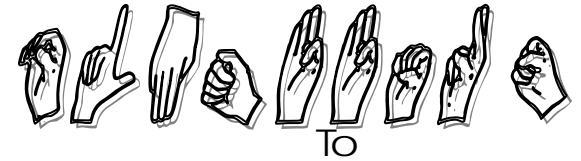


# OLMatters



Educate the whole  
person for global  
understanding!

“To Educate the whole person for global understanding”

Volume I Number II

Rio de Janeiro – October 2005

## Teacher For More Than a Day

by Maria Florencia Monsalve ('07)

Teacher's Day is not only about presents and singing songs of appreciation to our teachers but an opportunity to recognize their hard work and dedication to us students. Teachers are our instructors, disciplinarians, tutors, guides, best advisers, and sometimes our mentors. This process of educating prepares us for the future, trains us, and helps us develop our skills. Whether we want to or not, they are people we will always remember.

At OLM we are used to having mostly experienced teachers that have been teaching for many years. Every year, however, OLM receives student teachers from Bowling Green State University (BGSU) that spend a semester with us. *OLMatters* interviewed **Mr. Nikola Spasic**, High School English teacher. His first experience as a teacher was as a snowboard instructor in Ohio. Soon afterward he decided to enter college, after having traveled the world a few years right after high school, including visiting family members in Serbia. His experience and maturity show through as he teaches. Mr. Spasic entered Cuyahoga County Community College in Parma, Ohio (a suburb of Cleveland).

”That’s when I decided I wanted to be an English teacher. My *English 101* and *Children’s Literature* teacher was Mary Hurst. Can you imagine a college teacher who was so good that no one dropped out of her class? Nobody wanted to miss her classes. Her letter of recommendation was instrumental for my getting accepted into BGSU.”

## Brazil: Our Lady of “Aparecida”

(*who appeared*)

by [www.catholic-forum.com/saints/mary0005.htm](http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/mary0005.htm)

In October of 1717, Dom Pedro de Almeida, Count of Assumar, was on his way to the state of Minas Gerais from São Paulo. He would have to pass by Guarantinqueta, a small city in the Paraíba river valley. The people of Guarantinqueta decided to hold a great feast to honor the Count, and a lot of fish would be needed.

However, it was not the season for fish and the water seemed deserted. After many hours of catching nothing, the fishermen were very depressed. Among these fishermen Domingo Garcia, Joco Alves, and Felipe prayed to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception: “Mother of God and our Mother, we need to find fish!”

Just before they were ready to give up, Joco cast his net one more time near the Port of Itaguagu. Instead, they found a statue! Joco called out in surprise, “Domingo, Felipe! Come and see what we have!” They cast the net one more time and brought up the head of the statue!

They very carefully washed it and saw that it was Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. They wrapped it in some cloths and continued to fish. Domingo commented, “We worked all night and have found no fish!”

Felipe proposed: “Let’s continue to fish with faith in the Virgin Aparecida (who appeared).” From this moment on, the net became very full with fish. This was the first miracle of Our Lady of Aparecida.

Although no one knows how the less than three-feet high statue came to rest at the bottom of the river, its artist is known: Frei Agostino de Jesus, a ‘carioca’ monk from São Paulo who created the artistic clay sculpture.

The image was from around 1650 and must have remained submerged in the

# Teachers Who Made a Difference

**An AP-AOL News Poll** (August 2005) found that memorable teachers brought school subjects to life, added fun to the curriculum, listened to students talk about what was bothering them, or encouraged them to trust their instincts. The best did all these things at one time or another and were recalled as invaluable: teachers who changed their students' lives.

## In the Halloween Spirit

Dedicated teachers will try anything to make their subject more interesting or their teaching more effective. When they run out of tricks they remind students that this material will be part of a test or the assignment is for grade. Trick or treat!

## At Risk of Extinction

Professionals in Brazil's largest cities are no longer as interested in teaching classes in public schools, especially at the high school level, because of disciplinary attitudes both of students and certain school administrators. Only 2.9% of teachers are below 24 years of age and few college youth considering a teaching career. Soon the question on everyone's lips will be: "Where have all the math, physics and chemistry teachers gone?" (Folha de São Paulo, 27 de setembro de 2005)

## Who Are the Teachers?

By John Majka

The 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Graders were on a morning long fieldtrip to **Veiga de Almeida University**. They arrived at 8:00 am to a tour of all the buildings and facilities, followed by a pleasant 15-minute snack. They had been listening to different department heads describing their respective programs for over an hour and a half. It was 11:45. Though everybody was surprised by the quality of the presentations, they were starving. But there was one more department to go: Portuguese. Collective sighs of restlessness and disappointment greeted the last presenter as he moved his stool from behind the podium to the edge of the stage. "It's a question of leaving the best for last", he said, laughing to his disbelieving audience.

"How many of you are thinking of being teachers someday? Raise your hands." Only a couple teachers and I raised our hands proudly, if somewhat timidly. "Ok," he said, "How many of you plan to be among the best in your given professions?"

Unanimous response.

"I guarantee you that sometime in your career, your boss, your company or your partner will ask you to teach. You see, the best always land up teaching."

river for many years, because it lost its original polychrome. The image is now a brilliant dark brown color, and is covered by a stiff mantle of richly embroidered thick cloth, allowing only her face and hands to be seen. In 1904 she was crowned with the imperial crown, and its embedded precious stones; in 1930 Pope Pius XII proclaimed her patroness of Brazil.



Her feast day, October 12, is a national holiday. Pope John Paul II visited the Virgin 'Aparecida' sanctuary in the State of São Paulo and gave it the title of Basilica. A few days before the visit someone got hold of the statue and threw it forcefully to the ground. Although the frail image was broken into many pieces, the loving and careful work of several artist put it together again and the Virgin, 'Aparecida' returned to her niche in the Basílica.

**COMING THIS THANKSGIVING  
OLM DRAMA CLASS PRODUCTION  
THE WIZARD OF OZ**

## What the Blessed Mother Means to Catholics (Part I)

from Thomas Merton's *the New Seeds of Contemplation*

Mary's chief glory is in her nothingness, in the fact of being the "Handmaid of the Lord," as one who is becoming the mother of God acted simply in loving submission to His command, in the pure obedience of faith. She is blessed not because of some mythical pseudo-divine prerogative, but in all her human and womanly limitations as *one who believed*. It is the faith and the fidelity of this humble handmaid, "*full of grace*" that enables her to be the perfect instrument of God, and nothing else but His instrument. The work that was done in her was purely the work of God. "He that is mighty hath done great things in me." The glory of Mary is purely and simply the glory of God in her, and she, like anyone else, can say that she has nothing that she has not received from Him through Christ.

# A Sensory Trip Around School

Well, when we were walking around school I could hear our steps on the stairs... they were so loud. I could hear the children's toy making a very loud noise. I could hear teachers giving class even with the door closed, so I thought: How could I never have heard this before?! I saw things too that I NEVER noticed in 8 years! And I could smell food! So I think this "trip" was very interesting to me and to every body because we had never seen or heard or smelled some things before!!  
*(Nathalia Nunes 8A)*

I think it was a good experience, because we could see how hard it is for hearing impaired people to stay quiet all the time. I'm a person that talks a lot, it would be very hard for me to be mute. Thank God I'm not, but now I see how important it is for us to learn to speak their language, because if we get to know deaf people, it's going to be much better for us, and for them.  
*(Heloisa Niemeyer - 7A)*

We were with Ms. Xavier, our Brazilian Sign Language teacher. She took us on a trip around the school with no talking, to see what we noticed.

In the beginning I was already noticing things; I smelled coffee, I heard birds singing, and I even heard the sounds that I think was the water in the school, inside the building, through the tubes of the wall. On this trip, I had a great need to talk, but I knew that I would be infringing the rules. Ms. Xavier was showing the direction to go, pointing to the places that we needed to go. It was difficult not to make noise; I wanted to express my feeling and to talk about any silly stuff that I wanted to talk.

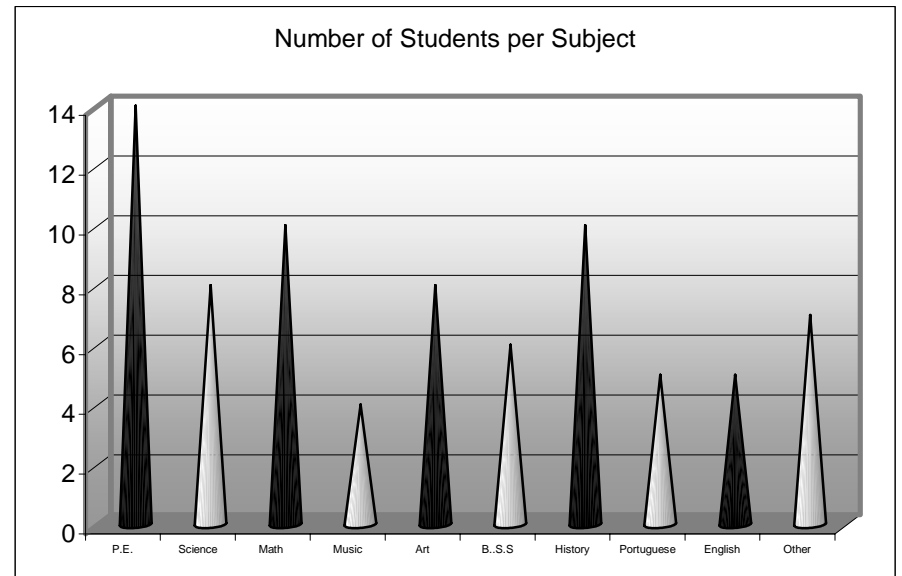
If in 5 minutes I got desperate to talk, I don't even want to think how it would be not to talk for a lifetime.  
*(Guilherme Cherman Perdigão de Oliveira - 6B)*

# OLM Goes Global

*by Paula Filizola ('06)*

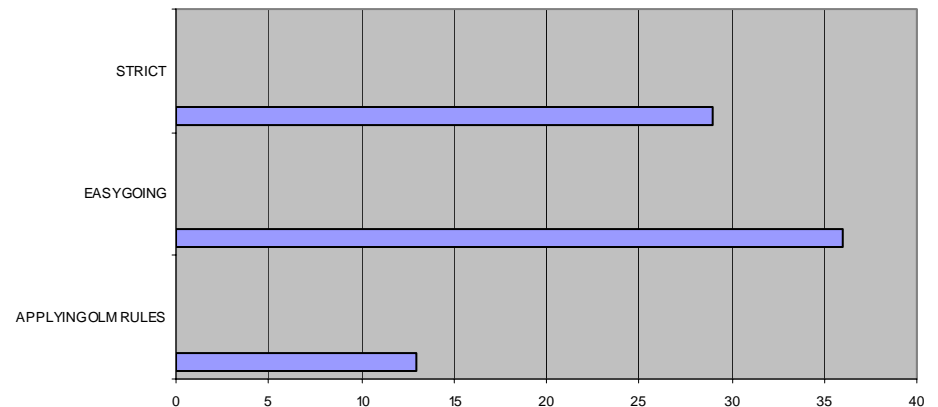
The Model United Nations (MUN) is a simulation of a real Assembly of the United Nations. Students form delegations at their schools, representing a specific country. They research the country's positions about social, economic and political problems, in order to be able to participate in the debates around real issues of the day. The participating students become more involved with global issues and more concerned with the future of the world. OLM has participated in this event for three years now, interacting with other American schools in South America, in **Hotel do Frade, Angra dos Reis**, in the State of **Rio de Janeiro**.

In Spring 2006, however, some OLM students may participate in the *NHSMUN (National High School Model United Nations)* in New York City. The conference will consist of more than 2,000 students from American Schools all around the world. The group is looking for scholarships or other ways to allow as many students as possible to attend in behalf of our school. Anyone with ideas toward financial support of this worthy project should speak with an Adviser, Ms. Rosana Paes or Ms. Lucia Helena Oliveira.



All Middle School students were asked which subject they would like to teach. Graph I, above, shows the number of students per subject. Graph II, below, shows the number of students who would be strict, easy going, or apply OLM rules.

## If I were a teacher, I would be ....



# Super Six All-Stars

*By: Laura Mudd, Student Teacher from BGSU*

What does it take to make the All-Star Team at Super Six? It takes hard work, dedication to your sport, sportsmanship, and the ability to have fun. While at **Super Six** there were four students who were able to do this and make that team. These four students were role models for all students from the participating schools.

**Julia Heringer** was All-Star for both girl's soccer and basketball. She showed to the rest of us that she could have fun while playing both of these sports. When she was on the court in basketball she went after every ball, no matter where it was. She made her points and racked up rebounds and assists. On the soccer field she chased after all of the balls and kept her team morale up. No matter how her team did in the end, it did not matter, because she came out with a smile on her face, ready for the next game.

**Manuella Maya** made the All-Star team for girl's soccer. She is an amazing soccer player. In one game she was the goalie for one half, scored a goal in the second half, and then took over goalie again. She was also all over the field, hustling to get the ball, as well as making sure the other team did not score.

**Caio Silva** was on the All-Star team for boy's basketball. He was all over the court, especially when it came time to rebound the ball. He had a great jump shot, and made a number of blocks. Overall he showed real nerve and stood out for his gutsy play.

On the soccer field **Daniel Mayall** was OLM's obvious All-Star. He was always hustling after the ball and making sure that the team was passing and trying to move to score a goal. Wherever you saw the ball, he was not far behind. He got back on defense and then went right to offense, without losing a breath.

These four were picked as All-Stars, but they were members of four teams that helped them get there. Though fourth place was disappointing, OLM teams provided some really great moments to the tournament and it was exciting to watch them play.

## *Editorial Board:*

*Students: Maria Florência Monsalve, Samantha Guimarães*

*Teachers: John Majka, Marisa Menezes, Kátia Souza, Sandra Xavier*

*Layout: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade*

# The Quiz Bowl

*By Samantha Guimaraes (07)*

Every two weeks throughout the school year, 24 students in groups of four compete against each other in the **Quiz Bowl**. They answer questions about current events that range from sports to politics, from pop culture to history and literature, from religion and philosophy to math and the sciences. What attracts most students to participate is bragging rights to being in-the-know and the cash prize of one thousand *Reais* (R\$1,000.00) at the end of the year.

Of course, Ms. Freire, the activity's founder and organizer, has pedagogical objectives that are being fulfilled as well:

"The competition doesn't hurt! Students broaden their knowledge about current events, by getting into the habit of reading newspapers and watching news and cultural programs to be able to answer the contest questions correctly. We are proud of how well-informed our students are getting."

# O Rap do Desarmamento

*By Amanda Fraga 5B*

Vamo lá pessoal, pensa comigo  
Não vale a pena ter arma para se defender  
Contra o inimigo.  
Porque o bandido não vai pensar 2x  
Antes de te matar ou não  
Agora peço mais uma vez sua atenção!  
O cidadão tem direito de ter 1 objeto  
Que faz mal a nação?  
E a violência só gera violência  
Isso não é futuro pro nosso Brasil  
Agora, agradeço toda a atenção  
Só tentei mandar minha mensagem  
Pro cidadão  
Agora, é você que decide  
Sim ou não  
Diga não a violência e  
Sim para a Vida  
Diga não as armas e  
Sim a Paz.

Agradeço mais uma vez  
Está tudo nas suas mãos  
O que você decidir: Sim ou Não  
Depois da minha canção RAP  
Que fiz para que sua consciência  
Esteja contra a violência  
Todo mundo fica na cilada sem  
Saber se usa ou não a tal da arma carregada.  
Vou agora responder sua pergunta:  
Voto sim ou voto não  
Pergunta a nação?  
Então pare e pense  
É a solução usar a arma contra o ladrão?  
Se vc tentar reagir ao assalto....  
Pense no Marcelo Yuka  
que saiu todo ferrado!  
Vamo lá pessoal, não vale a pena  
Ter arma pra  
se defender do inimigo