



*"It is not sufficient that Jesus Christ be formed in us--He must be recognized in our conduct."
- Catherine McAuley*

The beginning of a school year is always an exciting time. Our girls return full of enthusiasm for the upcoming year. Our faculty return full of new ideas. At the beginning of each school year, we talk about our summer adventures. I thought you might like to know what some OLA students and faculty have been "up to" since May. (Sister Jackie)

Hannah Anderson, an OLA senior and a member of St. Rose de Lima Parish, represented OLA at Governor's School. She spent three weeks at MUW, met lots of new folks, and earned three college credits. Her seminars/classes included leadership, art, and creative writing.

Hannah also spent a week in North Carolina attending the Youth Conference on National Affairs. At this conference she studied issues of national importance. (It is similar to a National Youth Legislature.)
Congratulations, Hannah!

Whitney St. Mary, an OLA junior, cheerleader, and member of Holy Family Parish, shared summer cheerleading stories. The squad attended camp in Panama City Beach with over 350 girls. Three awards were given:

Home Pom routine – our girls were first

Cheer – our girls were first

Dance – our girls were second

The thing the squad is proudest of is winning the highest spirit award given (the "Banana"). If you attend SSC football games this year, be sure to watch the cheerleaders. They are awesome! Congratulations, cheerleaders!

Madison Conaway, an OLA senior and a member of Main Street Methodist Church, attended People-to-People. People-to-People is an international student ambassador program. Madison spent three weeks in Ireland, England, Scotland, and Wales. While there, she studied the government and culture of each area, visited a host family in Ireland, learned leadership skills and how to tackle a challenge head-on!



Madison also spoke at the August Rotary luncheon about her experiences at RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) this summer. RYLA is four-day program, stressing leadership skills, service, and public speaking, with an emphasis toward the Rotary. Madison was selected by the Bay-Waveland Rotary for this program. Congratulations, Madison!

Jeannine Burch (a member of Holy Family Parish) and **Mrs. Marie Bartels** (a member of Our Lady of Fatima Parish) attended the Mercy Veteran Educator's Retreat

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in Chicago. They spent time in prayer and conversation with educators from other Sister of Mercy schools in the United States, focusing on (1) living in the moment, (2) hospitality and (3) compassion, three topics that were near and dear to Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy.

Darby Rayborn, an OLA sophomore and member of First United Methodist Church, spent a week in San Jose, Costa Rica on a mission trip. While there, Darby says, “we spent our mornings at the worksite digging trenches and pouring concrete (for a children’s home). Exhausted, but in good spirits, we finished our day by providing Vacation Bible School to over a hundred Spanish-speaking children living in a shantytown area of San Jose.” Well done, Darby!



Ms Leslie Burge, a member of Grace Memorial Baptist Church and OLA history teacher, attended the Presidential Academy for American History. Only one teacher was selected from each state. The program included time spent in Washington, DC, Philadelphia, and Gettysburg, with an emphasis on early American History. Congratulations to our own Miss Mississippi, Ms Burge.

Abi Simpson, an OLA senior and member of Holy Family Parish, represented OLA at Girls’ State, held on the USM Campus. While there, Abi studied state, county, and city government, as well as the voting process. She was elected senator for her county and participated

in a mock Senate session. She also helped create a city project meant to strengthen the economy and environment of a community. Her “city” was selected as the second best city. Congratulations, Abi!

OLG parishioners, **Camille Kergosien** (OLA freshman), **Emma Hoelzel** (OLA freshman) and **Hannah Wikoff** (OLA junior) attended the Northwest Florida Ballet’s Summer Initiative. It was a week of intense ballet, modern musical theatre, pointe, and contemporary classes, taught by some accomplished instructors.

Katherine Santa Cruz skipped for the Bay-Waveland Yacht Club this summer. She finished third in the Junior Lipton and second at the Knost Regatta in Pass Christian. Both were in Flying Scots class.

Jaynie Kergosien, an OLA junior and member of OLG Parish, represented OLA at HOBY (Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership). The seminar was held at Millsaps College; 600 students from the state attended the three day event. The entire focus was on leadership; each student was challenged to discover her/his leadership style and leadership skills. Each was then challenged to use her/his talents for the good of her/his community and school.

Mrs. Elisa Deano, a member of St. Thomas Parish and OLA history teacher, was one of only twenty-five people throughout the country selected for a fellowship to study the use of CSPAN in the classroom. The workshop was held in Washington, D.C. and conducted by Brian Lamb, founder of CSPAN.

