FALL 2014 ISSUE

Message from Family Relations Coordinator,
Alma C. Bustillo, MS

Happy New Year to our SAINTS Family members!

Our goal is to keep you connected to the OLLU community and stay informed of SAINT news, deadlines, and happenings on the OLLU campus.

Reminder: A special blessing of the family legacy bricks will be held during Family Day on Feb. 7, 2015. If you are interested in purchasing a family legacy brick and being part of this special blessing please order your bricks by Jan. 12, 2015. Order a brick online.

I would like to congratulate our fall graduates and their families. You have made the OLLU community very proud and there is always a place for you here on campus. Best of luck to all of you!

NEWS

OLLU Family Legacy

The brick sits in a corner of St. Anthony’s Courtyard, in the shadow of a stone bench, beneath a branch of a leafy oak. The small rectangular stone bears the names of Hector, Martha and Jessica Gonzalez, three members of a family tree with strong roots at Our Lady of the Lake University.

A late October wind stirred memories. On Saturday afternoon at Family Weekend, Hector and Martha stood in the courtyard and reminisced as a blessing was offered over new legacy bricks. Leaves fell and nostalgia flowed, faces and places passing before the couple.

Martha’s mother, Frances Garza, took summer classes at OLLU in the late 70s. “I was in high school at the time,” Martha recalls. “She was pursuing her master’s in education.”
Martha and Hector met and fell in love at OLLU in the early 80s. Hector arrived on campus from El Paso, if not by accident, then surely by providence. A sister, Maria Gonzalez, desperately wanted to attend OLLU. Her parents relented on one condition: Hector had to attend with her.

“Maria convinced Hector to come with her,” Martha says. “That was the only way her parents allowed her to go.”

The brick is one reminder of an OLLU family legacy that reaches back more than three decades. It is a reminder of the legacy brick Martha wants to purchase, one that will include the names of six extended family members who have attended the Lake. “We need a brick,” Martha says, “that mentions all of us.”

The youngest to attend OLLU is Jessica Gonzalez, 26. She is pursuing a master’s in Creative Writing. The first to attend was Jessica’s grandmother, Frances Garza. Though Frances finished her graduate work at another university, she inspired her twin daughters – Martha and Elizabeth – to attend OLLU. “My mother highly praised the school and the teachers,” Martha says.

Martha and Elizabeth shared an exhilarating and excruciating college experience. They both met their future husbands at OLLU – Hector Gonzalez and Rogelio Ramirez – and the four of them enjoyed socializing and became close friends. Sobering news followed. Elizabeth was diagnosed with aplastic anemia, a condition that prevented her from producing enough blood cells. Martha became a bone marrow and blood donor for her sister. Elizabeth cut back on school and made regular visits to MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Martha dropped classes and rode the bus to visit Elizabeth and donate blood. The twins battled the condition together, both determined to finish school.

In 1984, Martha graduated with a degree in biology. In 1985, Elizabeth earned a bachelor’s in computer science. “We were so proud of her,” Martha says. Elizabeth taught computer science at St. John Bosco School and got married in March 1988. The following March, she passed away. “We were hoping she was going to get better,” Martha says. “Even to the very end.”

In memory of Elizabeth, Martha purchased a legacy brick. Years later, she bought the brick that sits in St. Anthony’s Courtyard. She wants to purchase a third brick to include all the family members who have attended OLLU. Martha’s sister-in-law, Maria Carmen Gonzalez, earned a bachelor’s and master’s from OLLU. She now teaches English at the University of Houston.

“We have other relatives who have attended or graduated from OLLU,” Martha says. “We all agree that OLLU provides a warm and caring family atmosphere and an excellent opportunity to receive a great education.”
1/1/15 - Apply for Financial Aid
The 2015-2016 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be available on Jan. 1, 2015. It is time to apply for financial aid for the 2015-16 academic year. If your OLLU student plans to attend school in fall 2015, Jan. 1 is the first day you can complete the FAFSA. Families are encouraged to apply early. Here are the steps you need to complete:
• If you don’t already have a Personal Identification Number (PIN), apply for a PIN at http://www.pin.ed.gov.
• Student and one parent will need to apply for a PIN, if you haven’t already. The PIN is what you will use to electronically sign the financial aid application.
• Once you have your PINs, complete the 2015-2016 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov
• Make sure to indicate Our Lady of the Lake University by including our school code: 003598. The FAFSA application will be available online on Jan. 1, 2015 and should be completed after student and/or parents have completed their 2014 tax returns.
It is very important to apply early.
If you have any questions about the application process, please contact:
OLLU Financial Aid Office
Walter Student Service Center
210-431-6520
FAX: 210-431-3958

1/5/15 - University opens for spring semester
Offices reopen after Christmas holiday

1/7/15 - Men’s BB vs UTPA
Cheer on the Saints as they take on UTPA!
7 p.m.
UTPA-Edinburg

1/10/15 - Residence Halls Open
Resident students can move into the halls for the spring semester.

1/12/15 - Spring semester begins
Classes for the traditional spring semester begin.

1/19/15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
University closed – no classes, offices closed

1/22/15 - Spring Pep Rally
Stay True to Big Blue Spring Pep Rally
12:15-1:30 p.m.
Mall Area

1/23/15 - Men’s and Women’s Basketball vs University of St Thomas-Houston
Cheer on your Saints as they take on the University of St Thomas-Houston!
Women’s Team - 5:30 p.m.
Men’s Team - 7:30 p.m.
Mabee Gym

1/24/15 - Down On the Bayou
6-10 p.m.
Chapel Auditorium
Enjoy an evening of food, music and fun to benefit OLLU students as they travel to Puerto Rico on a mission trip to repair homes and assist orphans.
For ticket information, call Roxanna Chavez at 210-434-6711, ext. 2193.

2/7/15 - Family Day
8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Join us for a day of prayer and fun. RSVP at www.ollusa.edu/FamilyDay

2/23/15 - Midterm exams
Exams for students in the traditional session.