

Crusader Chronicles

CLA Receives 2008 College Readiness Award

Christian Life Academy received the "2008 College Readiness Award" from the Louisiana ACT Council for significantly increasing the level of achievement and college readiness of its high school students. High School Principal, Peter Barnes accepted the award for CLA who was one of twelve schools in the state to receive it and one of only two schools in Baton Rouge.

According to Karen L. Pennell, ACT Assistant Vice President and Southwest Regional Manager, "The Louisiana ACT Council wanted to recognize those Louisi-

ana high schools that have made significant strides in increasing the college readiness of their graduates as demonstrated by their ACT score increases over the past five years. This can only happen as a result of the high school's faculty and staff efforts, and the dedication of Christian Life Academy students and parents, to focus on college readiness and raise the level of college readiness of all students."



Peter Barnes, Principal of Junior High and High School, pictured with the award.



Nancy Peele

Crusader at the Capitol

Nancy Peele, a 1989 graduate of CLA, originally got her foot in the political door through filling in for a friend.

Her friend was working for Randy Haynie, a lobbyist in the Louisiana legislature, and needed someone to fill in for her. This exposed Peele to the world of politics and uncovered a new career path.

After working for Haynie, she was encouraged to move to Washington D.C. Peele moved without a job and went to various Louisiana politicians' offices to drop off her resume.

A few weeks and resumes later, Peele landed a job working for Senator J. Bennett Johnston. She was a staff assistant and Legislative assistant.

Once Sen. Johnston retired, Peele began working at Jones Walker, a New Orleans based law firm whose governmental relations include representing the city of New Orleans and the Baton Rouge airport.

In her 12th year at Jones Walker, Peele is now the Director of Special Projects. Her main duties include: managing the office, fundraising events, client issues and coordinating the Mardi Gras Ball in D.C.

Throughout her involvement in politics Peele took an interest in becoming more involved in the Republican National Convention. Originally, she served as a professional volunteer at the Philadelphia Convention in 2000 and again at the New York Convention in 2004.

After her experiences at the conventions, Peele decided that she would like to work full-time at a Republican National Convention. She took a 6 month leave of absence from Jones Walker and moved to St. Paul, MN.

Crusader Band Member Marches to the Beat of a Different Drum



Justin Giglio marching in the LSU band

Justin Giglio, a 2006 CLA graduate, is currently in his junior year at LSU. During his time at LSU, Giglio has been involved in the Golden Band from Tigerland.

Throughout his time as a member of the LSU band, Giglio has been involved in some exciting opportunities. One of Giglio's most memorable experiences was marching in LSU's legendary pre-game salute at the 2008 National Championship game in New Orleans. He is a part of the LSU basketball band as well and has played the trumpet at different tournaments.

Giglio has also had the opportunity to travel across the nation from Seattle to Washington D.C. While in Washington D.C., Giglio was a part of a select group of LSU band members who played at the annual Mardi Gras Ball.

"The event is attended by the who's who of both Louisiana and D.C.," said Giglio. "However, this was the first time the LSU band had ever attended

and it was a complete surprise for the guests at the ball. We took picture after picture with people and even signed autographs. They made us feel so special."

As a lifelong LSU fan, Giglio had attended sporting events throughout his childhood and recognized the band as a vital part to those events. However, it was his time as a CLA student that introduced him to his love for music.

"When I decided to pick up the trumpet as an 8th grader at CLA, I didn't imagine that I would end up marching in front of over 92,000 people each week at football games," said Giglio. "With the help of my band directors Mr. Griffis and Mr. Shankles, auditioning for the LSU band became more realistic."

Giglio also credits CLA as providing him with lifelong friendships as well as an education that allowed him to attend LSU on a TOPS scholarship and receive a Freshman Merit scholarship.



"To anyone currently in the band at CLA, it is absolutely realistic to do something with your talent. Don't give up," said Giglio.

Giglio is currently majoring in General Studies with a focus in Communication Studies, Religious Studies and History. Upon graduation, Giglio would like to pursue a career in ministry or attend seminary.

WAFB's Sportsline Spirit Showdown

WAFB is currently having a Sportsline Spirit Showdown promotion. Our school was 1 of 12 selected to participate. The competition is set up into brackets and the school with the most votes will continue to go on in the "play offs" until the final winner is selected.

On May 15th, the winner will receive a \$1,000 donation for their school. People can vote by logging onto www.wafb.com.

The competition is located under the sports heading. Parents and students can select Sportsline Spirit Showdown and vote for CLA. The first round of voting is from March 23rd- April 2nd.

If we continue on further, the quarterfinals are April 4th-April 16th, semifinals are April 18th-April 30th and the final round of voting is May 2nd-May 14th.

Please continue to check the CLA web site for updates on our participation in this promotion. Don't forget to vote each day for CLA! Please support our school.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE:
HTTP://
WWW.GOCRUSADERS.COM

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Mark Your Calendars:

April 30th, May 1st and 2nd
at 7 p.m.- Drama Department presents: "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" Tickets are \$8 for adults.

May 17th- Baccalaureate Service at 10 a.m.
Class of 2009 Graduation at 3 p.m.

Class Reunions:

10 year Reunion Class of 1999

June 19th-21st

Classes 1993-1996

June 26th-28th

For more information on these events, please email Danielle Farrell, Director of Public Relations, at danielle.farrell@gocrusaders.com

(Crusader at Capital Continued)

During her time in St. Paul, Peele was the Senior Events Manager. Her focus was on hospitality, finding local vendors and creating the rooms enjoyed by John McCain, Sarah Palin, Rudy Giuliani, Arnold Schwarzenegger and other people at the event.

"The best experience I had was finishing all the months of hard work and being able to say 'I did this. I got this together.' I would walk in and see John McCain and Sarah Palin with their families enjoying the rooms I designed and coordinated," Peele said.

Peele added that another great moment during the convention was the release of balloons.

"It is very exciting and the energy is wonderful. There is a great sense of accomplishment," she said.

Alumni Database

If you have not created a profile on the CLA alumni database please do so. This will help us continue to keep in touch with all alumni and keep you updated on events and information. Here is the web site to Crusader Central:

<http://www.gocrusaders.com/alumni/b/>

Join our group on Facebook: Christian Life Academy Alumni

The Ryan McCurdy Activity Center

The Ryan McCurdy Activity Center is a memorial to one of Christian Life's own Marines, as well as to all of the brave men and women who have served in our armed forces.

LCPL Ryan McCurdy graduated from CLA in 2004 and sacrificed his life in order to rescue a wounded Marine comrade while in Fallujah, Iraq.

The activity center built in McCurdy's honor will provide CLA with opportunities to expand its programming as well as reach out to the community.

Peele has since returned to work at Jones Walker. "I love working for Jones Walker because I get the best of both worlds. I am able to live in D.C. and visit Louisiana because we represent companies in Louisiana."

Peele credits CLA to providing her with the values and skills needed for the business world.

"I had close relationships with my teachers and they had a huge impact on my life," she said. "CLA gave me the tools I needed to be successful down the road. They provided me with self-confidence, ability to be a self-starter and independence."

Alumni Updates

We would love to know what is going on in each of your lives. This section will be dedicated to information about marriages, children, accomplishments or any information that you would like to share with the CLA family. If you have any information, please email Danielle Farrell, Director of Public Relations, at danielle.farrell@gocrusaders.com.



The Ryan McCurdy Activity Center at its current state.

The center is intended to host major volleyball and basketball tournaments, tennis clinics and other sporting events. There will be a 200 seat auditorium with technology that will allow dramas, musicals and media presentations.

The activity center is currently being built. If you would like information about donating to the Ryan McCurdy Activity Center, please email Danielle Farrell at danielle.farrell@gocrusaders.com. Any donation would be greatly appreciated.