Our Lady of the Lake College is Baton Rouge’s Catholic college and the only Catholic college in Louisiana outside of New Orleans. As a Catholic college that accepts and respects students of all faiths, Our Lady of the Lake College is a place both of Catholic witness and of scholarly dialogue, a place where there is true interaction between the Gospel and culture, between faith-based truth and scholarly inquiry.

Pope John Paul II, in *Ex corde Ecclesiae*, wrote that every Catholic institution must exhibit four essential characteristics: Christian inspiration, research and reflection in the light of the Catholic faith, fidelity to the Christian message, and an institutional commitment to service. True to these values and its Franciscan roots, Our Lady of the Lake College emphasizes service to all.

Accordingly, Catholic colleges — such as Our Lady of the Lake College — are lively centers for the pursuit of all truth, where students are prepared for leadership in a wide range of professions and occupations, and where ethical decisions, virtuous behavior and Christian faith are modeled.
A 125-year-old speech by Archbishop John Ireland resonates today as we acknowledge the important role of Catholic education, especially here in Baton Rouge. From Catholic grade schools and high schools to religious education programs and church leadership formation programs to the only Catholic college in the diocese, the work of Catholic education is indeed preparing for “better times than these.” And we do this by being more than producers of credentialed graduates. We do more than inform our students; we form them. We do more than engage in intellectual dialogue; we witness to one another.

In his address to Catholic college and university presidents in 2008, Pope Benedict XVI noted that every Catholic educational institution must be a place where students grow in knowledge and understanding of God’s teachings such that they are drawn to live a life “characterized by all that is beautiful, good and true.” Therefore, as the president of a Catholic college, I am commanded to ensure that our students are taught more than simply the competencies required for successful performance of a particular job or career field. Our Lady of the Lake College is obligated to ensure that we are preparing students for a full and virtuous life, a life that is characterized by the core values of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady: service, reverence for life, joyfulness of spirit, humility and justice. As such, Our Lady of the Lake College is about both education and formation of students.

Yes, we continue to prepare for “better times than these.” And we do so by informing and forming our students to be competent professionals as well as good and faithful servants. We also do so by being Gospel witnesses while constantly pursuing the truth through scholarly dialogue. Thus, we in Catholic education cherish the dear privilege and the awesome responsibility to serve the Church. ☻

A President
by the Numbers

25 years in higher education
3 years in the Marine Corps
4 children
8 baseball games attended each year (average)
3 countries visited
2 languages spoken
3 years as a drummer
“I, or another PA, can see any patient who comes through the door,” says Jenna Ortego, ’08, a physician assistant (PA) in the emergency room at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center. “I assess their situation, order tests and, based on the results, set a course of action. I will generally have a discussion with the physician about each case. However, non-critical patients may not see a physician if I am able to provide them with care.”

Physician assistants are medical professionals licensed to practice medicine under the supervision of a physician. They assist across all medical and surgical specialties, ranging from family medicine to orthopedics and obstetrics. According to John Allgood, Physician Assistant Studies Program Director at Our Lady of the Lake College, a PA can undertake the majority of what a primary care physician does in practice.

Allgood, also the first licensed physician assistant in Louisiana, states that “one physician can only see so many patients. If you put two PAs with that physician, they can see almost as many patients as three physicians.” With a chronic shortage of physicians, PAs enable medical teams to deliver care to a larger population.

Horace Mitchell, MD, neurosurgeon at The NeuroMedical Center in Baton Rouge, explains how PAs interface with his group. “Physician assistants help manage office visits by seeing post-operative patients and interviewing new patients. Additionally, they assist in surgery as well as in the admission and discharge of patients. In this respect, a continuity of care is established and developed.”

The physician assistant profession was formally recognized in the 1960s. To address the growing demand for healthcare services, the first physician assistant education program in the United States was established in 1965 at Duke University. Initially, former military corpsmen who had received medical training during service were recruited to become PAs.
Now, as PAs continue to be in high demand, the profession attracts individuals from all walks of life. According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook published by the U.S. Department of Labor, employment of physician assistants is projected to grow at a rate of 38 percent through 2022 (compared to the average of 11 percent for all occupations).

Physician assistants are motivated by their desire to help others, and they choose to become PAs rather than medical doctors for many reasons, including education-related costs, which are considerably less, both in time and money. Their jobs usually offer stable schedules, allowing these professionals to devote more time to family and personal pursuits.

Beyond the work-life dynamic, balance is also a key word on the job. “The biggest challenge is balancing everything. Because physician assistants can work in any specialty, you have to know a little of everything. And even though PAs are capable of a lot, you also have to know when to stop, to ask for help, and to allocate tasks,” says Lee Daugherty, ‘10, physician assistant at The Surgeons Group of Baton Rouge. As with any team, collaboration and communication is crucial among the PAs, physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals who work together.

Besides medical knowledge and its application, there are many other considerations when caring for patients. OLOL College student Jenna Broussard emphasizes an important lesson learned during her clinical rotations. “If we discharge a patient from the hospital without a reliable caretaker, without transportation to follow up appointments, with a prescription for medications they cannot afford to fill, we have failed as medical professionals. Sometimes the most important thing you need to know about the patient is their social and economic situation.”

As one of three programs in Louisiana, Our Lady of the Lake College physician assistant studies program prepares students to become competent professionals and compassionate caregivers. The program has a rigorous curriculum that incorporates service-learning in addition to rotations throughout a region that extends from Baton Rouge to Lafayette and New Orleans.

In 2013, OLOL College became the only institution in the Gulf South region to offer a 3+2 Bachelor of Science/Master of Medical Science program. Qualified freshmen who complete the three-year accelerated biology program may apply for the physician assistant studies program, a two-year curriculum, at the end of their junior year. Successful candidates will ultimately earn both a BS degree in biology and an MMS degree in physician assistant studies. The 3+2 program will allow these professionals to join the workforce a year sooner than would a traditional program, helping to ease the demand for healthcare providers.

An aging and growing population and the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act means the demand for healthcare services will only continue to grow, with patients needing immediate access. “The economics of healthcare are struggling to provide access on a shrinking budget,” says Mitchell. “Physician assistants increase the number of patients that a solo or group practitioner can see and provide good care that is timely. I believe they continue to be an essential part of the healthcare team.”

OLOL College is the only institution in the Gulf South region to offer a 3+2 Bachelor of Science/Master of Medical Science program.
GIVING

by Kodi Bethay

I would like to introduce you to The Life of a Single Mom Ministries (TLSM). While looking through the lists of potential service-learning hosts for this academic year, I was immediately interested in this organization due to my personal experiences as a single mother.

The founder of TLSM, Jennifer Maggio, has a very inspirational story. She became a mother of two at a young age and battled through many hardships. While getting her education and raising small children, she became very involved with the Church and deepened her relationship with God. Throughout the years Jennifer became very successful in her career and started small support groups for single moms at local churches, and the popularity of her groups helped launch the non-profit organization that exists today. God is present in all aspects of the organization, and I believe this is a huge reason for her success.

The inspiration that Jennifer offers to women all over the country is astonishing, and the ministry helps all single moms regardless of their socioeconomic background, race, number of children or religious affiliation. TLSM offers a wide variety of services including providing daily necessities, housing arrangements, help for domestic abuse victims, employment opportunities, financial help and support groups at local churches and is funded by personal and corporate contributions, and fundraising events. To help ensure that no single mom walks alone, TLSM works with roughly 1,500 churches worldwide to help those in need. The Baton Rouge office is the control center of the organization.

On my first day of this service-learning project I was asked to help write inspirational messages for TLSM’s “Topic Tuesday” discussions posted on its

Service-learning is an educational experience that combines classroom teaching with community service. Knowledge gained in the classroom is used to address real needs in the community, giving students an opportunity to translate ideas into actions.

Our Lady of the Lake College currently has over 100 community partners in more than 16 parishes across Louisiana.
social media webpages. The talking points given to me were “hope” and “bullying.” As I was writing about my personal stories and thoughts, I found myself realizing that it was easier to give advice than to follow it. The section on hope had a direct connection to my current situation, and I could instantly relate to all of these women in desperate need of hope and the presence of God in their lives. While I was searching for biblical quotes to help soothe the sorrows of other women, I realized that I myself also needed this help. I did not think this experience would be a path of spiritual recognition, but it was and it was very insightful.

When I looked at the website and saw some of my quotes and advice, it gave me such a wonderful feeling. I read through the comments from other mothers and I felt a connection with them. I truly felt as if I helped somebody in a way that I did not think was possible. The dialogue among us formed a sense of community and understanding, and the emotional response triggered by this sense of community gave me the motivation to do more.

I do not have much money and I work hard to support my household, but through TLSM I realized that I do have time. I learned that sometimes all it takes to give back is a little time, effort and willingness.

I want to continue helping mothers in need. I believe this opportunity has been a calling from God, and I want to pursue a path of helping others. I especially would like to offer support to students who are mothers at Our Lady of the Lake College and to other mothers who want to try to go to college. I know that if I had some support seven years ago, then I would have had the ability to come back to college sooner. I think it is very important to educate women on the opportunities available to them and to help guide their future in a positive direction. I want every single mom to know that she can achieve anything she puts her heart and soul into. Being a single mom and attending college is very challenging, and sometimes it is hard to cope, but with the help of organizations such as TLSM, it can be a reality.

If you need help or would like to volunteer, please visit www.thelifeofasinglemom.com.

Kodi Bethay is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in biology degree with a concentration in human medicine and a minor in chemistry at Our Lady of the Lake College.
Sue Davis, director of the respiratory therapy program at Our Lady of the Lake College, is highly invested in the success of her students. She starts by helping applicants decide if a career as a respiratory therapist is truly appropriate for them. Job shadowing, which allows students to experience the day-to-day rigors of the profession, quickly dispels the notion that respiratory care is limited to breathing treatment and simple procedures. This approach enables students to better understand work expectations before committing to this career path. According to Davis, “We’ve had students who think they want to be respiratory therapists, and they find out it’s much more intensive and demanding.”
Respiratory therapists care for a wide spectrum of patients with heart and lung problems, from premature infants with respiratory distress syndrome to elderly individuals with diseased lungs. They work in hospitals, clinics and nursing care facilities. They sometimes travel to patients’ homes.

In addition to diagnosis and treatment, respiratory therapists play a significant role as educators. They are responsible for teaching patients how to manage their condition at home with the ultimate goal of keeping them healthy and out of the hospital. This approach includes overseeing proper use of medication and smoking cessation as well as encouraging routine vaccinations and frequent hand washing.

“All because many of these people are chronically ill and chronically breathless, they may not be able to even do the activities of daily living, such as bathing and cooking. It’s that serious,” explains Davis. “It’s a multi-disciplinary problem that has to be addressed, and we’re going to be part of that team.”

At OLOL College, students in the respiratory therapy program experience inter-disciplinary teamwork through simulation. Every student is required to go through case scenarios in a simulation lab, often working with students from other programs such as nursing, physical therapist assisting and radiologic technology. They also receive hands-on training at hospitals throughout the Greater Baton Rouge area, including Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Woman’s Hospital, North Oaks Medical Center (Hammond) and St. Elizabeth Hospital (Gonzales). They also gain experience at long-term care facilities such as Promise Hospital (Baton Rouge).

Clinical rotations at different sites help prepare students for the diverse conditions they may encounter, including trauma and acute situations. Respiratory therapists, especially those who work in hospitals, are often called upon to assist with these cases, which may involve victims of violence and accidents as well as patients with serious conditions.

Davis discusses the emotional investment with her students. A respiratory therapist since 1982 and a neonatal pediatric specialist, she recalls the first patient she lost. “I can still see her face. She was six years old and had a heart condition. It was just heartbreaking.”

Many students in the respiratory therapy program at OLOL College are older, in their late twenties and early thirties. Rich life experiences and maturity are an asset for these students, who are often pursuing a life or career change. Kenzia Wilson, president of OLOL College’s Student Respiratory Therapy Association, worked as a teacher for over ten years before making the decision to return to school.

“I wanted to be a respiratory therapist to serve the people of my community in a compassionate way . . . especially the geriatric population.” Wilson explains what keeps her motivated in this demanding field. “What surprises me the most,” she says, “are the connections that I have made with patients . . . You go in with the mindset that you are making a difference in their lives but never contemplate how they are touching your life as well.”

As the only respiratory therapy program in the Baton Rouge area, OLOL College prepares graduates to fill a great need, especially since many graduates stay local and work at facilities in the area. Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center employs over 90 respiratory therapists, with 20 new hires within the past year. “We are always looking for qualified respiratory therapists to add to the team,” says Shantelle Graves, director of respiratory care at the hospital. “We hire a lot of students from Our Lady of the Lake College, and if we did not have that program, then the hospital and patient care would be affected.”

The graduates of the respiratory therapy class of 2013 boast a 100 percent job-placement rate, and of the 13 alumni from this year, 10 were employed within a month of May commencement. With the Affordable Care Act emphasizing reduced readmissions for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), the demand for respiratory therapists will be even higher, with more opportunities for case managers and positions within the health insurance sector. According to Davis, “The average age for a respiratory therapist is about 40 currently. This increases the demand for more therapists in the future [as current therapists retire].”

The next class of respiratory therapy students is scheduled to begin its clinical phase in January 2015. With a maximum of 20 candidates accepted, the program at OLOL College is competitive and demanding, but graduates can expect a rewarding career and the opportunity to help innumerable people in their communities.
the Next Generation
An introduction to our students in the liberal arts and healthcare professions.

Evan LeCompte
Radiologic Technology
“Once I graduate, I plan on working for a couple of years before heading back to school to get a degree to specialize in ultrasound.”

Donald Meaux
Healthcare Administration
“With the MHA degree, I aim to further my career in healthcare management. Down the road, I intend to enroll in law school, with a goal of joining the legal team of a large healthcare institution.”

Yasmeen Laymon
Respiratory Therapy
“I would like to work in the ICU and help families cope in difficult times. Ultimately, my goal is to travel to places of poverty and help those in need.”

Ebony Rideau
Nursing
“I would like to continue my education to become a nurse practitioner and establish a practice in an underserved community in Louisiana.”
James Coco
Physical Therapist Assisting
“My goals include finding a job at a clinic where I enjoy going to work every day and, hopefully, earning a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree and opening my own clinic.”

Reagen Robinson
Physician Assistant Studies
“I hope to work in the ER or with the underserved population here in Baton Rouge. After gaining some experience, I would like to work with the OLOL College program to help educate others.”

Christy Tucker
Clinical Laboratory Sciences
“I plan to eventually earn a master’s degree and enter into research and development, and maybe one day work for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”

Clare Chiappetta
Liberal Studies
“I hope to obtain my master’s and doctorate degrees in English literature, which will enable me to both teach and perform research.”
It’s nine in the morning and Sister Uyen Vu, OSF, a member of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady, is making her customary rounds at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center in Lafayette, Louisiana. From her first floor office, she steps into a nearby stairwell and climbs to the second floor, greeting everyone she sees.

“Good morning, good people!” Her cheerful call elicits smiles as team members look up from their tasks. At work stations, Sr. Uyen (pronounced “win”) invites colleagues to join hands in prayer, seeking blessings for the day’s work. As soon as the last “Amen” fades, the circle breaks apart, and people gather around Sr. Uyen to chat.

A petite, soft-spoken woman who is quick to smile, Sr. Uyen inspires fellowship wherever she goes. As she traverses the halls of each floor, Sr. Uyen peeks into open doors, assessing who might appreciate some company. She visits with patients and family members, praying with them and dispensing hugs and encouragement.

With stops at every nursing unit, Sr. Uyen continues making her rounds, ascending to the sixth floor of the north side of the building. She then repeats the process on the south side, this time in descending order. Her pace is brisk, but she never hesitates to stop for anyone she encounters.

Sr. Uyen first felt the call of God as a young girl in Vietnam. Born into a Catholic family during the Vietnam War, Sr. Uyen recalls attending Mass every day at four in the morning. Her first encounter with a religious sister was at the local school where the sisters taught. “I thought maybe when I grow older I’ll become a sister too. But when I became a little bit older, I realized that my family needed me to help with the income.” That calling was put on hold until Sr. Uyen left Vietnam. Her father was a South Vietnamese military officer, and the family experienced many hardships during and after the Vietnam War. When he was released from a communist prison after almost ten years, Sr. Uyen’s father decided to leave the country with his family for a life free from oppression. After a failed attempt to flee by boat in 1986, the following year another vessel was built, and the Vu family, joined by others, made their escape. Numbering close to a hundred people, the group eventually reached Malaysia, where Sr. Uyen and her family spent eighteen months in a refugee camp.

“During the time I was in Malaysia, I think that was when I truly felt called to become a religious sister. I met so many young people who volunteered their time and talents to help those most in need. [As] refugees, we were very scared and nervous, and we didn’t know what the future would bring. So I think I was very inspired by these people.”

The family relocated to the Philippines and then to New Orleans in 1989. Sr. Uyen was sixteen years old. Despite her limited English, she graduated from O. Perry Walker High School and at the age of eighteen entered the convent.

“I always thought of joining the Vietnamese community so that I didn’t have to worry too much about the language. But through God’s hands and His guidance, I met a seminarian.” Through this individual, the teenage Sr. Uyen met Sr. Ann Catherine Nguyen, who introduced her to the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady.

The mission of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady, originally called the Franciscan Sisters of Calais, and the health system they founded can
be traced back to 1911 when six sisters traveled from France to Louisiana to serve the sick and needy. Embracing this spirit of service, Sr. Uyen has found her place among the sisters, improving her English fluency and earning three nursing degrees from Our Lady of the Lake College.

After completing her associate degree in 1999, Sr. Uyen’s first assignment as a nurse was at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center, where she worked in the medical, surgical and neuro-orthopedic units as well as in the emergency room. She traveled to Haiti twice to assist with mission work and then joined St. Elizabeth Hospital in Gonzales, Louisiana. It was during this period, while working full-time, that Sr. Uyen completed her bachelor’s and master’s degrees and obtained a nursing home administrator license.

Sr. Uyen then spent the next several years in Baton Rouge. She served as the assistant administrator at St. Clare Manor Nursing Home for two years. In 2010, she joined Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center and worked there until this spring. In March 2014, Sr. Uyen returned to Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center to assist with mission services. Here, she is embraced both by veteran colleagues who remember her rookie days and newer team members.

“Her departure to assist those in Haiti was unexpected, but I couldn’t think of a greater blessing for the people of Haiti,” recalls Jennifer Navarre, a nurse at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center who had worked with Sr. Uyen during her previous tenure at the hospital. “In the midst of chaos, Sr. Uyen’s diminutive stature and humble spirit emanate a pervasive calmness that becomes a source of strength and optimism for those in her presence. I believe we are truly blessed to have her return to us [at Our Lady of Lourdes].”

Back in her office after her morning rounds, Sr. Uyen removes her guitar from its case as she considers the music for the 11:30 a.m. Mass. She softly strums the guitar and sings a few lines, all traces of her accent erased in song.

Continued »
Currently there are 111 nurse anesthesia programs in the United States. Of these, only 30 have been granted approval to transition from a master’s degree level program to a doctoral degree level program. Our Lady of the Lake College’s current Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia (MSNA) program has been granted such approval from the Council of Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs and will admit its first doctoral class in January 2015. OLOL College has one of only two anesthesia programs in Louisiana to offer a Doctorate of Nursing Practice in Nurse Anesthesia (DNP-NA) program.

The College’s new DNP-NA program will build upon the competencies and coursework of the existing MSNA program while broadening students’ knowledge base and clinical expertise through the addition of courses in informatics, healthcare organizational concepts, research, healthcare policy, complexity and innovation, leadership and management, scholarly projects, and expanded clinical experiences. The present MSNA program curriculum requires the completion of 80 credit hours and 2,800 clinical hours. The DNP-NA program will require candidates to earn an additional 20 credit hours and 500 clinical hours for a total of 100 credit hours and 3,300 clinical hours to successfully complete the program.

With so many nurse anesthesia programs to choose from across the country, why do critical care nurses consistently choose OLOL College to pursue their advanced practice nursing education?
The answer is simple and has become evident to the College’s faculty members, students and alumni over the past nine years. Since its inception in 2005, the nurse anesthesia program has offered a rigorous, well-balanced curriculum that has prepared over 180 nurses for practice as certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs). Nurse anesthesia faculty members strive to prepare the graduates to meet state, regional and national needs as doctorally prepared nurses in leadership positions in health-related organizations to improve systems of care, quality of care and patient outcomes. However, unlike many nurse anesthesia programs in the country, the program at OLOL College offers student experiences that will form the graduate as a whole person. Upon completion of the program, the graduate will not only have achieved the competencies required for graduation but will have become a servant in the healing ministry of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady, with the purpose of serving those most in need.

When nurses enter the nurse anesthesia program at OLOL College, they experience the vocational discernment to serve God’s people as healthcare providers. Their calling is to serve patients in all stages of their lives, experiencing occasions that range from joyous, as when a child is born, to devastating, as when life is lost. It is during these moments and encounters that our nurse anesthesia students demonstrate and incorporate into their patient’s care the five Franciscan values of service, reverence and love for all of life, joyfulness of spirit, humility and justice.

The primary clinical setting for the nurse anesthesia program is Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center (OLOLRMC), which is located within two blocks of the College. OLOLRMC is one of the largest private medical centers in Louisiana with more than 700 licensed beds serving an 11 parish area.

It is this clinical preparation at OLOLRMC, the mission of the College, and the rigorous curriculum that make OLOL College nurse anesthesia program graduates unique. When critical care nurses interview for admission to the nurse anesthesia program they often are asked “Why did you choose to interview at OLOL College?” The majority of applicants state they have heard the program is “different” in that the College is faith-based, the faculty members live a distinct educational mission, and that program graduates are not only safe and competent anesthesia providers but also have the honor of being referred to as “Our Lady of the Lake College Graduates.”

Aimee Badeaux, PhDc, CRNA, is Interim Program Director of the Our Lady of the Lake College Nurse Anesthesia Program
It is more difficult to answer this question than it might seem at first, but it is a question that is important for an institution to answer if it seeks to distinguish itself from its neighbors. To put the question another way, in what ways should a student who graduates from a Catholic college be different than a student who graduates from the big state school across town?

It is not enough for a Catholic college to be a place where crosses hang on the walls and prayers are offered before class. While these hallmarks may be revealing, they do not get to the substance of what makes a Catholic college Catholic. And while it is also important, it is not enough for the institution's president and other key leaders to be Catholic. Likewise, it is critical that a Catholic college teach theology, but that alone is not enough to make it Catholic. Indeed, there are plenty of other institutions across the country with theology requirements, crosses on the walls, and prayers before class, but they are not Catholic.

One could think about what makes a college Catholic in several other ways. First, one could define a Catholic college by its relationship to the Catholic Church, which has suggested that a Catholic college has its source in the heart of the Church. A college with only a nominal relationship to the Catholic Church would only be Catholic in the most superficial sense. Second, one could define a Catholic college by its commitment to seek out truth and serve the world by ministering to it by means of that truth. Third, one could define a Catholic college not only by its commitment to seeking truth—which, after all, many secular institutions do as well—but by its understanding of God, who is both the source of truth and its ultimate goal. He is the one who unites all truth in their final forms.

Perhaps a Catholic college is defined not by the answers it provides but by the questions it asks. A Catholic college presumes that if it asks enough questions then ultimately questions relating to God and our existence come to the fore. A Catholic college might seek to answer the question “What does it mean to be a human being?” from a variety of academic perspectives, but it always trusts that an answer can be found in both the use of reason and in the act of faith.

What makes a Catholic college Catholic? That is just the kind of question that a Catholic college would ask.

David L. Whidden III, PhD, is Assistant Professor of Theology at Our Lady of the Lake College.
Sybil Cotten, ’79, perfectly exemplifies the mission of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady — who founded the school she graduated from — to train and inspire top-notch leaders to serve our community. As the first administrator of the Our Lady of the Lake healthcare facility in Livingston, Louisiana, Cotten not only takes nursing excellence seriously in her career but is eager to meet community needs wherever she can.

Following graduation from Our Lady of the Lake School of Nursing, Cotten worked in a post-anesthesia care unit (PACU) and received recognition for her leadership abilities and interest in innovation. “I was intrigued with the technology, fast pace, and explosive growth of new approaches to care for surgical patients,” she explains. “Challenges to reduce length of stay and establish efficient admit and discharge processes led to the opportunity for oversight of same-day surgery with the expansion of a 24-hour unit, pre-admit testing resources, and an express admit unit for inpatient surgeries.”

After pursuing a master’s degree in nursing from Southeastern Louisiana University, Cotten earned board certification as an advanced nurse executive. Starting in 2003, she took on increasingly challenging leadership roles, such as administrator of Lake Surgery Center in Baton Rouge. Now the administrator of Our Lady of the Lake Livingston, Cotten says, “I love building teams and new processes! My passion is to provide strong infrastructure and support to front-line team members to serve patients and families. My nursing background combined with administrative experience drive the goals for executing excellence in patient care, customer satisfaction and team relationships and dynamics.”

While participating in the Livingston Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program, Cotten was introduced to the prevalence of domestic violence in her area. During the past year, she has focused on supporting a program called Women Outreaching Women (WOW) by assisting in local efforts and special events. Cotten also facilitated volunteer services and marketing plans through the OLOL College community partners program.

True to the Franciscan foundation instilled in her while in school, Sybil Cotten is serving her community with a joyfulness of spirit and positively impacting the lives of others.

We love to hear from alumni! Send updates and stories to D. Elaine Crowe at elaine.crowe@ololcollege.edu.
Thanks to the generosity of the donors listed here, Our Lady of the Lake College is blessed with philanthropic resources that enhance the quality and affordability of an OLOL College education. The students and the campus community extend sincere appreciation for the gifts from these alumni and friends. *(List as of September 1, 2014)*

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The Inauguration of
Tina S. Holland, PhD,
forth president of
Our Lady of
the Lake College,
will take place
Thursday,
February 26, 2015.
For more
information, visit
www.ololcollege.edu.

Identity

Our Lady of the Lake College of Baton Rouge,
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College founded by the Franciscan Missionaries
of Our Lady. The College is a student-centered
academic community guided by their Franciscan
values, faithful to the commitment to the truth and
common good found in Ex Corde Ecclesiae, and
devoted to excellence in learning. ●

Our Lady of the Lake College Magazine

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WE’D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU.
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Physical Therapist Assisting (PTA) program students celebrate an opportunity to dunk their PTA instructor, Dr. Marty Aime, during Welcome Week, which marks the start of the fall semester. Photo by Elaine Crowe