



# THE HOLY CROSS CHRONICLE

STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOLY CROSS  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA  
SPRING 2016

## College Graduates to University

By Alane Templet

Our Lady of Holy Cross College is now the University of Holy Cross.

The historic action in January 2016 conferred ownership of the University from the Marianite Sisters to the Board of Trustees.

The University will be celebrating its 100th year anniversary this fall. The Centennial Prayer Breakfast will be held on September 15, and the Centennial Mass and Celebration is scheduled for November 9 at St. Louis Cathedral in the French Quarter.

“If you have a large graduate school like we have—over 250 graduate students with 62 working on a doctorate—you should be a university,” President Dr. David “Buck” Landry said in an interview with *The Clarion Herald*. “Every other school our size in New Orleans is a university...So there is no reason we shouldn’t have been a university.”

The Marianites’ legacy is secure at the University. Sister Ann Lacour said that the Marianites are “very excited it’s happening in the 100th year.”

So what exactly does the name change mean for students? No matter what, we will still receive the quality education Holy Cross has always provided.

Perhaps one of the first things you’ll notice is that the “Our Lady of Holy Cross College” sign facing Woodland Drive has been removed. Another immediate change is on the website. When you type in the old URL [www.olhcc.edu](http://www.olhcc.edu), you are redirected to the new URL [www.uhcno.edu](http://www.uhcno.edu). The IT department informed everyone that email addresses have changed as well. While students still log-on with their old email addresses, it is encouraged that all students update their contact information to read “@uhcno.edu” in the near future.

In addition to the name change, plans are underway to expand facilities around the campus. According to Dr. Landry, a 150-room dormitory is in the works. It is hoped that the first dormitory will open for the Fall 2017 semester. Once the dorm is built, a daycare facility will be established. Two other dorms are in the planning stages.

As shown in the map below, a new Nursing and Allied Health building will be constructed near the side entrance facing General DeGaulle Drive. Also on the horizon is the increase of athletics at the University. A softball field, soccer field, and athletic center will be created. A visual illustration of the University’s plans is available for viewing near the Admissions Office.

The future for the University is brighter than ever before. With the expansion of facilities and programs, students have more to look forward to in the University’s next 100 years.





The University of Holy Cross sophomore nursing students received their white coats during a ceremony on February 22.

## 55 Sophomore Nursing Students Are Ready to Make a Difference

By the Department of Nursing

On Monday, February 22, the Department of Nursing held its second White Coat Commissioning Ceremony. Dr. Landry welcomed the students, faculty, staff and the many parents, family members and others who celebrated with the students. A pleasant surprise was in store for sophomore nursing student Kellie Briggs. Kellie's husband traveled from his active duty site in Hawaii to celebrate the ceremony with her.

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the White Coat ceremony honors the "commitment of incoming nursing students to provide compassionate care" throughout their nursing careers. Fifty-five sophomores received their white coat and had their hands blessed by Sr. Rochelle Perrier in preparation for the beginning of their clinical experience. The ceremony represents a significant step in the nursing students' educational journey. They will be joining the largest health care occupation in the US with more than 3.1 million

registered nurses nationwide.

Dr. Prechter reminded the students that they will be able to make a difference in many patients' lives and they will be able to share their faith by the care they provide. Nurses continue to outrank other professions in Gallup's annual Honesty and Ethics survey. Eighty-one percent of Americans say nurses have "very high" or "high" honesty and ethical standards, a significantly greater percentage than for the next-highest-rated professions.

## Service Before Self: A Theology Club Member's Perspective

By Bobby Delaney

"Let your religion be less of a theory and more of a love affair." This quote by G.K Chesterton sums up the goal and purpose of the Holy Cross Theology Club.

Since the Club consists mainly of Theology majors, we wish to take the theory that we learn both in class and in our local churches into the world. This is not just because we are trying to be civil servants, but because our faith demands us.

The Theology club was created in the Jubilee Year of Mercy, and we are proud that the core of our projects has revolved around some of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Some of the community service projects that we have taken on include a clothing drive for the homeless, serving those at homeless shelters king cakes during the Mardi Gras season, and doing yard work in Mandeville for the St. Tammany Association for Retarded Citizens. All these community projects not only have been fulfilling to do, but also have allowed us to take the theory of our religion and make it a love affair. In these projects ministering to the poorest of our human family, regardless of race, gender, or creed, we truly live out our mission as a Club, but we also encounter Jesus Christ. This is why the Theology club views these projects as one of the most important things we do.

However, as important as community service projects are, one of the other equally important things we do as a club is serve the spiritual needs of our school. We host different opportunities for our fellow classmates to grow spiritually. The two most prominent things we do are host Bible study of the upcoming readings for Sunday's Mass on Tuesdays at 8:15 a.m. in the Chapel, and we host adoration on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. These events are special to us, and they are an honor to hold as a club. We are able to nurture not only our own hearts, but also the hearts of others by experiencing Christ both in the Gospel and the Holy Eucharist.

Another thing our club does is propose dialogue about our faith and bring others into the fullness of the faith. One of the ways we have done this is by sponsoring a scholarly lecture about our faith in relation to politics. The Club brought in Dr. Chad Pecknold from Catholic University, and he spoke about the relationship that St. Augustine's City of God has with the current political climate in the United States. We also plan to have a table talk set up in the future, where students can come and ask questions to the Theology Club on issues of faith and

morals. This is something we are excited about doing in the future because it allows the members of the club to practice teaching about our faith, but more importantly, to bring others into a deeper knowledge and understanding of their relationship with God.

One of the other things our club does is come in communion with our school and other organizations to host and participate in University events. Some examples include our participation in Trunk or Treat as well as the Crawfish Boil. We offered the making of rosary beads, and we sold University of Holy Cross T-Shirts at the Crawfish Boil in addition to our own club T-Shirt. We were excited to participate with the rest of the University and to get our name out to the whole student body.

As a club, we hope to grow after our first year of existence. We invite all members of the student body to attend our events and meetings to see if the Theology Club would be something they would be interested in joining.



Theology Club members and faculty members prepare king cake to donate to people at homeless shelters.

(Photo courtesy of Department of Theology)



Actor Douglas Smith talked to Mr. Yeagain's acting students during class. He gave advice to the students and critiqued their skits. Smith has starred in *The Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters*, HBO's *Vinyl*, and most recently in *Terminator Genisys*. Students L to R: Alvin Mahler, Michael Vess, Esther Clement, Macey Ortiz, Jourdan Smith, Haydee Ortiz, and Raegan Rivere. Photo by Alane Templet



Above: UHC student volunteers served dinner to the St. John the Baptist Sheriff's Office on March 10 in gratitude for their assistance with the Laplace tornado victims. (Photo courtesy of the St. John the Baptist Sheriff's Office)



Photo by Alane Templet

## The Holy Cross Difference

By Matthew Engler

There is a unique quality about Holy Cross. The happy and welcoming environment at the University of Holy Cross is a breath of fresh air in my life.

From the moment I stepped on campus for the first time, it was very noticeable to me that there was something very different and special about this place. People here are friendly and approachable, and it seems as if everyone is always smiling. This is not the kind of atmosphere that I am used to. The difference is refreshing and encouraging. When walking the halls, I see eye contact, cordial gestures, and a feeling that we like being around one another. This differs from many environments that I have been in before.

For those of us who are socially anxious or awkward, it is a real relief to be here. Much of the anxiety I feel in everyday life seems to melt away as soon as I pull into the parking lot. Acceptance is the word for that feeling. Comfort is the overwhelming sense. These things make it easy to be a student here. I can exist here and be a part of something bigger. Holy Cross allows me to be an active participant in my future by maintaining an encouraging environment, and for that I am thankful.

The encouraging environment of acceptance and comfort is just as important as any

curriculum. With this as its foundation, Holy Cross provides for me a place in which it is easy and enjoyable to learn. I bet one of the major struggles of universities country-wide is that low attendance severely impacts grade point averages. I often wonder whether there is a correlation between attendance and comfort or acceptance. If I were to use the experiences of my own life, I would be certain there is. As compared to other academic environments where I was apprehensive to attend, I get excited to come to Holy Cross. It is the highlight of my week.

What makes this place different? Academics built on faith provide a structure where God can really be felt. The fullness provided by this spirituality is unparalleled. There is a certain surge of energy I feel as a result of this God-inspired place of learning. It is nice to be able to say that. I used to be a person who was embarrassed by my faith or religion. That has changed in the last few years of my life. Holy Cross exemplifies the ability to be accepting of what I believe.

From time to time, I am shown something that lets me know that I am doing the right thing with my life. Holy Cross has shown me that very thing. For this, I thank you.

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Seniors of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society, gathered at the Timberlane Country Club on April 22 to receive their graduation honor cords. Pictured are Jourdan Grubb, Gabriel Buras, Alane Templet, Frank Armato, and Sofia Stavrides. Not pictured: Marsha Nelson and Tatiana Salvaggio. Also in attendance at the dinner were Dr. Landry, Dr. Dahmes, Dr. Labranche, Dr. Champagne, and English faculty members.



Accounting students provided taxpayer services Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for ten weeks. Pictured L to R: Jeff Sanches, Ronnie Luman, Paulina Dinh, Jessica Hartley, Huong Chu, and Jacob Ducote. Over 150 federal and state tax returns were prepared and filed, and over 400 hours were spent assisting taxpayers.

(Photo courtesy of Department of Business)

## The Timeless Gift

By Merry Sorrells, Student in the Ed D. Program

One of my fondest memories of giving took place back in the 1970s.

Jimmy Ciglar lived in a room at the YMCA and frequented the restaurant where I once waited tables. Each day he would walk over to the restaurant, request to sit at my table and order a single cup of coffee. Even though he couldn't afford to, he always left a dollar tip. Jimmy was probably near 100 years old, toothless, and frail. His face, drawn and wrinkled and waxy with age, could have been a poster image for centenarians. When he smiled, however, a light of joy illuminated his face and leapt right out into my heart. Jimmy and I became quite a pair. He loved to make me laugh, and I loved to see him smile. He lived on Social Security checks, and the trips to the restaurant were his daily entertainment.

When I became engaged, I brought a wedding invitation to the restaurant and gave it to Jimmy. He was touched and embarrassed, so we teased about how dashing he would look in a top hat and tails. When I first thought of bringing him the invitation, I didn't realize what it would mean to him to be invited, or how impossible it would be for him to come.

My last day of work came, and before leaving town for my wedding, I waited on Jimmy one last time. Jimmy was in the booth waiting for me when I arrived for my shift. He beamed his smile at me, took off his wristwatch, and presented it to me as my wedding gift. It was a man's silver wind-up timepiece, old and worn, and it could not have been more beautiful to me had it been studded with diamonds.

Jimmy studied my face as I paused, taking in the magnitude of the moment. This was the gift of gifts. Jimmy could not afford to give it, and I could not afford to turn it away. We joked about how I would now surely be on time for my wedding. Jimmy and I never saw each other again after that day. But, I can still picture the beautiful smile that filled my heart and touched my soul. I wore that watch for a long time afterward, to remind myself that the gift itself is in the giving.

There is joy in giving, and Jimmy helped me to understand that joy. I was poignantly reminded that it is not the size of the gift that matters, but the love behind it. There are blessings for us all when we find ourselves rich in giving!

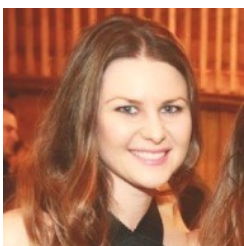
## GRADUATE COUNSELING CORNER FAVORITES

By Erika Meggs

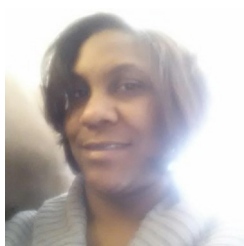
Most of the Counseling graduate classes take place in the evenings. Sometimes we hardly get a chance to meet our graduate students.

Many graduate students work full-time day jobs that occasionally require us to bring our work home, monopolizing our evenings and weekends. After work, we head straight to the University of Holy Cross for an additional 2 ½ hours, or more, of class time, which can total five hours for back-to-back classes. Some of us are driving from downtown, Uptown, Gentilly, Metairie, the East, Chalmette, Destrahan, Ninth Ward (lower & upper), Northshore and even farther. We are mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, caretakers, dependents, independents, single parents, co-parents, and much more.

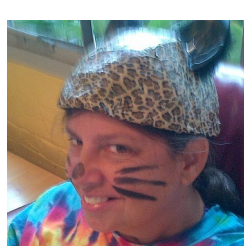
That's why the Graduate Corner is dedicated to getting to know our Counseling graduate students a little at a time, one-by-one. Our Counseling graduate students were asked about their favorite class, favorite New Orleans-style dish, and their dream vacation destination.



**Lorayne Bourgeois**, *Clinical Mental Health*  
Favorite class: Social and Cultural Foundations  
Favorite NO dish: Charbroiled oysters



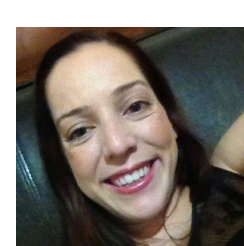
**Kimberly Ragas-Matalamaki**, *School Counseling*  
Favorite class: DSM-V (Dr. Fonseca made it even more interesting)  
Favorite NO dish: Bell peppers stuffed with crabmeat



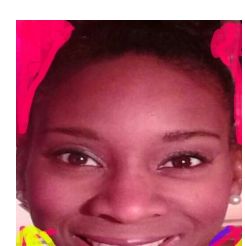
**Melissa Gemeinhardt**, *School Counseling*  
Favorite class: Theories of Counseling  
Favorite NO dish: Cold boiled shrimp  
Dream vacation:



**Danielle Lee**, *Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT)*  
Favorite class: English  
Favorite NO dish: Red beans & rice



**Jessica Cook**, *Clinical Mental Health*  
Favorite class: Social and Cultural Foundations  
Favorite NO dish: Catfish Loozianne from New Orleans Food & Spirits



**Erika Meggs**, *School Counseling*  
Favorite class: Professional Orientation and Ethics  
Favorite NO dish: File' & seafood gumbo

# Crayfishin' to Volunteer

By Matthew Engler

A little rain never stopped the University of Holy Cross students, faculty, and staff from having a good time.

Volunteering at the crawfish boil on Saturday, April 16 was an altogether fun and exciting experience. The day was gloomy, but the volunteers were in good spirits. Smiles and good attitudes were the norm for the day. I was definitely ill-prepared for what the weather had in store. With wet dress shoes and jeans, I was soggy from the start, but I was in very good company. The day began with set up. Chairs, tables, and tents had to be unfolded, erected, and spaced, all while avoiding ant hills and puddles. This gave a golden opportunity for teamwork, and even though I cannot recall their names, I feel like I bonded with those who were charged with the task. It was fun! As the bouncy houses were being inflated and the 2,000 pounds of crawfish were coming to a boil, there was an excitement in the air along with the smell of cayenne pepper. The weather also provided a certain suspense as to whether or not people would show up for the festivities, which added to the exciting atmosphere.

As for my specific purpose for being there, I am a member of the Student Government Association. So, off to my table I went where I would be selling T-shirts and koozies. From the front porch to just inside the entryway we set up, moved, and then set up again all in the attempt to get out of the rain. All the tables inside the building were facing one another merely feet apart. Things were close on the inside, and it added to the community feel of the experience. There were delicious cookies to be eaten (and I did a lot of that), prayer beads to be crafted, and children's faces to be painted. (I could not bring myself to get my face painted, although I wanted to badly). On the outside, the weather didn't hinder any activities. There was a dunk tank, spacewalks, a smorgasbord of crawfish and barbeque, and—a first for UHC—a petting zoo!

A bright smile began to stretch across my face when I saw the first attendees begin to show up. As a volunteer I am committed to the cause no matter what the result, but it does give great joy to see people take part in something that I helped set up.

There is something very special about the volunteer experience. People who freely give of their time to help are committed no matter what the circumstance. They want to be there. The proof of this is all those who helped with the University's Crawfish Boil. It's just one more example of the special something that is happening on campus.



Caroline Campbell, Kayla Todaro, and Bryanna Staab take a selfie at the UHC Crawfish Boil. (Photo submitted by Caroline Campbell)



One of many tables student organizations set up at the University's Crawfish Boil



Left: Steve Morgan and Cindy Grubb are all smiles even though the weather tried to dampen everyone's spirits (Submitted by Cindy Grubb); Right: a sampling of the day's deliciousness



The faces you make when fire drills happen on campus... (Photo by Raegan Rivere)

# Golfing for a Cause

By Ronnie Luman

On Monday March 7, the University of Holy Cross Business Club held its inaugural celebrity golf tournament. Three celebrities teamed up with the Business Club to help raise money and awareness for Help 4 Heroes, Autism Society of Greater New Orleans, and Team Gleason. The celebrities included Terry McDermott (Runner-up on *The Voice* and lead singer of Lotus Crush), Peter Klett (founding member of Candlebox), and C. Thomas Howell (Actor/Director/Producer – better known as Ponyboy on *The Outsiders*).

As a senior level student, I believe our legacy is what we do both inside and outside the classroom. This is just one example of how giving back to the community to raise a great deal of awareness for some great local charities is what our school is known for. I am thankful for all the volunteers, sponsors, and Business Club officers who came out and showed the golfers a great and memorable time.



Left: Terry McDermott, C. Thomas Howell, and Peter Klett at the first annual celebrity golf tournament (Submitted by Ronnie Luman)

# Routine Fire Drill Turns Into Dog Rescue

By Alane Templet

When the fire alarm sounds at Holy Cross, it's typically a practice drill. But on Wednesday, April 13, a routine fire drill turned into an animal rescue for two students.

Social Counseling major Tracey Allen and Biology major Kimberly Bourgeois evacuated the building near the Moreau Center during the fire drill. They walked outside to find a furry, four-legged friend that needed help finding her way home.

They knew the dog was well-kept. Sarah, as her name tag read, was wearing a harness and wagging her tail. Sarah had a nice, round belly, and it was clear she had been trained. While she enjoyed the attention from the two students, she wanted to be reunited with her owner.

Kim called Sarah's owner. He arrived on campus within minutes. When Sarah's owner stepped out of his truck, she immediately jumped into his arms. Even though Sarah appreciated the extra kindness of the two Holy Cross students, she was ready to go home.

Sarah's owner said she is an "escape artist." The beagle frequents the campus when she breaks out of her yard. He said he thinks she likes coming to Holy Cross because of all the nice people here.



Sarah with her owner next to Kimberly Bourgeois and Tracey Allen (Photo by Alane Templet)

## 2016 Calliope Launch Party



Esther Clement and Michael Vess perform a scene from "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" by Edward Albee.



Calliope cover artist Darren Hopkins with his painting "Wings of Victory" next to art professor Mrs. Carol Scott.



Calliope contributors with Dr. Claudia Champagne and Mrs. Carol Scott at the literary magazine's launch party on April 27.

### *THE HOLY CROSS CHRONICLE* ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKS TO ALL THE WONDERFUL STUDENT CONTRIBUTORS TO OUR NEWSPAPER! EVERY SEMESTER, THE NEWSPAPER IS BIGGER AND BETTER THAN THE ONE BEFORE!

THE WINNERS OF OUR STORY CONTEST ARE  
FIRST PLACE—MERRY SORRELLS, "THE TIMELESS GIFT"

SECOND PLACE—MATTHEW ENGLER, "THE HOLY CROSS DIFFERENCE"

THIRD PLACE—ALANE TEMPLET, "ROUTINE FIRE DRILL TURNS INTO DOG RESCUE"

THE WINNERS OF THE PHOTO CONTEST ARE  
(IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER):

CAROLINE CAMPBELL & ALANE TEMPLET

WINNERS SELECTED BY DR. CHAMPAGNE AND MR. TRAVIS