

OLDENBURG ACADEMY

OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

SUMMER 2018



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



The 2017-18 school year has come to a close and will be remembered as one full of tremendous success, moments of challenge and opportunity,

and much cause for celebration and satisfaction. The annual report to be published in the fall will provide more information, but this summer “mini-magazine” offers a quick overview of the highlights.

Graduation this year was held on the Feast of Corpus Christi – the Body of Christ. How appropriate! I offered these reflections as Mass began: “As I said during our final all school Mass a few weeks ago, at OA our students don’t just “fit in” – they “belong”. We are all members of this amazing Body of Christ that embraces our uniqueness, our individual giftedness, and our unconditional love-ability. We each have our own path to follow and if we truly listen (as the word vocation – *vocare* - encourages us to do) will ultimately lead us closer to God. While every senior has a “post-secondary plan”, this is just their first step.

One of my favorite authors Bill Plotkin issues this challenge: “The gift you carry for others is not an attempt to save the world but to fully belong to it. It’s not possible to save the world by trying to save it. You need to find what is genuinely yours to offer the world before you can make it a better place. Discovering your unique gift to bring to your community is your greatest opportunity and challenge. The offering of that gift—your true self—is the most you can do to love and serve the world. And it is all the world needs.”

And our world needs our OA graduates – women and men of uncompromising character, a deep sense of responsibility and service, and fearless vision. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support. Together we are OA and we continue to keep the original vision of the Sisters of St. Francis as a source of inspiration and direction for generations to come.

Wishing you peace and all good.

Diane

Diane H. Laake
President

2017-2018 SUCCESSES

ACADEMICS

- Earned A rating from the Indiana Department of Education – 6 years in a row this was offered
- 40 members of Class of 2018 headed to 19 different schools, 2 branches of the military (Army and Coast Guard), and 2 trade schools in 5 states
- Named 4-Star School rating by the Indiana Department of Education – 8th year
- Class of 2018 (40 students) earned over \$3.8 million in college scholarships (68% received)
- 70% of graduates earned Indiana Academic Honors Diplomas (28 students)
- 1 senior earned Associate Degree from Ivy Tech
- SAT testing offered at OA – first time offered
- Indiana Advanced Placement Award - 55.8% of AP students earned 3 or higher on exam
- ***Dual Credit Recognition – earning top silver rating and best rating in southeastern Indiana***

COLLEGE-TO-CAREER READINESS PROGRAM

- First year to launch program including senior internships and REACH for all four grade levels
- 95% of seniors participated in a semester-long internship and/or capstone project
- Over 50 career guest speakers on campus
- ***3 seniors offered full-time summer internships because of their semester internships with partnering organizations***
- 18 different partnering organizations participated in our internships

SPORTS

- Indiana Academic All Team Award – Girls Volleyball
- Indiana Volleyball Coaches Association Award (entire team – national award)
- Boys Soccer ranked #2 in the State during 17-18 season
- Sectional Champs – Girls Soccer

- **4 students sign to play collegiate sports**
- Girls Tennis Sectional and Regional Champions – 4th year in a row
- 17 Academic All-State Athletes

FINE ARTS

- ISSMA State Vocal – 2 gold
- ISSMA State Instrumental - 1 silver
- 3 National School Orchestra Awards
- 1 National School Choral Award

SERVICE

- Hurricane Harvey Relief – students raised \$1000 to send to OA alum, Emily Oesterling '12, school in Houston, Texas to help families affected by the hurricane
- 4 students and staff member selected to go on Franciscan Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi with Roger Bacon High School (Cincinnati)
- **Class of 2018 pledged \$3,100 for OA tuition assistance, awarding a \$700 scholarship for the 2018-19 school year – starting a new tradition for future graduating classes**

- Class of 2018 provided 2401 hours of service and volunteer hours (service – 723 hrs. and volunteer 1678)
- 5 seniors earned Centennial Service Award for 100 or more hours of service

FACILITIES

- **Sisters of St. Francis deeded Academic and Auditorium buildings to OA**
- Innovation room – 5 display panels with Apple TV's, new flooring, and new furniture through CREATE and J.A. Hillenbrand grants and private donations
- New OA Mini Bus – OA Dinner Auction special project
- Student Lounge renovation (summer 2018)
- New digital sound system in auditorium



SPRING AROUND OA



Top to Bottom, Left to Right: Sophomore retreat at Michaela Farms; AP scores recognition; Girls' Tennis wins regionals; May crowning; orchestra playing at Spring Concert - Care of Creation



Retiring teachers John Armbruster and Connie Deardorff were honored for their many years of dedicated service. Armbruster and Deardorff both leave a legacy of over 50 years of striving to encourage, empower, and educate youth. OA is blessed that many of these years were spent at the Academy.

Connie Deardorff has been a Teacher, Principal, Admissions Director, Religion, APUSH and ESL teacher and even a teacher's aide throughout her career. Most recently she returned to OA to teach Advanced Placement US History and provide support for the international students from China. She has been a life-long advocate of Catholic education, and the encouragement of students and families from all backgrounds. Mrs. D and her husband work diligently to maintain the Franciscan values in their lives by being Associates with the Sisters of St. Francis. Principal Brian McFee states: "Connie, I am thankful that you accepted the challenge of coming back to OA, that you found a bond with many of our students and that you were a great confidant for me here at the Academy."

John Armbruster finishes his career in education that also included many titles and roles (teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, Superintendent) and most recently, several awards (Batesville Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Educator and the OA Alumni Association's Virtue, Honor and Education Award). For the last 15 years he has been the face of OA Chemistry and Physics, inspiring a generation of future pharmacists, doctors, physical therapists, engineers as well as business leaders, teachers, and many others. Principal McFee shares about Armbruster: "You have left a legacy Mr. Armbruster - one that I am thankful that my oldest son has had the honor of experiencing you as a teacher but one that I am also extremely thankful and humbled to be able to say that I worked alongside that wonderful educator!! I know that I speak for the entire OA family that while we don't want you to leave we also hope that you have a great retirement with your family!"

WELCOME

Class of 2022!

WHO ARE THEY?

100% of the top 10 students who took the
OA placement test are enrolled in the class

50% boys vs. 50% girls

13 schools represented

58% legacy and 42% first-time families

94% will play a sport

Students reside in 17 towns

Over \$119,000 earned in scholarships with
31 scholarships awarded



For information about becoming a part of the OA family contact
Mrs. Annette Hunger at ahunger@oldenburgacademy.org or 812.934.4440 ext. 231

AWARDS DAY, SENIOR LUNCH, & SENIOR MASS



Top to Bottom, Left to Right: Adam Mullen receiving the Twister Spirit Award; Lexi Brown, STUCO President, speaking at Senior Mass; Alumni Association induction; 2018 Seniors with their legacy family members

Congratulations

CLASS OF 2018!



In his valedictorian speech, **Daniel Siemer** (left) noted, “When we look to our future, we must ask ourselves what we want from our lives. By attending this school, we are often tempted to dream big and set high expectations for ourselves and for each other. We often times find ourselves dreaming of success, happiness, and fulfillment, and we look forward to excelling in careers and accomplishing our dreams through dedication and diligence. However, success isn’t dependent solely on hard work or on our natural abilities. We must remember that our success is not relative to the success of others, but to our own desires. One way to assure success in our lives is to humble our desires and be grateful for what we are given. When we shift our goals from wealth, power and prestige to virtue and honor, and focus on the moral betterment of ourselves and others, we will find it easier to lead fulfilling, satisfying lives.”

Co-salutatorian **Rachel Stoll** (center) reminded her classmates of our school

“When we look to our future, we must ask ourselves what we want from our lives.”

Daniel Siemer ‘18

motto, “Be Christ to others and let others be Christ to you”. Fellow salutatorian **Jacob Herbert** (right) noted, “the decisions we make, make us who we are. In each moment we are affirming through our actions the persons who we truly are. If we want to be honest, we must always seek truth. If we wish to be called brave, we must in every moment be willing to face whatever comes our way.”

The Class of 2018 actively participated in the liturgy preceding the graduation exercises. Benjamin Abrams and Samuel Hubert served as cantors with Matthew Zinser as piano accompanist. Lectors were Carly Bellamy and Seth Schutte, while Catherine Cigolotti, Jillian Eckstein and Ava Geers read the prayers of the faithful. Gift bearers were Ian Dickey, Kitley Kern,

and Adam Mullen. The Academy Singers also shared their signing talents during Mass while the OA orchestra delighted waiting guests in the hour before the ceremony began.



SUPPORT OA

Thanks to everyone who supported
THE 27TH ANNUAL PRO-AM GOLF CLASSIC.
It was a huge success!



\$25,000 CAR/CASH RAFFLE DRAWING ON JULY 21
Time is running out so call the Advancement Office. **Only 500 tickets sold!**
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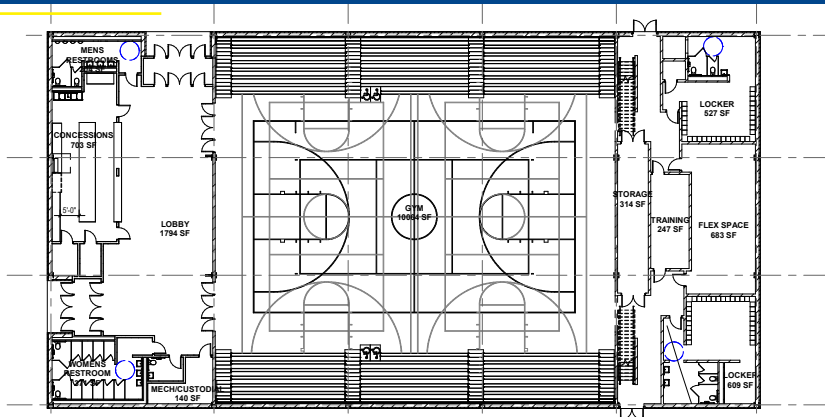
IT'S "LUCKY BUCK" TIME AGAIN!

For the low price of \$20 for one, 3 for \$50, every ticket has 67 chances to win.
The first drawing will be on October 5 so don't delay!

ALUMNI DIRECTORY

Thanks to all who responded to the requests to update their contact information and even purchased a directory and other alumni goodies. Production is in its final stages and books will be mailed in the fall. Stay tuned – *thanks for your patience!*

HILLENBRAND FAMILY FELDHAUS UPDATE



Much progress has been made on the final design plans for this exciting addition to OA's campus! This vital facility will include a 900 seat (double the current) gym, multi-purpose lobby area, locker rooms, trainer's room, 2nd floor mezzanine, accessed from the practice field, with a weight room and football locker room, and much more!

Look for news on a ground-breaking later this fall.

We need everyone who loves OA, believes in her mission, and has personally benefitted from the academic excellence and faith-formation our grads receive to help partner with us.

Look for opportunities coming soon in the mail.



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ALUMNI NEWS

FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

I, for one, am enjoying the warm, sunny days of spring and summer. It has been a stark difference from the cold, gloomy days of winter. School has been out for several weeks, and before you know it, Oldenburg Academy will be back in session. Many things have happened these past few months, so let me get you up to speed.

It has been my esteemed pleasure to serve with the following individuals as the outgoing Alumni Board members and Trustees: Barb Hirt '51, Ruth Mayo '67, Jill Knueven Riley '08, Teri Krekeler Sitterding '82, and Lisa Brinkmoeller Holstrom '80. I want to thank Barb and Ruth for their many years of service to the Academy and the Alumni Association. And, I thank Jill, Teri and Lisa for stepping up when no one else could. I look forward to the continued presence and support from all of you. Our incoming Officers and Trustees are: Vice President Helen Bailey '71, Secretary Rose Vankirk Spaeth '75, Treasurer Hillary Nolting '11 and Trustees

Liz Hartman Stenger '71 & Bertie Hartman Schmidt '64. Linda Nobbe Siefert '61 and I will continue in our current roles until elections this fall. Please start thinking of fellow Alumni to nominate for President and Trustee. Another change that has taken place is Brian Knueven '05, our

Liaison to OA, has decided to teach full time. As it currently stands, that position will not be replaced. Thank you, Brian, for all of your hard work and dedication to the Alumni Association. Please reach out to the current Board, whose contact

information is posted on the Alumni page of the school's website, if you need any information or have updates/prayer requests you would like for us to post.

Also, this year we are introducing a new Award for the Arts, to accompany our Distinguished Alumni and Virtue, Honor, & Education Awards. Please take time to complete a nomination form, located on the Alumni Page of the school's website.

Nita Mauer '82



Newly inducted and outgoing members of the OAICAA Board pose for a photos at their first meeting in May.

You don't want to miss
ALUMNI HOMECOMING
SATURDAY OCTOBER 13, 2018

Registration - 11:30 AM

Luncheon and Building Tours - 12:30 PM

Mass in the Sisters chapel - 4:00 PM

Includes VHE tribute

New this year: Cocktail Hour - 5:00 PM

Buffet Dinner and Program - 6:00 PM

Includes Distinguished Alumni and Arts Awards

AGAIN THIS YEAR: Bier Garten - 8:00 – 10:00 PM

Continue catching up with your classmates and sharing great memories

This year we are introducing a new Award for the Arts. Nominations for this, VHE and Distinguished Alumni are being accepted until August 1. See OA website for details.

Invitations with more details including costs will be mailed in late August.

Ammann-Brinkmoeller Athletic Hall of Fame nominations due by September 1st.
 They will be inducted on December 8th during home basketball games.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2	Back to School Day 3:00 – 7:00 PM	October TBD	Groundbreaking for Hillenbrand Family Feldhaus
August 7	Freshman Orientation	October 4	Feast of St Francis Liturgy 9:30 AM
August 8	First Day of School	October 8-12	Fall Break
August 15	Feast of the Assumption Liturgy 1:30 PM	October 13	Alumni Homecoming
September 7	Joint Day of Service-- OA & Roger Bacon Faculties & Staffs	October 26-27	Fall Play "Frankenstein"
September 14	Grandparents Day/ Junior Induction Liturgy 1:00 PM	November 1	Feast of All Saints Liturgy 1:30 PM
September 28	Freshman Retreat	November 9-10	Senior Retreat
		November 11	Open House



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