250 scholarship to every Harlandale High, McCollum High, STEM Early College or Frank Tejeda Academy graduate” said event coordinator, Hendry Chavarria.

Attendees can support the San Antonio youth and celebrate this holiday by bringing your family on this all-day festivity. To find out more about the festival, visit the Live From The Southside website where the event’s agenda is posted along with performance line-up.

Cinco de Mayo Happy Hour

On May 5 from 5 p.m.-7 p.m., the authentic Zocca Cuisine D’Italia, located on the river level right below the Westin Riverwalk, will be hosting an evening of live music and giveaways. Attendees must be 21+ and registered to participate in the event, so arrive on time for the registration party from 4 p.m.-6p.m.

Tickets also include two Patron frozen margaritas, chips and queso, and valet parking. Attendees will also get the chance to mix their drink on the margarita bike blender.

For more information regarding this event visit their Eventbrite link.

Cinco de Drinko

Join Top Shelf Crawls for the official Cinco De Drinko Bar Crawl on April 30 from 4 p.m. to May 1 at 1 a.m. for a night of celebration. Tickets can be purchased on the event’s Eventbrite Link with prices ranging from $17-$22 depending on how early they’re purchased. Also, attendees must be 21+ and registered to participate in the event, so arrive on time for the registration party from 4 p.m.-6p.m.

Souvenir beads and souvenir koozies will be handed out along with a bracelet. The bracelet will grant access to exclusive drink specials, taco specials at select venues, and no cover fees.

For more information on Cinco De Drinko visit the page where tickets can also be purchased.
Easter Events in San Antonio

By Gisselle Casarrubias

SAN ANTONIO- Egg-cited for Easter this year? Here are some events San Antonio peeps can participate in.

Easter Eggstravaganza at Emmazing Play

Make like the Easter Bunny and hop the way down to Emmazing Play for the 4th Annual Easter Eggstravaganza on April 17 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free for two adult guests and $20 per child.

The fee covers the egg hunt at 1 p.m., including open play, photos, arcade games, complimentary coffee and Wi-Fi. Socks are required for all guests and will be available for purchase on-site for $4.

There will be eggs-actly 40 tickets available, so be the some-bunny that gets their tickets on time.

For more information on the event and to purchase tickets, visit their Eventbrite link.

Easter Egg Hunt at the Transportation Museum

Join the Texas Transportation Museum on April 9 for their annual Easter Egg Hunt. Admission to the egg hunt is included in the museum’s $10 adult fee and $8 for children ages 4-12.

There will be two egg hunts for different age groups; the first one for ages three and under at 11 a.m., and the second for children ages 4-7 will begin at noon. Participants must bring their own baskets to collect eggs.

The museum will be open to all, and visitors will be able to take unlimited trips on the full-size train. The Easter bunny will hop by the event, so guests are encouraged to bring their cameras and take pictures. There will also be kid-friendly snacks sold that people of all ages can enjoy.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the entrance of the museum. Visit the San Antonio Kids and About website for more information on this event.

Easter Egg Hunt at the University of the Incarnate Word

Meet the Easter bunny on April 2 at the annual Easter Egg Hunt hosted by the Alumni and Parent Relations Department. This free event will have activities and games for children of all ages to enjoy starting at 10 a.m., followed by the egg hunt at 11 a.m.

To secure a spot in this egg-citing event, RSVP on the UIW website.

Festival de Cascarones at Texas A&M University

UTSA will be hosting the annual Festival de Cascarones on April 10 from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is free for this family-friendly event where guests can enjoy live music, food, games and fun.

There will also be a Kids Zone available for the young attendees and free face paintings.

Pets can also join the fun but must be kept on their leash at all times.

For information updates on live performances, entertainment, and activities, visit the UTSA website.

Easter Paws Run at The Runners Ranch

Furry friends have a chance to participate in Easter activities at the Runners Ranch for the 8th annual 1.75-mile run/walk on April 17. The race will be from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., but attendees must arrive from 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. for their packet pick-up.

No vet on site will be available; therefore, canines must have their medical records up to date.

Tickets can be purchased for $25 until April 16 but will also be sold on the race day for $30. At the end of the race, there will be an award ceremony for the top 3 male and female dogs, so begin eggs-exercising with your pup for the big day.

To sign up for this event, visit the RaceThread website.
Make a difference

Observing National Volunteer Month in April

By Gabriel Cook

SAN ANTONIO- In the United States, April is National Volunteer Month, which celebrates volunteers’ contributions and encourages active volunteerism for generations to come.

National Volunteer Month is an extension to National Volunteer Week. This particular week was first held in Canada in 1943. It was dedicated to honoring the contributions of women during World War II, who collected supplies and helped wounded soldiers.

National Volunteer Month and Week first debuted in the United States in 1974 and was made official worldwide in 1990.

Most volunteers go unpaid and generously donate a part of their time to do the work that other individuals pass on, whether it be cleaning up after an event, fostering shelter dogs or helping a librarian.

According to the National Today Website, volunteering takes people to places and introduces them to new vocations. Studies also show that volunteering decreases levels of depression by creating feelings of happiness and empathy.

Research also shows that 96% of volunteers believe that volunteering makes them happier and are more likely to answer questions positively if they have recently volunteered.

The best volunteer opportunities in San Antonio in 2022:
• San Antonio Sports
• Soldiers’ Angels
• Green Beret Foundation
• San Antonio Humane Society
• Chromosome 18 Registry and Research Society
• The Heart Smiles
• Guide Dogs of Texas
• Grace Through Faith Ministries.

There are about 1.8 million non-profit organizations in the United States alone, which means the opportunity to volunteer is close to never-ending.

If one is searching for a volunteer opportunity but has no idea where to start, Volunteermatch.org is a website that matches users to volunteer opportunities with over 99,000 participating nonprofit organizations.

Photo by: istockphoto.com
SAN ANTONIO- The Major League Baseball (MLB) season begins on April 7 with an entire 162 game season after 99 days of a lockout.

As a result of the expiration of the 2016 collective bargaining agreement (CLB) on December 2, 2021, MLB owners unanimously voted to enact a lockout because the lack of an updated labor agreement with the players for the start of the 2022 season.

Due to MLB management’s suspension of work, a halt to baseball was implemented as players were denied access to team facilities, trades were suspended, and all free agency processes were held up.

The new five-year CLB agreement that MLB club owners settled will eliminate alleged service-time manipulation, create a new pre-arbitration bonus pool to reward young players, raise competitive balance tax thresholds, etc.

Additionally, due to the new agreement, there will be a few rule changes on the field. Among those changes include the requirement of a designated hitter, a change in the batting order that will not involve pitchers, the elimination of seven-inning doubleheaders, and an end to runners on second base in extra inning.

Beginning in 2023, the MLB will also establish a Joint Competition Committee comprised of four active players, six MLB-appointed members, and one umpire, who will decide on future changes.

Following the agreement over the updated CLB and regulations, MLB players and fans look forward to baseball returning, with many expressing their excitement on social media.

When the lockout ended, Houston Astros Alex Bregman tweeted, “See y’all soon,” with a plane emoji, while Chicago White Sox Gavin Sheets tweeted, “Today is a good day.”

Baseball fans can tune into this year’s games on Apple TV. This season, Apple TV and MLB are bringing fans “Friday Night Baseball,” a weekly double-header and post-game programming. Viewers can also access “marquee games” without broadcast restrictions.

Fans can also access MLB games through ESPN, FSI and TBS live broadcasts via Hulu + Live TV.

The 2022 MLB season will end on Sunday, October 2.
SAN ANTONIO – Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) Athletic Director, Shane Hurly, has made great strides in the 2021-2022 school year in upgrading and improving the OLLU Athletic Department.

Hurly has been working to elevate the OLLU Athletic Department in several ways. He has upgraded facilities and added new sports, for instance, the dance team, to increase the OLLU athletics presence and give students more opportunities.

“Athletics at OLLU means so much to me and to the coaches of the sports we have in the department,” Hurly said. “It is always a good day to go to work when you know the university (faculty, staff and administration) across the board is supportive of athletics. The coaches and I appreciate it.”

Hurly has renovated the softball field. He added grandstand ADA-Compliant bleachers, redid the field, added batting and pitching cages, added branding throughout the area, installed a new scoreboard and a self-reliant sound system.

Hurly has also renovated the soccer field. He added fencing throughout, redid the field, added a shaded team area, installed ADA-compliant bleachers and added an interactive video/audio scoreboard.

Hurly also upgraded OLLU’s gymnasium by refurbishing the gym floor and installing a new scoreboard.

“Now that we have someone dedicated solely to the organization and day-to-day operations of the athletic department, things have been great.” Arthur Salazar, OLLU’s men and women’s head soccer coach, said. “Shane has been able to put all his attention into the needs of the various programs while continuing to grow the Athletic Department.”

Beyond just improving the athletic facilities and establishing new sports teams at OLLU, the Athletic Department is also planning for future additions.

“We are currently adding a Drumline to enhance campus events and represent us in local opportunities and exhibitions,” Hurly said. “Its success will help us gauge possible future interest and sustainability of a potentially larger band, and personally, I think it will play a significant part in fostering ‘spirit’ at events, something our dance and cheer teams have done very well also.”

Hurly is also looking into developing an E-Gaming program, either as a part of OLLU Athletics or a part of campus recreation.

“I want to see our department continue to grow, not only in teams but administratively. It is important that we improve our ability to service this population in a manner that improves the experiences of everyone and fosters greater retention and vibrancy across the campus.”
Back to the top

The magical comeback season for OLLU women’s basketball

By Gabriel Cook

San Antonio- Due to the Pandemic, the Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) Saints women’s basketball team did not participate in the 2020-2021 season. This year the team came back to prove that they were the best team in their conference.

The preseason rankings for the Red River Athletic Conference (RRAC) had the Saints ranked number 2. After tackling the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) top 25-ranked teams OLLU started the preseason with a 3-9 record.

After their first conference win against Huston-Tillotson University (HTU), the Saints fell to Saint Ambrose University, and from that point on the saints would not lose another regular season game.

Under the direction of first-year Head Coach Jillian Flores Bennett and second-year Assistant Coach Tommy Turgeon, the women would go on a magical 13 game winning streak.

Last season for the first time in OLLU’s history since beginning competing in 2009-2010, the Saints would miss the RRAC Championship Tournament.

This year the saints came back to complete an undefeated RRAC regular season with a 14-0 record, going on to win the postseason tournament by defeating Louisiana State University in Shreveport (LSUS) on March 1 in the championship game 65-57.

As the conference champions, the Saints received an automatic bid to the 41st annual National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Division 1 Women’s Basketball Tournament. Making it the 10th time OLLU has made a trip to Nationals.

As the 14th seed in the NAIA National Tournament on March 11, the OLLU women’s basketball team lost to the 3rd seed Wayland Baptist University (WBU) 89-68, in the Duer Bracket of the NAIA National Championship Opening Round in Plainview Texas.

OLLU’s national run was cut short but they did prove this year that they were the best in conference, a tribute to the coaching and the play from the tremendous talent and skill on the team.

For the Saints, Senior Guard, Keviona Barber was named RRAC Player of the Year, All America Honorable Mention and member of the All-Conference First Team. Barber averaged a team-high 17.3 points per game during the regular season.

Junior Guard, Natalia Trevino was awarded the RRAC MVP award for her play throughout the postseason tournament, where she averaged 19.3 points per game and had a 49.5 shooting percentage.

Also for the Saints, Senior Forward Emiko Hemphill, Sophomore Guard Cormia Lewis and Junior Center Makayla White were selected to the All-Conference Honorable Mention Team.

In her first year as head coach and first with OLLU, Flores was named Coach of the Year and led the team to a 20-11 overall record.

For this team the Pandemic’s unfortunate effect on the 2020-2021 season, proved to be some type of inspiration for an incredible 2021-2022 season for the OLLU Saints women’s basketball team.
SAN ANTONIO - TikTok star Jack Wright expressed to social media users about being a victim of sexual assault in January against former friend and fellow TikTok star Sienna Mae Gomez.

Using the social media platform YouTube, Wright posted a video on January 20 that exposed the previous accounts of sexual assault performed by Mae within the two years of their friendship. Wright’s video is titled “what sienna mae did to me.” Wright also raised awareness of sexual assault when explaining his mental trauma after Mae’s multiple encounters.

Since May 2021, Wright and his fellow friends have shared several allegations of sexual assault against Mae. Although both TikTok stars never confirmed their relationship, many videos and clips showed them hugging, kissing and complimenting each other dating back to October 2020. The first accusation against Mae was on May 30, 2021, by a friend of Wright named Mason Rizzo, when he posted a screenshot from a notes app that documented a significant amount of dialogue of which Mae was verbally abusive to Wright. Mae denied those allegations; however, Jack Wright confirmed them at the beginning of this year.

Wright has also used Instagram and YouTube to advocate for victims of sexual assault and speak out because those victims may be able to encourage other victims to raise awareness.

According to the Rain, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) website, the organization is considered the largest anti-sexual violence organization in the United States. RAINN works alongside the National Assault Hotline, allowing accessibility to thousands of communities across the country. Additionally, RAINN provides multiple programs to prohibit sexual abuse, rape culture, and intimate partner violence while ensuring victims’ protection and justice.

Since the controversy surrounding both TikTok influencers, media users within the TikTok platform have challenged the silence of this controversy by enlightening audiences about Mae’s allegations and raising awareness against sexual assault.

1-800-656-4673
Selena Day

The life of Tejano singer Selena Quintanilla continues to be celebrated more than 25 years after her death

By Adrianna Ramirez

SAN ANTONIO – March 31, 2022, marks 27 years since Tejano singer Selena Quintanilla was killed by her fan club president Yolanda Saldívar. Quintanilla continues to live on in the hearts of her fans as many continue to celebrate her legacy, which has lasted for almost three decades and shows no signs of going away.

The incident ended the singer’s life on March 31, 1995, just days before her 24th birthday on April 16, but her birthday continues to be celebrated and honored 25 years later. President George W. Bush, who was the governor of Texas at the time, declared Selena Day, a state holiday in Texas, in celebration of Selena’s influence on Texas culture.

San Antonio celebrates Selena Day with several events. The dates for these events have not yet been released, but these are the typical events that San Antonio holds on Selena Day.

- Selena Night at the Good Time Charlie’s Bar and Grill
- Selena exhibit at the McNay Art Museum
- Selena celebration at the Industry Nightclub
- Selena tribute at the Brass Monkey Bar

San Antonio local Natalie Perez celebrated Selena day in 2021 by attending Selena Night at The Good Kind South town restaurant. “It was a great event that warmed my heart. All those in attendance loved Selena as much as I did as the event commemorated her life from birth to death,” Perez said.

If one cannot attend a Selena Day event, they can still remember her by watching the “Selena” movie starring Jennifer Lopez on Amazon Prime.

Those who want to remember Selena can listen to her Spotify playlists featuring a variety of her songs.

Stay up to date with future event dates by following “San Antonio things to do” on Facebook.

Texas anti-transgender directive

Texas Governor’s directive is the latest anti-trans measure the state has attempted to pass

By Samantha Benne

SAN ANTONIO – Republican Governor Greg Abbott, seven days before the Grand Old Party (GOP) primary election where he was accused of not being conservative enough, ordered Child Protective Services (CPS) to investigate any reports of transgender children receiving hormone treatment.

On Feb 22, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) opened its first investigation into a family of a transgender teenager who received gender-affirming medical treatment under the directive from Texas Governor Greg Abbott.

This investigation has sparked a nationwide outcry and condemnation from the LGBTQIA+ community.

“Governor Abbott’s order on Trans kids is an order that is harmful to the trans community of Texas,” Mason Garcia, a 21-year-old student at Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU), said. “Trans kids barely have parents who even love them anymore after coming out. Those who do have loving and supporting parents should be able to start transitioning when they like. They know how they feel, and just because they’re a kid doesn’t mean it’s wrong – it means it’s honest and real.”

This is just the newest anti-transgender measure from Texas, which had a record number of anti-transgender bills introduced to Texas’ House and Senate just last year.

“All these laws suppressing trans youth are very insensitive. It is already hard enough to be trans,” Garcia said. “The laws are making it even harder in ways that are unnecessary. Let them be themselves.”

The American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics and many other groups released statements denouncing Texas for seeking to block transgender youth from accessing proper medical treatment.

In addition, following Abbott’s letter, multiple district attorneys throughout Texas expressed that they would not be investigating medical providers or parents. The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) had also announced they would work to protect the rights of transgender children in Texas.

“The good thing is that a lot of people are fighting for the rights that we all deserve, and it is good to see all the support,” OLLU soccer player, Ezra Vales said. “But it can also cause internal phobia within trans youth, and it is something they should not have to feel for being who they are.”

For those in the LGBTQIA+ community who require mental health assistance, call The Trevor Project’s 24/7/365 toll-free line number at 1-866-488-7386.
Several ways one can help Ukraine during Russian attacks

By Paris Quintanilla

SAN ANTONIO - Due to the Russian invasion that has left thousands of Ukrainians dead, homeless, and separated from their families, many people around the world feel compelled to support Ukraine during this difficult time.

Those interested in helping can do so in several ways:

**Doctors Without Borders**

An organization called Doctors Without Borders provides medical care during humanitarian crises. Despite the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, some doctors have decided to stay behind to assist those who are in need of medical attention.

Donations will provide hospital staff with emergency medicines, casualty kits, and more training to prepare them for what lies ahead.

**Voices of Children**

The Voices of Children charity is based in Ukraine and has served the psychological and psychosocial needs of children affected by wars in Eastern Europe since 2015.

Due to the recent attacks by Russia on Ukraine, Voices of Children has provided emergency psychological assistance and helped children and families relocate to safer locations.

The donated funds will be put to various uses within the foundation that ultimately benefit the children and families at a time when they need aid more than ever.

**Kyiv Independent**

Kyiv Independent is an English-language newspaper that has continued to operate and publish despite unprecedented attacks coming from Russia.

**Sunflower of Peace**

Sunflower of Peace is an organization based in Boston that has helped provide medical supplies to frontline doctors. These backpacks are now being given to Ukrainian soldiers and citizens that have been affected by the several Russian attacks in the country.

The donations will be used to fill each backpack with medical supplies, such as bandages, gloves, and ibuprofen, for five to 10 people in need.

**Vostok SOS**

As a non-governmental organization, Vostok SOS provides assistance to victims of military aggression throughout Eastern Europe.

Amidst the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, Vostok SOS has prioritized helping people evacuate, providing humanitarian aid and offering psychosocial support.

The donations will allow for the continuation of medical and humanitarian aid.

**Nova Ukraine**

Nova Ukraine is an American non-profit that has worked closely with Ukrainian organizations. It is currently assembling supply packages for people in Ukraine in need of basic supplies.

The donated funds will be used to provide diapers, baby food, medical supplies and dry foods to children and adults in need.

**International Committee of the Red Cross**

The International Committee of the Red Cross has been collaborating with the Ukrainian Red Cross Society to improve its ability to meet humanitarian needs in Ukraine during the ongoing conflict that Russia has inflicted on the country.

Donations will be used to provide emergency assistance such as emergency food, water, medical equipment, and emergency preparedness to hospitals and healthcare facilities.

The organization is also working to fix damaged water stations and homes to ultimately reunite families.

**UN Refugee Agency**

UN Refugee Agency is an international agency that has devoted resources to providing emergency assistance to Ukrainian families.

Donations will be used to provide cash assistance and resettlement opportunities for Ukrainian citizens to live in the United States.

**UNICEF**

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has been providing assistance to world’s children in need for over eight decades.

Under the unprecedented conditions in Ukraine, UNICEF placed a special focus on nutrition, HIV prevention, education, psychosocial care, sanitation, and protection for children and families.

**The Nigerians in Diaspora Organization Europe**

Nigerians in Diaspora Organization (NIDO) Europe has created resources to help support those trying to leave Ukraine, including a survival list.

The resources include maps, phone numbers for transportation and evacuation plans for those who are undocumented.
May the Fourth Be With You

Celebrating Star Wars Day in Texas

By Sophia Mora

SAN ANTONIO – In celebration of the intergalactic pseudo-holiday for “Star Wars” on May 4, organizations and establishments throughout the state of Texas have developed different events and specials to celebrate the seemingly universal love for all things “Star Wars.”

1. San Antonio RoadRunners (SARR) May the 4th Be With You Run – San Antonio, Tx

The SARR will host the May the 4th Be With You Run from 6:30-8 p.m. on May 4 and May 18 at McAllister Park-Pavillion #2 13298 Buckhorn Rd, San Antonio, TX 78247. There are multiple events that individuals may participate in including a four or two mile run either in person or virtual. There is also a 400-yard fun run for children, but it is only offered for in person participants. Registration is open until May 3 at 11:59 p.m. and prices vary based on the event.

2. Lightsaber Pub Crawl – San Antonio, Tx

The Coyote Ugly Saloon will be hosting the Lightsaber Pub Crawl for individuals who are 21 and up from 3-9 p.m. on May 7 at 409 E Commerce St, San Antonio, TX 78205. The first 100 general admission tickets are free and there is $15,000 worth of prizes for their costume contest. General admission tickets include a free cup, koozie and wristband. VIP and super VIP tickets that include a free lightsaber are also available for purchase.

3. Star Wars Trivia at Sylver Spoon – New Braunfels, Tx

The Sylver Spoon is known for its live plays along with its dinner, but on May 4 a new kind of entertainment will take the stage. The Sylver Spoon Dinner Theater, located at 6700 N Interstate 35 New Braunfels, TX 78130, will host a Star Wars Trivia night and dinner in celebration of Star Wars Day. The trivia will take place from 7-9 p.m. on May 4 and it is $10 per ticket.

4. May the 4th Paint Party – Houston, Tx

Primary Paint Party - Prime Art Gallery is hosting a Star Wars themed paint and sip party with the option to cosplay. The paint party is 2-5 p.m. on May 4 and all attendees are welcome and encouraged to come in their Star Wars attire. The gallery is located at 11002 Westheimer Rd, Houston, Tx 77042 and all attendees must have a ticket at $35 a piece. Due to the limited space, RSVPs are required.

5. May the Fourth Be With You at the Helen Hall Library – League City, Tx

The Helen Hall Library is celebrating Star Wars Day with their May the Fourth Be With You event. The event will take place Wednesday, May 4 at 6 p.m. at Helen Hall Library, located at 100 W Walker St League City, Tx 77573. The event is open to all ages and will allow individuals to participate in Star Wars themed crafts and activities.


The Pizza Joint West, located at 7000 Westwind, El Paso, TX 79912, is hosting a free Star Wars event from 5-9 p.m. (CT) on Wednesday, May 4. The event will feature artists, vendors, character appearances, Star Wars trivia and a sabbac tournament. No tickets or RSVPs are necessary and individuals of all ages are welcome.
Introducing

OUR

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