



Our Lady Academy Presents  
**Hooray for OLA!**  
**“We Are Family”**  
**Saturday, November 6, 2010 – Hollywood Casino – 6pm**

Dear Friend of OLA,

The downturn in our local and national economy has put Catholic education at risk for young women.

Last year was the first time in the history of Our Lady Academy (OLA) that we had more requests for scholarship assistance than we could actually fund and we are seeing this trend continue. The Hooray for OLA! fundraiser 2009 was an answer to our prayers in raising nearly \$60,000 for this worthwhile cause. We are hoping to be able to have another great fundraiser this year and we need your help. When OLA was first founded, it was founded by parents with one single mission: to give every young woman who desires to receive a Catholic education the opportunity to do so.

Our Lady Academy is the only all-female Catholic school in the State of Mississippi, and it is located right here in Hancock County. Established in 1971 as a comprehensive college preparatory school, OLA serves young women in grades 7-12, with a student body of close to 230 students and more than 1,000 alumnae. OLA is on the beachfront property that was formerly St. Joseph Academy (SJA), also an all-girls school, which was founded in 1855 and closed in 1967, four years before OLA was founded. The mothers and grandmothers of many OLA students attended St. Joseph's Academy, and are part of the OLA tradition.

OLA alumnae, parents, teachers and friends are joining together to raise needed funds to support Catholic education scholarships and academic support. Our goal is to raise \$60,000 through the Annual Hooray for OLA! Fundraising Dinner.

This year, the event will be at the Hollywood Casino on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. The details on how you can participate are found on the attached and we certainly hope you will help at the highest level possible. We are pleased this year to honor the Dr. A. K. Martinolich family. Andy and Carol Martinolich are one of our founding families. All six of their daughters (Julie, Diane, Laurie, Kathy, Nancy and Cynthia) graduated from OLA. This makes them the family with the most OLA graduates. They also have two granddaughters (Rachel and Sarah) who are OLA graduates and two granddaughters (Hannah and Emma) who are current OLA students. In fact, with the exception of just two years, there has been a Martinolich on the OLA campus every year since the school was opened nearly 40 years ago. Two of the Martinolich's daughters (Julie Cranford and Nancy Hoelzel) are current members of the OLA faculty. Julie has just completed twenty-five years as a member of the OLA science department, and Nancy is in her fifth year in the mathematics department. This family has given so much to OLA, and we are proud to honor them this year for being such an amazing part of our OLA family.

Your donation of time, talent and treasures will give us the opportunity to keep the dream alive for many young women along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Sincerely,

Sister Jackie Howard  
President

Tish Haas Williams  
Hooray Event Chair

*OLA is staffed by the Sisters of Mercy and dedicated lay professionals. Strong collaboration between OLA and St. Stanislaus (the all-male Catholic school across the street) maximizes the religious, academic, and social opportunities for the students. OLA offers various extracurricular activities including ten sports and is the defending state champ in volleyball (the last two years) and soccer (the last four years). OLA qualifies as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit charitable (educational) organization.*