

The Crescent Connection

THE OFFICIAL ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER OF OUR LADY ACADEMY

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From the President...



Sister Jackie Howard, RSM

Have you ever had the experience, when you are traveling, of finding a perfect spot to stay? Usually it is when you least expect it, some out-of-the-way place. It is a place where you just know you'll find yourself – or lose yourself. Years later, you still fondly remember your stay. Have you had that experience? I have; it was about fifteen years ago, when Sister Elisa and I traveled to Penobscot Bay in Maine.

I believe there are special places that just live on inside us long after we have moved on, places that magically warmed our hearts, touched our souls, and helped form us into the people we are today.

For me, OLA is also such a place. I first visited OLA in 1984, when Sister Virginia was principal; I joined the OLA

See Sr. Jackie, page 2

OLA Seniors exceed \$3.6M in scholarships; 89% of class receives offers

Eighty-nine percent of the OLA Class of 2009 has been offered a total of \$3,615,276 in college scholarships. Forty of the 45 seniors who graduated on May 31 received scholarships.

Sarah Holland Bacot, Valedictorian, National Merit Finalist, AP Scholar, and STAR student received a total of \$881,066. She has ac-

cepted an offer from Rhodes College where she will pursue a degree in history.

National Merit Finalist Rachel Courtault received a total of \$588,778 in scholarship offers. She received and accepted the National Merit Bowdin College Scholarship and will pursue a degree in government and legal studies.

Class of 2009 award winners



Pictured from left to right: Sarah Holland Bacot, recipient of the Principal's Cup; Carly Johnson, recipient of the American Legion Award; Taylor Benvenuti, recipient of the Spirit of Mercy Award; Kathleen McKissack, recipient of the Mary Patricia Schmidt Character Cup; Jennifer Roy, recipient of the Achievement Award; and Maddie Michelli, recipient of the Chamber of Commerce Award.

OLA reunites alumnae, parents and friends to raise funds for Catholic education scholarships and academic support

Myrt Haas is 2009 Honoree

Our Lady Academy alumnae, parents, teachers and friends are joining together to roll out the red carpet at the 4th Annual Hooray for OLA on Saturday, November 7th at Hollywood Casino Bay St. Louis. This year, OLA honors



Myrt Haas

Myrt Haas on the 25th Anniversary of her writing of the OLA Alma Mater. The Dinner Committee expects a sell-out crowd so save the date and make plans to attend this festive and memorable event.

This year's theme is "Hooray for Hollywood" complete with red carpets, paparazzi and the big band sounds of the Jimmy Maxwell

Orchestra of New Orleans. The reception starts at 6pm to reunite alumnae, friends, parents and teachers for a sneak peak at the fabulous items featured in the silent auction.

At 7pm, the doors to the ballroom will open to more red carpet treatment during the Awards Dinner in true Oscar style. Following dinner, the dance floor will come to life through the big band sounds of the Orchestra with plenty of oldies but goodies for every age. This year, organizers have added a special area for "Men Only" complete with big screen televisions to broadcast their favorite football games.

Tickets to the fundraising event are \$75 per person. Tables of ten may be reserved for alumnae classes, parents, teachers, friends and sponsors of OLA for \$750 and \$1,200. If you are unable to attend, you may still support the event through a donation or a recognition ad in the program journal.

The dinner committee has set a goal of \$20,000 to raise through this event to support Catholic education scholarships and academic support.

"It is our mission to raise funds through this event to give every young woman who desires to attend Mississippi's only all female Catholic school the opportunity to do so, and to be taught by the very best academic staff," said Myrt Haas.

Myrt Haas, a founding mother of Our Lady Academy, has been an avid supporter of OLA since it was established nearly 40 years ago. Her husband, the late Michael D. Haas and then pastor of OLG, Msgr. Gregory J. Johnson, along with Brother Lee Barker of St. Stanislaus College spear-

headed the drive to establish a Catholic school for girls.

Between her four daughters, Myrt spent nearly 20 years as an active OLA parent and continues her support of OLA as a proud grandparent of four young women. Under the request of Sister Virginia Mancuso, principal in 1984, Myrt gladly took on the task of writing and composing a new alma mater for OLA. Join us as we honor her and raise funds for the continued development of dynamic women on the Mississippi Coast.

OLA would like to thank Steve Hoffmann, husband of Hayden Larroux Hoffmann, '89 for using his graphic design expertise to create the new party logo.

For tickets or more information, call 228-467-7048.



SR. JACKIE *from page 1*

community in 1985. For six wonderful years I served as principal and then responded to a call from the Sisters of Mercy to move to New Orleans (as you know, I have that vow of obedience!). I returned five years ago and have been, once again, serving the school community, first as principal and now as President.

For me, OLA is the place where I found the rhythm in my life, where I found perspective, where I lost myself and found myself. I love OLA; I am passionate about OLA. I hope to spend many more years serving the school community. I don't want to end my career anywhere else. Our young women are the best!

I hope each of you have equally wonderful memories of OLA. I hope your memories of your school years warm your heart, touch your soul, and that you know that OLA helped form you into the wonderful person you are today. You are the BEST!

Scenes from Graduation 2009

OLA Freshman receives Schoen Heier Scholarship

Darby Raybourn, a freshman, received the \$2,000 Schoen Heier Tuition Scholarship at the OLA Awards ceremony in May.

Schoen Heier, an '89 graduate, instituted a special scholarship as a means of helping a worthy student continue her pursuit of a Catholic education at OLA.



Schoen Heier

Heier established the scholarship for a current OLA student who has excelled in academics, leadership, and service to her school and community.

Darby is the president of OLA's Freshman Class. At the awards ceremony, she also received the All A Honor roll award for maintaining a 4.0 GPA for the first three terms of the school year and was recognized as the March Pepsi Student of the Month from her class.

Darby is the daughter of Amy and Darren Raybourn of Long Beach.



Senior English teacher Mary Alice Benvenuti with her granddaughters, Lizzy Milner (left) and Taylor Benvenuti (right).



Dailey Brannin (right) with Sr. Elisa and her two OLA alumnae sisters, Addie, '06 (left) and Anna, '02 (right).

Only at OLA...

by Sabrina Bradford, '09

There comes a time in the life of every OLA student when she realizes, "Guys, this doesn't happen at every school."

- The cross country coach assures every student that they ARE or CAN BE the new star runner.
- Student Council is the primary food supply store to the underclassmen
- Every event MUST have a hand-drawn T-Shirt..
- There is not a home ec class, however you learn important life skills like how to properly staple/tape/safety pin a skirt.
- You think it's a big deal when the principal is not a nun.
- Only at OLA will, "For all the girls who had socks in the dryer, there's a fresh load in the office" be an important announcement.
- Only at OLA will they give you a knife without question.
- Only at OLA will you find your class instigating an impromptu Intramurals practice.
- Mr. Hull, Mrs. Cranford, and Mrs. Benvenuti have taught not only you, but also your mother, sisters, and aunts.
- You will have a mental breakdown at least once before you graduate from stress but no matter how much you try to avoid discovery by your classmates, they will find you and you will realize that you are surrounded by some of the most amazing people that you will ever meet in your life.

Join the official OLA
Alumnae group on Facebook!

*It's not too late to donate to the 2009 Our Lady Academy Annual Appeal.
Please consider making a gift to your Alma Mater.
All donations are greatly appreciated.*

McAuley Society

The McAuley Society recognizes annual gifts of \$250 or more. Your commitment exemplifies the belief you have in the mission of Our Lady Academy.

\$250 - \$499	PEARL
\$500 - \$999	RUBY
\$1,000 - \$2,499	EMERALD
\$2,500 - \$4,999	SAPPHIRE
\$5,000 +	DIAMOND

My employer has a Matching Gifts program. The form is enclosed.

Please contact me about making a gift of stock.

I have included Our Lady Academy in my estate plans.

I am unable to help financially at this time, but will remember OLA in my prayers.

All donors will be listed in the Annual Report unless otherwise requested.

All donations to Our Lady Academy are tax deductible as an IRS 501(c)(3) educational organization.

*Thank you so much
for your support!*

Yes!

I want to help Our Lady Academy!

Your Name _____

If alumna, maiden name & graduation year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

I would like to make a gift of
\$ _____

Enclosed is my check payable to the
Our Lady Academy Annual Fund

Please charge my:
 Visa Mastercard Discover

Account Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

My gift is in Honor, Memory, or Celebration of _____

Please notify _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

These girls can cook!

Recipe by Wendy Erichsen Diard, '81

Reese's Cup Pie

Here's my Reese's Cup Pie recipe that I actually made up for my son, husband, and brother-in law who LOVE Reese's Cups. The pie crust is actually a peanut-butter cookie. The pie filling is chocolate pudding with Reese's cups throughout. It is an easy recipe and the kids love it.

Ingredients:

- large box of Chocolate Pudding (instant or cook)
- 4 Reese's cups (2 packages)
- your favorite peanut butter cookie dough (see below for typical recipe)

Directions:

Make peanut butter cookie dough (see below) and place enough dough in pie plate to form the pie's crust as you would a normal pie crust. Cook as directed for cookie dough. It will expand in the middle but sink down again when it cools off. Cool crust.

Make Chocolate Pudding as per directions. Place one Reese's cup (with paper removed) in center of pie. Pour Chocolate Pudding over Reese's cup to fill pie shell. Place another Reese's cup on the top of the pie in the center. Put the 2 remaining Reese's cups in the freezer for 10 minutes or so to harden them. Take them out of freezer and grate them over entire pie. It makes it look fancy. Enjoy.

Pie Crust - a Peanut Butter Cookie
(use your favorite or this typical recipe below)

- 1 c. sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 c. shortening
- 1 c. peanut butter
- 1 1/2 c flour
- (if using self-rising, omit salt & baking powder)
- 3/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1/8 tsp. salt

Mix together thoroughly to make dough.
Bake at 350 degrees until done.



Gone are the days of eating lunch on the ground outside. Made possible by a gift from the Leo Seal family, OLA girls now enjoy dining on this new courtyard adorning the front campus.

ONCE A CHAMPION, ALWAYS A CHAMPION!



Class of '82 alumnae, Ann Moran Brainard and Linne Cabell Nowell, posing here with their cherished 1982 Mississippi State Doubles Champions Trophy.

“Where girls with dreams become women of vision.”



Photo from our new OLA brochure.

OUR LADY ACADEMY
222 SOUTH BEACH BOULEVARD
BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI 39520

Address Correction Requested