The May 6th OLLU Fire
Bryce Teamey

On May 6, 2008 a historic part of our campus and our city was engulfed in flames in the early evening hours. Students and faculty were evacuated from the building as well as the neighboring dorm rooms. The city's firefighters moved in to try to contain and extinguish the flames before the fire could consume even more. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured. A charred shell of a building remained.

This, of course, is a date that no student or faculty member of OLLU could forget. I remember the day well. I had made the decision to take the semester off from school due to some personal issues at home. My mother and I had decided to spend the day with my grandparents at the community living center where they live. I was helping my grandfather with a few last things. My mother came out and told me about the fire. I was amazed and wanted to know how and what had happened. The scary part seemed to be that no one really knew the cause of the fire at first. I knew I would be back on campus soon, and that was an odd feeling.

Over the next few days I began to notice the reaction and concern from the community as a whole. Even though we would soon hear that the fire was an electrical issue, the people of San Antonio still cared. I was moved by the way people on campus and in the city bonded over a common goal to save what they could from the building. It is a reminder of what a community really is.

Since I have returned to campus, the same sentiment keeps on. We students are proud of the long standing heritage of our school in this city. It is important to both faculty and students to preserve what we can and remember what we have and have lost.

I see the fire as a reminder that the things we take for granted are not permanent. It is the memory and the legacy left behind that goes on. That building has been here longer than most of us have been alive. The memories of classes taken and taught in those halls can never burn down. I believe that the members of this city have clearly shown that with their dedication to rebuild and help the school regain all that was lost. The idea of camaraderie is what, I believe, we should all take from this experience and not let the loss of such a monument go to waste.

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