

My OLA

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“How do you describe the combined feelings of great excitement and sheer panic? It’s difficult to put into words. There were seventeen of us who started as freshmen in 1971 – thirty-nine years ago. In the end, we graduated twenty-two girls.

We didn’t have any expectations since we didn’t know what to expect. All we could do was hold our heads high and try and control the pounding of our hearts as we crossed the street to SSC. We decided the school mascot, the Crescent. (There were three choices – the sandpiper, the dolphin and the Crescent. Since sandpipers were not indigenous to our area and dolphins sounded like a Miami football team, we chose the Crescent. Besides, a waxing Crescent moon builds to the quarter moon and, ultimately, to the full moon and we thought it was a good symbol of our trek toward adulthood.) We designed the uniforms – maroon (because it is in the “red” family like SSC, with big pockets for “stuff,” and kick pleats to help with our walk up the SSC steps and the sneaky breezes that always turned into gusts while we were on the steps.

We started intramurals. We were the “Organization” that first year. A proud lot we were with our tailored gangster outfits and snazzy song. We designed the first Spirit Stick; it was a waxing Crescent mounted on a stick with white ribbon streaming down; we used it during the first intramurals.

It’s funny what we remember of our past. Each of us has a different view. I can only go by my past remembrances of blue, bubble PE uniforms, the safe, serene times I spent by the statue of Mary, the innocent pranks we played on our teachers, the lesson on how a young lady exits her desk with her legs together (thanks, Mrs. Rhodes).

Thank you, parents, for starting OLA. Thank you teachers. Thank you, Father Johnson. Thank you, Lord, God!”

Editor’s Note: To view the full transcript of Kay’s recollections and a picture of the OLA founding class, please go to the OLA web site, www.ourladyacademy.com