

# OLDENBURG ACADEMY

OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

*Spring 2019*

# Failik



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OLDENBURG ACADEMY  
OF THE  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

*Cover Photo: Terri Bandenburg  
2019 OA production of Godspell*

*Magazine Layout: Tori Holtel '11*

*Magazine Contributors: Annette Hunger, Diane H.  
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*Photo Credit: Terri Bandenburg, Tori Holtel '11,  
Theresa Murphy, OA Yearbook Staff*

**“But the gift of these forty days is that they ultimately prepare us, lead us, and empower us to fully embrace, no ‘be embraced’, (on) one Easter morning.”**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Dear OA Family,**

The forty days of Lent have begun. As Easter comes very late this year – a full three weeks after OA’s “spring break” – this will surely add to the challenges of seeking reconciliation and conversion through prayer, fasting and almsgiving even as the springtime signs of growth and renewal are abundantly breaking forth. And as an added

stretch, we have asked all our students to “Give up by hanging up” their cell phones during much of the school day. Many would prefer the no candy option to this 21st century penance!

At our Ash Wednesday Mass, Fr. Ric Schneider, OFM, reminded all of us how significant the number 40 is in Scripture. It is mentioned 146 times, usually in reference to a period of trial, probation, or expectation. Personally, this is my fortieth year of ministry in Catholic education and I can easily attest that over these years I have found many opportunities to experience these three symbols on my personal and professional journey! But I would not have it any other way.

This time in the Academy’s history also mirrors these challenges. We have not always met our goals as expeditiously or specifically as we have hoped; we often find ourselves taking a leap of faith and then trusting while we wait; we believe in the transformative power of our mission and vision and must hope that we have the resources and the capacity to enable it to become real and enfolded among us.

But the gift of these forty days is that they ultimately prepare us, lead us, and empower us to fully embrace, no “be embraced”, (on) one Easter morning.

There are wonderful stories in this issue that highlight how the Academy continues to live this Paschal mystery. We celebrate and give thanks for our many partners and co-workers who share this incredible mission. We explore new ventures while never forgetting our foundational traditions. We delight in the growth and success of our students and staff. And always, we rely on your prayers and support.

Wishing you peace and all good,

*Diane Laake*

Diane H. Laake  
President



# ADMISSIONS



Registration for the Class of 2023 is in full swing! Following the largest number of Placement Test takers in many, many years this past December, it is expected that this class will be the largest at OA for the 2019-20 school year, surpassing the number of graduating seniors and continuing our overall enrollment growth.

OA works diligently to keep the cost of our high quality, faith-based educational experience as low as possible; but 71% of our families have received some form of tuition assistance just this year alone. The need for these funds continues to grow and fortunately, so do the opportunities for generating this support (see article on 529 plans on page 7). When you support our annual Academy Fund drive, you help to support tuition assistance.

Playing another key role in these awards are numerous "named scholarships" that have been established for both incoming and current students. Over \$64,000 was distributed to 52 students this year as part of this program. That's almost 25% of the student body!

We are so grateful to individuals and families that have established these named funds. Some have specific criterion such as involvement in the fine arts or being the member of a particular parish. Some are in memory of a beloved parent, wife, daughter or teacher. Some are fully endowed; some are still working toward that goal. But they all make an impact and for that, we are truly inspired and humbled.

Here are two wonderful scholarship examples and the incoming freshmen who will be officially honored at this year's Scholarship Ceremony on April 10.

***It is expected that this class will be the largest at OA for the 2019-20 school year, surpassing the number of graduating seniors and continuing our overall enrollment growth!***

## Holly Bruns Memorial Scholarship

Now in its 9th year, this scholarship is awarded to students who "exemplify Holly's spirit and dedication to the mission of OA." Holly was a 1974 ICA grad who continued her education at Marian College. She left her mark as a role model, mentor, leader, educator, coach and competitor. Tragically, she was killed by a drunk driver in 2008. In her estate, she left the beginnings of an endowed scholarship that has been added to every year since through the revenue generated by the Holly Bruns 5K Walk/Run held annually in April.

This year's three recipients are Rhett Martin (St. Mary, Greensburg), Marissa Eckstein (St. Nicholas, Sunman), and Charlie Schebler (St. Louis, Batesville). All are strong student athletes (like Holly). Rhett is known as a true 'team player' by coaches and peers. Rhett's dad, Rodney, worked with Holly as a young PE teacher/coach at South Decatur. Also, Rhett's family are members of Immaculate

Conception Church in Millhousen (where Holly attended). Marissa is very active in volleyball both at school and with the CYO (Holly was a volleyball coach and she started the volleyball program at South Decatur). Charlie has a passion for sports - playing basketball and baseball. (Holly also coached softball). He is recognized by teachers and peers as being a pillar when it comes to the Bully Busting program at St. Louis, taking a firm stand against any type of bullying between students. He is a great student leader on the court/field and off. (Holly was too).

## Elmer G. and Rose L. Ramsdell Scholarship

This scholarship was established by Ruth Ramsdell Haas '55 in 2002 in memory of her mother and father. Ruth explains: "My parents greatly valued an education. They were both only able to complete the eighth grade. My father always said that an education was something no one can ever take away from you. My parents encouraged me in my four

years at the Academy, then at Marian College and finally at Fordham University."

This scholarship is given to students who may not be able to attend OA without this added support.

This year's recipients are Ellee Bruns (St. Michael, Brookville) and Jacob Hoff (St. Nicholas, Sunman). Both have been in Catholic schools since kindergarten. Catholic education is very important to their families, just like it was for Ruth's family. Ellee's older sister, Maggie, is a 2016 OA grad; Jacob's brothers, Michael and Nicholas, are at OA now as well as 2 younger siblings at St. Nicholas.

***For more information about establishing a Named Scholarship, please contact President Diane Laake.***

# LIFE AT OA



## GODSPELL

“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord”

Those words echoed loudly and boldly in the Auditorium recently as the Drama Department presented the popular musical, Godspell. Based largely on the Gospel of Matthew, this hit from the 1970's was no less relevant today, and the message of Jesus was proclaimed through re-enacted parables and energetic storytelling.

*Cover photo*



**5K**  
Sponsorship/Donation/  
Registration Form  
can be found on the OA website

**Oldenburg Academy**  
**April 27, 2019**

Registration at 9am  
5K begins at 10am



## ISSMA

Congratulations to...

The following instrumental students received State ISSMA Solo and Ensemble awards  
Dylan Fledderman - viola - gold medal with distinction

Sarah Price - violin - gold medal

Justine Stenger - cello - silver medal

These Instrumentals received these scores at the Regional ISSMA contest:

Class 2, received a 1 and a gold medal

Jaydann Simmonds - cello

Lingshan Liu - cello

Vocal Solo competition at the state level:

Abby Hudepohl (gold)

Owen Hudepohl (gold)

Grace Mack (gold)

Brendan Miller (silver)

Academy Singers (silver)

All proceeds to benefit the "Holly Bruns  
Scholarship" at Oldenburg Academy  
HBWalk2011@yahoo.com





### MASS WITH ARCHBISHOP CHARLES THOMPSON

OA was honored to welcome Indianapolis Archbishop Charles Thompson on February 19 for Mass. Afterwards he visited with a large group of students, sharing some of his personal reflections on the challenges of leadership and what he hopes our students will offer the larger world.



### SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

Great news! We have several winners in the art category of the Scholastic Art and Writing awards. Only the very best artists and writers earn awards through Scholastic. It is very competitive and we are very proud of this recognition of our student's work. Over 5,000 pieces were submitted for this year's competition. Gold Keys are awarded to the top 5-7% of all entries; Silver Keys are awarded to the top 7-10% of all entries; Honorable Mention is awarded to the top 10-15% of all entries. Oldenburg Academy's students received 2 Gold Key awards, (Anthony Alderson '20 and Dorothy Doll '22), 1 Silver Key (Anthony Alderson '20) and 4 Honorable Mention (Alyssa Krekeler '20 (2), Stella Hillenbrand '19, Elizabeth Mullen '20) art awards at the regional level of the annual competition sponsored by Scholastic.

Over the years, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards has grown to become the longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens in the U.S., and the nation's largest source of scholarships for creative young artists and writers.

### WORLD YOUTH DAY IN PANAMA

"The reason why I went to Panama was because I wanted to grow stronger in my faith. When I heard that the Pope was going to be there, I thought "this is a once in a lifetime experience." I really loved it and I am thinking about going next year too. The greatest impact that this trip had on me was seeing the Pope because he went right past me and I thought that it was like seeing Jesus riding on a mobile cart. I loved all of his talks, too."

- Drew Diekhoff '21





Krekeler



Doll



Alderson



## OA CELEBRATES YEARS OF SERVICE

In January, Oldenburg Academy joined the over 6300 Catholic schools across the country to remember and celebrate the gift of Catholic schools. Among the various events planned was an all school Mass during which OA thanked members of their school communities, both past and present, who are such an integral part of what makes OA so special: their faculty and staff. "All Catholic school educators and staff members are part of a sacred heritage, a legacy of faith and excellence, and for us, one that spans 167 years. When I meet graduates, parents and members of the community and discuss why OA is such a great school, the first thing that always come to mind is how great our teachers and staff are! And I heartily agree," stated President Diane Laake.

Characteristic of the fact that people retain a life-long allegiance to the Academy, members of the Ammann and Munchel families asked that the Mass be offered for the intention of two former Academy teachers: Sr. Mary Ammann OSF and Mr. Kelly Munchel. "They are icons of dedicated service, barrier-breaking enthusiasm, and the true commitment to making a difference," Laake reminded the congregation.

Also recognized and honored were Amy Grills (left), Math Teacher, and Cindy Nurrenberg (right), Finance and President's Office Support, for their fifteen years of dedicated service thus far.



"World Youth Day was amazing and had a profound influence on me. Being with over 700,000 people and celebrating mass was breathtaking. Being with so many people from around the world was a unique experience that I could not have gotten anywhere else and I am grateful for the opportunity."

- William Yunger '20



## MAVERICK CHALLENGE

Congratulations to our 2018 Maverick Challenge business planning competition Winners. First place: Alex Bamonte '19. Second place: India Burris '19 and Third Place: Alex Geers '19, Gabe Haverkos '19 and Eli Sporleder '19.

Alex Bamonte went on to receive an Honorable Mention at the Regional Maverick Challenge business planning competition. Alex competed against schools in five different counties and received \$250 for her business, "Growing Memories."

India Burris, Alex Geers, Gabe Haverkos, and Eli Sporleder (front row) represented OA at the state competition of "Innovate Within."

OA's Marketing class went to Ball State University to support them. (pictured left)

## OA WINNERS OF THE INDIANA LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE COMPETITION

The Indiana Center for the Book is proud to announce the winners for the Indiana Letters About Literature Competition!

Abbigayle Eldridge '19 – Semifinalist (right)

Sarah Preston '19 – Honorable Mention (left)

Indiana students submitted over 1,000 letters in the 2018-2019 Letters About Literature contest. Of these letters, 126 were selected by the State Judging Team to honor: 35 from Level I, 43 from Level II, and 48 from Level III.



## ALL-TIME LEADING SCORER SIGNS WITH BETHEL COLLEGE

Oldenburg Academy's all-time leading scorer, Katie Kinker '19 (Greensburg) recently signed a letter of intent to play basketball with Bethel College (soon to be University) next year.



## GRANTS

OA celebrates the reception of two recent grants that will help strengthen and enhance the learning experience. We are the recipients of a \$7500 grant from the Rising Sun Regional Foundation as part of their last distribution cycle. These funds will be used to help us continue to transform classrooms into "innovation rooms" which are more supportive of technology integration, collaboration, and project-based learning. We are also grateful to The Village Store (owners Jeff and Ellen Dickman Paul '77) whose generous gift will be added to these funds to enable the transformation of 2 classrooms.

"Teenagers today live in a fast-paced, computer driven world. Everything comes to them in a moment, whether it's streaming over the Internet or on the stores' shelves. Students are disconnected from where things come from and how things are made. Printmaking is a chance for students to slow down and learn craftsmanship," states OA art teacher Theresa Murphy. These objectives will now be able to be met by OA art students. Mrs. Murphy recently received a John and Joan Hillenbrand Vision Grant for the purchase of a printing press to be used in classes at OA. Printmaking is a classic art-making technique used to print the earliest Bibles; it was also used by Rembrandt, Durer and many famous Japanese artists. OA students will now have the opportunity to explore the world of this handmade craft that allows them to express their own creativity as they develop this technique.

## GRANDPARENTS (AND OTHERS) HAVE A NEW WAY TO SUPPORT THEIR GRANDCHILDREN AT OA

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) has made some changes to qualified tuition programs ("QTPs," also commonly known as "529 plans"). These changes took effect for 529 plan distributions after 2017. A 529 plan distribution is tax-free if it is used to pay "qualified higher education expenses" of the beneficiary (student). Before the TCJA made these changes, tuition for elementary or secondary schools wasn't a "qualified higher education expense." The TCJA provides that qualified higher education expenses now include expenses for tuition in connection with enrollment or attendance at an elementary or secondary public, private, or religious school.

529 plans are now allowed to distribute up to \$10,000 in expenses per designated beneficiary for tuition incurred during the taxable year. This limitation applies on a per-student basis, rather than a per-account basis. Thus, under the provision, although an individual may be the designated beneficiary of multiple accounts, that individual student may receive a maximum of \$10,000 in distributions each year free of tax.

Please consult your financial or tax advisor for details and information about how this may be beneficial to you.

**We are 70% toward this year's goal for our annual Academy Fund. This is a crucial source of our operating revenue that supports tuition assistance, teachers' salaries, and student programs.**

***Won't you help us reach our goal?***

# SR. MARY GLORIA

January 7, 2019

## Dear Sisters and Associates, Co-Workers, Family and Friends,

In the early hours of January 7, just as the Epiphany star departed the heavens, our beloved Sister Mary Gloria Gallagher made her ecstatic flight to God, the cause of her joy and the source of her music-filled heart. Imagine the delight she discovered as, free from all limitations, she found herself in the warmth and glory of God's presence! Surrounded by the song of the heavenly choir, she must have felt immediately at home!

The oldest of four children, Mary Ann was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on November 12, 1924 to parents Elizabeth Mary Phillips and Edward James Gallagher. She described her home as "a very Catholic one" featuring holy water fonts in all the bedrooms and faithful observance of the First Friday rituals. Together with her three sisters, Mary Ann attended St. Clare School, conscientiously applying herself to her academic studies and beginning some preliminary study of the piano. Her contacts with Oldenburg Franciscans continued when she was enrolled at Our Lady of the Angels High School and enhanced her music study of piano and clarinet under the direction of Sister Olivia (LaVerne Frietsch) and Sister Carolyn Bissmeyer. Later, she taught herself to play the flute. For this budding musician, "OLA band and orchestra . . . became my greatest joy."

Following high school graduation, Mary Ann attended Marian College (University) on a scholarship. At first, her intent was to become a research chemist while studying music as a "sideline". But by the end of her sophomore year, Mary Ann reversed these areas of concentration, choosing music as her major. Reflecting on that strategic decision, S. Gloria later stated, "My four years at Marian were some of the happiest of my life, and the friends I made there are still my dearest and closest friends."

With college degree in hand, Mary Ann began teaching piano part-time at Our Lady of Angels High School. In her new-found ministry, Mary Ann drew on those traits derived from her family tradition, blending "her dad's gentleness and her mother's leadership". Meanwhile, she took classes to expand her own musical knowledge at the College of Music in Cincinnati. She obtained certificates for performance in piano and organ, equipping her to begin private piano lessons at her home. In the midst of this activity, she began to realize that she had a vocation to religious life. "In the back of my mind", she reflected, "I knew that the Lord had His hand on my shoulder and that sooner or later He was going to 'pop the question' concerning the plans for the future He had for me." In the summer of 1950 and with the "guiding light" of Sister Carolyn's encouragement, Mary Ann decided to "cast my lot with the Lord" and entered the Oldenburg Franciscan Community on September 8.



Because she entered the Community already prepared with a music degree, S. Gloria was asked to teach part-time at Immaculate Conception Academy (now Oldenburg Academy) while still a postulant. She resumed her teaching as a full-time teacher there for two years before being sent to both OLA and Fenwick High School in Middletown, Ohio. While studying to earn her Master of Music degree from the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, S. Gloria became the chair of the music department at OLA and held that position for four years. "Then," she recalled, "in the summer of 1960, a surprise came with a transfer to Oldenburg where I was to chair the Music Department [at ICA], take charge of the Novitiate Choir and serve as the Motherhouse organist. I still remember my prayer as I climbed the choir steps for the first time and prepared myself to meet my first Novitiate Choir!" S. Gloria described the next twenty years at Oldenburg as a wonderful and happy time, a ministry that brought fulfillment and delight. Amid her many duties, she found time to compose the Community's beloved hymn, "The Blessing of St. Clare".

With this characteristic enthusiasm, S. Gloria accepted her next assignment in 1980, teaching "everything in the catalogue" at Marian College (University) and serving as music department head for several years. Even when her ministry moved to part-time in 1994, she continued to enjoy working with young piano and strings students. S. Gloria's energy for music was contagious and motivating. She kept her professional involvements by serving as a member of the Cathedral Choir in Indianapolis, being state chairperson for music performance competitions of the Indiana Music Teachers Association, and by participating in many Community committees.

It was S. Gloria's joy to stay in touch with the many loyal students whose lives she influenced on both the high school and college level. Her uncanny memory for each student's situation and attentiveness to each person continued to endear her to one and all. Even in retirement, S. Gloria enjoyed the deep connections she had made with former students, finding herself the recipient of bountiful visits, letters, and tributes. On the occasion of S.

Gloria's 50th anniversary as a Sister, former ICA students surprised her by playing an evening full of her favorite music, an event they named "S. Gloria's Opus". An ICA graduate noted, "You always seemed to be able to find out things we could do best and make us feel good about ourselves." Certainly, these words capture an experience shared by many—S. Gloria's quiet, overflowing love, gently caring about them.

We extend our deepest sympathy to S. Gloria's family, her Sisters and Associates in Community, and the many friends and former students whose lives have been enriched by her gift of both music and love. Now, before the Divine Presence, may she intercede for all of us and carry our songs of praise to our God!

In blessed remembrance,  
Sister Delouise Menges, OSF  
For the General Council

Birth: November 12, 1924

Entrance into Religious Life: September 8, 1950

Entrance into Eternal Life: January 7, 2019

### Missions at which S. Gloria served:

1952-1954	Immaculate Conception Academy (OA) and Novitiate, Oldenburg, IN
1954-1955	Our Lady of Angels High School, St. Bernard, OH
1955-1956	Fenwick High School, Middletown, OH
1956-1960	Our Lady of Angels High School, St. Bernard, OH
1960-1980	Immaculate Conception Academy (OA), Oldenburg, IN Novitiate Choir Director and Congregational Organist
1980-1988	Marian College (University), Indianapolis, IN
1988-1989	Sabbatical
1989-2013	Marian College (University), Indianapolis, IN
2013-2019	Motherhouse, Oldenburg, IN

**The Academy will be forever grateful for the inspired and dedicated service Sr. Mary Gloria shared with us over the decades. The Sisters of St. Francis have requested that anyone wishing to make a memorial gift to the Academy in her honor, do so by supporting the renovations planned for the auditorium (see the next page for school project dinner auction). You may do this using the enclosed envelope, through the website, or by calling the Advancement Office (812.933.0737)**

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 **Geis**  
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APPLIANCES, BEDDING & FURNITURE

April 22 - 27  
Benefits OASIS

115 S. Main St, Batesville,



On Line  
Auction

April 12 - 18

Preview Night April 13  
details

[oldenburgacademy.org](http://oldenburgacademy.org)  
under athletics then oasis

 **FAST  
TRACK IT**  
AUCTIONS | ACQUISITIONS | MARKETPLACE



OLDENBURG ACADEMY PRESENTS...

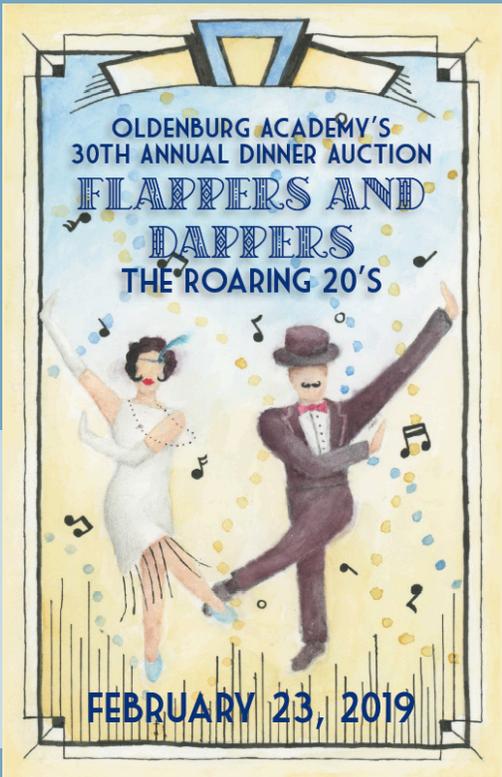
# Sounds of Spring

## 2019 Spring Concert

Friday, April 26, 2019 • 7pm

Oldenburg Academy Auditorium

Before the concert be sure to stop by the OA Art Show from 4-7  
Visit our website [oldenburgacademy.org](http://oldenburgacademy.org) for more information



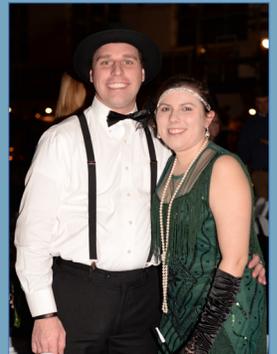
# 2019 DINNER AUCTION

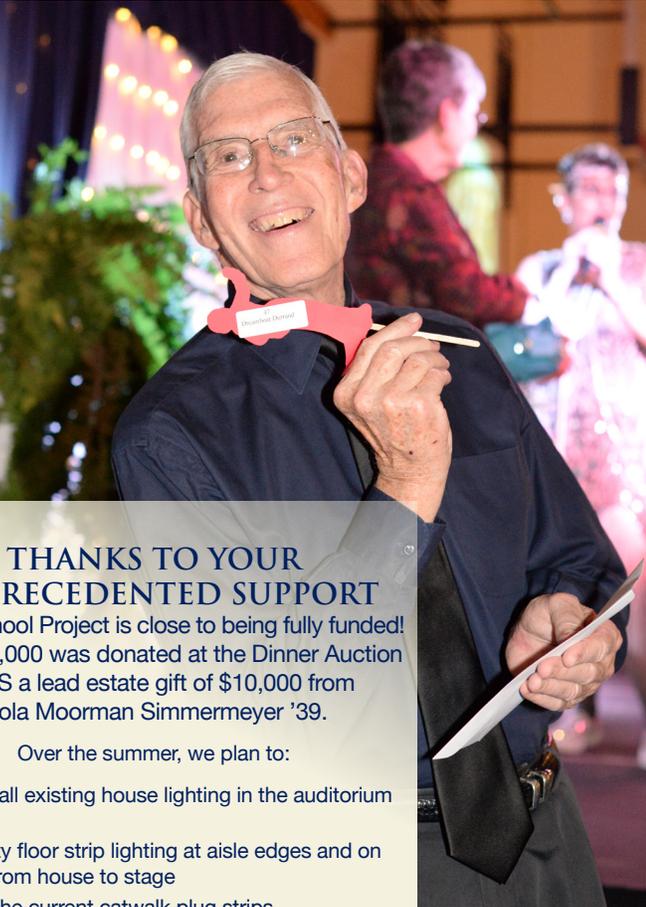
## FLAPPERS AND DAPPERS

### THE ROARING 20'S

The 30th Annual Dinner Auction was the most successful in the 30 year history of the event. We again surpassed our fundraising and friend-raising goals for the year. Because of the wonderful support of the OA community, we were able to raise nearly \$117,000 for the students of OA.

Thanks so much to our sponsors, donors, ticket buyers, attendees and volunteers. Special thanks to Chef Adam Israel of Izzy's at Hillcrest for a wonderful meal, Sweets in Spires (alums Cathy Doll Schene '70, Chrissy Schene Struewing '92, Toni Schene Cummings '96) for the scrumptious cupcakes for dessert, Jeff Batta and the Brau Haus for taking care of the bar for the evening, Susan Johnson, our amazing auctioneer, and chair Debbie Holtel Lamping '73.





**THANKS TO YOUR UNPRECEDENTED SUPPORT**

...the School Project is close to being fully funded!  
 Over \$37,000 was donated at the Dinner Auction  
 PLUS a lead estate gift of \$10,000 from  
 Viola Moorman Simmermeyer '39.

Over the summer, we plan to:

- Upgrade all existing house lighting in the auditorium to LED
- Add safety floor strip lighting at aisle edges and on the stairs from house to stage
- Replace the current catwalk plug strips
- Replace existing theatrical lighting console with a new system

Central to the mission of the Academy has always been the formation of students to become a transformative presence in the “real world”. The Sisters of St. Francis modeled very well for us how that can be accomplished as educators. It would be impossible to count the total number of Academy graduates who became teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, etc. I am certain that many of you reading this magazine right now fall into one of those categories and just as certain that you are who you are today because of those people who nurtured, challenged, and inspired you while attending OA/ICA.

That tradition continues at OA today. We have several students in the class of 2019 who plan to major in education in college and many others who are currently in that pipeline. Please enjoy the stories of several Academy graduates who continue to live our mission as educators.

#### Olivia Horan '14

I teach kindergarten on the Eastside of Indianapolis at Holy Spirit Catholic School. My students are five and six years old. The majority of my students are Hispanic and they speak both English and Spanish.

I knew I wanted to be a teacher in second grade. I always had an interest in working with children and wanted to pursue a career in something that would leave a positive impact on the future. My education molded me into the person I am today. Because of this, I decided to obtain a degree in Early Childhood Education.

During my years at OA, I knew the teachers and staff truly cared about me. The teachers had strong relationships with parents and families. Those relationships helped prepare me to be a teacher by showing me ways to build rapport with my students and their families. I want my students to feel as loved and cared for as I did when I was at OA.

I don't have a particular favorite story, but my favorite moment is seeing how far my students have grown during this school year. I have students who have started reading books. We began the year by learning the letter names and sounds. It's incredible to see the tools we have learned empower my students to be successful in their foundation of learning. This is my favorite thing about teaching - along with cute stories that they tell me each day! (photo right)

#### Devon Rosenberger Avery '01

I teach at Hart County High School in Munfordville, Kentucky. It's a rural high school of about 700 students located between Louisville and Nashville. I am a Moderate/ Severe Disabilities teacher for students aged 14-21. I am responsible for all content areas (English, Math, Social Studies, Science) as well as teaching life skills, job skills, and transitions from middle to high school and high school to beyond. I also work with Vocational Rehabilitation to identify students for supported employment or further education and training opportunities.

My son was developmentally delayed as an infant. I had finished a BA in Psychology and was working for community mental health but in his journey of therapies and special education, I decided to pursue a graduate program in special education so I would be better able to help him. I enrolled in an Alternative Route to Teacher Certification

program and finished my Master's in Special Education-Learning and Behavior Disorders with an additional certificate in Moderate/ Severe Disabilities. I also became a National Board Certified Teacher (Exceptional Needs Specialist) about 4 years ago.

I had a solid foundation for my undergraduate as well as graduate coursework, both academically and with critical thinking and problem solving skills. I believe that OA also provided me with a strong sense of social justice, which is exceptionally important in our vocation. Even if I weren't a teacher, I would still be working in a field or volunteer position where I would push for equity and equality.

My students observed the life cycle of the butterfly in our classroom. We had a habitat, made daily observations and notes, and prepared a presentation. They wanted to enter the district wide technology fair as a group, and so I worked to facilitate this. They used technology and assistive devices to discuss their findings and present to the judges. They earned a gold rating for their project and presentation.

*“Oldenburg Academy taught me how to become a person of service... how to be compassionate, supportive and a leader.”*

# TAKING “SO W TO CLASSROO EVERYWHERE



*This is a photo of me, my Mom Teri, and my children rallying in the Kentucky State Capitol for education funding. I may not have been teaching in the classroom that day, but I was still advocating for my students.*

WORTH IT"

OMS

E



**Linda Clingerman Ott '76**  
**Retired Music Educator**

I taught music education to students in grades 1-8 at Catholic schools for 13 years in Ohio and Kentucky (Our Lady of Visitation in Western Hills for 13 years, Blessed Sacrament in Ft. Mitchell for 3 years and 3 other Catholic schools part time.) The next 20 years I taught in the Kentucky public school system (19 years were spent at Ockerman Middle School in Florence, KY teaching general music, chorus and band.) The last year of my career was spent at Holmes Middle School teaching technology.

My grandparents were musicians, my mother was a Head Start teacher and I love children. Therefore, Music Teacher! I chose St. Cecilia as my confirmation saint, so I knew from the fourth grade that I would be a music teacher. The Franciscan Sisters at St. Mary's in Aurora and the Academy were influential in my decision also.

I chose to go to the Academy because of the terrific music department that Sr. Gloria helped to establish and maintain, and I flourished. I was in the orchestra, the choruses, and I was the QuinTrio accompanist for 2 years. The leadership skills and work ethic that I learned from being Sophomore and Senior Chorus directress, as well as performing piano solos and accompanying various ensembles, were instrumental in my continued education at Butler University as a music major. I stayed on the honor roll, practiced music and played sports, so time management was a must. The compassion, empathy, correct manners and building of relationships, that were taught at the Academy, are still lifelong skills that I cherish.

I was introduced to a female student in need and we instantly connected. This student lacked social skills, friends and confidence in herself, as well as a support system at home. I bought her clothes, food, and school supplies but I also gave her my time. We talked and laughed about things after school and I eventually got her to join my chorus. The smiles and confidence from that student when we performed, with singing and dancing, brought such joy to me, as well as the faculty that knew her. Whenever I think of this young lady, I smile and know that I made a difference with my chosen vocation.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my appreciation of the education that was provided to me from the Immaculate Conception Academy.

**Mary Jane Scheidler Elliott '63**

Mary Jane Elliott has devoted her entire professional life to teaching. Most recently, 8 years ago she and her husband were asked to help found the Concordia Lutheran International School in Hanoi, Vietnam. This is the sister school to one they worked at in Hong Kong for over 25 years. They now serve primarily as mentors after helping to build the school literally from the ground up. As a classroom teacher, her focus has always been pre-school education.

At the Academy, Mary Jane said she "always felt empowered to do new and interesting things.... I always felt supported and therefore developed many leadership talents as a result. I would encourage any student to consider working, travelling or visiting internationally regardless of your career. It's so important (to develop) a global, expansive perspective."

*"I always felt supported and therefore developed many leadership talents as a result."*

**Corrine Kemper Henke '97**

I teach 5th graders at Brookville Elementary in Brookville, Indiana. I have the students for math, reading, science, social studies, and language.

I had the most fabulous teacher for 3rd grade at St. Michael in Brookville, Indiana. She taught me to love my learning and to continue to be inquisitive everyday. I have had the honor to teach in the same building as her for the last several years.



"During my Junior year, I asked the Administration if the Academy could recruit some foreign students to study here. They told me to go ahead and find someone – and I did. Antje Cramer-Mehnert came from Germany and we became good friends. After I graduated from Marian, I travelled to Germany to visit Anna and while travelling with her, I met my husband. Anna and I stayed friends for many, many years."

Many great educators at Oldenburg Academy helped to shape me into the teacher I am today. The teachers took an interest in you and your life. They made me want to come to school and learn, but also showed compassion and listened when we had a bad day.

My favorite thing to do is to connect with my students each year. Each year I ask who had each teacher in the school. When we get to Mrs. Bachus in the 2nd grade several always raise their hands. I raise my hand at the same time too. I usually get several questioning looks. I then tell the class that Mrs. Bachus is one of the reasons I became a teacher. The class is always in awe because they never think she could be so old!

**Lauren Kirschner '13**

My name is Lauren Kirschner and I am a kindergarten teacher at Erskine Elementary School in Anderson, Indiana. I decided to become a teacher because of my own positive experiences in education. Throughout my elementary and high school years, I always had teachers who cared for their students' success and cared for them as individuals. I feel extremely grateful for the sacrifices my parents made in sending me to St. Louis and Oldenburg Academy which led me to have a great and positive experience in education. I knew at a young age that I wanted to become a teacher so that I could provide an experience similar to what I had growing up.

My years as a student at Oldenburg Academy taught me how to become a person of service through volunteer work and giving back to the community. After graduating from Indiana University, I had the desire to teach at a low-income and low performing school, which is what led me to where I am today. I really wanted to make a difference in these students lives. My years at Oldenburg Academy taught me how to be compassionate, supportive, and a leader. All of these traits are important as a teacher.

A favorite memory I have from the past two years happened this Valentine's Day. A student of mine, who does not have the best home life, gave me a handwritten note that said "Miss K thank you for taking good care of me. You make me feel safe." I started to tear up when she read it to me. That moment gave me all the validation I needed to know that I am right where I am supposed to be! To anyone who is considering becoming an educator, I highly recommend it. Yes, some days are very hard and very long; but it is also a very rewarding career! Making a positive difference in a young life is so worth it!



**OA GRADS  
BRINGING THE  
"SO WORTH IT"  
MOTTO TO OA  
CLASSROOMS**

**Jonathon Maple '07**

I am honored and thrilled to be 'back @ OA.' After attending college, I realized the confidence, determination and drive that the OA education provided for me in my life. I want to continue to provide those skill sets and provide the best education to OA students. In working with, what I consider to be, the best students in southeastern Indiana, I'm able to continue to be inspired by all Oldenburg Academy has to offer.

**Brian Knueven '05**

All Hail the Alma Mater! I loved my time at the Academy as a student; the time spent in the music department are some of my fondest memories from high school. The Academy has a long tradition of beautiful music and great performances and that legacy remains a defining characteristic of a well-rounded Academy student. The close ties between the village and the Academy makes us all claim Oldenburg as the "hometown" we never knew we had. It is great to be back as an alumni and share our school and village's heritage with the next generation of Academy men and women.



*“I believe OA also provided me with a strong sense of social justice which is exceptionally important in our vocation.”*



#### Elizabeth Bachus '14

I teach Kindergarten at St. Bernard of Clairvaux on the West side of Cincinnati, OH.

I decided to become a teacher because I wanted to make a difference. It was through a lot of trial and error that I realized that it was where I was called to be. I knew exactly what being a teacher entailed from watching my mom do it my whole life. I knew the time and work she put into it but even more so, I saw the love and admiration she had for every single one of “her kids”. Plus, I had some pretty incredible (to put it lightly) teachers my entire life who helped inspire that. Now, I get to bring my love of education, faith, and helping kids together every day.

My years at Oldenburg Academy helped me understand and prepare for the challenges college would bring. It helped me grow into a vastly different person than I was upon entering through my classes, sports, and friendships. The teachers that became mentors held standards that pushed me to dream bigger. The love I had for my four years at OA led me to continue my Catholic education at Xavier University where those dreams evolved into my career!

The entire front of my file cabinet will soon be filled with the post-it notes I have been collecting of funny student quotes and memories (enough to write a book). A recent moment that impacted me was when a mom of a student told me that when her daughter got her haircut the night before she sat in the chair and said, “I want my hair like Miss Bachus” because she wants to be a teacher too. Sometimes it is easy to get caught up in trying so hard to make sure all of my students are “getting it” when they are really picking up on so much more than just how to read and count. Seeing them write a sentence for the first time is a milestone I’ll never forget, but getting to be the keeper and promoter of their biggest dreams is why I do this. (photo full page left)

#### Madonna McGovern '04

I teach English 9 Honors, Advanced English 11, and English 11/12 Lab at New Palestine High School, which means I work with every level of student at the school. I enjoy working at NPHS because of the close knit community, small student population (although, not as small as OA!), and the autonomy my administration gives me in the classroom. Outside of teaching, I also coach cheerleading and quiz bowl.

I decided to become a teacher while a student at Oldenburg Academy. I think teaching was always in me as I used to play school in my basement, using old workbooks and textbooks given to me by my teachers. I loved learning and the social aspect of school and thought my teachers hung the moon. When I realized my fantasy Broadway career probably wouldn’t pan out (ha!), I thought about other ways I could combine my love for reading, writing, and performance. I was sitting in Mrs. Yane’s English class one day when the realization came to me that I could be a teacher. Teaching allows me to combine my interests and help students develop their own ideas, creativity, and skills, while never being bogged down with a routine.

From my years at Oldenburg Academy I saw what good teaching looks like. Even subjects that weren’t necessarily my strongest suit, like science, were enjoyable because of the teachers and their teaching style (shout out to Doc Kristoff and Mrs. Charls!). Whether it was asking a question or expressing my creativity, I always felt supported in the classroom because the teachers actually cared about me as a person and not just a number on the test. At the same time, I was challenged and felt like I received an education that was worth something. Some of my other positives of attending Oldenburg Academy were the opportunities it provided me to be involved in athletics and extra-curriculars and the small class sizes that allowed for one-on-one instruction and focused discussion. I use my own experience as a student to help guide me as a teacher. I want to provide for my students the same education and opportunities I appreciate receiving.

Oh man, every day is different as a teacher. Some days you’re having a mouse funeral complete with burial rites and an a cappella rendition of “Let It Be” and other days you’re rescuing fish from the toilet bowls due to senior pranks. As an English teacher, it brings me so much joy when they find a book that they actually read and enjoy or can relate to. As a teacher in general, I love seeing my students succeed and watching them receive their diplomas is one of my favorite memories every year. Even better is hearing from them years later and seeing who they grew up to be. School doesn’t come easy for all of my students, and they don’t always believe in themselves, so when I see them graduating college or starting their own businesses or traveling and experiencing what life is like beyond the boundaries of New Palestine, it reminds me of the very reason I became a teacher. (photo near left)



## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

***“All good gifts around us, are sent from heaven above.  
So, thank the Lord, oh thank the Lord for all His love.”***

– Godspell (song “All Good Gifts”)

And so another Spring has arrived, and with it comes renewed energy and hope for new growth, in our gardens and in our lives. We reflect on where we’ve been and plan our journey forward. And, we thank the Lord for all His love.

Soon we will bring the 2018-19 school year to a close. But, before doing that, the 2019 Senior Class will be inducted into the Alumni Association during the Awards Ceremony in May. Each senior will receive a gift from the Association, and along with their parents, be honored at a luncheon sponsored by the Alumni Association. During this Awards Ceremony, the Alumni will also award (4) \$1000 scholarships to returning OA Students. Please consider giving to the Alumni Scholarship or the Alumni Association so that we may continue performing good works in the name of the Alumni. All monies donated are used to support the Oldenburg Academy and their projects.

Recently the alumni donated \$1000 to ‘light up the auditorium’. More information about this project is available in this edition.

We are preparing to elect a new President, Treasurer and Trustee later this year. We ask each of you to prayerfully reflect on your journey going forward; are you being called to serve your fellow alumni? We ask you to pray for those who are called to serve, that they may continue to lead us and challenge us. If you would like to volunteer or would like to nominate a fellow Oldenburg Grad, please contact the Alumni Office at [alumni@oldenburgacademy.org](mailto:alumni@oldenburgacademy.org) or call 812-934-4440. Ext 240.

I would also like to thank our current Board Members for all of their hard work and dedication, Vice President, Helen Bailey ‘71, Treasurer, Teri Sitterding ‘82, Secretary, Rose Vankirk Spaeth ‘75, and Trustees Bertie Hartman Schmidt ‘64, Liz Hartman Stenger ‘71, and Linda Nobbe Siefert ‘61.

*Nita Mauer, President ‘82*



**The Retired Sisters Christmas Party** was held in the OA Dining Room on Sunday, December 2, 2018. We had 15 Alums attend the party to serve punch, cookies, and ice cream. Our volunteers also helped the Sisters play bingo and win prizes. Due to the generosity of many Alums, we were able to give each Sister a \$5 gift card to area restaurants before playing bingo.

We would like to thank Sr. Bernice Roell for her many years of service in working with us for this yearly event. This year we started working with Sr. Joanita Koors who was very appreciative of our Alums generosity!  
Submitted: Ruth Leurck Mayo ‘67



### Oldenburg Academy Easter Egg Hunt

*Rain or shine, sponsored by the Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception Alumni Association*

**Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>  
Hunt begins at 10 am**

Come and celebrate the season! The hunt begins at 10 am on the grounds of the Sisters of St. Francis. Don't forget to bring your camera and get your picture taken with the Easter Bunny as you visit with old and new friends!

Everyone is welcome. After the hunt, refreshments will be served in the Twister Café in ICA Hall. Questions? Contact Alumni Association at 812.934.4440 ext. 240 or [alumni@oldenburgacademy.org](mailto:alumni@oldenburgacademy.org)

**BATESVILLE CLUB**  
Thursday, August 15th meeting  
will be an ice cream social at  
OA. Call Carolyn Dieckmann  
at 812-212-9382 for details.

**CINCINNATI CLUB**  
June Meeting  
Monday, June 17th  
Location: TBD

**See OA website for more  
chapter information  
or to start your own!**



## LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

OLDENBURG ACADEMY OF THE  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## SEEKING AWARD NOMINATIONS

### What are the awards?

Each year the Alumni Association gives three awards to members of the Academy family at Homecoming.

- **Distinguished Alumni Award** is given to a graduate who has made significant contributions to their field of study or in their community.
- **Virtue, Honor Education Award** is given to a current or past member of OA in recognition for their contribution to the Academy.
- **The Arts Award** honors graduates who have entered the field of Fine and Performing Arts.

The **Ammann-Brinkmoeller Athletic Hall of Fame** was established by OASIS (athletic boosters) to recognize outstanding contributions by student athletes, coaches, administrators and other supporters of OA athletics.

### Who can submit a nomination?

Anyone can submit a nomination for these awards.

### How do I make a nomination?

Fill out the nomination forms telling us why your candidate would be great for recognition. Submit your nomination form to Oldenburg Academy with attn: name of award.

### How to obtain a nomination form?

Contact the School Office at (812)-934-4440 or visit the website.

### When do I need to submit a nomination form?

Distinguished Alumni, Virtue, Honor Education, and Arts Award - July 1

Athletic Hall of Fame - September 1

**ALUMNI  
HOMECOMING  
OCTOBER 12, 2019  
ATHLETIC HALL OF  
FAME INDUCTION  
WINTER 2019**

*Anniversary Classes to be Honored: '94, '89, '84, '79, '74, '69, '64, '59, '54, and 49 – If you are interested in helping organize a class reunion or would like to help plan our 2019 Homecoming, please contact the Alumni Office at [alumni@oldenburgacademy.org](mailto:alumni@oldenburgacademy.org) or call 812-934-4440. Ext 240.*

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### BIRTHS

Max Rozman '08 welcomed son Atticus on March 13th

Klair Kerker Biltz '07 and husband welcomed a future Twister last fall

Kelsea Kerker Brown '07 and husband welcomed a future Twister last fall

### MARRIAGES

Mary Kate Irrgang '11 married Gordon Lang

Michael Maple '12 and Hillary Nolting '11 married in the Sisters' Chapel on September 29th

Molly Wilder '11 married Nick McCreary in the Sisters' Chapel on November 17th

Bridget Bruns '12 married Chris Moyer

Mark Hetzer '12 married Allie Witek

Rachel Hettesheimer '10 married Mike Brown

### OTHER NEWS

Hilary Konnersman ('08) and her sister Suzanne were featured in a recent article in the *Criterion* about their local coffee shop and their inspirational journey from tragic accident to giving back to the Oldenburg community.

Lauren Reed '10 is starting Cattail Blooms a local flower farm.

### IN LOVING MEMORY...

**Sr. Irvin Marie Kreimer, OSF '39**

**Janet Voss Connolly '43**

**Doris Smith Adams '45**

**Mildred Haverkos Lovell '46**

**Vera Ramstetter Nash '48**

**Audrey Kraus Kasak '49**

**Naomi Redelman Woods '49**

**Ruth Harmeyer Kunkel '50**

**Mary Rose Schmidt Doyle '52**

**Donna Bauer Miller '52**

**Margaret Mary Kolb Smith '52**

**Marian Muckerheide '53**

**Rosie Zimmerman Fisher '55**

**Sr. Tecla Jaehnen OSF, '55**

**Rosalie Grossman Geis '56**

**Margaret Bledsoe Best '59**

**Patricia O'Brien Egan '64**

**Jill Keil Furnish '66**

**Jennifer Lawrence Moody '66**

**Edie Amberger Ernestes '68**

**Sr. Mary Gloria Gallagher, OSF Honorary**

### ***Be sure to stay connected to OA***

on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook follow  
**@oldenburgacademy**

Be sure to update your contact information to receive even more OA news by calling (812) 933-0737 or sending us a message  
[oldenburgacademy.org/contact-us](http://oldenburgacademy.org/contact-us)

OLDENBURG ACADEMY'S  
**\$25,000**  
**CASH/CAR**  
**RAFFLE**



**Drawing will be held on**  
**Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at**  
**Freudenfest**

**Five: \$100 EARLY BIRD WINNERS**  
**on May 31, 2019**

*\$100 winners will be re-entered to win*  
*\$200 prizes and grand prize*

**Five: \$200 WINNERS**

**One: \$23,500 WINNER\***

*\*Win a Jeep Cherokee through Batesville Chrysler*  
*Dodge Jeep Ram (excludes all taxes and title fees) or*  
*\$23,500 cash (subject to all tax withholdings)*

*Participants must be 18 years of age or older*

**(ONLY 500 TICKETS SOLD: \$100 EACH)**

**WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT**

*Save the Date*  
OLDENBURG ACADEMY'S  
**28TH ANNUAL**  
**PRO-AM GOLF CLASSIC**  
**JUNE 17, 2019**  
*Hillcrest Golf & Country Club*



# CONSTRUCTION ON THE FELDHAUS IS (FINALLY) BEGINNING!

We are very excited to finally launch this wonderful new facility for the Academy. It is hoped to be completed by the end of the calendar year and the positive impact this will have on OA is unparalleled. Thanks to those whose support has brought us to this moment.

We have not yet reached our fundraising goal for this important project and **still need EVERYONE** who has benefitted from an Academy education and embraces the value of having this available for future generations to lend your support.

*Please contact President Laake for more information.*



## ***How Can You Make a Difference?***

**Join the over 170 generous donors who have already pledged their support!**

Monthly Gifts are  
*Easy • Convenient • Secure • Impactful*

A monthly gift of just **\$25 = \$300** per year  
**With a 5-year pledge that grows to \$1500. Wow!**

Your investment in Oldenburg Academy through an automated monthly gift will provide continued support that we can count on to help fully fund the Feldhaus.

*Each month we will charge your credit or debit card for the pre-designated amount of your monthly gift. We will send you a receipt with all of your contributions at the end of the calendar year for tax purposes and contact you each year to renew your commitment. Contact the Advancement Office to set this gift up today!*





# OLDENBURG ACADEMY

OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

1 TWISTER CIRCLE, PO BOX 200, OLDENBURG, INDIANA 47036

WWW.OLDENBURGACADEMY.ORG, 812.934.4440

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 10**

Incoming Freshman Scholarship Ceremony

**April 12 - 18**

OASIS Auction

**April 19 & 22**

Good Friday/Easter Monday

*No school!*

**April 20**

Alumni Easter Egg Hunt

**April 22-27**

OASIS Mattress/Appliance Sale

**April 26**

Spring Concert/Art Show

**April 27**

Holly Bruns 5K

**May 1**

May Crowning

**May 3**

Incoming Freshmen Picnic

**May 4**

Prom

**May 24**

Awards Day/Senior Mass

**June 2**

Graduation

**June 17**

Pro-Am Golf Classic

**July 19-20**

Freudenfest

**July 20**

Car Raffle Drawing

**August 1**

Back to School Day

**August 6**

Freshmen Orientation

**August 7**

First Day of Classes

