A special edition introducing

DR. SIABHAN MAY-WASHINGTON,
the 25th President of St. Teresa’s Academy
NAN'S NOTE

As I write to you today, the St. Teresa’s Academy campus is preparing to welcome our 25th President, Dr. Siabhan May-Washington. Siabhan officially joins us in July of 2019, bringing a new energy and vision to the Academy. There could not be a better choice as her life and professional experiences are steeped in Catholic values and educational excellence.

Siabhan will join us after a year spent celebrating many joyful accomplishments.

• The $11 million investment in the expansion to the Goppert Center was introduced to the STA community. The state-of-the-art spaces breathed new life into a multitude of departments.

• The current school year welcomed a record freshman class enrollment.

• This year, students experienced STA’s first Interim Week. STA teachers exposed students to new ideas, experiences, and environments by developing special classes that focused on exploratory, hands-on, and interactive learning (see page 11).

• STA’s endowment grew to $9 million. The support from our loyal, generous donors enables the premier education available at STA to be more affordable to a greater number of deserving families.

It has been an honor to serve this wonderful community for the past 12 years. I am excited to have this special issue of Starbeams as a way to introduce you to Siabhan, and I hope you will join me in welcoming her to St. Teresa’s Academy.

2018 Annual Report Moving to November

The St. Teresa Academy Annual Report, which, historically, has been mailed in March, is moving to November. This move allows the Annual Report to reflect STA’s fiscal year (ending on June 30), including financial statements from the Independent Auditor’s Report. In addition to reporting financials, this publication serves as an important opportunity to recognize and appreciate the many generous supporters of St. Teresa’s Academy.
In December of 2018, Dr. Siabhan May-Washington was enthusiastically introduced as the next President of St. Teresa’s Academy. Siabhan will bring to STA over 30 years of educational experience. She currently serves as the Assistant Principal of Faculty Development at Pembroke Hill Upper School, where she has been an educator since 2003. In addition to her Pembroke responsibilities, she works as a part-time adjunct professor for Park University’s Graduate Education School.

Siabhan was selected after an extensive national search by the President Search Committee, chaired by Kevin Connor, STA’s Board of Directors Chairperson. Input from alumnae, faculty, staff, students, and supporters helped to inform the ultimate selection of Siabhan.
"It’s a dream job: independent school, single sex education, and my faith to celebrate it. It’s a tri-fecta of specialness."
Get to know Siabhan, who will become the 25th President in St. Teresa’s 152-year history in July of 2019.

How are you uniquely qualified to fill the position of President at St. Teresa’s Academy?

I have been in education for 30 years so I feel I’m uniquely qualified because I’ve worked in so many different arenas, starting in public school, at the college level, and now working in an independent school. I’ve amassed a vast array of experience working with different students, families, teachers, and constituents. I bring all that expertise and that lens to the position.

What is your philosophy on education?

I love a quote by Aristotle that reads, “Fate of empires depends on the education of youth.” My philosophy is that all students can learn and everyone has strengths, so we need to make sure that we empower and work together to help them achieve their goals. Learners may acquire knowledge at different rates, in terms of processing, but I believe every single student is capable of reaching their maximum potential.

What is your vision for the future of STA?

I believe vision and mission to be intertwined, and I will continue to embrace the mission established by the Sisters of St. Joseph - “Love the dear neighbor and the world in which we live.” Strengthening STA’s academic reputation of empowering students with a strong Catholic faith foundation will remain important. I know there is an emphasis on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) within the curriculum, which I support. In addition, students will enjoy opportunities to join in a wide variety of extracurricular activities, including the excellent athletic and fine arts programs that are in place at STA.

How do you feel you can contribute to empowering young women?

I want to encourage young women to be fearless. I want young women to speak up, even if their voices shake, just say it. Our students are powerful, smart, and society needs to hear from them. Research shows that young women who come from single sex schools are not shy about expressing their ideas. I can’t wait to continue to nurture that and help them to understand how special they are.

How do you envision connecting to different constituents, including alumnae and donors?

It’s going to take some time. I don’t expect them to get to know me just from articles or webpages because it’s all about accessibility. I need to meet them and talk with them, share stories with them and hear about their connections, hopes, and aspirations for STA. There’s nothing like person-to-person contact.

How do you plan to build on STA’s strengths, such as staying on the forefront of educational trends, including curriculum and facilities?

I can’t wait to get to know the talented faculty and staff and learn about their unique strengths. I really love research so I’m going to continue to research best practices. Talking to organizations, experts, and other schools that work, including other top independent schools, often offers beneficial ideas and opportunities.

Amy Edmondson works as a Harvard professor and author. Her new book, The Fearless Organization, discusses the importance of being willing to talk with one another. If you really want to grow and be innovative, brainstorm, get those ideas out, then, working as a team, you can grow those ideas.

What do you feel are some of the challenges STA faces? How are you prepared to overcome those obstacles?

Every independent school is worried about money. We know there are financial challenges.
Families work hard to send their daughters to St. Teresa’s Academy, so we need to try to keep tuition low, while still providing a quality, top-notch education. Fundraising, including growing the endowment, is important.

Another key challenge is always making sure that the school culture is managed. You can’t take your culture for granted. You have to make sure the faculty, staff, and students feel respected and valued.

Remaining true to your mission/vision can present challenges because there are so many distractions. You need to make sure that your mission/vision is kept in the forefront and that you stay true to that.

As a priority within STA’s strategic plan, what are your thoughts on achieving greater diversity and inclusion, especially in recruiting students, faculty, and staff?

There is no magic solution, but there are many different approaches. I think we need to go where the families are. We need to anticipate where to find families who would likely be looking for high quality, single sex, private education. In addition, we need to ask for help from the families that are currently at STA. They can be wonderful assets in helping us spread the word of the great education that their kids are acquiring. To maintain a visible presence in the community, I am looking forward to helping to recruit by going to elementary schools and places where we can welcome potential students, inviting them to visit our school and consider being a part of our community.

What are your thoughts on working at St. Teresa’s Academy?

Love it. It will be so refreshing and gratifying to be in a faith-based organization where you can talk about prayer. There are textures of faith and religion in the curriculum, which brings great richness to everything that we do. Ultimately, it’s a recipe for success.

I love the charism, “Love thy neighbor.” It can really help bolster and fortify the work that STA does. It’s a dream job: independent school, single sex education, and my faith to celebrate it. It’s a tri-fecta of specialness.

Senior and co-editor-in-chief of the Teresian yearbook, Brooke Eldridge, interviews Dr. May-Washington for a feature story.
The Making of a President
Blessed by Family

Siabhan is the youngest of seven with three older brothers and three older sisters. Her parents worked very hard to finance and support Catholic school and college educations for all seven children. Her brothers are graduates of Rockhurst High School and Siabhan and her sisters are graduates of Loretto Academy. Siabhan’s mother was a homemaker, and her father’s main job was with the railroad, where he worked as a clerk by day. At night, he held two other janitorial jobs downtown.

Siabhan and her husband, Rick, have three kids who are the loves of their lives. Their oldest son, Brandon, is a sophomore at Rockhurst University, majoring in finance. He plays on the Rockhurst soccer team as a defender and striker. Their middle daughter, Lauren, is a freshman at Northwestern. She is majoring in communications and filmmaking. Their youngest daughter, Taryn, is an active third-grader at Pembroke Hill School. She also plays soccer (having spent a lot of time on soccer fields watching her brother and sister play).

Siabhan’s husband is an educator as well. He works as a kindergarten teacher at the Kansas City Neighborhood Academy near the 18th & Vine historic district. She and her family are members of St. Francis Xavier Parish, where she serves as a lector.
INSPIRED BY FAMILY

Siabhan and her siblings attribute all that they are to their hardworking, blue-collar family. All are college graduates and are doing very well. Her parents definitely set the standard and are the reason why she’s working so hard for her own kids—because her parents gave that gift to her. Siabhan’s older siblings are inspirational mentors for her, especially her sister Teresa May, who was an elementary school principal for several decades.

DESTINED TO EDUCATE

Siabhan believes her mother knew early on that she was destined to be an educator. She chose her middle name, Myra, because she was such a fan of the principal of her grade school, St. Joseph’s School in Kansas City. Franciscan Sister Myra Peine is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Oldenburg and now lives in Indiana.

FAMILY TIES

Two of Siabhan’s nieces are graduates of St. Teresa’s Academy. (left): Chachere May (’93) is a Legal Administrative Specialist for the Social Security Administration. (right): Cheriss May (’90) is an Adjunct Professor at Howard University, Photographer, and President of Women Photojournalists of Washington (WPOW).
New Course Tackles Renewable Energy on Campus

The 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR welcomed the launch of STA’s new Research & Design Elective Series with The Windmill Project. Led by an interdisciplinary team of STA faculty, as well as professional mentors Dr. Julieta Giraldez (National Renewable Energy Lab) and Dr. Melissa Cano (Colorado School of Mines), students will design, prototype, and assess windmill structures to reduce the energy footprint of the St. Teresa’s Academy campus.

Through the literary work, The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer, students will appreciate the impact and potential of renewable energy not only at STA, but also in other parts of the world.

Students of the Windmill Project will travel to Golden, Colorado, in April of 2019 to meet with their mentors, Dr. Giraldez and Dr. Cano, to review their progress. “Research & Design courses highlight opportunities for students to experience learning as it happens in real-life by identifying and tackling today’s problems. We look forward to expanding our Research & Design series next year with the inclusion of History & Artistry and The Green Project,” stated Jo Weller, Director of Curriculum & Instruction.

The Windmill Project Gains National Attention

The Windmill Project caught the eye of NBC Learn, an online video library with 90 years of news footage, award-winning featured series, and current events designed to engage and inspire students. During the students’ Colorado visit, they will be interviewed and filmed by a news crew from NBC News.

Dr. Melissa Cano and Dr. Julieta Giraldez (l to r) traveled to STA to work with students as part of The Windmill Project.
Students Experience Hands-On Learning through New Interim Week

“I was completely blown away with our teachers’ creativity, hard work, and flexibility during the first Interim Week.” —Kelly Fast, Interim Week Coordinator

Upon Return from Christmas Break, students experienced STA’s first Interim Week. For Interim Week, STA teachers designed courses intended to expose students to new ideas, experiences, and environments. These special, innovative classes focused on exploratory, hands-on, and interactive learning, which may have included a field trip or two within the Kansas City area.

A sampling of the Interim Week courses included:
- Women Portrayals in Contemporary Film
- The Majesty and Mystery of the National Park System
- Musical Theatre Audition Workshop
- How to Build a PC
- "Enamorate" with Spain and the Peru Culture

A school-wide survey was distributed at the end of Interim Week. When students were asked if they enjoyed the opportunity to participate, 99% of students agreed (or strongly agreed)!

With this inaugural success, future plans are to extend the invitation to attend evening Interim sessions to the STA community, including alumnae and parents.

Sophomore Charlotte Baker is performing an antibiotic sensitivity experiment during her Interim Week class Bugs vs. Drugs: The Problem of Antibiotic Resistance.
1945

PATRICIA WALSH FERRIS turned 90 years old in June of 2018. She welcomed her great-granddaughter, Samantha Susan, in 2017. Patricia has worked as a volunteer in the gift shop of St. Luke’s South for the past 14 years.

1953

VERNA KERANS SPICKA attended the 2018 Alumnae Reunion Celebration and had a wonderful time with her friends. She has five children and 10 grandchildren. Her time is divided between Alexandria, VA, in the winter and St. Louis in the summer. She is writing for the newsmagazine she started in 1986, which may be found at Intermissionmag.com.

1955

MARY LOU McMICHAEL HITTLER made the move to McAllen, TX, from Overland Park, KS.

1958

MARY JO LOMBARD SAGE works as an aide in former President George H.W. Bush’s office, which is in the process of finalizing office business. Mary Jo began by volunteering on President Bush’s 1988 election campaign. In 1993, she was asked to volunteer in his office, and, subsequently, became Office Manager for 26 very busy years. One of her highlights was working for the Bush family at the 2004 Republican National Convention in New York City.

1960

SR. HELEN ALDER, CSJ, was introduced as a new STA Board member.

1961

KATHY FISHER MULVEY is a retired editor living in Milwaukee, WI.

1964

LORRAINE WANGBERG BOYD was awarded the Award of Appreciation from the Nebraska State Bar Association in October of 2017. The Award is presented to an individual or organization in recognition of outstanding service creating a better understanding of the legal profession and the administration of justice. The Daily Record’s Local News Editor since 2000, Lorraine is the “go to” journalist for law-related functions of the Nebraska State Bar Association and Omaha Bar Association.

MARY GRAMLICH CHIGOS works as a registered nurse and nurse practitioner, serving on the Mission Hospice & Home Care Board for 17 years in San Mateo, CA. She has been an outreach nurse for the last seven years and opened a second Hospice House, the only two in her county.

1966

CONNIE SUE GESCHWIND McNAMARA is a retired teacher and church administrator, currently working as a substitute teacher. She is looking forward to the class of 1964 reunion in 2019.

1967

MARY BECKER LANGSETH and her husband, Mark, with three of their bridge-playing friends, started a folk and gospel band called the Bridgetones. The band entertains at retirement and assisted living centers in the Springfield, MO, area.

JANET MOORE married Sharon Treece in October of 2018. They are preparing for retirement and a possible return to Kansas City.

KATHY WOOD OADES-KELLY relocated to a villa at Kingswood, where she will continue to practice private counseling. She is delighted to celebrate 25 years of doing what she loves to do professionally, as well as enjoying being a mother and grandmother.
STA Alumna Honored by the National Association of Corporate Directors

The National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD) selected Jeannine Strandjord ('63) as one of two individuals honored as a 2018 National Director of the Year. The 2018 NACD Director of the Year is an annual recognition of the leading corporate directors. This is part of the NACD’s Directorship 100, which represents corporate governance experts, policymakers, and influencers—leaders who significantly impact boardroom practices and performance.

The NACD is considered the authority on boardroom practices, representing more than 19,000 corporate board members. For four decades, through their annual awards, the NACD has recognized individual directors, like Jeannine, who serve as role models in promoting exemplary board leadership, oversight, and courage in the boardroom.

Jeannine currently serves as a director of Euronet Worldwide, MGP Ingredients, and JE Dunn Construction Company. Her other current boards include the Ewing M Kauffman Foundation and the Truman Library Institute. She formerly served on the corporate boards of DST, American Century Mutual Funds, and Charming Shoppes, Inc. She has over 50 years of financial management experience, including 20 years in several senior financial and related senior management roles at Sprint Corporation.

Jeannine and the other 2018 NACD distinguished honorees were celebrated during the NACD Directorship 100 black-tie gala on November 28, 2018, in New York City. In addition, NACD Directorship magazine featured profiles of the top leaders in its November/December 2018 issue. NACD president and CEO Peter Gleason stated, “Being selected for this distinguished list signifies that one has achieved the highest level of excellence in his or her profession.”

“I’m honored to have received this Award and am blessed to have been on so many wonderful boards and to have been associated with so many outstanding colleagues through the years.”

1969

Nan Tiehen Bone will be honored at the 2019 Generosity of Joseph Honors Gala on April 26, 2019, in St. Louis, MO. The Generosity of Joseph Honor Award is given by the Sisters of St. Joseph Carondelet, St. Louis Province, to publicly acknowledge and celebrate those whose generosity positively influences and contributes to the betterment of society and encourages others by example to practice life-altering generosity. Nan was selected for her efforts to “enable others to assume a more active responsibility for continuing the mission of Jesus, and to recognize and defend the human dignity of all.”

1971

Mary A. Digiovanne George married Rick George on July 28, 2018. She has retired from teaching and has started an Internet marketing business called MR Enterprises.

1974

Katy Sheehan Morris closed her family business, Sheehan’s Irish Imports, at the end of June after 33 years in business. Her retirement includes volunteering at Operation Breakthrough and Literacy KC.

1975

Mary Santoro Leonard is happy to announce that her daughter, Emily Leonard Bernstein, class of 2006, made her a grandmother to a beautiful baby girl, Lena. Emily lives in St. Louis and Mary’s son, Thomas, lives in Portland, OR.

Chelly Rodgers Pfeifer retired from the KCMO Police Department. She is “Nani” to two beautiful grandchildren whom she babysits frequently. She enjoys traveling, her farm animals, gardening, pickleball, and life.
1976

CLARA BAUER’S wedding flower business, Clara’s Flowers, was awarded “Best of The Knot” for 2019. She continues to furnish wedding and event flowers all over the Kansas City metro area and sometimes around the country. In 2018, she published her first novel, *The Poppy Drop, A Lily List Mystery* by Corrugated Sky Publishing. The book may be found on Amazon in paperback and e-book forms. She is already underway on a second and third book to be published in 2019.

LAURA CIMPL FOLEY was welcomed as a new STA Board member.

ROSANA PRIVITERA-BIONDO mourns the passing of her father, Carl “Red” Privitera. Red founded Mark One Electric Company in 1974, along with Rosana’s mother, Josephine, who died in February of 2018. Rosana works as President of Mark One Electric.

1978

TERESA ORPIN HAMILTON is a founder of Giving the Basics, a nonprofit organization that provides basic hygiene products that aren’t covered by government assistance to Kansas Citians in need. Giving the Basics will receive the Excellence in Collaboration Award, along with the Kansas City Police Department and the KCMO School District, at Nonprofit Connect’s 35th Annual Philanthropy Awards Luncheon on May 1, 2019. By stocking schools and police cars with supplies, and empowering school staff and patrol officers, this partnership reaches over 80,000 people with basic essentials.

MARY KATHERINE BISAHA SMITH moved to Vermont in 2015. She is engaged to a college colleague, Robert Larson, and enjoys time with her four children and two grandchildren, Lee Smith (14) and Wolfe Thomas Smith (11 months).

1980

HATTIE PFIEFAUF KENNEDY is happy to have had many STA juniors and seniors choose to serve with Grace Hospice for their community service projects. As the Hospice’s volunteer coordinator, she has found it fun to reconnect with STA through these students.

1983

SUZANNE LOEFFELHOLZ OLIVER is co-founder of 5F, which publishes a weekly email newsletter (Get Fact-Up!) and a blog covering policy and consumer issues at www.fivefigurenews.com. 5F delivers non-partisan, fact-based and concise reporting on important issues affecting Americans, including gun safety, reproductive rights, health care, climate change, environmental protection, housing access and poverty. Suzanne will be speaking to students at St. Teresa’s on April 11, 2019.

1986

SARA KEITGES attends St. Edward’s University in the Master of Arts in Counseling program in Austin, TX.

1988

TRISH FITZSIMMONS opened her shop, Yarn Social, in November of 2018. The shop provides supplies and space for people who make beautiful things with yarn, catering mostly to knitters, crocheters, and weavers. Classes are offered for all skill levels. Learn more at yarnsocialkc.com.

1990

MARISA ANDRIA RODRIGUEZ SPARKS has two beautiful daughters. The oldest, Jaclynn, class of 2017, attends Creighton University. Her youngest, Haley, is a member of the class of 2021. Marisa is a medical professional with a career as a Medical Sonographer, which she has practiced for the past 22 years and still loves. After her daughters are on their own, she hopes to travel, practicing her profession internationally.

1992

SUSAN PARRA-CLEMENTS is a mother of a vibrant three-year-old daughter, Sophia, and four-legged dog, Cole. Her husband of 17 years is an area architect from St. Louis. They love living in Brookside and Susan is a proud (new) Board member of STA.

CAROLYN PAUGH started working as a real estate agent and loves to help people buy, sell or invest in properties all over the Kansas City area. Her business is referral-based and she is honored to receive clients from friends and family, and former customers.

ROSANNA PERRY STEPHENS has called Seattle home since 2003. She has spent her career in the nonprofit world, focusing on helping people find access to employment and education. Her favorite job is being the mom of two wonderful kids: Benjamin (8) and Grace (4). They keep Rosanna and her husband, Jeremy, busy with sports, ballet, Lego constructing, and finding sparkles everywhere. If you’re ever in the Seattle area, please say "Hello!"
1994
BRIDGET SWEENEY LOGAN recently visited the Goppert Center expansion on campus with her sister, KATE SWEENEY SANDERS, class of 1996, who was visiting from Georgia with family. Bridget just started working with Lead to Read, coordinating with students, teachers, and volunteers at Troost Elementary.

1995
SARAH KEELING relocated back to Missouri after living in Arizona since 2010. She has a six-year-old daughter who started kindergarten this past fall.

1998
EBONY RAMSEY works as Assistant Dean of Student Involvement at Maryville University - St. Louis.

1999
BROOKE KUECHLER HARRIS was diagnosed with Stage IV (metastatic) breast cancer in July of 2017. At 36 years old, her diagnosis touched many people’s lives, including her husband and three children. Brooke reports, “Currently, I am doing well on my ‘path.’ Fortunately, I no longer have to do chemotherapy treatments, however, I do have to continue maintenance treatments, just as I will for the rest of my life.” She has created The Brooke Strong Fund in an effort to raise money and awareness for the disease. To find out more, visit her website at www.brookestrongmbc.org.

2001
MEGAN BETTERMAN launched a holistic business coaching practice focused on guiding female entrepreneurs and wellness professionals on how to scale their business along with staying healthy and energetic. Her website may be found at www.meganbetterman.com.

2005
TYLER YARBROUGH gave birth to a baby boy on November 20, 2017. She is completing a doctorate in Educational Leadership at Dallas Baptist University, while working as a 7th grade team leader at Renner Middle School.

2006
PATRICIA ROGERS NEWTON married Andy Newton on March 17, 2018, in Sioux City, IA. Patricia celebrated ten years of service in the Iowa Army National Guard on February 26, 2019.

2007
ALISON RAYBOULD competed in the CBS reality series, Survivor: David vs. Goliath. She lasted 37 days on the show and was the 14th out of 18 castaways voted out of the tribe. Alison works as a physician in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

2008
MICHELLE SAMBORSKI MAUER married Stephen Maurer in Kansas City on September 22, 2018. She is currently completing her Nurse Practitioner degree through Barnes Jewish Hospital’s Goldfarb School of Nursing in St. Louis.
2009

**ABBY DUETHMAN BLACKSTOCK** was married to Jesse Blackstock in August of 2018. They met in St. Louis while working for the Cardinals. Abby’s STA guests included (l to r): Lauren Damico, Lindsay Gray Brocato, Brady Essmann, Carolyn Kaufman, Abby Duethman Blackstock, Leah Barthol, Britt Cali Clark, Katie Sanford, and Kenzie Robbins.

**MEGAN HART NESTOR** welcomed her first child, a baby boy named John Ignatius Nestor, in May of 2018.

**KENZIE ROBBINS** got engaged to Matt Fagan. They will be married in September of 2019.

**VERONICA MILLER STOCKEMER** was married in February of 2018.

2010

**JULIA BARNETT** married Daniel Shofner in Kansas City on September 22, 2018. She has been working in the film industry and recently won a Regional Emmy Award for writing and directing a promotional piece for KCPT.

**JORDAN MILLER NULTON** became a first-time mother to Daniel Edward Nulton (Danny), born on October 17, 2018.

2011

**MICHAELA KNITTEL** was featured in the October 1, 2018, issue of *IN Kansas City* magazine. Michaela graduated in 2015 from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). She has created a clothing line and has developed a collection of vintage clothing, accessories, furniture, and art books, which she sells through e-commerce and Urban Mining.

2012

**MACKENZIE JONES** competed in a Half Ironman in Delaware, OH, in July of 2018. In total, she swam 1.2 miles, biked 56 miles, and ran 13.1 miles, a total of 70.3 miles.

2013

**RUBY DIBBLE** was chosen for the Resident Artist Program at the Kansas City Lyric Opera, and was featured in their 2018 Campaign for the Annual Fund. She was cast in the role of Berta in the Lyric's 2018 production of *The Barber of Seville*, her first principal main stage role. In May of 2019, Ruby will be performing in the vocal chorus of the Lyric’s production of *The Pearl Fishers*, and has been selected to study with the Santa Fe Opera’s Summer Apprentice Program.

2014

**MARINA VIANELLO** is living in Brooklyn and working in New York City. She’ll be back in Kansas City to perform in the dance chorus for *The Pearl Fishers*, a Lyric Opera production. Performances
are April 27, May 1, May 3, and May 5, 2019. Last fall, Marina played the role of Velma, one of the “Jet” girls, in the Lyric Opera’s production of *West Side Story*.

**2015**

**DORIAN BAILEY**, a senior at the University of North Carolina and a member of the Tar Heels soccer team, was selected in the first round in the 2019 NWSL College Draft. The Washington Spirit drafted her as the eighth pick overall.

**2016**

**MARY GRACE CAMPBELL** is studying at Bard College in Berlin, Germany.

**CAITLIN O’TOOLE**, a junior at the University of Kansas, was selected to assist Kansas State Senator Elaine Bowers in the 2019 Legislative session. Caitlin currently serves as an intern in Senator Bowers’s office.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Mary Catharine McMahon, 1939
Geraldine Sulzer, 1943
Sr. Rose Joseph Kennebeck, OSB, 1946
Anne Mesplay Limbaugh, 1946
Eileen McVey Bolin, 1948
Mary Edith Lillis, 1949
Sallie Rielley Frye, 1953
Agnes “Betty” Groves Cochran, 1955
Patricia Lammers Ninci, 1956
Martha Law Conrad, 1957
Susan Hunter Kircher, 1957
Cathie Jo Frisch Sullivan, 1958
Rosie Trujillo Miller, 1969
Nancy Carol Nigro Sullivan, 1972
Kathryn Glynn Terry, 1972
Judy Cornish, 1977
Krista Chown Thomas-Bartlett, 1977
Annie Rues Neidel, 1995
Nnedima Anya, 2009

**THE CLASS OF 2018 VISIT**

As in past years, the faculty and staff of St. Teresa’s Academy invited last year’s graduation class to visit campus during their Christmas break. The visit provides time to reconnect and to enjoy some pizza. The STA class of 2018 seems to be thriving and enjoying college life!
2019 Calendar
St. Teresa’s Academy

Mark your calendars to attend events designed to keep you in touch with your classmates and the St. Teresa’s Academy community! Alumnae are always welcome at STA.

Details on each event may be found on the STA website: stteresasacademy.org/alumnae.

Wednesday, March 27
1960’s Decade Happy Hour

Thursday, March 28
Women’s Circle of Giving Grant Meeting

Saturday, April 6
Linger Over Breakfast — Healing the Universe One Plant at a Time with Sister Amy Hereford

Wednesday, April 10
1980’s Decade Happy Hour

Wednesday, April 24
1970’s Decade Happy Hour

Wednesday, May 1
Deadline for Distinguished Alumna Nominations

Monday, May 13
STA Annual Golf Classic

Saturday, June 1
QuadFest

Saturday, October 19
Reunion Celebration

Saturday, November 23
Annual STA Auction

Watch your mail and email for details on the following celebrations (dates to be determined):

Alumnae Luncheon for Classes in the 1930’s and 1940’s

Alumnae Choral Performance

Opening Doors Christmas Homes Tour

On December 12, festive supporters enjoyed the first STA Opening Doors Christmas Homes Tour, benefiting St. Teresa’s Academy students in financial need. Generous hosts, including Michelle and John Bunch, Bridget Grams (’90) and Alan Gaylin, Ann Fitzgerald Hodes (’83) and Joe Hodes, and Lisa and Chuck Schmitz, opened their beautiful homes so others may enjoy their Christmas finery.

After the success of the evening, plans are underway for next year’s Tour. If you’d like to sponsor or host the event, please contact Sarah Ralph, Events Director, at 816-501-0385.

STA Christmas Tour attendees from the Class of 1977, (l to r): Carol Rost, Susie Adams, and Mary Beth Aylward Cicchetti. Susie entertained the crowds by playing Christmas carols on the piano at the home of Ann (’83) and Joe Hodes.

Christmas Tour attendees from the Class of 1999, (l to r): Christine Deeken Myre, Jessie Shechter Thomas, Brooke Kuechler Harris, Jessie Hodes Underwood, and Beth Cusick Koch.
CAROLINE CONNOR (’12)
RECENTLY SERVED A
27-MONTH TERM WITH THE
PEACE CORPS, teaching
children on a small island in the
Indian Ocean how to speak English.
The Peace Corps states its mission is
to provide a “service opportunity for
motivated changemakers to immerse
themselves in a community abroad,
working side by side with local
leaders to tackle the most pressing
challenges.”

Caroline joined the Peace Corps
after graduating from the University
of Kansas in 2016. She was placed
in a country named Comoros, off
Africa’s east coast, on an island
called Anjouan. In the Bamboa
M’tsanga village, she taught English to
approximately 30 students ranging in
age from 11-18.

While on Anjouan, Caroline lived with
a kind-hearted host mother and her
six children. Caroline stated, “My
host opened her home to me without
any compensation and daily bent
over backwards for me to make sure
I was comfortable. Her generosity
was something I will never be able
to replicate though I continue to try
daily.”

Caroline stated that STA contributed
to her decision to join the Peace
Corps and was monumental to
her success during her term.
She expressed, “I have so much
passion for women’s education;
it is unfathomable the challenges
my female students went through
everyday just to make it to school.
We held a community-wide discussion
about overcoming the various barriers
that blocked education for the girls
in Comoros. It enlightened me as to
how fortunate I am to have received
an education in general and how
fortunate I am to have received
one specifically from St. Teresa’s
Academy.”

Her time in the Peace Corps brought
spiritual growth to Caroline. She said,
“With my friends, family, and church
being miles away I relied on God
for my ‘daily bread,’ and was very
dependent on Him to guide me. He
has yet to leave my side.”

Caroline is currently deciding on
her future goals, but envisions
herself joyfully serving others,
while continuing to learn, grow, and
change.

Caroline’s host bore her 6th child in the comfort of her own home without
any help. She blessed Caroline with the honor of naming her last child. Now,
there is a sweet little girl named Nourou (meaning “starlight” in Shinzuani)
Connor Omar in the world.
Alumnae Support STA

Take a glimpse at alumnae who came together to celebrate their sisterhood and St. Teresa's Academy.

1. BLOOM Auction Co-Chairs (l to r): Emcee Matt Schloegel, Jeff and Molly Hupke, Nan Bone, Gina and Charlie Penner, Steve and Maureen Aylward Wirtz ('83), Jennifer and Steve Franke

2. Chicago “Connecting the Stars” guests (front, l to r): Abigail Sosinski ('06), Kelly Nelson ('07), Tracy Haden Peterson ('07), Anna Beckett ('05), Lauren Befort Karl, host of the event ('06), (back, l to r): Paula Schweiger Holmquist, Alumnae Director ('77), Annie Geisel Monak ('83), Maria Connor Cooper ('83), Katie Geisel Bowler ('79), Nan Tiehen Bone, President ('69), Kathryn Fitzsimmons ('05), Devin Blackburn ('99), Nicolette Anderson ('09), and Courtney Anderson ('06)

3. ALUMNAE NIGHT WITH THE STARS BASKETBALL GAME (l to r): Angie Warren McEnany ('94), Donna Watson ('90), and Kara Walsh Hoolehan ('94)

4. CLASS OF 1983 AT THE 2ND ANNUAL STA CHORAL REUNION (l to r): Anne Fritzlen Randolph, Mary Beth Rice Andersson, Susan Sterner Spence, Marion Keller Brekke, Maria Dreiling Bourk, and Margaret Hilboldt Godbout

6. 2ND ANNUAL STA CHORAL REUNION: Roberta Gumbel (’78) performed at the 2018 STA Choral Reunion. Alums from all classes were invited to sing Christmas carols in the M&A Auditorium. Karen Engebretson (’75) directed the choir and Susan Adams (’77) was the accompanist.

student news

VALEDICTORIAN

Maggie Fielder has been recognized as valedictorian of the class of 2019. Maggie is considering studying either computer science or business. Her top college choices include the University of Kansas, Loyola University Chicago, Boston College, Vanderbilt University, and the University of Notre Dame.

SALUTATORIAN

Gabriella Mesa was named salutatorian of the class of 2019. Gabriella plans to study kinesiology with an interest in becoming a physical therapist. Her top-five list of colleges includes the University of Missouri, the University of Southern California, Miami University, Tulane University, and Ohio State University.

NATIONAL SCIENCE COMPETITION FINALIST

Grace Patenaude, class of 2021, was named one of 16 finalists in the Breakthrough Junior Challenge. The Breakthrough Junior Challenge is an annual global competition for students designed to inspire creative thinking about science. Students ages 13 to 18 from countries across the globe were invited to create and submit original videos that bring to life a concept or theory in the field of life sciences, physics, or mathematics. Grace’s submission helped to explain CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats), a new gene-editing tool.

STA NATIONAL MERIT FINALIST AND COMMENDED STUDENT NAMED

Gabby Staker, (left) class of 2019, was named a National Merit Finalist. Gabby scored in the top one percent of students taking the PSAT test last fall. She is one of 15,000 students nationwide to receive this honor.

Nicole Ficklin, (right) class of 2019, was named a National Merit Commended Student, by placing in the top 50,000 of test takers on the PSAT last October.
FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PRAYER SERVICE
On December 8, the student body, faculty, and staff celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at a prayer service. In honor of the Virgin Mary, faculty and staff shared reflections of Mary and other important female figures who represent inspirational and aspirational examples. In addition, ten students recited the decades of the rosary in ten different languages. Those in attendance expressed how meaningful and personal the service was to them.

UNITOWN RETREAT FOSTERS INCLUSION AND RESPECT
In January, 17 STA students, along with three adults, attended an overnight Unitown retreat. Unitown is a national youth leadership and development training program designed to help high school students become aware of the issues of diversity and equality. Students learned tools to help foster inclusion and respect among all members of society. Past attendee, Anna Coble, class of 2020, stated, “I learned the importance of how people of color, women, and less wealthy people feel and see the world every day when people treat them like they are abnormal. It really opened my eyes to see these problems in everyday life.”

STEAM CERTIFICATION AT WORK
As part of the STEAM Certification candidate program, STA student Caroline Willis, class of 2020, shadowed Alexandra Bajarski-Stauffer, class of 2007. Alexandra works as an architectural designer at Populous, an architecture firm in Kansas City. Caroline and Alexandra participated in Populous’s Women in Design’s Day of Shadowing.

MUSICAL ACCOLADES
Margaret Jordahl, class of 2019, and Elise Malone, class of 2019, were selected to the 2018-2019 Missouri All-State Choir. Members were chosen after a rigorous and highly competitive audition process.
Pictured (l to r): Margaret, STA Music Instructor Steve Perry, and Elise
Mission Statement
St. Teresa’s Academy educates young women to think critically, encourages them through Catholic values to love the dear neighbor without distinction, and empowers them to change the world.

Vision Statement
St. Teresa’s Academy is the prominent leader in high school education in the Kansas City area. An STA graduate is empowered by her Catholic, college-preparatory education and is known as a woman who makes a profound impact in the world.

Alumnae Reunion Celebration
OCTOBER 19, 2019
ST. TERESA’S ACADEMY

Celebration of Mass at 4:30 p.m. with the presentation of the Annual Distinguished Alumna Award

Buffet and Cocktails | Tours of the Beautiful Campus | $40 per person